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Inside
Today's
Edition

THE HAMILTON COUNTY
REPORTER
NEWSPAPER

Hamilton County's
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THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN
CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Partly to mostly cloudy, with spotty showers possible.
Tonight: Partly cloudy.
HIGH: 68 LOW: 42



T1L1 graduates 237 Heights middle schoolers

The REPORTER

On May 1, Teach One to Lead One (T1L1) honored 237 fifth- and eighth-grade students from Hamilton Heights who recently completed the T1L1 Leadership Curriculum. This is the largest graduating class T1L1 has had in central Indiana.

In addition to the graduating students, nine students were recognized with the Positive Influence Award. They were Kenzie Cumston, Hannah Pharis, Lovaiyah Miller, Cooper Rodda, Nate Simms, Sophia Sylte, Victor Bailey Taylor, Sam Thompson, and Thiago Zuniga. Nine other students were recognized with the Second Mile Award. Those students were Adeline Allen, David Biddle, Colby Day, Calista Hite, Olivia Mackey, Madison Newby, Case Powell, Isaiah Timmons, and Hunter Wollam.

The T1L1 community mentoring program has been at Hamilton Heights for six years. Teams of caring adult mentors meet weekly with students throughout the school year. The mentors lead the students in a discussion of 10 Universal Principles that are essential for student leaders to possess if they are to find their purpose and reach their



Hamilton Heights Middle School students celebrated their graduation from the T1L1 Mentoring Program.

potential. The 10 Universal Principles are respect, integrity, self-control, compassion, courage, teamwork, excellence, humility, enthusiasm,

and honor. Students are encouraged to find ways to put these principles into action.

Hamilton Heights was the first school district in Indiana to

host a T1L1 community mentoring group. It currently serves six school districts in Central Indiana. For more information on T1L1, go to T1L1.org.

Photos provided

Becoming a mom with Muscular Dystrophy, Part 2

As I mentioned in Part 1, there were some concerns going into my first pregnancy living with Muscular Dystrophy. The second time around was no different, but this time the concerns were a little different.

I knew I could get through a pregnancy. My body had shown me that it was capable. I also knew that I had learned a lot in my journey so far with Luke, who by this time was 3 years old. I had learned to adapt and care for Luke in my own unique way.

This time around I was thinking, can I care for an infant plus a busy 3-year-old who is highly active, and has a mind of his own? Anyone who has raised a child knows that age 2 has nothing on age 3!

The first two years of Luke's life I felt strongly that he would be an only child. I knew that a second delivery would be another C-section. The first time had caused me to be a little worse off physically, but the joy of having a son far outweighed any of that. I started to feel a nudging that I did not want Luke to be an only child.

My husband and I decided that trying for baby No. 2 was what we wanted to do. Pregnancy this time around, as any mom of more than one child can attest to, was not the same experience as the first.

You do not have the luxury of taking those much-needed naps and only worrying about yourself. You have another human to care for that constantly needs you. I was also working again. Looking back, I know God picked me up and absolutely carried me through that time.

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

See *Becoming* . . . Page 2

Sheridan OK's building year-round theme park

Submitted

Monarch Ventures, LLC announced Wednesday it has received final approval to move forward with SkyLake, a theme park development set to become Indiana's premier year-round nature adventure destination.

The Sheridan Town Council voted 4-2 Tuesday evening to approve the necessary rezoning for the 126-acre site at the northwest corner of U.S. 31 and 216th Street, following a favorable 5-2 recommendation from the Sheridan Plan Commission on April 17.

SkyLake is meticulous-

ly designed as a unique, immersive theme park centered around a nature-based, self-paced experience. With engaging activities appealing to every age group and interest level simultaneously, SkyLake will blend serene settings, accessible adventures, and high-thrill attractions. The self-paced environment empowers all guests, from toddlers to grandparents, to actively participate and curate their perfect day together.

SkyLake's four-season appeal will further solidify the region as a must-visit destination for families, groups,

and event planners seeking authentic experiences.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support from the Sheridan Town Council and Planning Commission, and thrilled to bring the SkyLake vision to life," said Phil Sack, President of Circle Property Group, the parent company of Monarch Ventures. "Our driving vision is crafting unforgettable, authentic experiences that reconnect people with nature and one another. SkyLake fulfills our mission to create adventure destinations that promote well-being and foster connection, helping families and friends

make life-long memories. We are committed to being a cornerstone for the community through strong partnership and responsible stewardship, embracing sustainability in our environmental and business practices."

Key highlights of SkyLake's initial phase include:

- A six-acre natural lake: Featuring crystal-clear water managed sustainably without concrete or chlorine, surrounded by white sand beaches, and offering rentable land-based and floating cabanas for lakeside relaxation.

See *Sheridan* . . . Page 2



Graphic provided

Collaborative event featuring three local artists coming to Carmel

Submitted

Coming to Carmel on Sunday, May 18 is a new and collaborative art event – "Multi-Arts in the Neighborhood." Organized by Carmel artists Scott Osborne, Gregory Glade, and Tina Mangos, this event focuses on "3 and 3" – three artists, three types of art – taking place at two studios on Gradle Drive.

From noon to 3 p.m., attend an open house and art sale at Osborne's studio, Brown Hound, located at 435 Gradle Drive. On display will be metal and ceramic art by Osborne, hand-painted art on accent furniture by Glade, and decorative and functional ceramics by Mangos. The afternoon will also feature a welding demonstration by Osborne, as well as a make-and-take metal piece.

More about the artists

For over 10 years, Scott Osborne has been creating and showing art with a specialty in integrating found objects into his works. During his time at the Herron School for Art and Design, he recognized the importance of giving artists the opportunity to be creative in a community and saw the lack of space for that on the north side of Indianapolis. Driven to open a space where creatives could come together and do what they do best, he developed Brown Hound to serve as a home and creative escape for artists. You can see more of his art at BrownHoundStudios.com.

See *Art* . . . Page 3

Westfield earns Unqualified Audit Opinion on 2023 financial report

Clerk Treasurer announces launch of 2024 reporting effort

Submitted

The City of Westfield has received an Unqualified Audit Opinion from the Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBOA) on its 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) – the first in the city's history – with no material weaknesses identified.

The 2023 ACFR was initiated shortly before Mayor Scott Willis and Clerk Treasurer Marla Ailor assumed office on Jan. 1, 2024, as part of the mayor's broader initiative to strengthen the city's financial

profile and pursue a AAA bond rating.

Before assuming office, mayor-elect Willis obtained permission from the Board of Public Works to engage Katz, Sapper & Miller (KSM) – a nationally recognized accounting and advisory firm headquartered in Indianapolis – to compile the report. While KSM has a strong reputation and extensive experience au-



Ailor

the Clerk Treasurer's Office embraced the challenge and worked diligently to ensure the report met all applicable standards under Generally Accepted

Accounting Principles (GAAP) and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

"This clean audit opinion is more than a technical result – it's a vote of confidence in our internal controls and financial stewardship," Ailor said. "Preparing a first-time ACFR is a complex task, and I am proud of our team for rising to the occasion and delivering a report that meets the highest professional standards."

See *Report* . . . Page 3

BECOMING

Our sweet baby Jack was born by C-section in 2007. It was a little different going in for a scheduled delivery. I knew what to expect, and honestly the delivery part could not have been easier. I feel like I healed a little easier from the second C-section. I think that could have just been I knew what to expect.

We had a lot of family support, and that is how we made it through. I think going to work in some ways gave me a little bit of a break from the physical demands of motherhood. In my opinion, there is no harder job than that of a stay-at-home mom. I worked part time, so I got a little bit of both worlds. Staying home with the kids was by far more physically exhausting than my job.

When we would go places, I would load Jack in his car seat on top of the table, so I did not have to try and lift him from the ground to the stroller. Most times, I would push the stroller out to the car and transfer him into the car that way. Luke was such a rockstar big brother. He adapted in his own way, too. He would help me carry stuff to the car like the diaper bag or my purse. He was a great helper to me, just doing the little things like bringing me stuff from around the house I needed to save me some steps. Everywhere Luke went, he ran,



Photos provided

(LEFT) Amy and her son Jack. (RIGHT) Amy and her boys at the Chicago Zoo.

so it was always quick! He always did it with a smile on his face, too. He just got it, that was the way our family had to work.

Something I always longed to do as a mother was to be able to scoop my boys up after they fell, or when they would raise their arms, wanting to be held. I was so envious when my sister and my friends would just effortlessly scoop their babies up in one quick motion and put them on their hip and run around doing all kinds of things. I never got to do that; it just was not possible for me.

What I did do was teach them to climb up on me. I would get to the nearest

structure that I could lean against, and they would come to me. We called it monkey. They would climb up my body and once they got to a certain point, I could stand against something and hold and comfort them. Different from what others were doing, but it was special because it was our thing. We had a lot of those things that just the three of us knew and did.

The level of difficulty going from one to two was much harder, but we made it work. I had to have more help from family doing certain things, but the three of us did things on our own making memories together when I was home with them

during the day.

If you are living with a disability and are thinking of becoming a parent, I hope my story helps you to see, that just like us, our kids adapt. They learn the ropes just like we do. Children of parents who live with a disability, get a front row seat to a beautiful lesson in perseverance. It really is priceless, and I believe a gift.

Until next time ...
Amy Shinneman is a former National Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, disability blogger, wife, and mom of two boys. You can find her blog at humblycourageous.com and reach her on Instagram @ashinneman.

SHERIDAN

from Page 1

• **Thrilling water adventures:** Including the North American debut of the Boaz X Tower (a 40-foot modular slide-and-jump structure), a 300-foot floating obstacle course, paddle board rentals, and a 6,000 square-foot zero-depth splash pad.

• **Year-round land adventures:** Featuring the Sky Slide, a 60-foot high, 500-foot long all-season tubing hill; the Sky High Adventure Zone, a three-story ropes course experience offering accessible to high-thrill challenges; and SkyLinks mini-golf.

• **Central Pavilion:** A 40,000 square-foot hub offering upscale food and beverage curated by partner Legends, event spaces, and guest amenities designed for connection and comfort.

"This project is the first major development along the U.S. 31 corridor since Sheridan gained control of planning and zoning of the area earlier this year," Sheridan Town Council President Silas DeVaney said. "I feel [Tuesday's] approval of Skylake sets the tone for the 31 corridor and we will continue to be thoughtful about how our community changes over time. We look forward to working with Monarch Ventures as this project continues to move forward."

Monarch Ventures is the newest division of Circle Property Group,

focused on bringing nature-based and self-paced theme parks beginning in Midwest America. SkyLake embodies environmental stewardship, with sustainable water management as a critical component, utilizing innovative natural filtration systems for the lake in partnership with experts like Wisconsin Pond and Lake, and coordinating water usage with the Hamilton County Regional Utility District (HCRUD). The development team will leverage a full suite of advanced technologies to create a frictionless park experience, enhancing guest convenience from ticketing to in-park services.

SkyLake is projected to be a significant economic engine for the region, creating hundreds of construction jobs over the next year and ultimately employing 250 to 300 seasonal and operational team members. The park is expected to attract approximately 500,000 visitors annually, creating synergy with Hamilton County's existing tourism infrastructure.

With approvals secured, Monarch Ventures plans to break ground in June 2025. SkyLake is slated to open in summer 2026, with additional attractions and features planned for years to come. Keep up to date with what's coming at SkyLakeIndiana.com.

DRIVE² DETECT

In partnership with the CheckIt4Andretti Foundation and in honor of its founder, John Andretti, join us for Riverview Health's Drive2Detect! A night of exotic cars, local cuisine and great race-themed experiences, all in a unique atmosphere. Help us in our mission to increase colon cancer awareness and raise funds to provide no-cost colonoscopies and post-diagnosis support to those who cannot otherwise afford it.



Tickets are now available! Simply scan the QR code or visit drive2detect.com to reserve your place. A limited number of VIP Access tickets to meet Jarett Andretti are available only while they last!

May 17, 2025

6:00 to 11:00 P.M.

Motor District Garage Condos Westfield, IN



Weather is unpredictable ... Paul Poteet isn't. Your Hometown Weatherman!



Indiana Peony Festival's Brunch & Blooms: where art, flowers & shopping combine

By **KELLY McVEY**
President, Indiana Peony Festival, Inc.

Happy *almost* peony week! We wanted to share about more local businesses participating in our Brunch & Blooms event.

Brunch & Blooms is our brunch and retail crawl sponsored by the Noblesville downtown merchants, and held in conjunction with the festival. We have over 50 nearby businesses participating with fun peony products and promotions and we're here to drop another handful of fan favorites for you to check out.

We're also thrilled to finally share our official Brunch & Blooms map, which you can download at [this link](#). These maps will be available at the Brunch & Blooms tent on the courthouse lawn or at one of our information stations at the festival (look for the pink umbrella stands on 9th Street downtown and near the park on 10th Street) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on festival day, May 17.

One stop you don't want to miss is **A&B Farmhouse**, a new business to Downtown Noblesville located on Conner Street. They specialize in home decor, furniture, and curating gifts for everyone. On festival day, they will be offering peony arrangements using antique soda bottles. Pick one peony stem, one coordinating greenery stem, and one antique bottle for just \$25. A&B Farmhouse is also one of our many florists creating peony displays for the weekend. Make sure to see A&B Farmhouse's floral installation in downtown Noblesville.

Camino & Company, originally on West Logan Street, is now in their new flower studio location at 876 Logan St., a shared space with **Just Lagom Boutique**. Camino & Company will offer free "Peony Season" coffee samples from their Camino & Coffee line. They will also provide a photo op, brought to you by Rejoice Photo Booth. Enter to win free "Flowering With Fabee" tickets just

by stopping by, too. Camino & Company is also one of our many florists creating installations this year. Stop by Seminary Park to see what they create.

Lash & Esthetics Studio is the perfect spot for your beauty needs. Stop by on festival day and receive a coupon for a free Brow Sculpting or Spray Tan. Additionally, enter to win a free set of Classic Lash

Extensions, Brow Lamination, or Spa Facial. Book any appointment on festival day and you'll receive 15 percent off. Find Lash & Esthetics Studio above Bica Cafe on Conner Street.

Vintage Adventures specializes in custom, wooden wall art, decor, and jewelry and is located in a prime location within the Festival and Brunch & Blooms. Sitting in the mid-

dle of Maple Street, they are a must-see spot. They will be hosting a pop-up sale in their workshop space. If you spend \$25 or more, you'll walk away with a free peony magnet.

To see the entire list of participating locations, check out our website [here](#). The first 200 completed maps (with 15 completed visits or more) receive a Brunch & Bloom button. Simply turn in your map at the Brunch & Blooms tent anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., for a chance to receive our official button. *Note: this*

is while supplies last.

Reminder, our peony window decorating contest, sponsored by **Hometown Window and Door Company**, is starting this Friday. Vote on your favorite finalist and the winner will be announced on festival day. Also, don't forget to check out the **Art Fair on the Square** this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Hamilton County Courthouse lawn. There will be vendors, live music, artist demonstrations, and more. Make sure to shop and then vote on your favorite window this weekend.



REPORT

from Page 1

An unqualified opinion may sound counterintuitive, but it is the strongest result an auditor can issue. It confirms that the financial statements are materially correct, fully in compliance with accounting standards, and free from significant deficiencies. The absence of any material weaknesses further affirms the effectiveness of the city's internal financial systems.

Key support during the process came from Nathan Fox, municipal advisor at OW Krohn & Associates, who provided technical expertise by completing critical schedules and assisting with audit inquiries. His involvement was instrumental in supporting both the city and KSM throughout the reporting process.

Additional support came from Kelley Kemper, the city's Financial Strategist, and Bradie Louks, Director of Human Resources, whose efforts in assembling final documentation and coordinating internal details were instrumental in helping bring

the nearly year-long ACFR process to a successful close. Their collaboration and responsiveness were key in helping the city reach the finish line.

The Clerk Treasurer's Office also extended its thanks to Katz, Sapper & Miller for its partnership throughout the preparation of the 2023 ACFR.

"We appreciate KSM's willingness to work through a complex, first-time process with us and contribute to a successful outcome," Ailor said.

The 2024 ACFR compilation officially began on May 1, the same day as the Exit Conference for the 2023 report, reinforcing the Clerk Treasurer's commitment to consistent, comprehensive financial reporting year after year.

"I'm incredibly proud of our staff," Ailor said. "Their professionalism, adaptability, and attention to detail reflect Westfield's commitment to responsible public service. This report lays a strong foundation for our financial future."

ART

from Page 1

The second of the three artists is Tina Mangos, a Carmel artist and educator. She creates decorative and functional ceramic art, and her unique style of working with clay includes mixed media, pearls, cut glass, and other mosaics. Her work is both hand-cut and wheel-thrown.

With over 40 years educating adults and children alike, she has developed and taught programs in both art and dance. You may even find yourself signing up for a dance lesson or enrolling your child in an art class at her studio in Carmel. To see more of her work, visit [TinaMangosArts.com](#).

The third participant "in the neighborhood" is Gregory Glade with his hand-painted art on accent furniture. A man of many talents, his creative expression goes beyond the stage.

Folks in and around Carmel may be more familiar with Glade as Gregory Hancock and recognize his dance theatre. The theatre

will also be a part of this special afternoon as the Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre presents *Melange* at the Florence from 3 to 4 p.m. on May 18. This special presentation also features three artists: a dancer, a visual artist, and a vocalist. Together they will create art in front of your eyes in an organic, collaborative performance.

While the open house for the artists and the art fair are free, the *Melange* performance is a \$20 charge. You can get tickets at [this link](#).

Learn more about the dance theatre at [Gregory-HancockDanceTheatre.org](#).

For "Multi-Arts in the Neighborhood," drive, walk, or hop on the tractor-pulled wagon between the two studios. Volunteering to be your chauffeur is Brad "Papa Bus" Osborne, Carmel bus driver for more than five years. Be sure to come out to say hello. This is sure to be a fantastic event for you and your family.

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MAY 17



ALSO JOIN US FOR:

peonies
IN THE PARK

MAY 16
SPONSORED BY **cch+a**
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BRUNCH & BLOOMS

BRUNCH & RETAIL CRAWL
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MAY 17
SPONSORED BY THE DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS



FRIDAY **\$5 Adults**
 12 & under FREE
 Concerts start at 7 pm Gates open at 6 pm



Der Polkatz

May 30



The Flying Toasters

June 13



Classic Rock Experience

June 20



Mike & Joe

July 11



Uptown Funk

July 18



Echoes of Pompeii

August 1



Cool Creek Park
 2000 E. 151st St., Carmel

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets or by going to myhamiltoncountyparks.com.

Cpt. Billy J. Adams promoted to Westfield Assistant Police Chief

The REPORTER

The Westfield Police Department (WPD) has promoted Captain Billy J. Adams to Assistant Chief of Administration, effective May 1.

Adams stepped into the role previously held by Assistant Chief Scott Jordan, who served in the position for more than 16 years.

“Change is difficult under any circumstance, but when you’re following in the footsteps of someone who has faithfully served the community for nearly 30 years, the challenge is even greater,” Chief Shawn Keen said. “The City of Westfield and our department are deeply grateful for Assistant Chief Jordan’s enduring dedication and leadership. We are also thankful to Assistant Chief Adams for stepping up to continue that legacy of excellence and integrity.”

Adams brings more than 17 years of experience with WPD to his new assignment, having served in various roles including patrolman, patrol sergeant, patrol lieutenant, and public information officer, among other roles. He holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Saint Leo University



Adams

and is a graduate of the Police Executive Leadership Academy, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Leadership Academy, and the Hamilton County Leadership Academy. He is also scheduled to attend the FBI National Academy in the near future.

Before joining WPD, Adams served as an active-duty military police officer in the U.S. Army and spent more than three years with the Department of Defense’s police force.

“I am honored to step into the role of Assistant Chief of Police to continue serving Westfield,” Assistant Chief Adams said. “Westfield is a remarkable community, and I am committed to working alongside our dedicated officers and staff to continue providing exceptional service and building strong community relationships. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead as we strive to keep Westfield safe and welcoming for everyone.”

The captain position will remain vacant for now as WPD transitions to a police merit commission.

Click here to learn more about the Westfield Police Department.

We Americans are far too sweet!

“Sugar in the morning, sugar in the evening, sugar at supertime ...” –McGuire Sisters, 1958



SHARON McMAHON
Be Well

I imagine that when the McGuire Sisters recorded this tune many years ago (gosh, I sure hope you know who they were!) it was not the intent of their lyrics to include over consumption of sugar and related health issues. But yes, you guessed it – that is exactly my topic this week! (By the way “sugar” was sometimes used as a metaphor for kisses!)

There are several reasons why we should be wary of sugar consumption, one reason being too much added sugar can crowd healthier foods from a person’s diet, calories unaccompanied by fiber, vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients.

Sugar-sweetened beverages such as sodas, energy drinks, and sports drinks are by far the biggest sources of added sugar in the average American’s diet. They account for more than one-third of the added sugar we consume as a nation.¹ Other

important sources include cookies, cakes, pastries, and similar treats; fruit drinks; ice cream, frozen yogurt and the like; candy; and ready-to-eat cereals. I especially want to point out fruit juices – even the “healthiest” juices have quite a bit of sugar. Most of us don’t consider added sugar in canned fruits and vegetables – yes, even vegetables. Manufacturers’ goals are to make us “happy consumers” which includes what I consider to be the addiction of sugar.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, an astounding 62 percent of adult Americans were overweight in 2000, up from 46 percent in 1980. Twenty-seven percent of adults were so far overweight that they were classified as obese (at least 30 pounds above their healthy weight) – twice the percentage classified as such in 1960. Alarming, an upward trend in obesity is also occurring for U.S. children. What that portends for our future I shudder to consider.

The average American eats (or drinks) 34 teaspoons of sugars a day, which is equal to more than 500 calories. This averages more than 100 pounds of sugars per person each year. Sugar intake has drastically increased over the last century. In 1822, the average American ate in five days the amount of sugar found in one of today’s 12-ounce sodas.² Only about 29 pounds of it comes as traditional sugar, or sucrose, according to The Sugar Association, a trade group of sugar manufacturers. The rest comes from foods.

In addition to candy, soda, and junk food, plenty of sugar is hiding in places where you might not expect it. Some types of crackers, yogurt, ketchup, and peanut butter, for instance, are loaded with sugar – often in the form of high-fructose corn syrup, or HFCS. Use of this sweetener has increased 3.5 percent per year in the last decade, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). That’s twice the rate at which the use of refined sugar has grown. (Most ketchup brands list HFCS as the second ingredient.) An interesting activity I

might suggest for my readers is to do a HFCS inventory in your kitchen pantry and frig, very enlightening I predict.

Well, this is all rather negative as we approach picnic season – sure we have lots of fresh fruits (some of which can be a source of sugar) and vegetables, but we know we just love that blueberry pie, strawberry shortcake with whipped cream, and banana pudding ... oh my. However, if we make a concentrated effort to limit our sugar intake of other foods and beverages by paying attention to added sugars and reading the ingredient labels, we can sometimes indulge in a special treat as long as we practice mindful consumption and get back on the healthy eating track!

¹ Harvard Heart Letter, Harvard Medical School

² USDA /Agricultural Research Service

Sharon McMahon, CNWC
The opinions expressed in this article are not intended to replace advice of your personal physician or licensed health professional. Please consult your physician for any issues you may have related to nutrition or fitness activity.

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More News More Sports ... and more readers! Thank you, Hamilton County!

Indiana Blacksmithing Association 43rd Annual Conference June 6-8 2025 Tipton County Fairgrounds Tipton, Indiana

Featured Demonstrators: Nate Weiss (Johnstown, PA), Jennifer Petrila (Rutledge, MA), Noah Hickman (Atlanta, IN)

Special Thanks: COAL IRON WORKS, HOLLAND ARMY, HEALEY'S Home Center, Mud Creek Metalworks



WESTFIELD — INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
MAY 10 @ 12 - 3 P.M.
GRAND JUNCTION PLAZA | 225 S. Union Street
presented by Centier Bank

Experience the world right here in Westfield! Bring your family and friends to enjoy vibrant performances, international traditions, crafts, and games. New this year, embark on a flavor-filled adventure with the Savor & Snack Pass and unlock five exclusive tastings of your choice.



To learn more, scan the QR code or visit: westfieldin.gov/westfieldinternationalfestival

Ladder 321 gets classic Cicero welcome

Citizens of Cicero came out in droves last Saturday for the town's first traditional Fire Truck Push-In Ceremony for Ladder 321. The event was held at the Cicero Fire Department, 1359 Stringtown Pike. In a letter published in *The Reporter* on Wednesday, May 8, Fire Chief Lance Overholser thanked the community for its "overwhelming support" in celebrating this "proud moment" for the town. Don't think the celebration is over just yet – the Cicero Fire Department Community Organization will play host to the annual pancake breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 10, also at the Fire Department. (Photos provided by Michele Kinder & Emily Pearson)





Photo provided by Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation

Splash into summer fun: The Waterpark in Carmel opens May 24

The REPORTER

Get ready to make a splash. **The Waterpark in Carmel**, 1195 Central Park Drive West, will kick off its 2025 season on Saturday, May 24, opening its gates at 11 a.m.

Whether you're chasing thrills or relaxing in the sun, The Waterpark offers something for everyone, for all ages, and abilities.

Catch a wave on the **FlowRider** surf simulator, conquer new heights with the **AquaClimb**, or let the little ones enjoy the **kid-die pool**. For those looking to unwind, drift along the lazy river or soak up the sun between runs down our action-packed adventure slides. And that's just the start of the fun.

New for 2025, The Waterpark will be open longer. Come soak up every last drop of summer now that Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) has extended the fun all the way through Labor Day.

2025 Waterpark Hours

• May 24 to Aug. 3: Open daily from 11 a.m. to

7 p.m.

• Aug. 9 to Sept. 1: Weekends & Labor Day from noon to 6 p.m.

Day Passes

Enjoy a full day of fun in the sun with a day pass. Admission is just \$17 for adults (ages 16 to 64) and \$14 for youth and seniors (ages 3 to 15 and 65 and over).

Season Passes

Want unlimited access to summer fun? Grab a season pass online at carmel-clayparks.com or in person at the front gate.

Cabana Rentals

Looking to upgrade your experience? **Rent one of 24 private cabanas**; each one is a shady oasis perfect for six to eight guests, complete with a ceiling fan, mini fridge, outlets, lockable cabinet, and seating and end tables. It's the perfect way to enjoy VIP treatment while you visit The Waterpark.

Stay in the loop all season by joining **The Waterpark Facebook group**. CCPR will provide updates, answer your questions, and keep you in the know about upcoming events.

Carmel announces inaugural EidFest

The REPORTER

The City of Carmel will hold its first-ever EidFest from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 31 at Civic Square. EidFest promises to be a vibrant event of culture and community celebrating the rich tapestry of Muslim heritage from around the world.

This event is free and open to the public. Activities include cultural performances, the art of henna, delicious cuisine from local restaurants, and opportunities to expand professional networks and connections with local businesses.

Community members organizing EidFest repre-

sent more than 15 countries from around the world, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Guinea, Iraq, Libya, and more. They say they are excited to share their food, traditions, and joy.

"EidFest is more than a celebration," said Ashhar Madni, Member of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Human Relations. "It's about building bridges among cultures, a chance to come together as neighbors and a testament to the strength we find in diversity. We're proud to share our heritage and traditions with the Carmel community."

Eid-al-Fitr, one of two



Graphic provided

major Muslim holidays, commemorates the end of the holy month of Ramadan. This year, Ramadan began on Feb. 28 and concluded on March 29. The second major Muslim holiday, Eid-al-Adha, honors the spirit of

sacrifice and is observed later in the year; this year, it is projected to fall on Friday, June 6.

The EidFest celebration, in partnership with the City of Carmel, highlights the diversity of the community.

HAMILTON COUNTY HARVEST FOOD BANK
www.HCHFoodBank.org

Stamp Out Hunger FOOD DRIVE

Working Together With You to Feed Hamilton County

Hamilton County food pantries feed over 32,000 food insecure friends and neighbors in our community.

Donate food directly at your own mailbox on Saturday May 10th. Donated food will be picked up by your postal carrier that day.

See a full list of local pantries at:
HCHfoodbank.org/locations

Suggested Items to Donate:

Canned Chicken and/or Tuna	Chef Boyardee with meat cans	Helper Mixes
Canned Meat Stews or Chunky Meat Soups	Cereal Boxes -i.e. Cheerios, Chex preferred	Mac and Cheese Individual Cups or Boxes
Canned Fruits	Peanut Butter and Jelly -small jars preferred	Individual Packed Fruit and/or Applesauce Cups
Pancake Mix/Syrup/Oatmeal packs	Pasta Sauce -cans preferred/Pasta Boxes	Granola Bars or Microwave Popcorn

American Bank of Freedom

www.americanbankoffreedom.bank



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4.30% APY*

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Westfield Branch

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Westfield, IN 46062
(463) 622-2930



Hamilton County Veterans Community Page

Hamilton County Veteran Community Page Survey

We need your help to improve your Hamilton County Veteran Community Page by informing our Military Veteran community on what is going on and how to connect to the resources we need to live a more fulfilled life here in Hamilton County. If you are a member of our local VFW or American Legion Posts, please get your Post information for your events, activities, fundraisers, menu or operating hours, etc to us via this survey 10-14 days in advance so your community may attend. We appreciate you taking the time to help us make this the most



informative page possible for our Service Members, Veterans, their families and caregivers! Please click here or scan the QR Code to take the survey – tinyurl.com/VeteransPageSurvey

1. Are you an active Service member, Veteran, family member of or a caregiver for a Service Member or Veteran?
2. What do you like about the Veteran community page?
3. What else would you like to see on this Veteran Community page?
4. Events, activities from your American Legion or VFW Posts, or from our local businesses, profit & non-profit organizations, etc. We need 10-14 day lead time.

Thank you in advance for your help in making this page YOUR page

Hamilton County Veteran Service Organizations

American Legion Posts

Carmel Post 155 Kim Kilburn
852 West Main St Breakfast Sat & Sun 8-12
Carmel, In 46032 Treasure Hunt Fri 7p
317-846-0001 Tx Holdem Thurs & Sat
M,Tu 3-10pm, W,Th 10a-10p, F 10a-11a, Sa 8a-11p,
Su 8a-8p.
Restaurant –Sa 8a-8p, Su 8a-12p Lunch W-F 11a-2p, Dinner W-F 5-8p

Cicero Post 341 Tye Anderson
50 Washington Ave Treasure Hunt Tues 7p
Cicero, In 46034 Weekly Draw Su 6p,W 7p
317-984-4441 Bingo Fri 6p, Weekly Draw 8p
M-Th 3-10p, F-Sa 12-11p, Su 12-10p.
Restaurant Tu, W, F 4-8pm, Public P/U Tu-W, F eat in or carry out

Fishers Post 470 Pat Menc
9091 E 126th St Treasure Hunt Fri 8pm \$25K
Fishers, in 46038 Trivia Wed 6pm
317-842-5944 Breakfast 1st & 3rd Sun 8-11
M 3-10p, Tu-Su 12-10pm or when empty.
Restaurant Breakfast 1st & 3rd Sun 9-12, Food 12-8 Tu, 5-9 W, 12-9 Th, F 3-8 Sa, 12-5 Su

Noblesville Post 45 Gil Soria
273 S 8th St Fri 645pm Treasure Hunt
Noblesville, in 46060
317-773-9985 Trivia every 1 & 3 Sat 7pm
M-Th 11a-10p, F 11a-12p, Sa 12p-12a, Su 12p-8p
Restaurant M 6-8pm wings, Tu-F 530-830p, Sat 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/12 Breakfast 730-930a Dinner 530-830p, Su 12-8p

Sheridan Post 67 Tom DeShon
406 E 10th St
Sheridan, In 46069
317-758-5007
M 3-9p, Tu-Th 11-9p, F Sa 11-10p, Su 1-6p
Restaurant Lunch Tu-F 11a-2p, food service till close

VFW Posts

Carmel Post 10003 Darin Bibeau
12863 Old Meridian St
Carmel, In 46032 Breakfast 2 & 4 Sat 8-11
317-846-0917 Thurs Treasure Hunt 7pm
Su-Sa 11a-11p.
Restaurant - Breakfast 2nd & 4th Sa 8a-11a, Lunch 11a-2p & food service till 8p daily

Noblesville Post 6246 Eric Behrends
654 S 9th St
Noblesville, In 46060
317-773-9956
M-Th 11a-10p, F 11a-12a, Sa 12p-12a, Su 12p-8p
Restaurant M-F 6-9p

Non-Profit Veteran Orgs

Hamilton County Veterans Corp
P.O. Box 503
Noblesville, in 46061
secretary@hamiltoncountyveterans.com
Meets 7pm the 1st Monday Monthly at the Fishers American Legion. Our website <https://www.hamiltoncountyveterans.com/> has 40 pages of resources for our Military Veteran community

Navy Club Hamilton County Ship 29
Meets 4th Wed 530pm dinner 630pm meeting at Gingers Cafe 1111 S 10th St Noblesville

Hamilton County Veteran Service Officers

317-776-9610 Hours – 9am-4pm Weekdays
CVSO – Tom Logan
Tom.logan@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Assistant CVSO – Robin Wilson
robin.wilson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Assistant CVSO – Caroline Franz
caroline.franz@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Admin Assistant – Christina Ellis
christina.ellis@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Purple Star Schools are public or charter schools who have shown a commitment to supporting the unique academic and social-emotional needs of military-connected children and their families during times of transition.

Purple Star Schools. Take the Step.

Hamilton County Military Veteran

You Can Help Improve Indiana Mental Health Recovery By Taking This IRC 2025 Survey

Indiana Recovery Council Survey 2025

By participating in this survey, you are making your voice heard by individuals responsible for developing standards of care in Indiana. Your voice is critical to understanding where we are and where we need to go. The information you submit in this survey will be used by the IRC to make recommendations to improve Indiana's mental health, substance use, and problem gambling recovery and treatment infrastructure.

Would you like to improve recovery in Indiana?

Take the survey and make sure your voice is heard!

The IRC will never sell your information. The information you provide via this survey will remain anonymous. Thank you for helping improve mental health, substance use, and problem gambling services in Indiana. Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/irc-survey-2025> or scan the QR Code to take the survey.

Sponsored by the Indiana Recovery Council

MASH Ministries Annual Golf Outing Needs Golfers and Sponsors So Please Sign Up for this Great Event

- Annual - MASH Golf Outing
HELPING FIRST RESPONDERS & VETERANS OVERCOME PTS

September 23, 2025
Woodwind Golf Club
Westfield, IN

Registration - 9:30
Play Starts - 10:30
Awards - 4:30

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Door Prizes
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PUT YOUR TEAM TOGETHER NOW
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FOURSOME = \$600

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Drink Cart Sponsors	\$500
Hole Sponsors	\$200

MASH
Mental Health Support

HVAF Job Fair Hiring Event May 16, 2025 from 11am till 2pm, 45 East 10th St

HVAF
of Indiana, Inc.
Helping Veterans And Families

"CALLING ALL VETERANS"

SPRING HIRING EVENT 2025

MAY 16, 2025
11AM - 2PM
45 EAST 10th. STREET

Activities & Events

Veteran Job Fair May 8th at the Marion Campus Gym 10am till 1pm

VETERAN JOB FAIR

MAY 08
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

- ★ Over 60+ Employers
- ★ Indiana Job Leads
- ★ Networking
- ★ Educational Benefits
- ★ Vocational Rehabilitation
- ★ VA Programs & Services

Visit WorkOne and/or VHA Vocational Rehabilitation for **FREE** employment services prior to the event such as resume development and interview tips.

WorkOne:
Adam Colone, 260-234-8688
acolone@dwd.in.gov

VHA Vocational Rehabilitation
Contact the vocational rehab team:
765-674-3321, extension 73702 or
VHANINVOclrehab@va.gov

Join Us to find your new career during the VA Northern Indiana Job Fair held in the Marion campus gymnasium! Located at 1700 East 38th St. Marion, Ind. 46953.

Veterans and their families can learn about VA benefits and meet with local employers from a variety of industries.

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Northern Indiana Health Care System

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#VANORTHERNINDIANA
#VANIHCs

IDVA Golf Outing May 9th

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs

2025 SALUTE TO VETERANS:

12TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF OUTING
Register your team or sponsor this event at <https://charitygolftoday.com/register?e=19356&ce=37c5e0>

May 9, 2025
Brookshire Golf Course
12120 Brookshire Pkwy,
Carmel, IN 46033

12 PM Tee-Off Raffle & 50/50
Food & Drinks Awards Reception
Boxed Lunch

All proceeds benefit the 2025 IDVA non-profit partner At Ease Orchard

Christmas in June Care Package Drive Bring Your Gifts to the Fishers American Legion to be Wrapped and Packed May 10th at 5pm

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

HAMILTON COUNTY Veterans CORP

"Christmas in June" Care Package Drive for our Deployed Hoosiers - Feb 12th till May 10th

Please help us collect gifts to send care packages to our deployed Hoosier troops for a "Christmas in June". Purchase gifts on the list below and bring them to your local Hamilton County VFW or American Legion Post where they will be collected and brought to the Fishers American Legion Post for wrapping and packaging on May 10 at 5pm. We also need to raise money for shipping costs, so please donate online at <https://donorbox.org/hamilton-county-veterans-corp> or drop off funds at your Legion & VFW where you leave the goods for the care packages. We need the gifts and funds delivered by May 2nd 2025. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!!**

Here are your local Hamilton County VFW & American Legion Post's addresses.

Carmel American Legion Post 155 - 852 West Main St, Carmel, In 46032
Carmel VFW Post 10003 - 12863 Old Meridian ST, Carmel, In 46032
Cicero American Legion Post 341 - 50 Washington Ave, Cicero, In
Fishers American Legion Post 470 - 9091 E 126th St, Fishers, In
Noblesville American Legion Post 45 - 273 S 8th St, Noblesville, In 46060
Noblesville VFW Post 6246 - 654 S 9th St, Noblesville, In 46060
Sheridan American Legion Post 67 - 406 E 10th St, Sheridan, In

Care Package Gifts Needed for Our Deployed Troops
Suggested items requested by those deployed include Card games (Phase 10, Uno...), Puzzles, small boxes of Keurig cups, Graphic t-shirts Men's and Women's (Sizes S – 3x), water bottles, throw blankets, Decorations- Christmas lights, signs, banners as people love to decorate their living quarters or office space. If you've been deployed, bring what you wanted back then.

Questions or if you wish to volunteer for packaging day, please contact:
Lynn at treasurer@hamiltoncountyveterans.com
Tracy at auxiliarypost470@gmail.com

Heights Educational Foundation's 36th annual Golf Scramble tees off June 5 at Bear Slide

Submitted

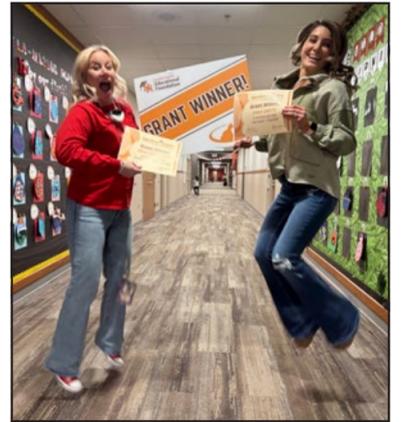
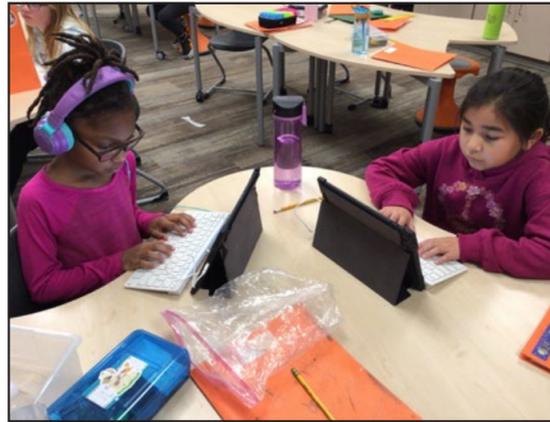
Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation (HHEF) invites the community to its 36th annual Golf Outing on Thursday, June 5 at Bear Slide Golf Course, 6770 E. 231st St., Cicero.

Gather with friends, neighbors, and colleagues for a day of fun, networking, and friendly competition – all in support of the Foundation's mission to enhance student achievement at Hamilton Heights.

As HHEF's primary fundraiser, this long-standing event plays a vital role in providing grants to Hamilton Heights students and teachers, fueling innovation and impactful educational opportunities. Over the years, HHEF has reinvested thousands of dollars annually into student-centered projects and programs.

Event Details

- Cost: \$125 per golfer (includes greens fee, cart, box lunch, two mulligans, and two drink tickets)
- Lunch: Catered by Big Dog's Smokehouse
- Rain Date: Thursday, June 12



Photos provided

Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation empowers education. Thanks to the generosity of HHEF advocates, teachers bring creativity and innovation into the classroom – giving students an academic edge through cutting-edge technology, inspiring programs, and specialty initiatives.

• Registration: 9 a.m. Shotgun Start: 10 a.m.

Special thanks to this year's title sponsors Beck's Hybrids, Beaver Materials, and Blades Audio Video Security, whose generous support helps make this event possible.

All contributions to HHEF are tax deductible, and 100 percent of the funds go directly to supporting students. Donations are accepted year-round to continue strengthening ed-

ucational opportunities at Hamilton Heights.

If you have questions, contact Melissa Martin at mmartin@hhschuskies.org or (317) 984-3551 ext. 5024.

Register, sponsor, or learn more at bit.ly/hhef-2025golfouting. Follow along on social media at @hhedfoundation.

About the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation
The Hamilton Heights Edu-

ational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit entity created in 1989 to support the Hamilton Heights school system. Its

mission is to provide monetary grants to teachers who initiate classroom instructional proposals that demonstrate a high de-

gree of creativity and instructional enhancement designed to improve student academic achievement.

Carmel native wins Western Colorado University's most prestigious alumni award

One of only eight recipients in 2025

Submitted

Carmel native Megan Fortier will receive Western Colorado University's highest honor for graduates at an awards ceremony on Friday, May 9.

As one of only eight recipients of the 2025 Alumni Award for Excellence, Fortier joins the ranks of Western's most distinguished alumni, recognized not only for her academic achievement but for her meaningful contributions to the campus community.

"The Alumni Award for Excellence is about more than academic success. It's about having a lasting impact at Western and beyond," Director of Alumni Relations Megan West said. "These students have shaped the Western community in ways that will last long after they graduate."

For the last 28 years, members of Western's Alumni Advisory Council have met each spring to consider the nominations of students from nearly every department. The committee's goal is to find the most select group of nominees who have spent their time on campus committed to being the best version of themselves and exemplify what it means to be a Mountaineer.

Fortier graduated summa cum laude with honors in December with a Bachelor of Arts in Environment and Sustainability and an emphasis in Climate Action Planning. Following graduation, she will enjoy the rest of the summer in Gunnison, Colo., before moving to San Francisco, Calif. to start her career in environmental consulting.

"Receiving the Alumni Award of Excellence means that the hard work I put into my education and my greater community has not gone unrecognized," Fortier said.



Fortier

"Coming from a prestigious high school with a graduating class of over 1,000 students to a small college in rural Colorado, I found it so much easier for students to find their niche in whatever industry or educational realm they find themselves in, rather than simply trying to compete with classmates. That meant I was not only academically successful, but had an impact on my program, school, and the greater Gunnison Valley community."

Unlike the Latin honors awarded at commencement, the Alumni Award for Excellence recognizes more than a strong grade-point average, although an outstanding academic record is necessary for consideration. It honors students who give their time and talents to make Western the exceptional community that it is.

In addition to being part of the University's Honors Program, Fortier participated in LEAD Sustainability, which operates FreeCycle,

a free, on-campus thrift store, as well as other environmental initiatives. She served as a Student Steward for Western with the Resilience Studies Consortium, working with a network of eight other universities around the world. She was the climate action planning intern for the towns of Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte, as well as Western's first climate justice intern.

"At Western, education is personal. We want our students to be personally invested in their education and in creating the kind of campus experience they want for themselves and their peers," West said. "Megan is a great example of the kind of student we want to honor with this award."

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White River Family Cruise
Join us for the White River Family Cruise, a delightful, short rail bike adventure departing Hobbs Station. This family-friendly journey takes you on a charming ride over the tranquil White River and into the heart of Downtown Noblesville. Bike time on this ride is very short at 15-20 minutes plus a 1-hour layover in Downtown Noblesville.

Twilight Rail Ride
Take an evening rail bike ride and enjoy the sights and sounds of twilight. Bikes will depart from Hobbs Station in Noblesville for a 7-mile round trip ride.

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Community News

Eagle Creek Evangelical Friends Church invites you to gospel concert

Mark your calendar now for a special gospel concert at Eagle Creek Evangelical Friends Church in Westfield.

The concert will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 17.

The church is located at 18325 Eagletown Road. Feel free to bring your friends – they will thank you! Light refreshments will be available.

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Thanks for reading!

HSE Schools names 2024-25 Honor & Excellence recipients

Submitted by Hamilton Southeastern Schools

Hamilton Southeastern Schools has recognized 24 outstanding non-certified employees as this year's Honor & Excellence award recipients. These individuals are the heart of HSE's schools and programs – nominated by their peers for their unwavering dedication and daily impact.

Non-certified staff make up more than half of HSE Schools' 2,500-person workforce.

From preparing meals and maintaining welcoming facilities to providing essential health services and supporting classroom learning, these team members ensure our schools run smoothly and safely. Their work

is vital to the success and well-being of every student and staff member.

Each of HSE's 22 schools and two district programs selects one honoree annually in recognition of their exceptional service.

"Our support staff are often the first to greet our students in the morning and the last to send them home safely,"

Superintendent Pat Mapes said. "They are role models, trusted adults, and the steady presence that keeps our students engaged and on-track. We simply couldn't do this work without them. I'm incredibly grateful for their service and proud to celebrate this year's honorees."

Congratulations to these remarkable employees for



Mapes

2024-25 Honor & Excellence Recipients

Below is the full list of honorees by school/program.

BSE: Gracie Hook, Resource Instructional Assistant
CRE: Valerie Schallig, Cafe Manager
DCE: Annie Tsimeraki, Full-time Substitute Teacher
FCE: Fadwa Alshajrawi, ENL Instructional Assistant
FES: Karen Norton, Resource Instructional Assistant
GES: Megan Marchione, School Nurse
HPE: Jamie Davis, Resource Instructional Assistant
HRE: Kim Weber, Instructional Assistant
LRE: Rene Merriam, Instructional Assistant
NBE: Amany Hanna, STEAM Instructional Assistant
SCE: Sarah Edwards, Resource Instructional Assistant
SES: Kristyn Hamm, Resource Instructional Assistant
TCE: Jana Brey, Resource Instructional Assistant
FCI: Lauren Medawar, Exceptional Learner Instructional Assistant
RSI: Teresa Johnson, Treasurer
SCI: Cody Simons, FAP Instructional Assistant
HIJ: Karan Wheeler, Treasurer
FCJ: Kelly Mason, Instructional Assistant
FJH: Luke Roach, Technology Specialist
RJH: Libby Hoefflin, Life Skills Instructional Assistant
HHS: Heather Templin, Student Services Administrative Assistant
FHS: Cheryl Carothers, Registrar
PRE: Kyli Fykes-Morgan, Instructional Assistant
FOCUS: Ghazal Alsydali, Instructional Assistant

going above and beyond best of Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

Fishers awards local teachers with nearly \$100K for classroom innovation

The REPORTER

Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness surprised five teachers with more than \$95,000 in funding as part of the city's Educator Innovation Grant program. The program exists to empower educators within HSE Schools with the financial resources to bring innovation to the classroom and inspire students to rethink learning.

This new round of grants brings the funding total to nearly \$350,000 since the program launched in 2024. To date, 22 educators across 12 schools have received funding for projects which include implementing virtual reality within the classroom, modernizing makerspaces for STEAM programming, professional development opportunities, and more.

Applications are accept-

ed on a rolling basis, and project requests have no funding cap.

The new round of grant recipients include:

- **Jamie Follis (Hamilton Southeastern High School and Olio Road Productions):** \$16,200 to support an extension of the Olio Road Productions film program which would empower students to include short film production in their classes throughout the school year. These short films will include fictional, promotional, and documentary-style shorts with the potential for public viewing opportunities in collaboration with the city.

- **Jeffrey Brunner (Fall Creek Junior High):** \$3,600 to help purchase Time Kettle translator earbuds for students in the ENL program. These earbuds provide real-time

translation, allowing students to become more self-sufficient and productive in subjects like mathematics, where there are often gaps in support.

- **John McCallister (Hamilton Southeastern High School):** \$39,100 to provide a welding simulation at the high school. With a limited space to practice traditional welding, this technology will allow students to earn up to two welding certificates while preparing them for a career in the trades.

- **Jenifer Young (Hamilton Southeastern High School):** \$15,100 to provide additional resources to better connect ESL students with their classes. This will address the language and cultural gaps that many ESL students face, empowering them to learn English and acclimate to school in

the U.S.

- **Will Hurst (Cumberland Road Elementary):** \$22,980 to support the development of the school's "Village of Cumberland" which is set to include a "Biz Town" experience for students. This project directly connects with the third-grade experience in HSE's Journey of a Student.

Grants are awarded by a selection committee comprised of former educators from HSE Schools, community entrepreneurs, and HSE alumni. Committee members include Mike Fassold (retired junior high educator); Kaleigh Arndt (former elementary educator); Brad Jackson (retired junior high educator); Amy Murch (Conner Prairie teacher in residence); and Jordin Alexander (HSE alum and City of Fishers Chief of Staff).



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US Flag Requests

Obtain commemorative flags flown over the US Capitol from my office.



Military Academy Nominations

High school students in our district may contact my office to request a nomination to attend one of our nation's service academies.



US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

My office can help arrange tours throughout our nation's capital.

West District Office: (317) 848-0201

East District Office: (765) 639-0671

www.spartz.house.gov

Sheridan's young artists glow with creativity

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

Sheridan Community Schools played host to a glow-tastic experience last week. The K-12 Glow Show occurred May 1 and turned the halls into a gallery of creativity. The event put on display artwork from students across the district. It featured pieces from throughout the school year that the art teachers thoughtfully selected.

Art teachers – Brooke Garrard (SHS), DeAnna Gipson (SMS), and Madeline Sweger (SES) – select the standout works from a variety of classroom projects that highlight student creativity, effort and skill.

Besides presenting various projects that showcase the talent throughout the school year, a highlight of the show was the “Glow Show.” These pieces literally glowed as the lights were dimmed throughout the displays. This helped show off the “glowing” features of the pieces.

Another key event on the art show was the People’s Choice vote. Visitors were invited to cast their votes for their favorite piece from each school. This friendly competition encouraged students to push their creativity and take pride in their work. This year’s winners were Avenly Kinkead (second grade), Bryn Doty (seventh grade), and Chloe Wright (10th grade). Congratulations to these talented artists.

The Glow Show was not just an art exhibit, it



Photos provided by Sheridan Community Schools

was a showcase of imagination and hard work. Thank you to the students who shared their extraordinary work, the teachers

who guided them, and to everyone who attended and supported. Sheridan continues to shine and “glow.” Bravo!

Register for CCPR’s Adaptive 5K

Accessible, sensory-friendly event on May 17 will support adaptive recreation programs

The REPORTER

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) invites the community to attend its annual **Adaptive 5K** at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, May 17 at Central Park, 1195 Central Park Drive West. The course is fully accessible for participants who utilize wheelchairs, walkers or other mobility aids, and the event is sensory-friendly.

“Even though my role was behind the scenes, I could see the joy and impact the Adaptive 5K had on everyone involved,” CCPR Inclusion Instructor Quinn Sever said. “This event gives people of all abilities a chance to participate in something that’s often not accessible. Watching athletes push themselves and volunteers cheer them on was incredibly moving. It reminded me how powerful inclusion can be – and it personally inspired me to give my all

in every part of my life.”

CCPR’s Adaptive 5K welcomes people with and without disabilities to participate in a welcoming, positive environment. Individual support is available for participants, if needed. Proceeds will go toward CCPR’s continued effort to provide low-cost adaptive recreation programs for individuals with disabilities.

“The Adaptive 5K is designed for everyone,” CCPR Inclusion Program Supervisor Kelvin Solares said. “Our fully accessible, sensory-friendly course ensures that individuals who use mobility aids, have sensory needs, or simply want to show their support can all cross the finish line together.”

Volunteers are a vital part of the event’s success. If you are interested in volunteering for the Adaptive 5K, [click here](#) to create your CCPR volunteer account. Volunteers under the

age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian that is also registered. There are two categories of volunteers needed:

- **Race Participant:** Volunteers will be paired with a race participant to run or walk alongside them, supporting them through this huge accomplishment.

- **Support Volunteer:** Volunteers will assist in setting up and tearing down the event and with passing out water and encouragement along the race route.

Registration for the Adaptive 5K event is now open. Cost is \$20 per participant. All ages are welcome to participate. Pre-registration is required, so get registered today.

The Adaptive 5K is made possible by the generous donations from the following sponsors: Pure Green, Brainstorm Print, Carmel Trophies Awards & Gifts, BeeFree Gluten-Free Bakery, and Tikal Homes.

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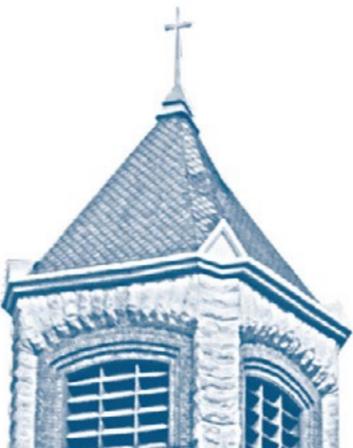
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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE BURNT OFFERING

The Lord said to Moses: "Give Aaron and his sons this command: 'These are the regulations for the burnt offering: The burnt offering is to remain on the altar hearth throughout the night, till morning, and the fire must be kept burning on the altar. The priest shall then put on his linen clothes, with linen undergarments next to his body, and shall remove the ashes of the burnt offering that the fire has consumed on the altar and place them beside the altar. Then he is to take off these clothes and put on others, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a place that is ceremonially clean. The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.

Leviticus 6:8-13 (NIV)

The Reporter's policy on obituaries

The Hamilton County Reporter does not charge families for publishing obituary notices in our pages. Every obituary appearing in online editions Wednesday through Saturday also appears in our Monday print editions. In order to continue to offer this as a community service, we ask that obituaries not exceed 500 words. The limitations of space may not allow for longer ones to appear in print.

Submit obituaries under 500 words online at ReadTheReporter.com/obitform.

Meeting Notices

The Carmel Clay Schools Board Trustees will meet in an executive session at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 12, 2025, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St.

The Hamilton County Commissioners will meet at 1:45 p.m. Monday, May 12, 2025, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County GIS Policy Committee will hold a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss GIS projects at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday, May 20, 2025. The Meeting ID is 222 491 165 523, and the passcode is 5QU6qA3Z. Alternatively, you can listen in on the meeting by calling (219) 225-8177 and entering Conference ID 206 994 890#.

Send Meeting Notices to: News@ReadTheReporter.com

Indiana Farm Bureau employees make statewide impact to celebrate volunteer program's 10th anniversary

Submitted

IFBI Community, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance's corporate volunteering and giving program, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. To mark this important milestone, IFBI Community expanded its support of the United Way of Central Indiana, facilitated volunteer opportunities during National Volunteer Week and created a service project for all employees to participate in during a companywide event.

Ten years ago, the IFBI Community program formalized the company's existing community involvement efforts. It now provides employees with allotted volunteer time, builds relationships with nonprofits and community organizations, and manages corporate giving. In 2024, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance employees volunteered more than 4,000 hours to support nonprofits and community organizations.

"Over the past decade, IFBI Community has grown and developed into a program that has made a sizeable impact on Hoosier communities," said Kevin Murphy, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance executive vice president and CEO. "Across the state, you will find Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance employees and

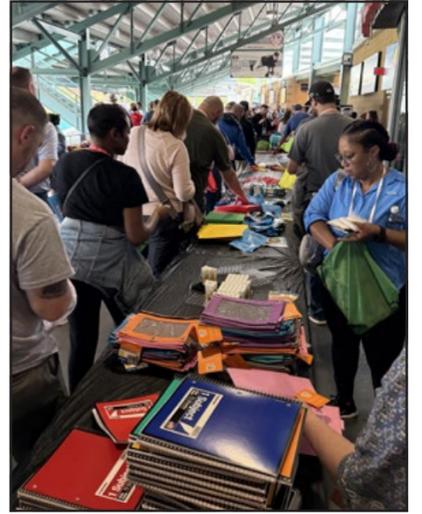


Photo provided

agents who are invested in helping their neighbors. I firmly believe that our commitment to giving back makes us a better company."

In addition to employee time, IFBI Community provides financial support to a variety of organizations and sponsors several initiatives. This year, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance expanded its sponsorship of the United Way of Central Indiana's Go All IN Day, a day organized to encourage Hoosiers to get involved and volunteer. The company was previously the Marion County Community Champion but is now the presenting sponsor for the event through 2027.

The company also was

heavily involved during National Volunteer Week, which was celebrated from April 20 to 26 this year. IFBI Community provided employees across the state with several opportunities to volunteer at organizations like Gleaners Food Bank, Million Meal Movement, Firefly Children and Family Alliance, or through the numerous organizations participating in the United Way of Central Indiana's Go All IN Day. This year, the company saw a nearly 30 percent increase in employee volunteer activity when compared to last year's National Volunteer Week efforts.

On May 1, in a display of collective impact, all

employees from across the state participated in a companywide service project. During an all-staff event held at Victory Field in Indianapolis, approximately 1,400 bookbags were packed and filled with supplies for Firefly Children and Family Alliance. The organization has offices in 64 counties in Indiana, and the bookbags packed on May 1 were distributed to families in need in Indianapolis and other communities across the state.

To learn more about IFBI Community and the impact Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance employees have had on communities across the state, visit infb.com/company/community.

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REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

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CARMEL, FISHERS, GUERIN CATHOLIC, HAMILTON HEIGHTS, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN, NOBLESVILLE, SHERIDAN, UNIVERSITY, WESTFIELD

Girls Lacrosse



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

The Carmel girls lacrosse team won its regular-season finale Wednesday, beating Kentucky Country Day 13-9. The Greyhounds finished the season 15-3 and are the No. 1 seed in the Indiana Girls Lacrosse Association's Class 2A tournament. Pictured are several of the Carmel seniors.

Class 2A girls lacrosse bracket announced

The REPORTER

The bracket for the Indiana Girls Lacrosse Association's Class 2A state tournament has been announced.

A total of 16 teams will play in the tournament, with first-round games taking place this weekend. Most games involving Hamilton County teams will be played on Friday; Carmel's game against Penn is the lone Saturday game, as it begins at 11:30 a.m. at Brian Murray Stadium.

A list of first-round games now follows. The

higher seeded team will be the host.

- No. 1 Carmel vs. No. 16 Penn
- No. 8 Brebeuf Jesuit vs. No. 9 Heritage Christian
- No. 4 Zionsville vs. No. 13 Evansville North
- No. 5 Bishop Chatard vs. No. 12 Noblesville
- No. 2 Guerin Catholic vs. No. 15 Park Tudor
- No. 7 Center Grove vs. No. 10 Westfield
- No. 3 Hamilton Southeastern vs. No. 14 Evansville Memorial
- No. 6 Cathedral vs. No. 11 Culver Academies

Hounds win regular-season finale, head to playoffs as top seed

By **RICHIE HALL**
sports@readthereporter.com

CARMEL – The Carmel girls lacrosse team finished the regular season Wednesday and is in the best possible position to defend its state championship.

The Greyhounds cruised past Kentucky Country Day 13-9 at Brian Murray Stadium. The Bearcats out of Louisville are the No. 1-ranked team in Kentucky, but Carmel had the game under control by the third quarter.

"It's always a tough out for us," said Grey-

hounds coach Josh Miller. "They're a physical team. They're fast, they're well-coached, they work hard. That's a really good test for us going into the playoffs. I was impressed with how we handled some of that pressure."

The seniors led the way for the 'Hounds. Sophie Mock scored four goals, while Elle Tomalia put in three goals and dished out three assists. Breckin Hare had three goals and provided two assists.

All three of those Carmel players are heading to Division I college programs: Mock is committed

to University of California Berkley, Tomalia will play at Butler and Hare is headed to Lindenwood. Another D-I senior is Avery Goehl, who has committed to Florida Southern.

There are 11 seniors on this year's Greyhounds team, and Miller said that the group will leave "big shoes to fill," especially from an "intensity and practice standpoint."

"They just bring so much every day to the table," said Miller.

Carmel finished the regular season with a 15-3 record but was undefeated against Indiana teams – the

three losses were to out-of-state programs. According to the **in-state rankings from Laxnumbers.com**, the Greyhounds hold the highest ranking among Indiana Class 2A teams with a 99.99. Guerin Catholic is second with 99.83. The two teams met on April 1, with Carmel winning 7-6.

As a result, the 'Hounds are the top seed in the Indiana Girls Lacrosse Association's 2A tournament, with the Golden Eagles the second seed. Tournament play begins this weekend; Carmel hosts No. 16 seed Penn at Murray Stadium at 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

Softball

Carmel softball falls to Cathedral

The REPORTER

The Carmel softball team dropped a 9-6 game to Cathedral Wednesday at Cherry Tree Softball Complex.

Both teams scored one run in the first inning; Mia Fleming singled in Jayden Kleiner with a right field hit for the Greyhounds' run. Carmel then added one run in each of the next three innings.

Jayden Kleiner batted in Winni Owens with a single in the second inning, then Owens doubled in Megan Pike for a third-inning run.

The Irish put up four runs in the top of the fourth inning; the 'Hounds got one back in the bottom of the fourth. Kleiner got on base with a double and was sent home by Fleming's center field hit.

Cathedral scored another four runs in the sixth inning for a 9-4 lead. Kleiner smacked a two-run home run in the bottom of the sixth, also scoring Lolah Pence.

Kleiner was 3-for-4, while Fleming had two hits.

Carmel is 5-14 and hosts Mooresville on Friday.

Girls Tennis

Rocks clinch unbeaten HCC record, University wins again

The REPORTER

The Westfield girls tennis team made history on Tuesday, as the No. 4 ranked Shamrocks clinched their first-ever unbeaten Hoosier Crossroads Conference season.

Westfield beat Franklin Central 4-1 to complete the perfect campaign. The 'Rocks got 6-0, 6-0 wins from No. 1 singles Alexandra Grilliot and the No. 2 doubles team of Addi Kooi and Addison Laub. Also winning were No. 2 singles Isla Harvey and the No. 1 doubles team of Jenna Berry and Bella Rivera.

Westfield travels to Zionsville this afternoon for the first round of the HCC meet.

University beat Covenant Christian 3-2 on Tuesday, improving its record to 6-3 for the season.

No. 1 singles Laurel Buttrick and No. 2 singles Duygu Arseven both won their matches 6-0, 6-0; this is the seventh consecutive shutout for Buttrick. The Trailblazers' No. 2 doubles



Photo provided

The Fishers tennis team won the rain-delayed Mudsock meet on Tuesday, beating Hamilton Southeastern 4-1.

team of Anisha Patel and Tess Eggeson also won, that score was not available.

University travels to Park Tudor on Saturday for the Pioneer Conference meet.

No. 7-ranked Fishers beat Hamilton Southeastern 4-1 on Tuesday to win the rain-delayed Mudsock meet.

Both teams are headed to Zionsville this afternoon to begin play in the HCC meet.

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Baseball

Tigers stay perfect in Hoosier Crossroads Conference

The REPORTER

The Fishers baseball team kept its perfect Hoosier Crossroads Conference record intact Wednesday by beating Avon 4-2 in a home game.

The Tigers scored their first two runs in the second inning. Mayo Fernandez batted in Trevor Hall with a left field hit, then got home when Carter Strole sent an RBI single into center field.

The Orioles got a run in the fourth inning, but Fishers scored in the fifth to take a 3-1 lead. Deagan Repp singled in Fernandez with a right field hit. Jase Ruggles hit a sacrifice bunt in the sixth inning to send Collin Bumps home.

Fernandez and Huston Dunn both had two hits. Owen Sanders got the pitch-

ing win, with six strikeouts in six innings. Owen Lukac pitched a no-hit seventh inning for the save.

The Tigers are 9-0 in conference play and 17-3 overall. Fishers travels to Avon this evening to complete the HCC series.

Guerin Catholic beat Park Tudor 11-1 in six innings on Wednesday.

Karson Smith, Carson Kail and Finn Holden all had two hits. Kail was a perfect 4-for-4 at the plate, including a three-run triple in the first inning. Kail doubled in a run in the sixth inning, then Holden followed that with a two-RBI single to end the game.

Ian Taylor and Jackson Baker also hit a double, with Taylor totaling two RBI.

Smith, Beard and Brody Cain all scored two runs. Luke Gremelspacher threw five innings for the win, striking out nine.

Guerin Catholic is 9-8 and plays at the Catholic Classic this weekend at Lafayette Central Catholic.

Sheridan used a sixth-inning surge to beat Carroll 4-2 Wednesday in a Hoosier Heartland Conference game.

The Blackhawks scored their first run in the first inning when Braden Whisman's right field hit brought in Braelan Bochner. The score stayed 1-0 until the top of the sixth inning, when the Cougars scored a run to tie

the game.

Sheridan responded with three runs in the sixth inning. Gavin Schwerdtfeger and Jacob Hall both got home when Bochner reached on an error. Bochner scored on Caleb Alexander's single. Carroll got a run in the top of the seventh, but a groundout ended the game.

Whisman had two hits. Starting pitcher Dayne Voegel had a dominant game, throwing 14 strikeouts in six innings. Bochner pitched the seventh inning and got the win.

The Blackhawks are 5-10 and host Mooresville Christian at 5 p.m. this afternoon.

University beat Lawrence North 8-7 in eight innings Wednesday at RoundTripper Academy.

The Wildcats led 4-0 midway through the fourth inning. The Trailblazers got on the board with two runs in the bottom of the fourth. Cooper Burnett's center field hit scored Charlie Ranek, then Griffin Wright got home on an error.

University scored four runs in the sixth inning to take a 6-4 lead. The Blazers loaded the bases, then Ranek drew a walk to score Ryan Castetter. Burnett drew another walk, and that sent Wright home to tie the game. Beckett Suh cracked a dou-

ble into center field, bringing in Ranek and Cooper Cammack.

Lawrence North tied the game in the seventh inning on a two-run home run. The Wildcats hit an RBI double in the top of the eighth for a 7-6 lead. In the bottom of the eighth, Suh scored the tying run, then Owen Kingery scored the winning run on an error.

Suh had two hits. Cammack pitched four innings, striking out six and allowing three hits. Jacob Shearer pitched the final out and got the win.

University is 11-8 and plays this afternoon at Cathedral.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 8

BASEBALL

- Mooresville Christian Academy at Sheridan, 5 p.m.
- Hamilton Heights at Lapel, 5:30 p.m.
- University at Cathedral, 5:30 p.m.
- McCutcheon at Carmel, 6 p.m.
- Westfield at Zionsville, 6 p.m.
- Noblesville at Hamilton Southeastern, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE

- Bloomington North at Noblesville, 8 p.m.

GOLF

- Carmel vs. Pendleton Heights, 2 p.m. at Sagamore GC
- University at Park Tudor, 4:15 p.m.
- Hamilton Heights vs. Lapel, 4:30 p.m. at Edgewood GC

SOFTBALL

- Lapel at Hamilton Southeastern, 5:30 p.m.
- Roncalli at Westfield, 5:45 p.m.
- Noblesville at Kokomo, 6 p.m.

TENNIS

- Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet, 4 p.m. at Zionsville
- Guerin Catholic at Bishop Chatard, 4:30 p.m.
- Hoosier Conference meet at Logansport, 5 p.m.
- Carmel at Center Grove, 5:30 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

- Carmel girls at North Central, 5:30 p.m.
- North Central at Carmel boys, 5:30 p.m.
- Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet, 6 p.m. at Avon

UNIFIED TRACK

- Hamilton Heights at New Palestine, 5:30 p.m.
- Pendleton Heights at Noblesville, 6 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

- Decatur Central at University, 6:30 p.m.
- Lafayette Jefferson at Guerin Catholic, 7 p.m.
- Noblesville at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
- Westfield at Zionsville, 7:30 p.m.

Please email schedule changes or corrections to sports@readthereporter.com.

Gaskill commits to Wabash



Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics
Noblesville's Adam Gaskill has committed to the Wabash College baseball team. (Front row, from left) Jenni Gaskill (mother), Adam Gaskill, and Joe Gaskill (father). (Back row, from left) Scott Henson (Noblesville Baseball Assistant Coach), Justin Keever (Noblesville Baseball Head Coach), and Carson Gaskill (brother).

Ramsey commits to Wabash

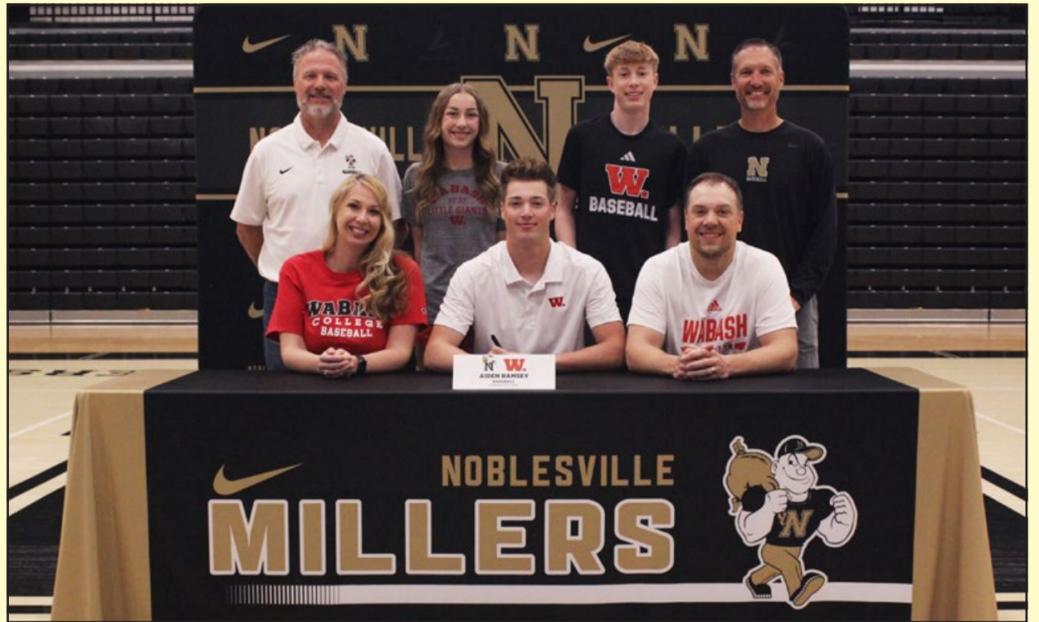


Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics
Noblesville's Aiden Ramsey has committed to the Wabash College baseball team. (Front row, from left) Amanda Ramsey (mother), Aiden Ramsey, and Alan Ramsey (father). (Back row, from left) Scott Henson (Noblesville Baseball Assistant Coach), Avery Ramsey (sister), Austin Ramsey (brother), and Justin Keever (Noblesville Baseball Head Coach).




(weather permitting) Upcoming Broadcasts

Sat May 3 - Baseball
1:00 pm Lebanon vs Noblesville | IHSAA Baseball | HCTV Sports

Mon May 5 - Baseball
6:30 pm Oak Hill vs Noblesville | IHSAA Baseball | HCTV Sports

Tues May 6 - Softball and Volleyball
6:00 pm Hamilton Southeastern vs Noblesville | IHSAA Softball | HCTV Sports
7:15 pm Roncalli vs Hamilton Southeastern | Boys Volleyball | Southeastern Sports

Wed May 7 - County Council
7:00 pm Hamilton County Council Regular Meeting | Hamilton County TV

Thu May 8 - Baseball
6:30 pm Noblesville vs Hamilton Southeastern | Baseball | Southeastern Sports

Fri May 9 - Baseball
6:30 pm Hamilton Southeastern vs Noblesville | IHSAA Baseball | HCTV Sports

Sat May 10 - Lacrosse
3:45 pm Westfield vs Hamilton Southeastern | Boys Lacrosse | Southeastern Sports

Mon May 12 - Softball
5:30 pm Yorktown vs Noblesville | IHSAA Baseball | HCTV Sports









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