

See *Stacks* . . . Page 3

Rokita sounds alarm on fake TxTag emails that target Hoosiers’ wallets

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers to a surge in spam emails falsely claiming to be from State of Indiana departments regarding TxTag, the Texas toll collection system. These fraudulent emails often demand payment for alleged unpaid tolls and include links or attachments designed to steal personal information or install malware.

“Scammers are relentless in exploiting hard-working Hoosiers, and these fake TxTag emails are no exception,” AG Rokita said. “We’re fighting back against fraudsters, but Hoosiers must stay vigilant. Never click

links or share personal information from unsolicited emails.”

The Office of the Attorney General has received

reports of these emails targeting Indiana residents, who may have no connection to Texas toll roads. The emails often use urgent language to trick recipients into acting quickly.

To protect yourself, AG Rokita recommends:

- Do not click links or open attachments in unsolicited emails claiming to be from TxTag.
- Verify any toll-related claims directly through the official TxTag website [tx-tag.org](https://www.tx-tag.org) or by calling their customer service at 1-888-468-9824.
- Report suspicious



Rokita

No one is immune, apparently

The REPORTER

Even this newspaper received many spam emails about TxTag in its various email accounts Tuesday morning.

Not only was the spam widespread, but it was widely known early on.

Throughout the day, multiple government and independent agencies sent notices warning not to click the links in the

email, not to respond, and to delete it.

According to the Indiana Arts Commission, the issue was with a “former email service provider” used by the State of Indiana.

Other notices came from the State Comptroller’s office, the Secretary of State’s office, and the Indiana Department of Transportation.

Rokita added. “Our office is committed to holding scammers accountable and protecting Hoosiers’ hard-earned money.”

If you believe you’ve been targeted or victimized by this scam, file a complaint with the Attorney General’s Office at [IndianaConsumer.com](https://indianaconsumer.com) or call 1-800-382-5516.

BREACH

The Office of Technology says the state ended its ties with the contractor on

Dec. 31, 2024. Fortunately, the office doesn’t believe any current state systems are

compromised.

Gupta says cyberattacks are growing more common.

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“You just have to be more careful,” Gupta said. “It’s happening more frequently, but I think we’re getting smarter as people to catch and identify those kinds of things.”

Gupta encourages you to remain vigilant against phishing attempts and report suspicious communications to the appropriate officials.

“Watch who you are getting stuff from,” Gupta said. “Usually, if you don’t answer unidentified phone calls, don’t respond to an unsolicited email.”

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wish9.com/news/local-news/indiana-state-security-breach-emails.

ACCURATE
BALANCED
LOCAL
NEWS

PARTNER

from Page 1

About Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc.

Founded in 2006, the Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc. Foundation is dedicated to advancing the development, promotion, and preservation of public parks and green spaces for the recreational, cultural, and educational benefit of Hamilton County residents and visitors. FHCPI achieves this through donations, grants, partnerships with patrons, volunteers, and financial support, while maintaining a vision of sustainable and creative practices for future generations.

IMPACT

from Page 1

The 2025 Hamilton Heights Youth Assistance IMPACT Award Recipients along with their presenters include:

K: **Cooper Nix** (presented by Sara Smith and Tracy Zachary)

1st: **Issac Quinn** (presented by Laurie Smucker)

2nd: **Sage Garner** (presented by Ashley Mandery and Cara Woodruff)

3rd: **Ronin Deering** (presented by Jenna Daniel)

4th: **Bella Siljanovska** (presented by Amy Day and Tracy Zachary)

5th: **Ryder Deering** (presented by Heather Greider)

6th: **Braxton Hilton** (presented by Stacy Hall, Chelsea Pacheco, and Mary Ann Haymaker)

7th: **Juliana VanHorn** (presented by Brianna Reeder)

8th: **Victor Bailey Taylor** (presented by Bonny Stites)

9th: **Emmilynn Tharp** (presented by Joy Volz)

9th: **Lukas White** (presented by Robin Hildebrand)

10th: **Jolie Garcia** (presented by Summer Bailey)

11th: **Zander Sykes** (presented by Kelly Smith)

11th: **Landen Greene** (presented by Kelly Ressler)

12th: **Maddison McMillan** (presented by Dee Roper)

In addition, Erin Hileman, a member of the custodial staff at Hamilton Heights Elementary School, was the recipient of the 2025 Tony Etchison Memorial Award.

“Erin exemplifies what Tony believed in: being kind, making a difference, and loving everyone,” Haymaker said. “She goes above and beyond and always has a smile on her face. She is the best! She will always lend a helping hand.”

Perry Williams and Syd Loomis were recognized for their service and dedication as their tenure on the Youth Assistance Program Board draws to a close.

“This event is a true cel-

ebration of the accomplishments and triumphs of these remarkable students, many of whom have overcome significant challenges in their lives,” said Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood, who served as the event’s emcee. “Their resilience, determination, and grit have allowed them to rise above adversity – proving that obstacles do not define one’s ability to succeed, both inside and outside the classroom. Their journeys serve as a powerful reminder that anyone can overcome life’s challenges and, in doing so, inspire others to persevere.”

Thank you to the following sponsors that made this special program possible:

Presenting Sponsors: Beck’s Hybrids, Blades Audio Video Security, Church Church Hittle + Antrim, Jackson Township Trustee’s Office, Lehman and Company, P.C., Majestic Care, Robinson and Sons Sandblasting, and Specialty Tax Services.

Supporting Sponsors: Bender Homes and Harbour Shores Church.

Individual Sponsorships: Edward Jones-Corey Sylvester, Lydia Harvey, Fred Woodruff and Wynona Dings, Purkey’s Heating & Cooling, The Farmer’s Bank, Powers Septic & Sewer, Arcadia Christian Church, Noblesville Elks #576, Peapod Public Relations, and Richard Eugene Pock.

A special thank you to the Youth Assistance Program Board members: Tricia Akers, Dr. Derek Arrowood, Judge Andrew Bloch, Sarah Buckner, Judge Michael Casati, Jeanann Dodson, Ashley Woodward Fisher, Jeremy Hunt, Brittany Jamieson, Syd Loomis, Natasha Robinson, Emily Schmale, Zach Smith, and Perry Williams.

Also, thank you to Summer Bailey for her extra help in making this such a successful evening and Rain Deering for her amazing artwork on this year’s program.

Thanks for reading the Hamilton County Reporter!

Fire Chief Town of Cicero

The **Cicero Fire Department** is currently accepting applications for the position of full-time Fire Chief. Applications can be downloaded from the Town of Cicero website www.ciceroin.org or picked up at the Utility Office located at 331 E Jackson Street, Cicero, IN 46034. Applications will be accepted until 6/2/25. The Town of Cicero is an Equal Employment Opportunity.

Benefits include:

- Bi-Weekly Salary
- Longevity pay after the 1st year is available
- Paid Time Off Package
- Health, Dental, Vision and Life insurance
- Certification and/or Degree Bonus

Duties, Job Requirements, Difficulty of Work and Responsibilities, etc. can be found on the Town of Cicero’s website at www.ciceroin.org.

Please contact

Emily Pearson at 317-370-2566 or epearson@townofcicero.in.gov or Rhonda Gary at (317) 984-4900 or rgary@townofcicero.in.gov with any questions.

ART COVER CONTEST

Theme: Illustrate what “taste of community” means to you—through food, people, places, or shared memories.

ART WORK CRITERIA	
WHAT TO SUBMIT	• The joy of cooking or sharing food together • Farmers markets, family tables, kitchens, or gardens • A vibrant sense of culture, connection, or place • Whimsy, warmth, or even a bit of mess!
SIZE & SPECS	A high-resolution piece of original artwork that could be used as the cover of the Taste of Community anthology. Digital or scanned hand-drawn art accepted.
HOW TO SUBMIT	8.5” x 11” (portrait orientation), 300 dpi, JPG or PNG. Email to - TasteofCommunity25@gmail.com or https://forms.gle/4jSzyz58kgpKTaFSA

Deadline for submission: 6/1/2025

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

Filling hunger gaps through expansion

Last summer, hundreds of thousands of Hoosier families who qualified for food benefits and reduced-price school meals received a summer-time boost: \$120 per child monthly for food while schools were closed. Indiana has decided not to participate in the federal summer food service program, “SUN Bucks,” in 2025.

One of the leading indicators for Feeding Team pantry locations is proximity to families living in areas with larger use of free or reduced meals in schools. Gap families – those who have enough to get by unless and until something unexpectedly happens – may or may not be receiving meal assistance for their children at school. Knowing this data, we respond with programming to fill this new hunger gap in our communities.

We are thrilled to announce that after a few years of hiatus from Northern Hamilton County, the Feeding Team is bringing back mobile food pickups and adding office hours food pick-ups to compliment the 77 pantries in service today.

Beginning in June, the Feeding Team and Gleaners food bank will host two mobile food pick-ups monthly, weather permitting:



MARK HALL
The Feeding Team Feature

- The second Saturday of each month, beginning June 14, from 10 a.m. to noon at Hamilton Heights High School, 25802 State Road 19, Arcadia

- The fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning June 24, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Harbour Shores Church, 8011 E. 216th St., Cicero

These recurring mobile food distributions are designed for neighbors to drive through with volunteers loading food in each neighbor’s vehicle. This is a big expansion to fill existing and upcoming food gaps in our area.

That said, we need help! Each Mobile Food Truck event needs 12 volunteers to assist with organizing and then food distribution into vehicles. If you want to help, please send an email to lisa@feedingteam.org to get details and signup.

Next, during select office hours, beginning in June every other Thursday at the Feeding Team offices, we are launching a small neighborhood drive-through food pick up. As we finalize details, please check our Facebook page for information and how to get involved.

This month, I heard an all-too-familiar story about

a neighbor stopping by one of the pantries only to find it barren.

This time it happened to be in Cicero, where a volunteer was pulling up a cart of food to load the pantry. From about a block away, she could see that a man was at the pantry shopping. As she walked closer his countenance and his eyes looked weary and distraught. This pantry, on this day at this time, was essentially empty. He looked down and discouraged, and he shook his head.

In God’s divine timing, the volunteer arrives as the man gets into his car to pull away. Gingerly, she approaches, pointing to her cart and lets him know that she is about to restock the pantry. Grateful and timidly, they move to the pantry where he selects enough food for a couple of days.

Then, next, just as he’s about to walk away, he turns to the volunteer and says, “You should know I wouldn’t be alive if it wasn’t for these boxes.”

Imagine the moment for a second: the joy of helping a neighbor who can’t make ends meet. Many of us have been there. Many are still there. Many will be there in the future. That is why we exist. It’s not often that we have encounters like this one. It happens more than you’d think, more than we’d like, and while we know that hunger and poverty will never go away, we can make a dent in it. Together we can help feed hungry neighbors here in our communities.

With over 44,000 food-challenged neighbors in Hamilton County, FeedingTeam.org is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit

organization that provides outdoor 24/7/365 no-questions-asked free food pantries throughout the county.

The pantries exist to meet the food insecurity needs of gap families, neighbors who may not qualify for public assistance and could use a few meals before payday. The pantries serve as many food-challenged neighbors as possible, and our hearts are with those who, like my family, could not always make ends meet.

Thank you for supporting the pantries. We love serving with so many neighbors across Hamilton County. In future columns, we will share more stories about how your generosity served neighbors in times of need. The face of hunger in Hamilton County is not what you may think.

In practical terms, this

FeedingTeam.org
Facts
77 pantries
14,000 meals per month
Over 30 volunteer families

straightforward way to help neighbors is having real impact on lives, families, and our communities. Thank you. A few meals can change the course of a person’s life. A can of green beans means so much more when you have nothing to feed your kids.

Would you like to get involved? Volunteer opportunities are available. We are evaluating new pantry locations. If you think you have a potential location, please contact us.

Mark and Lisa Hall are the Founders of Feeding Team. They may be reached at lisa@feedingteam.org and mark@feedingteam.org or by calling (317) 832-1123.

Calling all peony enthusiasts, get your Peony Passport

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

Looking to learn more about peonies? Or can't attend the festival this weekend, but still want to see peonies? We've got just the solution. Explore our [Indiana Peony Trail](#), a free activity and opportunity to learn and admire peonies in their peak season.

The Indiana Peony Festival established the Indiana Peony Trail in 2021 to celebrate the beauty of Indiana's state flower while promoting community engagement and environmental sustainability. By creating peony gardens throughout Noblesville at various businesses, public buildings, parks, and nonprofit locations, our organization has transformed the city into a premier destination for peony lovers.

SMC Corporation of America teamed up with us to develop the Peony Passport, an innovative tool to learn more about peonies. The passport is available physically and digitally. It serves as a guide for peony enthusiasts to easily navigate the trail, discover the various peony varieties, and track their progress along the way. The idea was created to give peony enthusiasts more exposure to our state flower, outside of festival weekend. By offering this amazing program, we're able to beautify our community and offer education to new and/or

returning peony fans.

Last week we were able to plant more peonies at SMC and add new businesses to our Peony Trail. New to the trail this year, we are excited to have Ascension St. Vincent Hospital Fishers, East Bank Apartments, Forest Park Aquatic Center, and Promenade Trails.

Interested in a physical passport? Pick one up at one of our four exclusive locations or begin your passport experience by visiting any spot on the Peony Trail.

Pick-up locations

- Noblesville Ace Hardware, 603 Westfield Road
- Just Lagom Boutique, 876 Logan St.
- East Bank Apartments, 490 Maple St.
- Promenade Trails, 17780 Navigator Trail

Want to participate digitally? Seek out the special Indiana Peony Trail signs with QR codes in each designated spot. Scan the QR codes for details about the varieties of peonies planted in each location and what other locations are close by to visit.

This month is the perfect time to see what different varieties are planted all throughout Noblesville and surrounding areas. Complete your peony festival experience by exploring the trail before or after the festival in the month of May. We hope you enjoy the trail and peonies just as much as we do.

Keep up to date on the upcoming festivities at IndianaPeonyFestival.com.



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Philanthropy projects in Hamilton County.

Noblesville’s Mobley named Regional Indiana Assistant Principal of the Year

Submitted by Noblesville Schools
Noblesville Schools has announced that Noblesville High School (NHS) assistant principal Dr. Janae Mobley has been named the Assistant Principal of the Year for north central Indiana (Region 5) by the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP). This also puts her in the running for the Indiana Assistant Principal of the Year. She was selected for the honor by her peers, who based their decision on accomplishments, qual-

ifications, and leadership. She is the second NHS assistant principal to receive this honor in recent years, with NHS’s Kevin Stuckwisch being named regional assistant principal of the year in 2023. Mobley has been an assistant principal at NHS since 2019. Prior to that she served as a dean of students at NHS, an assistant principal at Yorktown High School, and a teacher



Mobley

in Carmel Clay Schools. In addition to overseeing graduation, Mobley has had responsibility for collaborative teacher and leadership teams at the high school to enhance instructional best practices and reach new levels of student academic success. She is also spearheading the adoption of the new Indiana high school diploma to ensure all students meet their future goals.

Mobley holds a doctorate in education leadership from the University of Kentucky and a master’s in education administration from Butler University. The IASP is a not-for-profit, professional association serving over 3,200 building level administrators in the state of Indiana. District 5 is located in north central Indiana and is made up of Boone, Hamilton, Howard, Madison, Miami and Tipton counties, representing approximately 40 public high schools.

Come see cops on a rooftop & help Special Olympics Indiana

The REPORTER
The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics Indiana will once again hold its annual Cop on a Rooftop at participating Dunkin’ locations statewide Friday, May 16. During these events, police officers will be stationed on rooftops to collect money that will go directly to support programming for Special Olympics athletes in Indiana. Locally, patrons can support Special Olympics Indiana from 5 a.m. to noon this Friday at these Dunkin’ locations in Hamilton County:

- **Carmel:** 2560 E. 146 St. (Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office)
- **Carmel:** 9800 N. Michigan Ave., Suite A (Carmel Police Department)
- **Noblesville:** 11150 E. 146 St., Suite 102 (Pendleton Correctional Facility)
- **Westfield:** 950 Tournament Trail (Westfield Police Department)
- **Zionsville:** 6842 Whitestown Pkwy. (Whitestown Police Department)

[Click here](#) to a full list of participating locations across the state.

Dunkin’ guests who donate to Cop on a Rooftop

will receive a coupon for a free donut. Guests who donate \$10 or more will receive a coupon for a free medium hot coffee.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest grassroots fundraising program benefitting Special Olympics throughout the world. In the first three years, Indiana LETR’s Cop on a Rooftop events have raised more than \$118,000 for Special Olympics Indiana. All the funds raised through Cop on a Rooftop helps support sports training and competition along with health, education, and leadership program opportunities for more than 19,000 children and adults across Indiana with intellectual disabilities.

About Special Olympics Indiana
Special Olympics Indiana is a nonprofit organization that is part of the global Special Olympics movement, created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities. Its vision is an inclusive world, driven by the power of sport, through which people with intellectual disabilities live active, healthy, and fulfilling lives. Learn more at SOIndiana.org.

Less than one month to go until Janus’ Helping Lives Bloom event

The REPORTER
Help support Janus Developmental Services by **attending and supporting** the organization’s fifth annual Helping Lives Bloom. The event will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 12 at the Mustard Seed Gardens, 77 Metsker Lane, Noblesville. Meet some of the Janus staff and clients and learn more about the organization and its plans for the future. Other activities include a

Wine Pull and Silent Auction in a casual atmosphere for a fun evening. Janus partners with the For the Love of Janus Guild for the Silent Auction. The money they raise is used for Participant Birthday Parties each month, Summer Fest, Halloween Party and Christmas Party. This is Janus’ biggest Fundraiser of the Year with many great baskets to bid on. Please [click here](#) to purchase your ticket. Your ticket includes heavy appetizers



and one complimentary drink wine/beer/soft drinks (cash bar available). There will also be a Wine Pull. A silent auction with gift baskets and gift cards will be sponsored by For the Love of Janus Guild. Affordable sponsorships

for both individuals and businesses are available. Just click the link above. If you have any questions, please email or call Jerry Jamison at jjamison@janus-inc.org or (317) 773-8781 ext. 100.

Thanks for reading!

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Photo illustration provided by IU Kokomo

Health care professionals honored in IU Kokomo pinning ceremony

The REPORTER

Indiana University Kokomo’s School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions (SNAHP) honored its 2025 graduates at its traditional pinning ceremony last Thursday, May 8, in Havens Auditorium.

The graduates include the inaugural class of the campus’s Occupational Therapy Assistant program. Five students earned the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences, along with four receiving a Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Science and 39 earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Carolyn Townsend, interim dean, welcomed the graduating class, family, friends, faculty, and staff to the momentous occasion, recognizing the hard work, dedication, and commitment they have shown in their journey to become health care professionals.

“Each of you has a unique story and path that has led you to this point,” Townshend said. “You have faced challenges and overcome obstacles, and today, you stand ready to take on the responsibilities of a professional healthcare provider. Your journey does not end here; it is just the beginning. As you step into your healthcare role, you will encounter new challenges and opportunities for growth. You will be called upon to make difficult decisions and to provide care in complex and sometimes uncertain situations. But know that

you are not alone. You are part of a larger community of professionals to support, guide, and share your successes and struggles.”

She encouraged the graduates to wear their professional pins with pride, as a reminder of their commitment to excellence, and of the profound impact they will have on the lives of their patients and their families.

Christina Douglas, clinical assistant professor and OTA program director, congratulated the first cohort graduating from the program and presented their pins.

“This pin signifies your commitment to the core principles of occupational therapy: empowering individuals to engage in the everyday activities that bring purpose and joy to their lives,” Douglas said. “It embodies the hard work, compassion, and creativity you have demonstrated in learning how to use occupations as powerful tools for recovery and growth. You are now equipped to help your clients live their fullest and most functional lives.”

Ten graduates participated in the Legacy pinning ceremony, receiving their pins from a family member who is also a registered nurse. They included Addie Cooper with her aunt Stacey Wilson; Mary Dada with her sister Elizabeth Omobo; Rylie Davison with her sister Brookelyn Agler; Brianna Enriquez with her mother Tina Enriquez; Ashley

Houghtalen with her grandmother Debbie Houghtalen; Brooklyn Keafer with her mother Amanda Keafer; Elizabeth Martin with her mother Sara Mitchell; Jenna Smith with her mother Jennifer Smith; Sarah Smith with her mother Julie Smith; and Delaney Zeck with her aunt Dawn Pullen.

Brielle Remmenga led the OTA class in reciting the Occupational Therapy Assistant Pledge and Creed, while Makenna Leicht led nursing students in the Nursing Pledge.

Students Delaney Zeck and Jenna Smith also addressed their classmates, offering words of wisdom and memories of their time together.

“When I look back on our very first year as nursing students, I see wide-eyed, ambitious kids,” Smith said. “Now, when I look at us, I see tired-eyed, ambitious adults eager to take on our next challenge and care for people. With all the late night and early morning lectures, study groups, simulations, and classes that got harder, harder, and somehow even harder, we had to be each other’s support, cheerleaders, and teammates, and we were. We grew from a bunch of people who hardly knew each other into a family. I am so proud of all of us because I know we all fought tooth and nail to make it here today.

“We made it, now let’s go save some lives!”

Master of Science in

Nursing graduates will also be recognized at the Master’s Hooding ceremony Friday.

Students honored include:

- Veteran honor cords: Cole Carden, Hunter Carden, Galveston

- Academic honor cords with highest distinction: Blake Banter, Kokomo; Brecken Good, Rossville; Dana Hackney, Fishers; Ella Kantz, Greentown

- Academic honor cords with high distinction: Sarah Smith, Kokomo

- Honors Program graduate: Peter Sayers Burton, Kokomo

- Outstanding Student in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program: Brecken Good, Rossville

- Outstanding Student in the Pre-licensure Traditional BSN program: Blake Banter, Kokomo

- Outstanding Student in the online Applied Health Science program: Dana Hackney, Fishers

- Outstanding Student in the Master of Science in Nursing program: Crystal Vice

Local students who were pinned included:

Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Science

- Fishers: Dana Hackney
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

- Arcadia: Lauren Johnson

- Carmel: Claire Rice
- Noblesville: Ashley Nicole Houghtalen

- Westfield: David Konstantin Kapriyan

Latest updates from Civic Theatre

The REPORTER

Here is the latest news from the Civic Theatre, 3 Carter Green, Carmel.

Season Announcement

The 2025-26 season lineup will be announced at 4 p.m. Friday, May 16. Follow Civic Theatre on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to be the first to see the big news.

Big debut

For Civic Theatre’s debut production at the Payne & Mencias Palladium at the Allied Solutions Center for

the Performing Arts, enjoy a concert version of the iconic Broadway musical, *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

This special event marks not only Civic’s first performance in the venue but also serves as a fundraiser to support its mission to foster a love of theatre through imagination, education, and participation.

[Click here](#) to buy your tickets.

Keep up to date at [CivicTheatre.org](#).

Tall tales told at Carmel High School with *Big Fish*

By HERNAN GUTIERREZ

WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](#)

To celebrate the production of *Big Fish* opening this week, the Carmel Theatre Department shared a behind-the-scenes look at the Broadway-inspired musical.

The musical is based on a novel by Daniel Wallace which inspired a film directed by Tim Burton, starring Ewan McGregor and Alison Lohman.

Big Fish follows the larger than life stories of Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman – according to the show’s description.

Carmel’s Isaiah Henderson takes on the lead role. He says the show is funny, but dives into some deep moments.

“[It’s about] reckoning with the legacy [Edward] is leaving behind and his relationship with his son,” Henderson said. “It’s about telling stories that are bigger than yourself and sort of taking a lease on life. It’s about the legacy that you leave behind for the ones you love.”

The school’s production is using the same set used by the original Broadway

“Big Fish” Showtimes

Thursday, May 15 at 7 p.m.
Friday, May 16 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 17 at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

production of the musical in 2013. Props include the titular big fish, elephants’ butts, statues, and a giant wall of daffodils.

Opposite of Henderson is Harper Broan, who plays Edward’s wife Sandra Bloom. She’s excited to dive into Sandra’s character.

“[Sandra] cares very deeply for all the people in her life, especially her husband and her son,” Broan said. “It’s really cool to see her develop throughout the show because you get to see her when she’s younger. I personally really enjoy seeing her go from a spunky, more free-spirited person to a very mature, very wise character.”

Big Fish opens at the **Dale E. Graham Auditorium at Carmel High School** Thursday night.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/entertainment-news/carmel-theatre-big-fish-musical](#).

Graduate students saluted in IU Kokomo’s annual hooding ceremony

The REPORTER

Indiana University Kokomo honored graduate students in its annual hooding ceremony last Friday, May 9, in Havens Auditorium.

Faculty, staff, family, and friends celebrated with 36 students in the Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Public Management (MPM), Master of Science in Management, Master of Art in History, Master of Arts in Political Science, and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs.

Each received hoods in recognition of their achievements in their degree programs, draped by a faculty member who played an important role in their time at

IU Kokomo.

Chancellor Mark Canada welcomed the graduates and their family and friends.

“In the year of IU Kokomo’s 56th annual Commencement ceremony, we are delighted to celebrate the achievements of these degree candidates with all of you,” he said. “We know our students have counted on the support of family and friends to make this day possible, and we extend a special welcome to you and share your pride in their accomplishments.”

Anna Kiser of Noblesville received the Outstanding Student in Master of Business Administration award.

Graduate students earning master’s degrees are listed by degree and hometown. They include:

Master of Business Administration

- Carmel: Mary-Matalyn Tom

- Fishers: Kaley Alayne Lyons

- Noblesville: Sanchari Chatterjee, Anna Christina Kiser

- Westfield: Natalie

Cole, Brooke Jansen

Master of Public Management

- Tipton: Megan Pore
- Master of Arts in History**

- Carmel: Madilyn Guffey

Master of Arts in Political Science

- Noblesville: Briana Franklin

Master of Science in Nursing

- Noblesville: Gurinder Kaur Sembhi

- North Manchester: Aaron Wilson

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Find the best route to your destination thanks to Hamilton County Tourism

The REPORTER

With construction season in full swing, thus making it ever more challenging to travel around Hamilton County, our friends at Hamilton County Tourism have compiled this handy guide.

Below you will find links to road projects in each of the four major cities in the county, as well as county projects like the Streamline 146th plan. Even a link to state projects through INDOT is included. Thank you, Hamilton County Tourism!

Carmel road projects

Fishers road projects

Noblesville road projects

Westfield road projects

32 Connects

Reimagine Pleasant Street

Streamline 146th

Hamilton County road projects

INDOT projects across the state

NOBLESVILLE, IN

Nickel Plate

HERITAGE RAILROAD

20 **EST** 17

ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY OF RAIL TRAVEL!

Sit back and enjoy the sights, sounds and experience of a ride in our 1950s Santa Fe equipment.

The Nickel Plate Express operates on 12.5 miles of the former Nickel Plate Road between Noblesville and Atlanta. Excursions board in Noblesville at 825 Forest Park Drive.

Railbike Season

Forest Park Rail Adventure

Experience the beauty of nature on the historic Nickel Plate rails. The Forest Park Rail Adventure is a 7-mile railbike ride through scenic Northern Hamilton County.

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.

RAILBIKE SEASON IS NOW OPEN!

ALL ABOARD! NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM

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, F11a-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

Weekend Breakfast - Carmel American Legion

American Legion Post 155
852 W. Main Street
Carmel, IN 46032

Breakfast Every Saturday & Sunday: 8am to 12pm

Hamilton County Military Veteran Coffee With a Vet Last Saturday of the Month 8-9am

COFFEE With a VETERAN
Last Saturday of Each Month
8:00am-9:00am
Hosted by Clifton Morlan
University Veterans Post 360

A monthly veteran gathering to get to know veterans in your community.

INDY WARRIOR PARTNERSHIP

SCHOOL 7 HOUSE CAFE

Question Persuade Refer Training for Suicide Prevention

QPR SUICIDE PREVENTION COURSE
May 20, 2025
6:00PM - 8:00PM
This is a FREE Course!

Westfield Fire Headquarters
16901 Ditch Rd,
Westfield, IN 46074

Registration Required!

QUESTION. PERSUADE. REFER.

Three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide.

Narcan Training to Save a Life Wed May 21 7pm

You can be a Life-saver!

Learn how to save a life during an opioid overdose with naloxone!

Sign up for a FREE 30 min. naloxone* (Narcan) training:

Tues., April 29 6:30 p.m.
Nickel Plate Pavillion Conference room

Wed., May 21 7 p.m.
Nickel Plate Pavillion Conference room

Wed., May 28 7 p.m.
Nickel Plate Pavillion Conference room

* Naloxone is a medicine that safely and rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. No prescription is required and it is available at no cost to you!

Activities & Events

The Weekly Grind Coffee With a Vet Every Thursday

Join the Indy Vet Center for "The Weekly Grind"

We are starting a new coffee time open to ALL veterans weekly here at the Vet Center. This is not counselor led or directed in anyway, it is just an open invitation to have some coffee with your community.

Every Thursday from 10am till 12pm (noon)
Located at the Vet Center
6330 West 71st St
Indianapolis, IN 46278
317-423-1680

Christina Owens
Veteran Outreach Program Specialist
Indianapolis Vet Center
317-749-9357- Cell
317-423-1685- direct
317-423-1680- main
6330 W 71st St
Indianapolis, IN 46278

Stop the Bleed Training May 28 6-730pm

Hamilton County Health Department Presents

FREE STOP THE BLEED COURSE

May 28, 2025
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Hamilton County Juvenile Probation, Shelter Care, Adult Women Annex
18106 Cumberland Road
Noblesville, IN 46060

PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTEND THE COURSE, WILL RECEIVE A FREE STOP THE BLEED KIT.

Register Here

June 6th Hamilton County Community Resource & Health Fair at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds Emphasizing Veteran's Services

www.gsnlive.org/resourcefair

Good Samaritan NETWORK
317-842-2603

HAMILTON COUNTY 2025 resource & health fair

EMPHASIZING VETERANS' SERVICES

Get Free Screenings & Information

- Behavioral Health
- Blood Pressure
- Cholesterol
- Dental Health
- Diabetes
- Healthy Eating
- Job Information
- Mental Health
- Smoking Cessation
- Veterans' Services
- Visit Agencies & Pantries
- Volunteering
- Weight Loss
- Women's Health and more...

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR EXHIBITORS & SPONSORS

NONPROFITS FOR PROFITS SPONSORS NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

FRIDAY JUNE 6 12PM-4PM

Hamilton County 4H Fairgrounds
2003 Pleasant St
Noblesville, In

Good Samaritan NETWORK

A graphic with a white background. On the left, it says "Hamilton County Reporter" in a serif font, with "Click the button" below it. There is a circular button with "CLICK HERE" and a Facebook "Like us on Facebook" button. On the right, the text "THE BEST LOCAL NEWS & SPORTS COVERAGE IN HAMILTON COUNTY" is displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "THE BEST" on one line and the rest on two lines.

Quarter of Hamilton County households face financial hardship

United Way report shows more than 25 percent of workers in Indiana’s most common jobs struggle to afford the basics

The REPORTER

Some 25 percent of Hamilton County households could not afford a basic household budget in 2023. That’s 35,456 households – a 38 percent increase since 2018.

Statewide, 38 percent of households – more than one million households – faced financial hardship in 2023. Further, 29 percent of workers in Indiana’s 20 most common jobs lived in households that struggled to get by, yet they often earned an income that was too high to receive assistance. That’s more than one in four workers.

These figures were released Monday by Indiana United Ways and United Way of Central Indiana, in collaboration with research partner **United for ALICE**, as part of a new report: **“The State of ALICE in Indiana: 2025 Update on Financial Hardship.”**

The report examines households that are in poverty or are considered ALICE, an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE households earn above the Federal Poverty Level but not enough to afford the basics of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care and technology. ALICE rep-

resents a growing number of workers who keep the economy functioning: child care providers, nursing assistants, food service workers, cashiers, and personal care aides.

While the Federal Poverty Level has long been used as the basis for determining eligibility for public assistance, the ALICE report shows this official measure is outdated and “sharply underestimates” the true extent of financial hardship in the U.S.

For example, 12 percent of Hoosier households earned below the Federal Poverty Level in 2023, but an additional 26 percent – more than twice as many – still could not afford basic expenses. Yet these households often earn too much to qualify for assistance. ALICE families often face impossible choices, such as whether to pay for utilities or a car repair, buy food or fill a prescription.

According to the ALICE report, the minimum cost for a single adult to live and work in Indiana in 2023 was \$27,696, and it was \$74,376 for a family of four with two adults, an infant and a preschooler – much higher than the Federal Poverty Level figures of \$14,580 for

an individual and \$30,000 for a family of four. The ALICE report calculates the basic cost of living for every county in Indiana.

The report shows there’s an economic impact of meeting basic needs: if all Hoosier households in 2023 had earned enough to afford basic costs, that would have yielded an estimated \$25.7 billion in new economic activity through tax revenue and more consumer spending.

“ALICE are people who get up every day and go to jobs that we, in society, rely on daily,” said Denise Luster, United Way of Central Indiana’s chief strategic intelligence and information officer. “They are the child care providers, grocery store clerks, warehouse workers – the backbone of our community and vital to our state’s economic well-being. Yet most of these families struggle to afford basics due to barriers beyond their control. The ALICE report gives a voice to those families by providing a true picture of need, why so many households are struggling – and an opportunity for us to support families so they can thrive.”

“The 43 United Ways across the state of Indiana uplift families and individuals facing the financial

hardships highlighted in the ALICE report by creating networks of support that meet their most basic needs, providing training in financial literacy, enabling them to upskill and earn more, preparing their taxes for free, and providing direct supports to prevent financial crisis,” said Michael Budd, president and CEO of Indiana United Ways. “The ALICE report covers all 92 Indiana counties, and it shows the financial struggles faced by families living in every type of community – urban, suburban and rural. Consistent with United Way’s mission to mobilize communities to action so all can thrive, United Ways will continue to promote efforts in every community where neighbors are helping neighbors day in and day out.”

In United Way of Central Indiana’s seven-county service area – Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Marion, Morgan and Putnam counties – ALICE and poverty remain widespread and deeply inequitable:

- More than 34 percent of central Indiana households were in poverty or considered ALICE in 2023. That’s more than 241,000 households – over one in three



United Way of Central Indiana

central Indiana households.

- This region represents 23 percent of all ALICE and poverty-level households in Indiana, underscoring its critical role in statewide financial stability efforts.

- Marion County faces the greatest concentration of hardship, with 38 percent of households living below the ALICE Threshold.

- Racial disparities continue to persist with 49 percent of black households and 41 percent of Hispanic households in the region being in poverty or ALICE.

Key statewide findings from the report include:

- Households headed by single women had the highest rate of financial hardship in Indiana at 73 percent in 2023.

- Fourteen of the 20 most common jobs in Indiana pay less than \$20 per hour, in-

cluding essential roles like child care workers, personal care aides and cashiers.

- Black households, households under age 25, and single-parent households had the highest rates below the ALICE threshold in Indiana in 2023. Only 31 percent of Hoosier households in poverty or considered ALICE reported having a rainy-day fund for emergencies.

- In 2023, a staggering 72 percent of ALICE renters were rent-burdened, meaning they spent more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities, including 43 percent who spent half or more of their income on housing.

To read the report and dive into statewide and county-specific data, go to **UnitedForALICE.org/Indiana**.



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I can help you when dealing with federal agencies, including:

- Social Security issues
- Medicare claims
- Veterans benefits
- Passport assistance
- IRS questions



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

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.

Kevin Martin joins Aspire Indiana Health Board

The REPORTER

Kevin Martin has been named to the Aspire Indiana Health Board of Directors, bringing a wealth of business experience across multiple industries and disciplines.

Martin has held a wide range of C-suite and business ownership positions including President & Founder of Martin Equity, LLC and a former operating partner role with Johnson Ventures. As a financial expert and business advisor, he has a long track record of helping grow businesses and navigate complex partnerships and acquisitions.

“I welcome the opportunity to join the Aspire board,” Martin said. “The work their team does to deliver physical and mental health services in the communities it serves is very impressive and helps so many in need.”

Aspire is a nonprofit community health system with locations in Boone, Hamilton, Madison, and Marion counties, primarily serving Medicaid/Medicare populations and Hoosiers with complex health challenges. Its services include primary medical care, behavioral health therapy, substance abuse disorder treatment, recovery facilities and programs addressing social drivers of health such as employment and housing.

The company has continued to grow at a rapid pace, rolling out new initiatives including expanded medical and pharmacy services.

“As Aspire Indiana Health looks for more and better ways to serve

people facing barriers to healthcare, we need someone with Kevin’s business acumen, relationships, and knowledge of community need to help steer us in the best direction for smart, sustainable growth,” Aspire President & CEO Antony Sheehan said. “We’re thrilled he has accepted our invitation to join our board and look forward to having his counsel for years to come.”

Aspire Board Chair Michael Collette added, “Through Kevin’s appointment we are strengthening our Board’s capacity and capability, deepening our connection to Marion County, and bringing in entrepreneurial skills that can only benefit Aspire moving forward. I’m so grateful Kevin is now part of our team.”

Martin received bachelor’s and MBA degrees from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, and received a CPA license, now inactive. He has served on numerous boards including current appointments with The Orchard School and Brightlane Learning.

About Aspire

Serving central Indiana since 1966, Aspire Indiana Health is a nonprofit community health system with services addressing behavioral health, primary care medicine, substance use disorder, infectious diseases, deaf services, veteran services, recovery housing, abused/neglected children and programs addressing the social drivers of health including housing and employment assistance. Learn more at [AspireIndiana.org](https://aspireindiana.org).

U.S. Senator Jim Banks introduce legislation to improve Veterans’ benefits

The REPORTER

Last week, U.S. Senators Jim Banks (R-Ind.) and Angus King (I-Maine) introduced the Review Every Veteran’s Claim Act.

This bipartisan legislation seeks to reform the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims process, ensuring that veterans’ benefit claims are never denied because they miss a medical disability exam appointment. Veterans and veteran service organizations frequently report frustration with the exam scheduling process, and they should not be penalized for administrative mix-ups. Rep. Morgan Luttrell (R-Texas-08) is the lead in the House.

“Veterans’ benefit claims shouldn’t be tossed aside because of red tape or poor communication,” Sen. Banks said. “VA has a duty to assist veterans every

step of the way, and my bill makes the claims process fairer so veterans always get the benefits they have earned.”

Key provisions

- **Protect Against Unfair Denials:** Prohibits the VA from denying a claim solely because a veteran missed a scheduled medical disability examination.

- **Make the Claims Process Fairer:** Makes sure the VA assists veterans in developing medical evidence supporting their claims and never penalizes them.

[Click here](#) to read the full text of the bill.

Background

This bill was introduced in the 119th Congress by Rep. Luttrell on the House floor on March 14, 2025. It was considered in a House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs subcommittee legislative hearing on March 26, 2025.

ReadTheReporter.com

Dena Marie Beard

October 22, 1945 – May 2, 2025

Dena Marie Beard, 79, passed away peacefully at her home in Sheridan on Friday evening, May 2, 2025. Born October 22, 1945, in Kokomo, she was the daughter of the late James Brooks and Opal (McAhren) Beard.

She was a 1963 graduate of Sheridan High School and a member of the Sheridan First Christian Church.

A devoted caregiver, creative spirit, and tenacious worker, Dena Marie Beard lived her life with passion, purpose, and an unstoppable spirit. Known for her fierce honesty and even fiercer love, she touched the lives of many with her hard work, compassion, and creativity.

Dena earned her cosmetology license at Michael’s Beauty School in Indianapolis and brought beauty directly to the homes of others through her work in hair and nails. She also served as a Certified Nursing Assistant, offering compassionate care to the elderly and individuals with mental and physical challenges. Her career spanned multiple healthcare institutions, including Sheridan Healthcare, Harbor Manor, and ResCare Residential Home Healthcare.

Her work history was as dynamic as her personality. She delivered pizzas for Village Pizza, served as a receptionist at Sheridan Healthcare, rang up groceries as a cashier at IGA, and managed the Millwood Trailer Park in the 1980s.

Dena often held three to five jobs at once – once working for three straight months without a single day off. Her tireless dedication opened the door to many adventures, traveling to the American Southwest and Northwest, Florida, Jamaica, and the Bahamas.

She also had an entrepreneurial flair, selling products for companies like NuSkin, Longaberger Baskets, Tupperware, and Pampered Chef.

Dena’s love of music was expansive, with her playlists including R&B, country western, soul, disco, classical orchestras, folk, movie soundtracks, and even a touch of hip-hop. She especially adored classic Christmas tunes by Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, and Nat King Cole. Her favorite actor was Clint Eastwood, and Western films were a staple in her home.

A lover of the arts, Dena enjoyed the theater, movies, and reading. She kept a stack of monthly magazines including *Country Living*, *Early American Life*, and *A Taste of Home*. She expressed herself through crochet, knitting, needlepoint, and pastel drawing, and took art lessons with Estelle Seymore. Gardening and floral arranging also brought her joy.

Her sense of style was unmistakable – she never went without lipstick, enjoyed pampering herself at the salon, and had a well-known love for purses and shoes. She was a thoughtful and generous gift giver, known for browsing antique stores (especially in Kirklin, Ind.) and always finding just the right treasure.

Dena was the family’s news anchor and weather correspondent, always checking in, passing along information, and staying deeply connected. She never knew a stranger – her warmth made everyone feel welcome. If she liked you, you felt it. If she didn’t, you knew that too. Her honesty was legendary. She could laugh so hard that she’d cry ... that laugh!!

More than anything, Dena loved her family. She visited often, stayed in touch, and always made her presence known. She gave generously of herself until her final breath – Dena worked until the day she died.

After retiring, she took on the roles of bus driver and bus aide for the Westfield Washington School System.

“She lived life on her own terms – doing what she wanted to do and going where she wanted to go.”

Dena is survived by her daughter, Jama Ladean Barker (Steven) of Sheridan; nine grandchildren, Lydia Price (Joe Shields) of Ekin, James Elliot Barker (Kelly) of Westfield, Emma Kinkead (Zach) of Sheridan, Gideon Barker (Baylee) of Sheridan, Lillian Barker of Indianapolis, Ethan Brooks Blackstone (Logan Elizabeth) of Sheridan, Lauren Marie Frank of Kokomo, Natalie Elizabeth Frank of Sheridan, and Megan Michelle Frank (Allen) of Sheridan; 11 great-grandchildren, Tristan Shields, Avenly Kinkead, Lucas Kinkead, Emmett Barker, Everyn Kinkead, Charlotte Barker, River Kinkead, Isabelle Marie Frank, Brookston Lee Blackstone, Amelia Grace Cole, and Benjamin Mackenzie Smith-Frank; brother, James Brooks Beard, Jr. of Nashville, Ind.; and two sisters, Linda L. Sutton of Carmel and Opal Lynn Napoli of Sheridan.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James Brooks and Opal (McAhren) Beard; infant son, Troy Anthony Blackstone; daughter, Ronna “Marie” Grace; and former husband, Ronald Dean “Ronnie” Blackstone.

A celebration of Dena’s life will take place at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 18, 2025, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan, with visitation from 2 p.m. until the time of service. Dr. Brooks Barrick will be officiating.

Dena will be laid to rest at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Sheridan First Christian Church, P.O. Box 111, Sheridan, IN 46069.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

Carol Jean Baber

February 9, 1939 – May 8, 2025

Carol Jean Baber, 86, Arcadia, passed away quietly with family by her side on Thursday, May 8, 2025. Carol was born in Noblesville on February 9, 1939, to the parents of Paul and Katherine Baker.

As a child, Carol grew up in Arcadia where she attended and graduated from Jackson Central High School. Carol would later meet the love of her life, Granville Lee Baber, whom she married on June 7, 1957. Granville and

Carol shared 67 years of marriage prior to his passing on May 6, 2024.

Through the years, and in addition to raising her family, Carol worked at various jobs, including Western Electric, Fred’s Frozen Foods, and PL Porter until her retirement in 2001. During the years, Carol and Granville took many camping trips with family and friends. In her spare time, Carol loved to work on jigsaw puzzles, knit, crochet, read, and spend time at the casinos. Carol’s greatest joy was her family. She loved to spend time with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, especially during her favorite holidays, Christmas and Easter.

Carol is survived by her son, Greg (Mary) Baber of Atlanta; daughters, Cynthia (Dave) Campbell of Arcadia and Cheryl (Dave) Vredevel of Avon; grandchildren, Dylan (Susan) Baber of Atlanta, Carissa (Brian) Greene of Atlanta, Cory Campbell of Tipton, Samantha (John) Skilbinski of Carmel, Shawn (Amy) Scott of Vancouver, Wash., and Alishia (Luke Knapp) Scott of Cicero; great-grandchildren, Adyson, Alayna, Aubrey, Braxtyn, Zacharya, Noah, Hayley, Jeff, James, Arlo, Eloise, Calvin, and Ashlyn; great-great-grandchildren, Hayden, Maylea, Lynelle, and Mylee; brother, Mike (Paula) Baker of Arcadia; and several nieces and nephews.

Carol was preceded in death by her husband, Granville Baber; parents, Paul and Katherine Baker; and brothers, Dale, Robert “Bobby,” and Basil Baker.

Condolences: hartleyfuneralhomes.com

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Your Hometown Weatherman!



**Indiana Blacksmithing Association**
43rd Annual Conference
June 6-8 2025
Tipton County Fairgrounds
Tipton, Indiana
Featured Demonstrators
Nate Weiss Johnstown, PA Jennifer Pettila Rutledge, MA Noah Hickman Atlanta, IN


Jennifer Pettila


Noah Hickman



Roberta Jean (Wallace) Huff
December 19, 1931 – January 15, 2025

Roberta Jean (Wallace) Huff, 93, Sheridan, went to be with her Lord and Savior on January 15, 2025. Born December 19, 1931, in Clinton County, Ind., she was the daughter of the late Clifford and Hazel (Gaddis) Wallace.

She grew up on a farm near Terhune and later lived in Sheridan, graduating from Sheridan High School in 1949. She married Jesse Edward Long in 1950 and moved to Colorado, where they were blessed by the birth of their son, Michael, in 1955.

After returning to Sheridan, her marriage to Mr. Long ended in 1956 and Roberta became a single mother. She worked briefly at Western Electric, where she met Fredrick M. Huff, whom she married in 1957. Fred and Roberta welcomed their son, Richard, in 1959. Roberta worked for many years as an executive secretary at Chrysler Corp. in Indianapolis before retiring from there and going to work as a legal secretary for the downtown Indianapolis law firm of Wilson, Tabor and Holland.

Roberta had a strong faith in Christ, which she lived out serving others in her retirement years – volunteering as a transporter for 25 years at Riverview Hospital and then later at the Sheridan Historical Society, where she served on the Board until her death. Roberta was also the museum’s genealogical researcher, which became her passion after she began doing family genealogy research back in the 1980s.

Roberta was a wonderful mother and is survived by sons, Michael Huff (Debra) of Athens, Ohio, and Richard Huff (Tracy) of Sheridan. She was a proud grandmother to Kathryn Huff, Madilyn Huff, Hanna Allen (Spencer), Jacob Huff, and Lillian Huff, and great-grandmother to Margo and Bennett Allen. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews, as well as many dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clifford and Hazel (Gaddis) Wallace; a sister, Dorthalee Irons; brothers, Robert, Roland, and Larry Wallace; and her husband, Fred, to whom she was lovingly dedicated and married to for 49 years.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan, with visitation from 1 p.m. until the time of service.

Memorial contributions may be presented to the Sheridan Historical Society, 315 S. Main St., Sheridan, IN 46069. Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

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.

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ReadTheReporter.com

Jane Frances Prasse
August 20, 1945 – May 13, 2025

Jane Frances Prasse, 79, Noblesville, passed away on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at Riverview Health in Noblesville. She was born on August 20, 1945, to Sylvester and Mary Alice (Kramer) Barrett in Logansport, Ind.

Jane worked in the Media Department at Noblesville High School before retiring. She was a past member of Harbour Trees Club and a member of the Silver Foxes. Jane enjoyed golfing, reading, and watching Purdue basketball and the Cubs. Most of all, Jane loved spending time with her family, especially with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Jon Prasse; daughters, Kim (Marc) Claussen and Jennifer (Greg) Keating; siblings, Kate (Bill) Humphrey, Mary (Paul) Loner, Bob (Kathy) Barrett, and Ed Barrett; grandchildren, Kyle, Laura, Cooper, Nick, and Caroline Claussen, Anthony and Nathan Keating; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, May 19, 2025, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to the time of the service at the funeral home. Burial will be private at a later time.

Memorial contributions may be made to your favorite charity. Condolences: randallroberts.com

Marietta Pickett
January 7, 1935 – May 10, 2025

Marietta Pickett, 90, of Hamilton County, passed away peacefully on May 10, 2025. A beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, Marietta lived a life full of music, nature, and meaningful connections.

Born on January 7, 1935, Marietta’s love for music led her to become an accomplished pianist, often filling her home with the warmth of song. She found great joy in gardening and took pride in tending to the land she loved, spending much of her life on the family farm.

Marietta was preceded in death by her parents, Francis and Pauline Beck; loving husband, Robert Pickett; daughter, Pamela Pickett; and son, Bruce Pickett. She is survived by her cherished grandchildren, Nick Timmons, Blake Riley, Lindsey (Adam) Brizendine, Tanner (Brittney) Pickett, and Tyler (Katelyn) Pickett; and 10 great-grandchildren who brought her immense pride and joy.

She also leaves behind her dear brother, Sonny (Glendia) Beck, along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and lifelong friends who will deeply miss her kindness, gentle spirit, and the way she made everyone feel welcome and loved.

Marietta’s legacy lives on in the music she played, the gardens she nurtured, and the lives she touched. Her memory will forever be treasured by those who knew and loved her.

The family will be holding private services at Hartley Funeral Home in Cicero to commemorate Marietta’s life. There will also be a private burial at Emanuel Lutheran Cemetery. Condolences: hartleyfuneralhomes.com

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

THE GUILT OFFERING

“These are the regulations for the guilt offering, which is most holy: The guilt offering is to be slaughtered in the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered, and its blood is to be splashed against the sides of the altar. All its fat shall be offered: the fat tail and the fat that covers the internal organs, both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the long lobe of the liver, which is to be removed with the kidneys. The priest shall burn them on the altar as a food offering presented to the Lord. It is a guilt offering. Any male in a priest’s family may eat it, but it must be eaten in the sanctuary area; it is most holy.

Leviticus 7:1-6 (NIV)

George H. Sheller
March 6, 1928 – May 10, 2025

George H. Sheller, 97, Tipton, passed away on May 10, 2025, at his home, surrounded by his family. George was born on March 6, 1928, in Noblesville, to the late Paul and Arna (Hersberger) Sheller.

Shortly after graduating from Lapel High School in 1946, he married the love of his life, Wanda Carlin, and the two were married for 76 years. Not only was George a lifelong farmer, he also worked at Delco-Remy as a machine operator before retiring after 38 years.

He was a former member of Prairie Baptist Church and Noblesville Baptist Church. George loved farming and mowing his yard. He was still mowing up until this spring! He enjoyed working, but most importantly, he loved his family.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Wanda; son, Garry (Karen) Sheller of Leavenworth, Ind., Paul (Danielle) Sheller of Lapel, and Mark (Bethany) Sheller of Noblesville; daughter-in-law, Sherry Sheller of Noblesville; grandchildren, Bridget (Brandon) McKinney, Ryan Sheller, Amber Sheller, Sara (Eric) Wright, Adam (Amy) Sheller, Aaron (Lacey) Sheller, Kelley Sheller, Clint (Madeleine) Sheller, Kyle (Sarah) Sheller, Garrett Sheller, Jordan Sheller, and Allison Sheller; and numerous great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; children, Teresa Sheller, David Sheller, and George Alan Sheller; grandson, Chris Sheller; brother, Russell Sheller; and sisters, Marjorie Carey, Rose McDonald, and Harriett Turner.

Due to a family illness services have been delayed and times will be available as soon as notified. Pastor Gene Parker will be officiating. His burial will take place in Brookside Cemetery.

Memorial contributions in George’s name may be gifted to St. Jude Children’s Hospital or the charity of your choice.

George’s services have been entrusted to Bozell Funeral Homes, Lapel Chapel.

Online condolences may be made to bozellfuneralhomes.com.



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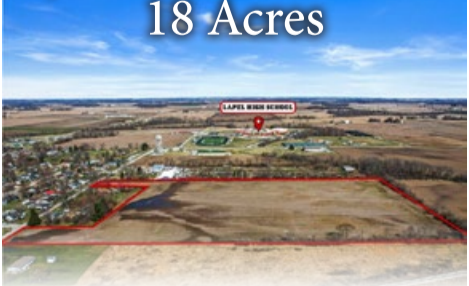
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REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

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

Track & Field

Tigers win HCC Unified Track meet

The REPORTER

The Fishers Unified track team won the Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet, which took place last Saturday at Westfield.

The Tigers scored 111 points, with the Shamrocks totaling 101 points to finish as runners-up. Fishers had four division winners: Aaron Schooley (100 dash, Division 4), Akeem Schooley (long jump, Division 4), Caleb Short (shot put, Division 3) and the boys 4x100 relay team.

The Shamrocks picked up three division wins, starting with the girls 4x100 relay team. Kelsey Brasher (long jump, Division 1) and Addison Stigler (shot put, Division 1) both got victories as well.

Noblesville placed third as a team with 94 points, with Quinn Johnston getting a win in the 400 dash, Division 3. Hamilton Southeastern scored 73 points to place sixth; Ameer Abu-Salih won the 400 dash, Division 4.

Results for county teams now follow.

Team scores: Fishers 111, Westfield 101, Avon 100, Noblesville 94, Franklin Central 88, Hamilton Southeastern 73, Zionsville 64, Brownsburg 62.

100 meters Division 1: 3. Sophia Ioannacci (HSE) 19.73, 4. Crysta Coble (F) 20.89, 6. Caleb Crockett (W) 22.12, 7.

Arshaan Gill (N) 22.53.

100 meters Division 2: 2. Gianna Padilla (W) 16.47, 4. Matthew Dean (N) 17.58, 5. Brendan Stivers (HSE) 17.87, 6. Orion Donoho (HSE) 18.35.

100 meters Division 3: 2. Mira Warnick (F) 14.58, 4. Brandon Price (W) 15.69, 6. Jemma Drake (N) 15.78, 8. Addison Anderson (HSE) 16.94.

100 meters Division 4: 1. Aaron Schooley (F) 11.39, 2. Carsten Shidler (N) 11.65, 4. Cooper Babcock (F) 12.41, 7. Josiah Hill (W) 14.64.

400 meters Division 1: 2. Patrick Fraley (F) 1:20.97, 3. Israel Gomez (HSE) 1:26.58, 5. Lillian Beck (W) 1:28.99, 7. Everett Gray (W) 1:34.63, 8. Barrell Zoeller (N) 1:42.98.

400 meters Division 2: 2. Ellie Hill (W) 1:15.03, 5. Aylin Granados (W) 1:22.24, 6. Channing Brown (N) 1:22.79, 7. Hannah Clayton (HSE) 1:23.46.

400 meters Division 3: 1. Quinn Johnston (N) 1:04.60, 5. Lou Strycker (F) 1:11.27.

400 meters Division 4: 1. Ameer Abu-Salih (HSE) 52.60, 2. Aa. Schooley (F) 53.96, 5. Thierry Ndongo (F) 1:02.24, 6. Dylan Snyder (N) 1:03.78, 7. Adam Dodge (HSE) 1:07.68.

Girls 4x100 relay: 1. Westfield (Emma Kate Greer, Grace Monroe, Sarah Monroe, Ava Rodda) 59.67, 2. Fishers (Ava Smith, Sarah Maudlin, Madisyn Jackson, Mira Warnick) 1:01.56, 3. Noblesville (Camille



Photo provided

The Fishers Unified track team won the Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet, which took place last Saturday at Westfield.

Rollins, Hannah Dugan, Olivia Wirkner, Rory Hayle 1:06.64, 5. Southeastern (Haylea Finch, Mallory Kestner, Lilliana Perez, Bridget Bell) 1:15.43.

Boys 4x100 relay: 1. Fishers (Stephen Krokos, Nick Wheeler, Carter Schmidt, Akeem Schooley) 50.41, 4. Noblesville (Ryan Grigsby, Mason Herring, William Markovich, T.J. Davidson) 52.82, 5. Westfield (Alex Lardio, Kenny Lardio, Owen Lutomski, Brandon Price) 57.08, 7. Hamilton

Southeastern (Brady Roberts, Hamoodi Ghanem, Guryon Dhalawal, Harraj Ghotra) 1:05.15.

Long jump Division 1: 1. Kelsey Brasher (W) 8-10, 3. Gray (W) 7-4, 4. Ava Sharp-Jones (F) 6-9, 5. Ioannacci (HSE) 6-5, 6. Chang Mon (HSE) 6-4, 7. Maddison Walker (N) 5-9.

Long jump Division 2: 5. Robert Barrett (F) 7-9, 6. Channing Brown (N) 7-4.

Long jump Division 3: 2.

Dinh Nguyen (HSE) 14-7, 5. Mya Choutke (N) 12-6, 6. Anastasia Wallwork (W) 11-3.5, 8. Elijah Hurd (W) 10-8.5.

Long jump: Division 4: 1. Ak. Schooley (F) 19-1, 2. Luke Davis (N) 18-9.5, 4. Wheeler (F) 17-8, 7. Adrian Ball (HSE) 16-4.

Shot put Division 1: 1. Addison Stigler (W) 15-11.5, 3. Nisha Roy (W) 15-4.25, 4. Peyton Hilton (N) 11-7.5, 6. Mia McIntosh (HSE) 9-6.

Shot put Division 2: 1.

Grigsby (N) 23-0, 3. Evan Berding (F) 19-3.

Shot put Division 3: 1. Caleb Short (F) 28-0, 2. Joracin Manbeck (W) 26-3.5, 5. Abigail Clayton (HSE) 24-1, 6. George Moser (HSE) 23-9.

Shot put Division 4: 2. Aidan Brewer (N) 49-5.5, 3. Jrue Kanté (N) 45-5.25, 4. Ethan Bolinger (F) 41-9.25, 5. Walid Oumammar (F) 40-3.5, 6. Dilan Cabrera-Pacehco (W) 34-10, 7. Brady Roberts (HSE) 29-2.5.

Carmel runs away with county girls track meet

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

WESTFIELD — The Carmel girls track & field team put together a solid win at the Hamilton County girls meet, which took place Tuesday at Westfield's Riverview Health Stadium.

The Greyhounds won seven events while scoring 154.5 points. That included a pair of new records for Emily Norris. The senior flew to a new standard in the long jump with a best leap of 19 feet, 3 inches. Norris finished the meet with a win in the 200 dash; her time of 24.88 seconds bettered the old record by 0.02 seconds.

The 200 turned out to be the last race of the meet, as lightning forced it to end early. As a result, the 3200 run and 4x400 relay were not contested.

Carmel coach Aaron McRill said that Norris also set a new school record in the long jump. The old Greyhounds mark was 18 feet, 3.5 inches, "so she really just crushed it," said the coach.

"So, she did well, rest of the team did well. We won a lot of events tonight," said McRill. We were upset we didn't get to finish, but that's weather for you."

The 'Hounds began the meet by winning the 4x800 relay. Sadie Foley, Annabel Pollert, Kaitlyn Oshimura and Larkin Taylor took that event in a time of 9 minutes, 12.89 seconds. Foley later led a 1-2 sweep of the 1600 run, with Olivia Mundt taking second.

Amyla Holder also led a 1-2 sweep in the discus. Holder had the best throw at 124 feet, 5 inches, with Ellie Cooley in second place. Rebecca Belanger won the 100 dash in 12.54 seconds, then later joined Norris, Olivia Cebalo and Gabriela Grande

Rosas to take the 4x100 relay in 47.92 seconds.

"The competition in Hamilton County is just getting better and better every year, and this meet's getting tougher and tougher," said McRill. "Which is good for us, because it's always good competition."

Noblesville edged out Hamilton Southeastern for second place, 99 to 98.5. The Millers had five runner-up finishes, including both the 4x800 and 4x100 relays. Other second places came from Ainsley Meinering in the 100 and 200 dashes, Nyla Young in the shot put and Mya Baker in the long jump.

The Royals swept both relay races. Elia Blackmore set a new meet record in the 100 hurdles of 14.56 seconds, Micaiah Bullock placed second to make it an HSE sweep. Chloe Senefeld later won the 300 hurdles in 44.24 seconds, just 0.01 seconds off the meet record.

Fishers placed fourth with 74 points. Macey Miller was first in the shot put, with a top throw of 40 feet, 3.75 inches.

Westfield scored 54 points to take fifth place. Gracie Czubik was the Shamrocks' top finisher, taking second in the high jump.

Hamilton Heights placed sixth with 39 points. The Huskies won two events: Norah Reiger was first in the 400 dash with a time of 57.02 seconds. Waverly Woolever cleared 5 feet, 3 inches to win the high jump.

Guerin Catholic placed seventh with 24 points. Freshman Amelia Smith won the pole vault; her top vault of 12 feet, 6 inches tied the meet record.

Sheridan's Nova Cross placed ninth in the 100 and 200 dashes.



Team scores and top eight county finishers in each event now follow.

Team scores: Carmel 154.5, Noblesville 99, Hamilton Southeastern 98.5, Fishers 73, Westfield 54, Hamilton Heights 39, Guerin Catholic 24.

4x800 relay: 1. Carmel

(Sadie Foley, Annabel Pollert, Kaitlyn Oshimura, Larkin Taylor) 9:12.89, 2. Noblesville (Riley Flynn, Kate Mumaw, Gretchen Graham, Brinkley Cooper) 9:32.93, 3. Westfield (Mackenna Condon, Maggie Naas, Gianna Ferreri, Alivia Lozier) 9:41.44, 4. South-

eastern (Anaya Lammie, Ava Powers, Kate Evans, Kayla Brinley) 9:57.08, 5. Guerin Catholic (Brinna Wolf, Addyson Horvath, Kara Van Woerkom, Eva Parr) 10:09.18, 6. Fishers (Allie Belush, Lucy Clendenen, Kate Sheidler, Mia Schiesser) 10:18.17.

100 hurdles: 1. Elia Blackmore (HSE) 14.56, new meet record, 2. Micaiah Bullock (HSE) 15.72, 3. Faith Tchuente Fotso (C) 15.74, 4. Charlotte Hunter (C) 16.70, 5. Charlotte Huffman (F) 17.45, 6. Makena Schwerin (W) 17.48, 7. Eugena Wilson (N) 17.49, 8. Scarlett

Snappe (GC) 17.77.

100 dash: 1. Rebecca

Belanger (C) 12.54, 2. Ainsley Meinering (N) 12.77, 3. Olivia Schiffl (HH) 12.82, 4. Mya Baker (N) 12.85, 5. Laila Ehrgott (HSE) 12.94, 6. Ava Underwood (F) 13.19, 7. Rylan David (F) 13.21, 8. Livi Miller (C) 13.33.

1600 run: Foley (C)

5:02.68, 2. Olivia Mundt (C) 5:11.87, 3. Ansley Applegate (N) 5:12.19, 4. Mia Quagliaroli (F) 5:20.74, 5. Flynn (N) 5:21.42, 6. Taylor Tragesser (GC) 5:23.07, 7. Raegan Hisong (HSE) 5:25.09, 8. Ella

Bozarth (W) 5:27.08.

4x100 relay: 1. Carmel (Belanger, Emily Norris, Olivia Cebalo, Gabriela Grande Rosas) 47.92, 2. Noblesville (Mallory Cahill, Baker, Aleigh Heavey, Meinering) 49.60, 3. Westfield (Melody Miller, Ella Jenkins, LeBraya Warren, Gracie Czubik) 50.29, 4. Heights (Gracie Bortone, Lizzy Smith, Brooke Cox, Schiffl) 50.67, 5. Southeastern (Ehrgott, Madeline Von Zirkelbach, EJ Shults, Jocelyn Thistle) 51.60, 6. Fishers (Ava Underwood,

See Run ... Page 14



Photos by Mike Kepner

(LEFT) Carmel's Sadie Foley won the 1600 run and was part of the Greyhounds' winning 4x800 relay team at the Hamilton County girls track meet Tuesday at Westfield. (ABOVE) Hamilton Southeastern's Anissa Lammie won the 800 run.

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Hamilton County families use memorial funds to invest in local youth & community

Submitted

With the help of the Hamilton County Community Foundation, two families have turned their tragedies into something that benefits the community. And this summer, they're inviting the public to get involved.

On June 6, Joe and Kathy Cox will host the second annual Abs Angels Legacy Golf Outing in memory of their 20-year-old daughter, Abigail, who was killed in a car accident in 2023. (Registration/information at abs-angels.com.)

On July 21, family and friends of Tony Etchison will host the fourth annual Tony Etchison Memorial Golf Outing and silent auction in memory of Etchison, 47, who died in a farming accident in 2019. (Registration/information at etch21.com.)

Proceeds from the two events will benefit the Abigail Cox Legacy Fund and the Tony Etchison Memorial Foundation, respectively. Both funds are overseen by the Hamilton County Community Foundation. Abigail's fund provides a

\$5,000 annual scholarship to Purdue University as well as gifts to more than a dozen other organizations, and beneficiaries of Tony's fund include \$5,000 gifts to both the Noblesville Youth Assistance Program and the Hamilton Heights Youth Assistance Program.

"HCCF offers a variety of ways to remember and honor people in our fundholders' lives, including naming their fund after a loved one, making a grant in honor/memory of an individual, or starting a memorial fund," said HCCF Philanthropic Advisor Josie Frey. "We're honored by the trust our fundholders have in us and it is incredibly meaningful to be a small part of their philanthropic journey."

In 2024, the 10 Memorial Funds Hamilton County Community Foundation oversees distributed \$814,796.28. HCCF offers eight kinds of funds for charitable giving. There is no minimum requirement to start a fund. For more information, visit cicf.org/giving/types-of-funds.

Guerin Catholic's Sam Gardner moves up to boys basketball head coach

The REPORTER

The Guerin Catholic athletic department announced that Sam Gardner was named head coach of the Golden Eagles' boys basketball team on Monday.

Gardner is the third head coach in program history. He is a 2008 graduate of Guerin Catholic and has served the boys basketball program since the school opened in 2004.

Throughout the program's storied history, Sam has played a key role - as a player helping build the pro-gram's foundation with Hall of Fame coach Pete Smith, as an assistant coach capturing the 2015 Class 3A State Championship and assisting former coach Bobby Allen to the 2023 Class 3A State Finals.

An announcement from the Guerin Catholic athletic department said, "Sam Gardner is the ideal fit to continue the tradition and excellence of the program while preserving the mission of Guerin Catholic. Sam and his wife, Katie (Regan) Gardner, a 2010



Photo provided

Guerin Catholic boys basketball coach Sam Gardner spoke at an open meeting at the Golden Eagles' media Center on Tuesday after he was named the head boys basketball coach. Gardner, a 2008 GC graduate, served as an assistant coach for the Golden Eagles for several years.

Guerin Catholic graduate, have three children and are parishioners at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church.

"As a product of the Guerin Catholic basketball program, it is difficult to articulate the pride I feel in being selected to serve in this role. Guerin Catholic basketball is special - it has changed the trajectory of my life and the lives of many others. Coach Smith created a unique program, and Coach Allen built upon that vision. Our staff will

work to ensure that the program continues to shape young men by furthering the mission of the school. This opportunity only arose through the work of God, my wife and kids and Guerin Catholic. It is an honor to be called to give back to the community in this way."

Smith said he remembered Gardner playing for the Golden Eagles in a freshman game during the 2004-05 season, the first year for a GC boys basketball team.

"I truly believe that there is no one that has bled and loved the Guerin Catholic basketball program, more than me, than Sam Gardner," said Smith. "He went to Wittenburg and played basketball there. He was the Academic Athlete of the Year, which combines both athletics and academics, his senior year."

"I'm so happy that his work schedule worked out well enough that he could apply for the job and was selected," said Smith.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 14

BASEBALL
Anderson Prep Academy at University, 5:30 p.m.
Delphi at Sheridan, 5:30 p.m.
Guerin Catholic at Roncalli, 5:30 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE
Center Grove at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.
Culver Academies at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.

GOLF
Hamilton Southeastern vs. Cathedral, 4 p.m. at Maple Creek GC
Noblesville vs. Zionsville, 4:30 p.m. at Fox Prairie

SOFTBALL
New Palestine at Fishers, 5:30 p.m.
Noblesville at Roncalli, 5:30 p.m.
Pike at Guerin Catholic, 5:30 p.m.
Logansport at Hamilton Heights, 6 p.m.
Westfield at Hamilton Southeastern, 6 p.m.

TENNIS
Carmel at Hamilton Southeastern, 5 p.m.
Guerin Catholic at Noblesville, 5:30 p.m.
University at Westfield, 5:30 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD
University and Lapel at Sheridan, 5:30 p.m.

UNIFIED TRACK
County meet, 5:30 p.m. at Carmel

VOLLEYBALL SECTIONALS
At Fishers
Westfield vs. Carmel, 6 p.m.
Fishers vs. Hamilton Southeastern, 8 p.m.
At Pike
MTI School of Knowledge vs. Brebeuf Jesuit, 5:30 p.m.
University vs. Cardinal Ritter, 7 p.m.

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

Baseball — Roundup: Westfield gets two shutouts

The REPORTER

The Westfield baseball team won two games by shutouts to start the week.

On Monday, the Shamrocks beat Greenwood Christian Academy 4-0 in a home game. Ian Wilson hit a three-run home run in the first inning, also scoring Beck Jordan and Jake Russell. In the fourth inning, Russell scored a second run after Johnny Ewing hit a sacrifice fly.

Jordan also hit a double in the fifth inning. JP Mears pitched four innings for the win, striking out four.

Westfield traveled to Columbus North on Tuesday and won 11-0 in five innings. Lincoln Hoffman hit a triple, while Wilson was 2-for-4, including a double, and totaled three RBI. Drew Law also had two hits. Aid-

en Grabowski scored three runs, while Hoffman and Nick Fero both scored two runs.

Sam Flickinger got the win, with six strikeouts in 4.2 innings. Owen Swinford pitched the last out to give the Shamrocks a combined no-hitter.

The 'Rocks are 14-8 and host Hamilton Southeastern Thursday to begin a Hoosier Crossroads Conference series.

Fishers cruised past Yorktown 9-3 in a Monday road game.

The Tigers led 5-0 after three innings. Luke Cherry singled in Deagan Repp in the first inning, Carter Strole batted in Jase Ruggles in the second inning, then Fishers added three runs in the third. Repp scored on a wild pitch, Zander Carnahan got home on Trevor Hall's sacrifice fly, then Ruggles batted in Cherry.

The Tigers put up four more runs in the sixth inning. Justin Brown singled in Collin Bumps, then Carnahan's left field hit brought Owen Lukac home. Huston Dunn

scored on a passed ball, and Hall batted in Carnahan.

Strole batted 3-for-4, while Repp and Ruggles both had two hits. Austin Conley went four innings for the win.

Fishers is 19-4 and plays at Franklin Central on Thursday to start an HCC series.

University lost a tough 5-4 game to Zionsville Tuesday at RoundTripper Academy.

The Eagles scored three runs in the bottom of the second inning, but the Trailblazers scored three in the top of the third. Philip Jacobs bunted in Finn Steiner for the first run, then Cooper Cammack smacked a triple into right field to bring in Jacobs and Beckett Suh.

University took a 4-3 lead in the sixth inning after Charlie Ranek singled in Cammack. But two consecutive sacrifice fly hits brought in two runs for Zionsville in the bottom of the second.

Cammack was 2-for-2, with Steiner hitting a double.

The Blazers are 11-10 and host Anderson Prep

Academy at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon at RoundTripper Academy.

Hamilton Southeastern dropped a 3-1 game to Mt. Vernon Monday at Ken Seitz Field.

The Marauders scored all three of their runs in the first inning. The Royals scored their run in the second inning; Michael Hoog led off with a double, then Cy Cole hit a double to send him home.

Southeastern is 10-15 and plays at Westfield Thursday for an HCC series.

Guerin Catholic dropped a Circle City Conference game to Roncalli 5-0 on Tuesday.

The Royals scored all five runs in the fourth inning. Nolan Ratcliff had two hits for the Golden Eagles, while Ian Taylor hit a double. Tate Troxell threw eight strikeouts in five innings.


Guerin Catholic is 4-3 in the conference and 10-11 overall. The Golden Eagles play at Roncalli at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon to complete the series.

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RUN — from Page 13

David, Kylee Black, Mia Cardozo Nunez) 52.24, 7. Guerin Catholic (Katie Wendt, Isabella Smock, Isabella Fisher, Kathryn Demmings) 53.23.

400 dash: 1. Norah Reiger (HH) 57.02, 2. Cebalo (C) 57.30, 3. Ciara Kepner (HSE) 58.24, 4. Grande Rosas (C) 58.40, 5. Warren (W) 58.66, 6. Alyssa Lahee (N) 59.70, 7. Jordyn Landrum (W) 59.89, 8. Brooke Bunnell (GC) 1:00.04.

300 hurdles: 1. Chloe Senefeld (HSE) 44.24, 2. Devyn Day (F) 46.15, 3. Bullock (HSE) 46.75, 4. Maija Gilhooly (C) 47.07, 5. Miller (C) 48.38, 6. Katelyn Eblen (W) 49.76, 7. Katelyn Keenan (N) 51.90, 8. Charlotte Huffman (F) 52.01.

800 run: 1. Anissa Lam-mie (HSE) 2:12.53, 2. Taylor (C) 2:13.62, 3. Isabella Murch (F) 2:13.66, 4. Cooper (N)

2:14.13, 5. Catey Campbell (HSE) 2:17.18, 6. Oshimura (C) 2:17.85, 7. Katie Kolb (GC) 2:19.68, 8. Aaliyah Hayes (F) 2:23.53.

200 dash: 1. Norris (C) 24.88, new meet record, 2. Meinerding (N) 26.37, 3. Cebalo (C) 26.55, 4. Addison Smith (HSE) 26.59, 5. Heavey (N) 27.51, 6. Reiger (HH) 27.52, 7. Cardozo Nunez (F) 27.64, 8. Black (F) 27.74.

Discus: 1. Amyla Holder (C) 124-5, 2. Ellie Cooley (C) 117-9, 3. Mia Tobias (F) 117-8, 4. Amelia Kring (N) 115-6, 5. Macey Miller (F) 111-11, 6. Fanta Sall (HSE) 107-6, 7. Nyla Young (N) 104-1, 8. Katie Wooden (HSE) 95-2.

Shot put: 1. Miller (F) 40-3.75, 2. Young (N) 40-0, 3. Wooden (HSE) 36-1.5, 4. Tobias (F) 34-8, 5. Holder (C) 34-1.25, 6. Leah Brigham

(HSE) 33-1, 7. Kring (N) 32-2, 8. Norah Chase (C) 30-4.5.

Long jump: 1. Norris (C) 19-3, new meet record, 2. Baker (N) 17-2.75, 3. Belanger (C) 17-0, 4. Meinerding (N) 16-9.5, 5. Gracie Czubik (W) 16-7.75, 6. Natalie Arnold (HSE) 16-7.5, 7. Bullock (HSE) 16-4, 8. Madison Paciorek (F) 16-2.

High jump: 1. Waverly Woolever (HH) 5-3, 2. Czubik (W) 5-2, 3. Jolie Miller (W) 5-1, 4. Macie Smith (HH) 5-0, T5. Shults (HSE) 4-10; Aspen Roll-ins (N) 4-10; Elise Beckner (N) 4-10, 8. Vera Griffin (C) 4-8.

Pole vault: 1. Amelia Smith (GC) 12-6, tied meet record, 2. Scarlett Olson (F) 12-0, 3. Alexandra Hamilton (W) 11-9, 4. Jenkins (W) 10-0, T5. Kathryn Hammond (C) 10-0; Riley Williams (HSE) 10-0, 7. Miller (C) 10-0, 8. Zoe Travelsted (GC) 10-0.

Softball

Roundup: Royals cruise to Monday victory

The REPORTER

The Hamilton South-eastern softball team cruised to a 12-2, five-inning win over Anderson Monday.

Makena Burlingame had two hits and scored three runs, while Maya Valenta hit a double and drove in three runs. Chloe Smith scored two runs. Kaleigh McCarter pitched four innings for the win, striking out five and allowing no hits.

The Royals are 14-6 and host Westfield at 6 p.m. this evening in a Hoosier Cross-roads Conference game; the contest was scheduled for Tuesday but was pushed back due to weather.

Fishers beat Carmel 12-0 in a Monday game at Cherry Tree Softball Complex.

The Tigers led 9-0 after five innings and scored three in the seventh. Kate Murray and Brooke Clayton both hit home runs; Clayton also hit a double and totaled four RBI. Murray hit her three-run homer in the third inning, after Clayton homered in the second.

Hailey Kinder hit two doubles, with Frankie Jackson and Kennedy Shockley both hitting one double. Shockley finished with two hits and Kinder batted in two runs. Murray scored three runs and Rylee Bast scored two runs.

Murray pitched three innings for the win, striking out five and allowing no hits. Jackson pitched four innings in relief.

The Greyhounds were held to two hits, one each from Jayden Kleiner and Ellie Goddard.

Fishers is 12-7 and hosts New Palestine at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon. Carmel is 5-16 and hosts Terre Haute North on Friday.

Noblesville sailed past Yorktown 9-1 on Monday.

Haley Schatko hit a two-run double in the first inning, scoring Brookelyn Grayson and Reese Newsom. Maggie Kern led off the second inning with a home run, then Izzy Zapp doubled to center field, scoring Delaney Rundle and Bella Hughes and giving the Millers a 5-0 lead.

Addi Emmerson blasted a three-run homer in the fourth inning, also scoring

Schatko and Newsom. Carly Duvall scored a run in the sixth inning.

Schatko totaled three hits, with Rundle, Zapp, Emmerson and Kern all getting two hits. Addison Retzinger pitched a complete game, striking out nine.

Noblesville is 14-6 and play at Roncalli at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon. The Millers' game with Brownsburg originally scheduled for Tuesday has been moved to Thursday due to weather.

Westfield took care of Pendleton Heights 14-6 on Monday.

The Shamrocks had 15 hits, including a three-run home run from Ava Kainrath in the third inning. Kainrath finished with two hits and totaled five RBI. Cam Pulice hit a solo homer in the sixth inning, part of a 3-for-4 night.

Chloe Tanner went 3-for-3 and drove in four runs. Makayla Watson, Sofia Easterhaus, Kainrath and Annika Lawrence all had two hits, with Easterhaus, Pulice, Lawrence and Reese Gettinger all scoring two runs. Tanner pitched three innings for the win.

Westfield is 10-8 and plays at Hamilton South-eastern at 6 p.m. this afternoon.

Hamilton Heights dropped a Hoosier Conference game 7-3 at Logansport on Tuesday.

The Berries led 4-0 after two innings. The Huskies scored two runs in the second inning: Isabel Morrow got home when Hailey Hall reached on an error, then Hall scored on Kamryn Rhoton's RBI groundout. Rhoton doubled in Hall for a fifth-inning run.

Hall had two hits, including a triple.

The Huskies are 10-8 and host Logansport at 6 p.m. this evening to complete the conference series.

Guerin Catholic dropped a 6-0 game to Danville on Monday.

The Golden Eagles were held to two hits, one each from Madi Cain and Lucy Kemp.

Guerin Catholic is 6-9 and hosts Pike at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon.

Motorsports

Alex Palou wins Sonsio Grand Prix for third straight year

By JOSH BODE

WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Alex Palou won the 2025 Sonsio Grand Prix.

This is the third straight year that Alex Palou has won the Indy Grand Prix. He's the first driver to win the race in three consecutive years.

"It feels amazing," Palou said. "It's a place that's been really good for us. It's really tough, like today, I started on pole, and Graham (Rahal) didn't want me to lead for more than 250 feet, but he did a great job."

WISH-TV driver analyst Graham Rahal finished in sixth, but led the most amount of laps (49).

Palou was dominant on the road course on Friday as well, winning pole position for the race.

Palou, the NTT IndyCar Series Championship leader, has now won four of the first five races of the season.

"At the end of the race, we had the fastest car, for sure," Palou said. "I was just able to be comfortable at the front."

"Momentum is everything, especially for this month, especially having back-to-back races and now it seems like we're not going to stop for a long time, which is amazing."

He joins Simon Pagenaud and Will Power as three time winners of the race.

Palou led for 29 laps. He finished the race in just over an hour and 48 minutes with an average speed of 115.2 miles per hour.



Photo by Joshua Herd

Alex Palou crosses the finish line to win last Saturday's Sonsio Grand Prix for the third consecutive year. Palou took the lead for the final time on Lap 58 and held on for the remaining 27 laps.

Pato O'Ward and Will Power rounded out the podium. Scott McLaughlin finished fourth and Scott Dixon finished fifth.

There was one yellow flag in the race, coming with 16 laps to go. David Malukas went into the grass. This was the first caution since the first lap of the first race of the IndyCar season, in St. Petersburg.

The Month of May continues at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway with Pole Day on Sunday, May 18. The 109th Running of the Indianapolis 500 is on Sunday, May 25.

This story originally appeared on WISH-TV at wishtv.com/monthofmay/alex-palou-wins-sonsio-grand-prix.



Photo by Joshua Herd

Grand Prix champion Alex Palou (center) was joined on the podium by race runner-up Pato O'Ward (left) and third-place finisher Will Power (right).



Photos by Joshua Herd

(ABOVE) Palou, O'Ward and Power have a champagne celebration after the race. (ABOVE LEFT) Noblesville's Conor Daly finished 15th at the Grand Prix. (LEFT) Sting Ray Robb placed 21st at the Grand Prix.

Hamilton County Reporter



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