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CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24, 2025

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy. Slight afternoon shower chance.
Tonight: Rainy and foggy.



HIGH: 51 LOW: 44



Noblesville Elks deliver boxes full of Christmas

Submitted by **Terri Sigman-Kennedy**

The Noblesville Elks #576 members have been donating food items and money this month to help support 30 local families, led by Jason Snyder.

Over the past 15 years the Noblesville Elks has been able to deliver food boxes to more than 300 local families.

Last Friday, Dec. 19, 15 members gathered at the Elks Lodge to fill boxes to be delivered to members in the community who welcome a little help over the Christmas holiday. The boxes were filled with canned fruits and vegetables, boxed macaroni and cheese, cereals, pop tarts, dessert mixes, and even candy canes. On the Sunday before, the drivers gather to make the deliveries and additional perishable items will be added



This might look like a boring old photo of 11 people in a generic room full of boxes, but it's really a photo of elves in clever disguises getting ready to absolutely save Christmas for local families.

to help complete their Christmas dinners. Each family will receive a Christmas ham as well.

A total of 15 families from each Noblesville middle school will receive these family Christmas meals.

The Elks who volunteered to pack the boxes

See Elks . . . Page 2

Ink-stained wretch

I am a hard person to surprise. A self-proclaimed control freak, I am normally very intuitive to any change in the normal routine. I noticed my husband was acting strangely last Wednesday evening.

Earlier in the evening, my friend Jan, a.k.a. The Reporter's front-page columnist, and winner of the first ever Ink-Stained Wretch award, visited me. She told me that she wanted to bring something by, as I was recovering from surgery.

I was thrilled to have a visit from Jan. Her warm and encouraging personality could brighten anyone's day. While she was at my house, I was excited when I heard my husband's car pulling into the garage, much earlier than normal. I told her, "Oh good, you can meet Jamie!"

The three of us chatted for a bit until Jan had to take a phone call. She stepped outside to take the call. When she came back in, she announced that she needed to go. She asked Jamie to walk her to her car, as it was a bit slick outside.

Little did I know, they were in cahoots, plotting to surprise me. There was a small snafu in their plan. Something they needed to discuss. I was clueless.

After she left, we went about our evening, discussing preparing dinner and a few other things. Something continued to seem off with Jamie. I kept telling him I was worried about him, that he just was not acting like his normal self. He shrugged it off and blamed exhaustion.

We were in the kitchen putting the finishing touches on dinner, when he announced someone was at the door. I heard him talking to our visitor, and I ran through who I thought it could be in my mind.

See Ink-Stained . . . Page 2



No swans were harmed in the making of this Christmas pun

The REPORTER

In the summer of 2024, CrossRoads Church at Westfield, 19201 Grassy Branch Road, was having trouble with some Canadian geese. Someone suggested the church get a pair of plastic swans for the lake because geese and swans don't like to nest together.

The church adopted two decoy swans, which helped a bit keeping the geese at bay.

Unbeknownst to CrossRoads officials, years ago, there were a pair of real swans nesting in a local lake. The plastic ones were very realistic and fooled not only the geese, but many of the humans, who took to social media talking about the

return of the swans. Last winter, when the lake froze, the two plastic swans froze in place in the lake.

The people who were curious about the CrossRoads swans were now concerned that the church allowed swans to freeze in the lake. Reportedly, half a dozen people went to the church door alarmed anyone would allow those swans to freeze in the lake.

Church officials politely explained that the swans were not real, and some had a good laugh over the misunderstanding.

As Christmas approached, CrossRoads adopted five more plastic swans, adorned them with bows, and launched them



on their little lake so we could have seven swans a swimming for Christmas.

Now that we're successfully stuck the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" in your

head, we wish you're a Merry Christmas and happy Seven Swans a Swimming from The Hamilton County Reporter and CrossRoads Church at Westfield.

Santa shows up for Jackson Fire awards

Submitted by **Robyn Cook**
Jackson Twp. Trustee

As the year comes to a close, the Jackson Township Fire Department extends warm Christmas wishes to our community, families, and supporters. Your continued trust and encouragement allow our department to serve with pride and dedication every single day.

This December, the department proudly continued one of its most cherished traditions with the Annual Christmas Awards Banquet – an evening of fellowship, reflection, and recognition honoring the exceptional service of our personnel throughout the year.

During the ceremony, the following members were recognized for their outstanding commitment and professionalism:



Santa with members of Jackson Fire, loading his truck for the food drive.

2025 Award Recipients

- Officer of the Year: Deputy Chief Ryan McIntyre
- Chief's Award of Excellence: Lt. Brian Owens

- Firefighter of the Year: FF/Medic Jen Moon
- Paramedic of the Year: FF/Medic Garrett Spires
- EMT of the Year: FF/EMT Steven Weir

Part-Time Service Recognition

- FF/EMT Mike McIntyre
- FF/Medic John Moore Jr.

See Jackson . . . Page 2

Carmel releases its 2025 Year in Review

Submitted by **City of Carmel**

The City of Carmel has shared its 2025 Year in Review, celebrating a year of tremendous progress and community partnership.

As 2026 presents new opportunities, the public is invited to reflect on the city's shared accomplishments.

[Click here](#) to read the full review of the year.

Merry Christmas, Hamilton County!

The REPORTER

Because today and tomorrow are both holidays, there will be no editions of The Reporter on Thursday or Friday.

You may not have thought about this, but newspapers are edited and designed the night before you read them, and we want all our people to be able to spend holidays as they see fit.

Most of us will be spending time with friends and family. None of us will be working.

Once upon a time some of us worked for newspapers that did not have holiday editions, but always had editions the day after. That meant we had the day before holidays off and worked on holidays. It was weird and unkind.

We are not jolly about those years. We each have stories about explaining to our loved ones that we needed to gather the day before a holiday, then get back to being ink-stained wretches while the rest of the world relaxed or celebrated.

We promised ourselves if we were ever in charge, things would be different.

We are in charge. Things are different.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays, Hamilton County! We will be back with the local news you love on Monday morning before the sun comes up.



INK-STAINED

from Page 1

Then, it hit me. That is my editor's voice. *What is Stu doing at my house on a random Wednesday evening? Is he releasing me from my title of columnist?*

I slowly made my way to the door. Though I had spoken to Stu many times on the phone, we had never had the chance to meet in person. In my shocked state, I shook his hand and asked him what the reason for his visit was. He said, "Jan will be here in just a minute."

Jan was just here, I thought. Two visits from Jan in one day? Unusual, but ok! My wheels were turning as I invited Stu in to take a seat in my living room. We chatted for a few minutes before Jan arrived.

At this time, I was just looking back and forth at the three of them trying to figure out what in the heck was going on.

It did not take long before they revealed the reason for the surprise visit.

It was worth the wait. They told me they were there to present me with the Winter 2025 Ink-Stained Wretch award. Things were fuzzy, as I tried to take in all they were saying to me. I could not believe the positive things they were saying were about me as a writer.

All I could think of was, *how am I receiving an award for my writing?* They presented me with my award, along with a few other goodies, including an awesome fountain pen. As they kept talking, I had tears streaming down my face. The last couple of weeks had taken a toll on me after

my surgery, and I was in a lower place than I have been in awhile. God has way of meeting us in our low places and He uses experiences and people to bring us back up.

Hearing the impact my writing has made on not only them, but my community as well, was incredibly meaningful to me. I thanked Stu for giving me a platform to help educate and inform others about life with a disability.

As they were getting ready to leave, Stu mentioned he wanted to get a picture of me and Jan for the front page of the newspaper. I panicked. I certainly was not feeling and looking my best and told them as much.

First, Jan offered her glasses to me, to help me feel more put together. I put them on and could not see a thing. Then, a hat was suggested. I agreed, as I do like a good hat moment.

The next thing I knew, Stu offered the hat off his head. His hat, that is part of his signature look. That made the moment that much more special.

A perfectly, imperfect moment. I am now a proud ink-stained wretch.

Until next time ...

Amy Shinneman is a former National Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, disability blogger, freelance writer, wife, and mom of two boys. She is the recipient of the Reporter's Winter 2025 Ink-Stained Wretch award. You can find her blog at humblycourageous.com and reach her on Instagram @ashinneman.

JACKSON

from Page 1

- FF/Medic Garrett Spire
- **Five-Year Service Recognition**
- Deputy Chief Ryan McIntyre
- FF/Medic Michael Kimball
- FF/Medic Nick Rainbolt

A special highlight of the evening included the formal swearing-in of Ryan McIntyre as Deputy Chief, administered by Fire Chief James Carter. Adding to the significance of the moment, Ryan's father – also a firefighter with the Jackson Township Fire Department – had the honor of pinning him, making it a truly memorable and meaningful occasion for the department and their family.

The holiday season also provided an opportunity to give back. Santa Claus made a special appearance and proudly headed up the department's Annual Food Drive, helping to collect much-needed donations for local families in need. In the spirit of the season, Santa also contributed \$500 in support of Angel's Attic Food Pantry, reinforcing the department's ongoing commitment to serving the community both on and off emergency calls.

The Jackson Township Fire Department congratulates all award recipients. Your hard work, professionalism, and dedication to serving our community do not go unnoticed. We are incredibly proud of the team we have built.

Thank you for a great year
From emergency re-



Photos provided (TOP LEFT) Ryan McIntyre (left) and Michael McIntyre. (TOP RIGHT, from left) Deputy Chief Ryan McIntyre, Firefighter of the Year Jen Moon, and Fire Chief James Carter. (ABOVE) Santa with members of Jackson Fire.

sponses to community events, 2025 has been a year of growth, teamwork, and strong community partnerships. We are grateful for every resident,

business, and supporter who continues to stand behind Jackson Fire. Thank you for helping us make our township a safer place to live, work, and raise a

family. On behalf of the Jackson Township Fire Department, we wish everyone a safe, joyful, and blessed Christmas season.

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ELKS

from Page 1

included Steve Willey, Bob Fink, Steve Vallier, PER, Nick Vallier, Nolan Vallier, Treva Vallier, Georr Robinson, PSP, Lisa Robinson, Marta Sweitzer, Mike Sweitzer, Phil Anderson, Exalted Ruler, Brian Wanous, Joe Thompson, Thad Holder, Jerry Wides, and Jason Snyder.

Thank you to the Elks members who helped make this happen and to the Tony Etchison Memorial Foundation for the extra support.



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All aboard for Valentine's Day 2026! Climb aboard a historic train to experience a unique 90-minute ride through Hamilton County.
February 14

Totally Rad 80s Prom Gone Bad
Step back into 1989 for Totally Rad 80's Prom Gone Bad, an evening of neon lights, big hair, and a little murder aboard the vintage Nickel Plate Express.
February 21

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2/13/26 - Gilmore Girls Galentine Trivia
2/20/26 - 1980s Trivia
February 6, 13 & 20

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Local court reporter earns national certification

Amy Nixon Doman of Carmel recognized as Certified Reporting Instructor

Submitted

The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, has announced that Amy Doman, RDR, CRR, CRI, from Carmel, has earned the nationally recognized Certified Reporting Instructor (CRI) certification, which acknowledges the high-level and necessary skills developed by court reporting teachers needed to encourage excellence in educational programs that prepare tomorrow's court reporters.

Quality education is vital to ensure that court reporters of the future are well skilled and knowledgeable about this field and about the specialized areas that are available for them to pursue. CRIs provide the necessary guidance to court reporting schools dedicated to offering their students accredited courses and the opportunity for long-term success.

Doman is a member of NCRA and has worked as a court reporter for 35 years. She also holds the nation-

ally recognized professional certifications of Registered Diplomat Reporter (RDR) and Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR). She is also certified to work in Missouri, California, Illinois, Texas, and Washington state. Doman is the owner of Doman Reporting.

CRIs are educators, administrators, and reporters, who are NCRA Associate members and have attended a 13-hour, NCRA Council on Approved Student Education-sponsored session designed to expand their level of knowledge for becoming more effective real-time reporting instructors. CRIs are knowledgeable about the learning process, development of course syllabi and lesson plans, and are able to interact through role play of various courtroom scenarios.

"For 37 years, NCRA has been setting the standards for national certification, and those standards have never wavered," Doman said. "Through my membership, I've pushed



Doman

myself harder than ever, but I'm accomplishing goals right along with my dear court reporting friends. You'll never find a more enthusiastic and supportive group than the members of NCRA."

The court reporting and captioning professions offer viable career choices that do not require a four-year college degree and yet offer good salaries, flexible schedules, and interesting venues. There is currently an increasing demand for more reporters and captioners to meet the growing number of employment opportunities available nationwide and abroad. Court reporters and captioners rely on the latest in technology to use stenographic machines to capture the spoken word and translate it into written text in real time. These professionals work both in and out of the courtroom recording legal cases and depositions, providing live captioning of events, and assisting members of the deaf and hard-of-hear-

ing communities with gaining access to information, entertainment, educational opportunities, and more.

About NCRA

The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) has been internationally recognized for promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word to text for more than 125 years. NCRA is committed to supporting its more than 10,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized court reporting, educator, and videographer certification programs. NCRA impacts legislative issues and the global marketplace through its actively involved membership.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting field is expected to be one of the fastest areas of projected employment growth across all occupations. Career information about the court reporting profession – one of the leading career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree – can be found at [this link](#).

Carmel man charged in I-465 road rage case

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

Ferguson's bail was set at \$75,000 on Monday in Hamilton Superior Court 2.

A Carmel man was charged Monday in connection to an early Sunday road rage incident on I-465 that led to a report of shots being fired, according to Carmel Police Department and online court records.



Ferguson

Thomas Wayne Ferguson, 37, was booked into the Hamilton County jail in Noblesville on Sunday night, online records show.

Carmel Police Department said in a Facebook post on Monday afternoon that its officers were called around 3:35 a.m. Sunday to the 3700 block of West 97th Street. That's in the North Augusta housing addition just north of the U.S. 421/Michigan Road interchange for I-465.

Online court records show Ferguson lives on that block, which is near Carmel's border with Indianapolis.

Police say the incident began on I-465 before escalating in the residential area. The Facebook post did not report any injuries.

Online court records show he's charged with mid-level felony counts of unlawful possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon, and intimidation. He also faces low-level felony charges of criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon, and unlawful possession of a firearm by a domestic batterer.

Online court documents were not immediately available Monday night.

The Carmel Police Department says it coordinated its efforts with the Fishers Police Department's special weapons and tactics team to execute search warrants on two adjacent homes during the investigation. Detectives later located Ferguson in a vehicle, and arrested him with the assistance of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/crime-watch-8/carmel-man-charged-in-i-465-road-rage-case](#).

INvestABLE Indiana announces expanded eligibility criteria beginning Jan. 1

Submitted by Office of Indiana Treasurer

Starting in January 2026, eligibility for an INvestABLE Indiana account is expanding so that eligible individuals of any age can open an INvestABLE Indiana account as long as their disability began before the age of 46.

ABLE accounts, enacted under the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014, are tax-ad-

vantaged savings accounts for people with disabilities that empower them to save and invest money without losing access to critical public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid.

Under the ABLE Age Adjustment Act, eligibility for ABLE accounts increases the age of onset of disability from 26 to 46 years old. This change allows a greater number of

Hoosiers – including veterans, people who acquire disabilities later in life, and those with chronic or progressive conditions – access to the financial protections and opportunities that ABLE accounts provide.

"This expansion is about dignity, independence, and opportunity," said Indiana Treasurer of State Daniel Elliott. "By raising the age of eligibili-

ty, we are opening the door for more Hoosiers – especially veterans and individuals who experience a disability later in life – to plan for their future without fear of losing the benefits they rely on. INvestABLE Indiana helps ensure that a disability does not define or limit a person's financial security."

The expanded eligibility makes a broader impact for individuals and families

navigating disability-related financial planning. This is representative of a historic step toward equity and opportunity for individuals with disabilities.

"This is a major milestone for financial empowerment for individuals with disabilities," said Amy Corbin, Executive Director of INvestABLE. "This age expansion allows more people to save for today's needs and tomorrow's goals while

maintaining their benefits eligibility."

The significant advantages and protections offered through ABLE accounts allow individuals with disabilities, and those who support them, flexibility and ease of access when using their funds to pay for daily needs and save for the future. To learn more or to open an INvestABLE Indiana account, visit [in.savewithable.com](#).

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Carmel Arts Grants to benefit 27 local organizations

Nearly \$1.38 million will support local arts in 2026

Submitted by City of Carmel

The City of Carmel has announced the recipients of its 2026 Arts Grants Program, awarding grants to 27 local organizations totaling nearly \$1.38 million. This latest funding round marks the 22nd year the city has demonstrated unwavering financial support for the local arts community.

Since the grant program's inception in 2004, the city has strategically invested nearly \$20 million (including the 2026 awards) to cultivate and sustain a vibrant artistic environment.

The city's commitment to the arts is a fundamental component of its economic development strategy and quality-of-life initiatives. By intentionally fostering a community that cherishes

and supports the arts, Carmel has successfully attracted private investment, major corporate employers and a highly skilled workforce, providing a solid foundation for sustainable growth and world-class amenities for residents and visitors.

"Through consistent, strategic investment in our arts institutions and organizations, we are fostering economic vitality and elevate Carmel's overall quality of life," Mayor Sue Finkam said. "The artistic culture thriving in our city is, without question, a strong economic driver that enriches the lives of our residents, visitors and business community alike."

Mayor Finkam thanked the Advisory Commission on Arts for their guidance, expertise, and continued



Photo courtesy Great American Songbook Foundation
Students from around the country perform at the Payne & Mencias Palladium during the Great American Songbook Foundation's annual Songbook Academy® summer intensive.

support of the grants effort.

This year, all grant recipients will participate in a free training provided by Hamilton County Community Foundation focusing on nonprofit operations, grant management and funding.

The list of 2026 Arts Grants recipients is below.

- Actors Theater of Indiana*
 - Bigger Picture Film Group
 - Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre*
 - Carmel Apprentice Theater (The CAT)
 - Carmel Arts Council
 - Carmel Clay Historical Society
 - Carmel Community Players, Inc.
 - Carmel International Arts Festival
 - Carmel Klavier, Inc.
 - Carmel Symphony Orchestra*
 - Central Indiana Dance Ensemble*
 - The Great American Songbook Foundation
 - Discovering Broadway, Inc.
 - Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre*
 - Indiana Artisan, Inc.
 - Indiana Association of Chinese-Americans
 - Indiana Ballet Conservatory
 - Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra
 - Indiana Wind Symphony*
 - Indianapolis Opera
 - Indianapolis Symphonic Choir
 - International Talent Academy
 - Janus Developmental Services, Inc.
 - Lantern Islamic Theater Company
 - M3 Theatre Camp
 - Museum of Miniature Houses &
 - Other Collections
 - Nriyangan Kathak, Inc.
- *Denotes Resident Company



CSO thanks City of Carmel for arts grant

Submitted

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) thanks Mayor Sue Finkam, the Carmel City Council, and the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Arts for their generosity to the arts in the community and for including the CSO in the 2026 grant cycle.

As all arts organizations know, survival is not possible without the generous support of the public

sector, corporate sponsors, and generous individual donors.

Making the commitment to the arts in Carmel as an economic driver has paid great dividends through the years, and CSO appreciates the continued funding. CSO pledges to continue doing its best in providing high-quality classical masterworks and other orchestral performances to inspire all generations in the community.

Bob Dylan to perform at Ball State University's Emens Auditorium

The REPORTER

Ball State University will present the Bob Dylan *Rough and Rowdy Ways World Wide Tour* at **Emens Auditorium** at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Tickets are on sale now through **ticketmaster**, at the Emens Box Office, 1800 W. Riverside Ave., Muncie, or by phone at (765) 285-1539.

One of popular music's most influential artists, Dylan has sold more than 125 million records worldwide and built a body of work that includes some of the most enduring songs in modern culture. He has released more than 50 albums and written more than 600 songs, including "Blowin' in the Wind," "Like a Rolling Stone," "All Along the Watchtower," "Knockin' on Heaven's Door," and "Make You Feel My Love."

Dylan's contributions have been recognized with many of the world's highest honors, including the Nobel Prize for Literature (2016), the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2012), and 10 Grammy Awards.

He is also widely celebrated for his live performances, with a touring legacy that stretches from early Greenwich Village clubs to decades of major concerts and international tours.

The March 31 performance will mark Mr. Dylan's third appearance at Emens Auditorium. He previously performed at Emens on April 29, 1997, and Nov. 2, 2019.

"Bob Dylan's influence on music and culture is immeasurable," said Dr. Seth Beckman, dean of Ball State's College of Fine Arts. "Across more than six decades, he has continually challenged audiences and artists alike — reshaping popular music, redefining what songwriting can be, and proving that creative evolution is essential to lasting impact. Welcoming Bob Dylan back to Emens Auditorium is a powerful moment for our campus and our community."

For a full schedule of upcoming performances and events at Emens Auditorium, visit [bsu.edu/web/emens/events](https://www.bsu.edu/web/emens/events).

From Our Firehouse To Your Home

As we celebrate this season of giving, we want to ensure our community stays safe. Please keep these fire safety tips in mind as you deck the halls:

TREE SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Water It:** Dry trees are dangerous. Water daily!
- Space It:** Keep heat sources 3ft away.
- Check It:** Throw away broken lights/cords.
- Dispose It:** Recycle the tree when needles drop.

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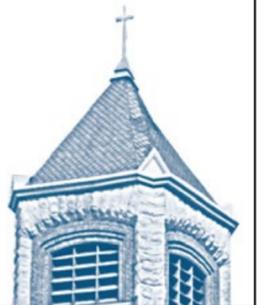
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State lawmaker wants to require water permits for most data centers

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A southwest Indiana lawmaker told News 8 Monday he wants to ensure any large data centers don't jeopardize water quality in their area.

Rep. Alex Burton, D-Evansville, has filed a **bill to require every data center** that consumes or expects to consume at least 10 million gallons of water per month to get a permit from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Permit applications would have to include a description of the data center, water usage rates, the center's anticipated source of water and information on how the facility will address public health and water conservation concerns. **According to a fiscal note** compiled by the Indiana General Assembly's research arm, the Legislative Services Agency, Burton's bill could potentially affect about 70 data centers in Indiana, of which only one is currently registered with the DNR as a significant water withdrawal facility.

Burton said he intentionally left some of the language in the bill vague so he can work with the DNR and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management on the specifics during session.

"There are so many questions out there whether people are pro- or anti-data centers, there's not enough assurance on behalf

of Hoosiers that feel comfortable with data centers," he said. "If they're going to exist, my thought process is to at least put something in place to guarantee that our water is safe and able to consume."

Data centers have become a major public policy issue at the state and local levels. Google this fall canceled plans to build a data center in Franklin Township after an outcry from area residents over environmental concerns, such as impact to utility bills and water quality. Similar concerns have led to protests against proposed data centers in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood, Decatur Township and in Morgan County.

At last month's legislative preview breakfast sponsored by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Senate President pro tempore Rod Bray, R-Martinsville, said he hopes to see legislation to address transparency surrounding data centers. Bray's district includes all of Morgan County.

Citizens Action Coalition Executive Director Kerwin Olson said he likes Burton's bill overall but he would like to see language added that ensures members of the public can access the information a permit application would require. He said much of the controversy surrounding data centers ultimately stems from the public's inability to access even basic information about propos-

als in their neighborhoods.

"Nothing in the bill requires a public hearing or a public meeting for example, or lays out a process for comments from the public to be received," he said. "A lot of the concern around data centers, and particularly looking at water, in the case of this piece of legislation, is transparency around the data center. What type of system do they have, how much water are they going to use, how much water are they going to be putting back, if you will."

Olson said he'd also like to see clearer language in Burton's bill on water consumption versus water withdrawal. He said withdrawal refers to how much water a facility pulls out of the water system while consumption refers to water that is not returned to the system once it's used. He said many industrial water users, including data centers, put wastewater back into the system once they've used it.

State law already requires any entity that withdraws at least 100,000 gallons of water per day to register with the DNR but the law does not specifically address data centers. Burton's bill sets specific requirements for data center applications and addresses water consumption rather than water withdrawals.

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce said they would prefer a case-by-case approach to data center permitting.

"The Indiana Chamber supports the responsible development of data centers in the state as part of a broader strategy to strengthen digital infrastructure, attract investment and foster innovation — while ensuring transparency, sustainability and community benefit," said Vanessa Green Sinders, Indiana Chamber of Commerce President & CEO. "The construction of data centers should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with input from public and private stakeholders. An evaluation by DNR may be appropriate in some circumstances, but ultimately no unnecessary burdens — including permitting — should be mandated by state law that could deter investment, stifle workforce development or impact negatively local communities' economic growth strategies."

Burton said his main goal with the bill is to bring all parties involved to the table to figure out the best policies for data centers moving forward. He said he plans to work with the Braun administration on provisions such as those dealing with transparency.

Burton's bill, like all others, will face a tight calendar. Lawmakers return to the Statehouse on Jan. 5 and plan to wrap up their work by Feb. 28.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/indiana-data-centers-water-quality.

Eligible Hoosiers will share an estimated \$10.5M from Google settlement

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita announced Monday, Dec. 22 that eligi-



Rokita

ble Hoosiers can start taking steps to receive their share of approximately \$10.5 million coming to Indiana consumers as part of a \$700 million national settlement that Rokita and other attorneys general reached with Google in 2023 over the company's alleged anticompetitive conduct with the Google Play Store.

"This is a big win for all Hoosiers and consumers nationwide," AG Rokita said. "For too long, big tech corporations have leveraged their monopoly power to extract profits at the expense of hardworking Americans. This final settlement, if approved, will put money back in the pockets of those it rightfully belongs to."

Google has already paid \$630 million into a settlement fund, from which restitution will be made to consumers. People eligible for restitution do not have to submit a claim. In most cases, they will receive automatic payments through PayPal or Venmo, or they can elect to receive a check or ACH transfer.

Nonetheless, AG Rokita advised Hoosiers to be proactive.

"All Hoosiers who have or had a Google Play account should visit the settlement website and enter your contact information," AG Rokita said. "Doing so now will ensure that applicable consumers are notified once the final settlement has been approved by the court and funds start dispersing."

The settlement website is linked [here](#).

Beyond the \$10.5 million in restitution paid to individual Hoosiers, the State of Indiana will also receive an anticipated \$1.4 million

in penalties paid by Google. Updated calculations will produce more precise monetary figures in the weeks to come.

A bipartisan group of 53 attorneys general sued Google in 2021, alleging

that it unlawfully monopolized the markets for Android app distribution and in-app payment processing. Specifically, the states claimed that Google signed anticompetitive contracts to prevent other app stores from being preloaded on Android devices, induced key app developers who might have launched rival app stores, and created technological barriers to deter consumers from directly downloading apps to their devices.

Once the settlement has been approved by the court, consumers will receive an email from PayPal or a text from Venmo notifying them of their incoming payment at the email address or mobile phone number associated with their Google Play account. If that email address or phone number is also associated with a PayPal or Venmo account, then the payment will be made directly to that account. If that email address or phone number does not match an email address or phone number associated with a PayPal or Venmo account, then consumers have the option to create a new account or direct the payment to a PayPal or Venmo account at another email address or phone number.

See Google . . . Page 6

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US Capitol and White House Tour Requests
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Orr Fellowship welcomes nearly 100 recent, upcoming college graduates to 2026 cohort

Premier Indiana post-undergraduate program strengthens Indiana's workforce & leadership pipeline

The REPORTER

Orr Fellowship, an early career development program for versatile high-achievers and future-focused businesses in Indianapolis and Evansville, announced last week its newest cohort of Fellows for 2026.

Nearly 100 college seniors and recent graduates have been matched with leading Indiana-based partner companies and will begin their Fellowships upon graduation in January 2026 for December graduates and in June 2026 for May graduates.

Eight Hamilton County natives have been named to the 2026 cohort:

- Paige Zurcher, DePauw University, hcl Insights Inc., Carmel
- Greg Gottlieb, Purdue University, The Heritage Group, Carmel
- Peter Pizarro, Miami University Ohio, Royal United Mortgage, Carmel
- Evan Myers, Indiana University, Fords Fast Freight, Fishers

• Benjamin Greiwe, Indiana Wesleyan University, Ryan Fireprotection Inc., Fishers

• Emi Robinson, Purdue University, The MJ Companies, Fishers

• Magwire Graybill, Purdue University, Pellegrino & Associates, Westfield

• Addison Owens, Indiana University, Selerix, Westfield

The Hamilton County natives join a network of 676 Orr alumni and 131 current Fellows in the program. Founded in 2001, Orr Fellowship recruits, assesses and matches university graduates with high-agency roles at growing Indiana businesses in central and southwest Indiana. Together, Orr Fellowship and its partner companies give graduates the professional development resources and support network they need to accelerate their careers. The program

boasts a network of nearly 700 alumni from universities across the U.S.

"We're thrilled to welcome this new group of highly motivated up-and-coming talent to Orr Fellowship," Orr Fellowship President Steven Emch said. "With these vetted, high-potential graduates, Orr partner companies gain dedicated, skilled employees who contribute significantly to their success and are more likely than their non-Orr peers to remain with the organization long-term."

This year's Fellows, formally selected after Finalist Day interviews in Indianapolis and Evansville, will gain unparalleled career development, **an expedited pathway into the Kelley Evening MBA program and Butler University MBA program**, formal leadership training, networking opportunities, mentorship and community building within Indiana's thriving business

ecosystem.

Orr Fellowship has also added more than a dozen new partner companies in central Indiana to its network for 2026, including:

- Authenticx
- First Merchants Bank
- Frëijē Engineered Solutions Company
- Guidepath Consulting
- KSM (Katz, Sapper & Miller)
- Lockhart Cadillac
- Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)
- Mission Critical Group
- Recovery Force Health
- Royal United Mortgage
- The Mind Trust
- The Oaks Academy
- Topo Advisors
- Will Power Excavation and Bulldozing
- Yalla Solutions

About Orr Fellowship

Founded in 2001, Orr Fellowship is an early-career development program for versatile high-achievers and future-focused businesses in Indiana. The organization recruits, assesses and matches university graduates with high-agency roles in growing Indiana businesses. Together, Orr Fellowship and partner companies give graduates the professional development resources and support network they need to accelerate their careers in business and positively impact Indiana. Learn more at orr.fellowship.org.

GOOGLE

from Page 5

There will be a supplemental claims process after the automatic payments process is complete for consumers who either:

- Do not have an existing PayPal or Venmo account and do not want to sign up for PayPal or Venmo;
- No longer have access to the email address or mobile phone number associated with their Google Play account; or
- Were expecting to receive a payment, but did not.

If consumers would like to be notified by email when the supplemental claims process starts, they may submit their name, email address, and mobile phone number **on the settlement website**.

Consumers who do not want to receive payment from the settlement fund and want to bring their own case against Google must submit a request to be excluded **online** or in writing by Feb. 19, 2026.

Consumers who want to object to the settlement can file a written objection by Feb. 19, 2026.

The court will hold a hearing on April 30, 2026, to consider whether to approve the settlement.

The agreement also requires Google to reform its business practices in the following ways:

- Give all developers the ability to allow users to pay through in-app billing systems other than Google Play Billing for at least five years.
- Allow developers to offer cheaper prices for their apps and in-app products for consumers who use alternative, non-Google billing systems for at least five years.
- Permit developers to steer consumers toward alternative, non-Google billing systems by advertising cheaper prices within their apps themselves for at least five years.
- Not enter contracts that require the Play Store to be the exclusive, pre-loaded app store on a device or home screen for at least five years.
- Allow the installation of third-party apps on Android phones from outside the Google Play Store for at least seven years.
- Revise and reduce the warnings that appear on an Android device if a user attempts to download a third-party app from outside the Google Play Store for at least five years.
- Maintain Android system support for third-party app stores, including allowing automatic updates, for four years.
- Not require developers to launch their app catalogs on the Play Store at the same time as they launch on other app stores for at least four years.
- Submit compliance reports to an independent monitor who will ensure that Google is not continuing its anticompetitive conduct for at least five years.

ing systems by advertising cheaper prices within their apps themselves for at least five years.

For much of this case, the attorneys general litigated alongside Epic Games and Match, two major app developers. Match announced a separate settlement in 2023 while Epic Games took its case to trial. A jury unanimously found that Google's anticompetitive conduct violated federal antitrust laws.

Attorneys general from all 50 states participated in this lawsuit – along with attorneys general from the District of Columbia and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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Sunday Worship | 11:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 PM



Photo provided

Carmel Library's West Branch reopens Jan. 5

The REPORTER

The Carmel Clay Public Library's Joyce Winner West Branch will reopen to the public on Monday, Jan. 5. The branch library has been closed since August for improvements to the front facade, windows, and heating and cooling systems. A holds pickup locker has also been installed outside the branch to allow for 24-hour pickup of books and other items.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 5, library patrons will also be able to:

- Return items at the West Branch's indoor and



outdoor return slots (including items checked out from the Main Library)

- Select the West Branch or the new holds pickup locker as their hold pickup location
- Reserve the West Branch study room

Because of delays in building materials needed to fully complete the project, the library plans to close the branch again for approximately two weeks beginning on or around the last week of February.

During that time, patrons will still be able to use the outdoor returns slots and the holds pickup locker.

Updates about the project are available at carmelclaylibrary.org/west.

The Carmel Clay Public Library provides a wide range of resources and programs designed to educate, entertain, and enrich the community. With a commitment to fostering lifelong learning, the library offers services and events for all ages.

Ray Allison named next executive director of Indiana State Fair Commission

The REPORTER

The Indiana State Fair Commission has announced Ray Allison as its next Executive Director, succeeding Cindy Hoye upon her retirement in March 2026.

A nearly 30-year veteran of the Commission, Allison brings a wealth of institutional knowledge, proven leadership experience, and a deep passion for the Fair's mission, people, and traditions. His appointment marks an exciting new chapter for the Indiana State Fair Commission; while also honoring the extraordinary legacy of Cindy Hoye, whose visionary leadership, innovation, and dedication have strengthened the Fair's impact and ensured its continued relevance for generations to come.

The Indiana State Fair Commission is the governing body overseeing the year-round operation of the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center and the annual Indiana State Fair.

"Ray Allison's selection reflects both his exceptional leadership and his deep, longstanding commitment to the Indiana State Fair," Governor Mike Braun said. "I am confident his experience, passion, and vision will continue to move the Fair and Fairgrounds forward.

At the same time, I extend my sincere gratitude to Cindy Hoye for her transformative leadership, which has left an enduring and positive impact on the state of Indiana."

In his current role as Chief Operating Officer, Allison oversees the Indiana State Fair Foundation, strategic planning initiatives and campus development projects. He also oversees event services, facility operations and maintenance, safety and security, food and beverage, livestock, and Ag education. In 2023, he was appointed to the executive committee of the International Association of Fairs & Expos (IAFE) Board of Directors and will serve as board chair in 2026.

"It is an honor to serve as the next Executive Director of this treasured institution," Allison said. "I have spent most of my adult life serving this organization, and I am humbled to be selected as its next caretaker. I look forward to working with our incredible team to build upon our rich heritage and continue making memories and building traditions for our next 175 years."



Allison

Allison is a 1996 graduate of Bradley University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Communications. He spent the first decade of his professional career working in the advertising industry, specializing in brand development for small to medium sized businesses. During his time in college, and every August since, he has worked the annual Indiana State Fair (32 Fairs total). He joined the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center staff full-time in 2007 as the Public Safety Manager. He was promoted to Public Safety Director in 2009, Director of Operations in 2012 and VP of Administration in 2014.

Hoye announced her retirement earlier this fall following nearly four decades of service. She is celebrated as holding the longest tenure of any Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair Commission, leaving behind a legacy of vision, pride, and a deep commitment to the organization's mission.

Allison will officially take over following Hoye's retirement effective March 31, 2026.





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Feeding Team Food Pantries

Here is a list of all the yellow Feeding Team food pantries across Hamilton County. For more information, go to FeedingTeam.org.

ARCADIA
Arcadia Brethren Church, 8989 E. 266th St.
Hamilton Heights School Administration Building, 410 W. Main St.

ATLANTA
Wesleyan Church, 330 S. Walnut St.

CARMEL
Carmel Lions Club, 141 E. Main St.
St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 10655 Haverstick Road

CICERO
Cicero Christian Church, 1715 Stringtown Pike
Harbour Shores Church, 8011 E. 216th St.
Koteewi Park – Taylor Center, 12308 Strawtown Ave.
Laura Hayden's School of Dance, 7830 E. 236th St.
Roundabout at SR 37 & Strawtown Ave. (23297 Lafayette St.)
The Indiana Academy, 24815 State Road 19
The Pizza House, 11 N. Main St.

FISHERS
Christ the Savior Lutheran Church, 10500 E. 126th St.
Christ's Community Church, 13097 Allisonville Road
Cyntheanne Christian Church, 13151 Cyntheanne Road
G5 Auto Sales, 11544 Allisonville Road
Life Church Fishers, 9820 E. 141st St.

SHERIDAN
Issachar Church, 501 E. Main St.
Sheridan Church of God, 705 W. 2nd St.
Sheridan Elementary School, 24795 N. Hinesley Road

WESTFIELD
CrossRoads Church, 19201 Grassy Branch Road
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 4283 E. 191st St.
Radiant Life Church, 16162 Carey Road
The Playhouse, 1836 State Road 32 (Eagletown)
Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn St.

NOBLESVILLE
American Eagle/Miller Auto Body, 16100 Allisonville Road
Chapel Church, 675 Walnut St.
Christ Lutheran Church, 10055 E. 186th St.
Clarksville Christian Church, 16600 Lehr St.
Deer Path HOA Community Building, 12109 Wolf Run Road
Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 16000 Cumberland Road
Family Promise of Hamilton County, 1051 N. 10th St.
Feeding Team Headquarters, 485 Sheridan Road (State Road 38)
First Christian Church, 16377 Herriman Blvd.
First Presbyterian Church, 1194 Maple Ave.
First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St.
Freedom Church, 1361 Christian Ave.
Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St.
Hamilton County Fire Fighters Local 4416, 399 S. 14th St.
Hamilton County Health Department, 18030 Foundation Drive
Hinkle Creek Friends Church, 21617 Hinkle Road
IDES (International Disaster Emergency Service), 355 Park 32 West Drive
Ignite Transform, 698 N. 10th St.
Legacy Christian School, 470 Lakeview Drive
Life Church, 2200 Sheridan Road (State Road 38)
Moose Lodge, 950 Field Drive
Morse Beach FOP Lodge, 7201 E. 196th St.
Mystic Images Tattoo, 164 N. 10th St.
Noblesville Schools Admin Building, 18025 River Road
Open Door Church, 20545 Riverwood Ave.
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 9900 E. 191st St.
Promise Road Elementary School, 14975 Promise Road
Suburban Estates, 3288 Cicero Road
Union United Methodist Church, 19090 Deshane Ave.
Victory Baptist Church, 2021 Cicero Road (State Road 19)
Wayne Township Volunteer Fire, 18441 E. Durbin Road
White Rock Fellowship Church, 21070 Schullley Road



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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

OFFERINGS AT THE
DEDICATION OF THE TABERNACLE

On the tenth day Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai, the leader of the people of Dan, brought his offering.

His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; one male goat for a sin offering; and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai.

On the eleventh day Pagiel son of Okran, the leader of the people of Asher, brought his offering.

His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; 76 one male goat for a sin offering; and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Pagiel son of Okran.

Numbers 7:66-77 (NIV)

Former nonprofit CEO heads to federal prison for 33 months for \$2 million embezzlement scheme

The REPORTER

Theresa Szwast, 58, Fishers, has been sentenced to 33 months in federal prison, followed by two years of supervised release, after pleading guilty to wire fraud. Szwast has also been ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and \$2,172,679.87 in restitution.

According to court documents, Szwast systematically embezzled more than \$2 million from her employer, a non-profit insurance statistical agent based in Indianapolis, over the course of 17 years. From 2008 to 2022, Szwast served as the

organization's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), granting her access to its banking and accounting systems.

Szwast diverted company funds to pay personal expenses, such as credit card bills, golf equipment, wine, and luxury travel, including an 11-day stay at the Four Seasons in Hawaii. She carried out the scheme through 13 fraudulent wire transfers to herself, averaging more than \$33,000 per transaction and reaching as high as \$66,000 in a single transfer. She also wrote 219 checks to herself. This theft occurred despite her annu-

al salary of approximately \$188,000.

As part of her responsibilities, Szwast oversaw the company's annual audits conducted by a Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm. In 2008, she began falsifying audit reports using the firm's letterhead and forging a CPA's signature. She then presented the fabricated financial statements to the Board of Directors to conceal her theft.

"Theresa Szwast's conduct was not only criminal, but it was also profoundly greedy and selfish. She betrayed the trust placed in her and created an illusion of stability for investors. Her deception forced dedicated employees to reconstruct accurate records and restore funds, disrupting their work on the core mission, all while enjoying her own lavish lifestyle," said Tom Wheeler, United States Attorney for the Southern

District of Indiana. "This sentence reflects the seriousness of her crimes and the lasting harm she inflicted, showing once again that those who abuse positions of trust for personal gain will be held accountable."

"Diverting funds for personal luxuries is a serious abuse of trust. The defendant chose to take funds meant to support the organization and use it for her own benefit," FBI Indianapolis Special Agent in Charge Timothy J. O'Malley said. "The FBI will continue to investigate and disrupt financial fraud schemes and hold accountable those who misuse their positions."

The FBI investigated this case. The sentence was imposed by U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Walton Pratt.

U.S. Attorney Wheeler thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Meredith Wood, who prosecuted this case.

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— WESTFIELD —

Notice of Adoption of Ordinance
Annexing Certain Real Estate to the City of Westfield, Indiana

Ordinance 25-84, An Ordinance Annexing Certain Real Estate to the City of Westfield, Hamilton County, Indiana, was adopted by the Westfield Common Council on December 22, 2025. The annexation area consists of approximately 6.2 acres +/-, generally located on the south side of E. 191st Street. The ordinance shall be effective in accordance with Indiana Law upon its passage by the Council, its publication in accordance with law, and upon the passage of any applicable waiting period, all as provided by the laws of the State of Indiana. Ordinance 25-84 in its entirety is available for inspection during regular business hours at the Westfield Clerk-Treasurer's Office located at 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana. Dated this 23rd day of December, 2025.

R7209 12/24/25, 12/29/25

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.

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7389 E 209TH STREET
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Fantastic waterfront condo on Morse Reservoir's secluded Waterscape side! 3BR/2BA, boat dock #104, fireplace, and deck offer year-round fun, relaxation, and scenic waterfront living with beaches and kayak storage.
Listed at \$499,900

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11405 Haverstick Road
CARMEL

This immaculate ranch in Carmel boasts hardwood floors, crown molding, a stone fireplace, and a relaxing sunroom. It sits on .37 acres, a four-minute walk to Woodbrook Elementary. Spotless basement and garage.
Listed at \$409,900

SOLD!

19173 Fox Chase Drive
NOBLESVILLE

Welcome to Prairie Crossing! Charming 3BR/2BA ranch features a convenient split floor plan, woodburning fireplace, and laminate floors. The kitchen has a walk-in pantry. Screened porch, deck, privacy fence, and a new roof.
Listed at \$289,900

NEW LISTING!

1307 CLIFF VIEW DRIVE
WESTFIELD

This 4BR/2.5BA home with a 3-car garage offers a covered front porch overlooking a pond. Flexible living spaces, a 2-story great room with fireplace, and a spacious kitchen. Primary bedroom features a spa-like bath.
Improved Price \$479,900

PENDING!

18826 LONG WALK LANE
NOBLESVILLE

Ready for the holidays? This fantastic 4BR/3BA, nearly 3,000 sq ft home in Woods at Prairie Crossing is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac. It offers a den, loft, and wooded views. It's freshly updated and ready for new owners.
Improved Price \$379,900

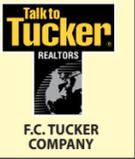


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REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

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

Boys Basketball

Tigers attack early, win battle of unbeaten

By RICHARD TORRES
For The Reporter

FISHERS – Over the weekend, the top-ranked Class 4A Fishers Tigers survived. Back home on Tuesday night, the unbeaten Tigers thrived.

Without their leading scorer for a second straight game, the Tigers (7-0) jumped out quickly inside the Jungle and never relinquished, handing Class 2A No. 1 Parke Heritage (6-1) its first loss of the season, 60-38.

Senior Kai McGrew finished with a game-high 19 points and nine rebounds, and the Tigers had three players in double figures, as the program continued to regroup after the loss of junior standout Jason Gardner Jr. to a fractured left hand.

“It’s hard without him, but we just have to adjust,” McGrew said. “We’ve got to adjust as a team, make new offenses and keep it going.”

Gardner was averaging 21.0 points per game through five games this season and posted 20 points during Fishers’ 68-61 win against Mudsock rival Hamilton Southeastern on Friday, Dec. 19 at the Fishers Event Center.

Gardner suffered the injury during the annual rivalry, which will sideline him anywhere from four to eight weeks. On Saturday, Dec. 20, the Tigers narrowly escaped 3A Indianapolis Shortridge, 64-62, to complete their back-to-back weekend road trip.

For their first home game since Dec. 5, the Ti-

gers collectively found a rhythm from the opening tip-off with a 12-0 run to start. They later strung together a 20-4 run in the second half to run away from the Wolves.

“It was mostly defense. We pressured the ball more,” McGrew said. “The last few games, we weren’t pressuring like that, but as soon as we got in the full court, we started pressuring, and then everything turned out wrong for them.” Parke Heritage went scoreless for the first 6 minutes, 18 seconds before cutting into Fishers’ lead, 12-2, in the first quarter.

The Wolves turned the ball over six times in the frame and 16 times overall and shot 1-for-5 through the first 8 minutes, while the Tigers won the overall rebounding battle 25-18.

“I think for maybe the first time all season, we had a true team win on both ends of the floor,” Fishers coach Garrett Winegar said. “It’s a credit to just being locked in and focused. We’ve won a lot of games here lately, and they’re a 2A, a smaller school, and credit to our guys for watching the film that we showed and listening to us on the scouting report. That’s a really good team, and we had to take them seriously.”

The Wolves were averaging 72.2 points per contest and allowing 44.8, but the Tigers worked inside to McGrew and focused on perimeter ball movement to shoot a crisp 56 percent.

Senior Jean-Claude L’Homme, who started in place of Gardner Jr., had



(LEFT) Fishers’ Jean-Claude L’Homme scored 11 points for the Tigers during their win over Class 2A No. 1 Parke Heritage on Tuesday. (RIGHT) Cooper Zachary scored 12 points for Fishers.

11 points, four assists and six steals. Junior Cooper Zachary finished with 12 points and five assists with two steals.

“It’s a challenge (without Gardner Jr.), and it’s a bigger challenge because of the way we’ve been playing as a team. We’ve not been playing very well,” Winegar said. “So, with him out, we have to play the game the right way, run offense and screen for each other and get good shots and get good touches.”

The Wolves pulled within eight points by halftime, 25-17, and sliced the margin 29-21 in the third quarter, but the Tigers’ late run put the game out of reach.

Tigers’ senior Torey Breland and junior Levi Walker provided six points with three rebounds apiece. Walker added four assists, a steal and a block.

“My hope is that in the long run this can make us better because other guys get some confidence,” Winegar said. “We start playing the right way, and then when (Gardner Jr.) comes back, we add him, and we’re playing a better brand of basketball and playing for each other a little more. I thought we did that tonight.”

Junior Carter Crum led the Wolves with 12 points followed by senior Isaac Pickel with 10 points and



Reporter photos by Julie Brown

FISHERS 60, PARKE HERITAGE 38

Fishers	FG	FT	TP	PF
Jean-Claude L’Homme	5	0-0	11	2
Cooper Zachary	5	0-0	12	1
Levi Walker	1	4-4	6	4
Torey Breland	2	2-2	6	1
Kai McGrew	9	1-4	19	3
Tristan Breland	1	0-0	2	2
Max Hopkins	2	0-0	4	2
Jalen Campbell	0	0-2	0	0
Jayden Bogan	0	0-0	0	0
Dominic Mulenga	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	25	7-12	60	15
Score by Quarters				
Parke Heritage	2	15	6	15-38
Fishers	14	11	16	19-60
Fishers 3-pointers (3) Zachary 2, L’Homme.				

10 rebounds.

The Tigers are off for the holidays until Jan. 2 when they host their own

two-day tournament that includes 4A No. 16 Evansville North and 4A No. 8 Chesterton.



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Noblesville’s Luke Fogg drives to the basket during the Millers’ game with Evansville Reitz at their Holiday Tournament on Tuesday.

Millers win Holiday Tournament

The REPORTER

The Noblesville boys basketball team won its annual Holiday Tournament on Tuesday with two easy victories.

In the morning semifinals, the Millers cruised past Evansville Reitz 72-43. Noblesville started fast, zooming to a 23-4 lead after the first quarter. The Millers led 40-22 at halftime and put up

another 32 points in the second half to earn a place in the championship game.

Noblesville’s two Division I commits both had outstanding games. Baron Walker, headed to Butler University, poured in 31 points, while Valparaiso commit Justin Curry II scored 26 points.

See *Millers* . . . Page 10

Huskies get first win of the season

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Heights boys basketball team picked up its first win of the season Tuesday at its own Holiday Invitational.

The Huskies beat McCutcheon 64-42 in the consolation game of the event. The Heights led 12-8 after the first quarter, then powered through the second period, outscoring the Mavericks 25-11 for a 37-18 halftime lead. A 14-7 fourth quarter sealed the game for the Huskies.

Three Heights players reached double-digit scoring, led by Rees Knapp’s 17 points. Jackson Mikesell scored 16 points and Jack Kakasuleff scored 15 points. Mikesell made it a double-double with 12 re-

bounds and Will DeStefano collected seven rebounds.

Freshman Gavin Lucchesi added eight points. Austin Day dished out four assists.

In their morning game, the Huskies fell to Covenant Christian 75-53. The Warriors led 21-19 after one quarter, then pulled away in the second period by outscoring Heights 18-4 to lead 39-23.

Kakasuleff scored 18 points, with Knapp contributing 14 points. Caleb Sullivan had three rebounds.

Kakasuleff was named to the All-Tournament team at the conclusion of the event.

The Huskies are 1-7 and are idle until Jan. 9 when they host Northwestern.



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Hamilton Heights’ Jack Kakasuleff was named to the All-Tournament team at the Huskies’ Holiday Invitational on Tuesday. Kakasuleff scored 33 points over Heights’ two games.

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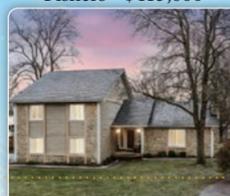
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Wrestling Wednesday

Maddox wins at the Carnahan, Sheridan girls make impact at Quad-Conference

The REPORTER

Another week, another big win for Westfield wrestler Connor Maddox.

The 106-pound sophomore was the champion of his weight class at the Carnahan Memorial Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 20 at Crown Point. Maddox won four matches to claim the title.

In the first round, Maddox beat Alex Powers of Lemont (Ill.) by an 18-1 technical fall. He then defeated Brownsburg's Alex Huddleston with a second-period pin in the quarterfinals.

Maddox cruised to a 22-4 technical fall victory over Sebastian Gracia of Mt. Carmel (Ill.) in the semifinals. Maddox wrestled Colton Wyller of Marmion (Ill.) in the championship and won by an 11-5 decision.

The Sheridan girls team made a significant impact at the Quad-Conference meet, which took place Saturday, Dec. 20 at Kokomo's Memorial Gymnasium.

The Blackhawks scored 90 points to finish seventh overall and were the top Hoosier Heartland Conference team at the event, finishing 36 points ahead of Eastern and Delphi. Sheridan also had two individual HHC champions.

Aubrey Koch won the 115-pound conference title and was the overall runner-up. Eva Todd was the 140-pound HHC champion and was fourth overall in that division.

Other top finishers were AJ Hamersley at 145 and Devyn Pewarski at 135, both of whom placed fourth in their respective weight classes. Ryleigh Hampton added six team points for Sheridan by making a 29-second pin over her Richmond opponent.

Other Sheridan competitors were Gracie Stowers at 110, Khloe Goebel at 125 and Ellen Phillips at 130.

Carmel's boys took second place at the Kyle Osborn Memorial Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 20 at McCutcheon.

The Greyhounds totaled 221 points, just behind winner Harrison's 229 points. Brock Raasch won the 132-pound championship, starting his run with a pin of Lebanon's Juelz Suarez in the quarterfinals. Raasch then won a 13-0 major decision over Northview's Koleten Starkey in the semifinals, then toughed out a 5-4 decision



Photo by Cael Maddox

Westfield's Connor Maddox won another big tournament on Saturday, Dec. 20. Maddox claimed the 106-pound championship at the Carnahan Memorial Invitational at Crown Point.



Photo provided

Sheridan's Devyn Pewarski placed fourth at 135 pounds at the Quad-Conference meet Saturday, Dec. 20 at Kokomo.

against McCutcheon's Rafael Sanchez in the championship.

Carmel placed all 14 of its wrestlers in the top six. Brayson Mack (at 157) and Gavin Adkins (at 190) both finished second in their weight classes.

Greyhounds finishing third were Clayton Alexander at 106, Sullivan Mahar at 120, Carlo Federici at 126, Elliott Leonard at 138, Tyler Elliott at 144, Jaxen Timmons at 150 and Will Massey at 215.

Joshua Velarde-Gallardo took fourth at 113. Jordan Jay (at 165) and Harrison Grant (at 175) were fifth, while Peyton Hasseld took sixth at 285.

The Fishers boys placed fourth at the Columbus East Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 20.

The Tigers scored 152 points. The top three teams were Columbus East with 312, Plainfield with 207

and Terre Haute South with 188.5.

Fishers had seven wrestlers finish in the top six, led by the 120-pound champion, Seth Lamb. After receiving a first-round forfeit, Lamb won his quarterfinal match over Terre Haute South's Alec Sauer by a 17-0 technical fall.

Lamb beat South Putnam's Noah Redman with another tech fall, this one 17-2. Lamb then took care of Mt. Vernon's Ty Barnhart by a 14-6 major decision to win the championship.

Will Hruskoci (at 126) and Camden Funk (at 190), both finished as runners-up in their divisions. Other place winners for the Tigers were Ezekiel Kramer (third at 157), Julian Burgett (third at 215), Alexander Petricic (fifth at 132) and Johnny Irving (sixth at 144).

Hamilton Heights' boys were fourth at the John McKee Memorial Wrestling

Tournament, which took place Saturday, Dec. 20 at Rochester.

The Huskies scored 146 team points and had one champion, Simon Kuhn at 157 pounds. Kuhn began with pins against Concord's Greyson Snapp-Williams in the first round and Bremen's Ethan Borsodi in the quarterfinals.

Kuhn then beat North Miami's Cooper Pattison in the semifinals by an 11-3 major decision before defeating Eastern's Evan Williams by a 17-0 technical fall in the championship.

Heights had 10 place winners, including Kolter Galloway, who took second at 126. Ezekiel Rice (at 106) and Jameson Mullins (at 150) were fourth; Jonah Wolfgang (at 120), Kase Powell (at 132) and Hans Frymier (at 190) all placed fifth, and Jude Bailey (at 113), Nathan Flanders (at 165) and Braxtyn Baber (at 175) all placed sixth.

MILLERS

from Page 9

Both players collected eight rebounds and Walker dished out six assists.

The Millers took care of business in the championship game with a 51-30 win over Gary 21st Century. Noblesville led 18-8 after one quarter, then shut out the Cougars 13-0 in the second period for a 31-8 halftime lead.

Curry was the leading scorer with 18 points, fol-

lowed by Walker with 15 points. Max Flanagan made three 3-pointers for nine points.

Curry collected nine rebounds, while Dylan Knagary pulled seven rebounds. Walker collected six and Luke Fogg had five. Walker dished out four assists.

The Millers are 4-4 and are idle until Jan. 2 when they host Warren Central.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 26

BOYS BASKETBALL

BSN Holiday Tournament, Homestead
Zionsville vs. Fort Wayne Carroll, 5:30 p.m.
South Bend St. Joseph vs. Mt. Vernon, 5:30 p.m.
Center Grove vs. Homestead, 7 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern vs. Penn, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Fishers vs. Heritage Hills, 5:30 p.m. at Washington

Saturday, Dec. 27

BOYS BASKETBALL

Richmond at Westfield, 2:30 p.m.
Sheridan Tournament
Sheridan vs. Lewis Cass, noon
Liberty Christian vs. Benton Central, noon
Consolation game, 5 p.m.
Championship game, 5 p.m.
BSN Holiday Tournament, Homestead
Hamilton Southeastern games TBD

GIRLS BASKETBALL

New Castle Holiday Tournament
Franklin County vs. New Castle, 10 a.m.
Oldenburg Academy vs. Hamilton Heights, noon
Consolation game, 6 p.m.
Championship game, 8 p.m.
Noblesville Tournament
Noblesville vs. Fort Wayne Snider, 10 a.m.
Norwell vs. Valparaiso, 11:45 a.m.
Consolation game, 6 p.m.
Championship game, 7:45 p.m.
Walt Raines Classic, Franklin Community
South Bend Washington vs. Franklin Community, 10 a.m.
Carmel vs. Jennings County, noon
Consolation game, 4 p.m.
Championship game, 6 p.m.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Carmel at Mooresville Holiday Classic, 9 a.m.
Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern at Beech Grove Girls Holiday Classic, 9 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 29

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bill Hawkins Basketball Classic, Bethesda Christian
Indiana Math & Science vs. Faith Christian, 9 a.m.
University vs. Indpls. Metropolitan, 10:30 a.m.
Ashville (Ala.) vs. Bethesda Christian, noon
Traders Point Christian vs. Irvington Prep, 1:30 p.m.
Paul Loggan Memorial Tournament at North Central
Carmel vs. Jeffersonville, 6:45 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING

Sheridan at Eastern Holiday Classic, 9 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Westfield vs. NorthWood, 11:30 a.m. at Northridge
Westfield vs. Bishop Dwenger, 4:30 p.m. at Northridge
Paul Loggan Memorial Tournament, North Central
Hamilton Southeastern vs. Silver Creek, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 30

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bill Hawkins Basketball Classic, Bethesda Christian
University game TBD
Paul Loggan Memorial Tournament, North Central
Carmel vs. Lake Central, 11:45 a.m.

BOYS WRESTLING

Carmel, Hamilton Southeastern at Mooresville Holiday Classic, 9 a.m.
Fishers at Connerville Tournament, 9 a.m.
Sheridan at Eastern Holiday Classic, 9 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Westfield vs. Penn, 11:30 a.m. at Northridge
Westfield at Northridge, 4:30 p.m.
Paul Loggan Memorial Tournament, North Central
Hamilton Southeastern vs. Decatur Central, 6:45 p.m.

SWIMMING

Carmel at Homestead Dive Invitational, 10:30 a.m.
Carmel Invitational, noon

Wednesday, Dec. 31

BOYS WRESTLING

Carmel, Hamilton Southeastern at Mooresville Holiday Classic, 9 a.m.
Fishers at Connerville Tournament, 9 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 2

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hamilton Southeastern at Crown Point, 4:30 p.m.
Bethesda Christian at University, 7:30 p.m.
Warren Central at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.
Fishers Invitational
Fishers vs. Fort Wayne Wayne, 10:30 a.m.
Evansville North vs. Chesterton, 12:15 p.m.
Evansville Bosse vs. Columbus North, 2 p.m.
New Albany vs. Lawrence Central, 3:45 p.m.
Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2, 5:30 p.m.
Loser Game 3 vs. Loser Game 4, 7:15 p.m.
Ray Furney Classic, Lawrenceburg
Guerin Catholic vs. Plainfield, 11 a.m.
Guerin Catholic vs. Castle, 7 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING

Noblesville at North Montgomery Holiday Duals, 9 a.m.
Westfield at Al Smith Invitational, 10 a.m. at Mishawaka

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Carmel at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
Fishers at Chicago Invite, 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at Naperville

GIRLS WRESTLING SECTIONALS

Carmel, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Noblesville at Muncie Central
At Hamilton Heights, 9 a.m.
Sheridan at Crawfordsville

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




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Girls Basketball

Rocks beat Millers, stay on top of HCC race

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

WESTFIELD – The Westfield girls basketball team stayed at the top of the Hoosier Crossroads Conference standings after a home win over Noblesville on Saturday, Dec. 20. The Shamrocks beat the Millers 46-32 at CSI Gymnasium. Westfield broke away from Noblesville after a close first quarter, using some hot shooting from Ellie Wheeler and solid defense to win its seventh consecutive game.



Wheeler

Rocks coach Kelsey Steele said this was “probably one of our best all-around defensive games” this season.

“We talked about it beforehand, like we needed to make a stand on the defensive end tonight,” said Steele. “And I felt like out kids bought into that and we did, for the most part, what we talked about going into the game.”

The Millers led 9-8 after the first quarter, with Maia Blower scoring five points. Wheeler also had five points, including a 3-pointer.

Wheeler was just getting warmed up. She nailed two more triples in the second quarter and they were part of an 11-2 run for Westfield that put the Rocks ahead 19-11.

Blower stopped the spurt with a layin, then C.C. Quigley’s and-1 brought Noblesville within 19-16 by halftime.

Norah Vetor made a free throw to begin the third quarter and cut the Shamrocks’ lead to 19-17. But Westfield went on another run, scoring 13 consecutive points for a 32-17 lead. Gracie Czubik had four points in the run, which Wheeler finished with her fourth 3 of the game.

Czubik was also an important part of the Rocks’ defense; Steele said the team was using a “high-pressure” 2-3 zone in the second half.

“With just her energy and her athleticism up top, she makes things hard because she’s so quick and so athletic,” said Steele.

The Shamrocks led 34-19 going into the fourth quarter.

Freshman Lillian Clark threw in a pair of triples to push Westfield ahead 40-20. Quigley had seven points in the fourth quarter, while Blower made two 3s.

Wheeler finished with 14 points and five assists, followed by Clark with 10 points and five rebounds despite being the focal point of Noblesville’s box-and-1 defense, something Steele said the Rocks expected to see during the season.

“And when that happens, obviously she has to continue to work hard, but you need other kids to make shots,” said Steele. “And Ellie Wheeler was that kid tonight and we’re proud of her effort. She also did a good job getting into the paint and helping create offense for others.”

Blower scored 15 points and had six steals, with Quigley adding 14 points. Aleah Magee and Blythe Walker led the rebounds with five each.

“We turned it over too much, but talked about cleaning that up and giving ourselves a chance in the second half and we just did not do that,” said Millers coach Donna Buckley. “We turned the ball over way too many times and couldn’t get into our offense.”

The Rocks are now 5-0 in the conference and share the HCC lead with Hamilton Southeastern. The two

WESTFIELD 46, NOBLESVILLE 32				
Noblesville	FG	FT	TP	PF
Ally Hutchinson	0-4	0-0	0	2
Maia Blower	6-13	0-0	15	2
Norah Vetor	0-1	1-2	1	0
Aleah Magee	1-3	0-2	2	2
C.C. Quigley	4-7	6-8	14	0
Devyn Johnson	0-0	0-0	0	0
Nelani Render	0-2	0-0	0	0
Blythe Walker	0-1	0-0	0	1
Maya Coverdale	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	11-31	7-12	32	7

Noblesville 3-point shooting (3-15)	Blower 3-9,	Hutchinson 0-2,	Render 0-1,	Vetor 0-1,	Magee 0-1,	Quigley 0-1.
Noblesville rebounds (24)	Magee 5,	Walker 5,	Quigley 4,	Hutchinson 2,	Vetor 2,	Johnson 1, Blower 1, team 4.

Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Gracie Czubik	3-3	0-0	6	0
MaKayla Hatcher	1-4	0-0	2	2
Olivia Murray	0-1	1-2	1	3
Ellie Wheeler	4-8	2-4	14	2
Audra Parker	1-4	2-2	4	3
Lillian Clark	4-8	0-0	10	2
Gabby Bassett	2-9	1-1	6	2
Lauren Linville	0-0	0-0	0	0
Avery Taylor	1-2	1-1	3	0
Jolie Miller	0-2	0-0	0	0
Totals	16-41	7-10	46	14

Westfield 3-point shooting (7-22)	Wheeler 4-8,	Clark 2-6,	Bassett 1-5,	Taylor 0-1,	Murray 0-1,	Parker 0-1.
Westfield rebounds (22)	Bassett 5,	Clark 4,	Parker 4,	Hatcher 2,	Wheeler 2,	Taylor 1, Czubik 1, Murray 1, team 2.

Score by Quarters				
Noblesville	9	7	3	13 - 32
Westfield	8	11	15	12 - 46

teams will meet on Jan. 16 at Westfield. Overall, the Shamrocks are 11-3 and play next week at the Interra Classic at Northridge.

Noblesville is 2-3 in the

conference and 6-5 overall. The Millers host their own tournament on Saturday, playing Fort Wayne Snider at 10 a.m. for their first game.

Huskies beat Blackford

The **REPORTER**

Hamilton Heights’ girls rolled to their seventh consecutive win on Saturday, Dec. 20, beating Blackford 65-34 in a home game.

The Huskies cruised through the first half, leading 38-19 at halftime. Heights held a 60-27 advantage after three quarters, then Zoey Curry scored the first basket of the fourth period to put the Huskies ahead 35 points and institute a running clock.

Riley Suarez led

Heights with 24 points. Stella Taylor scored 10 points and made five steals, while Addison Blum drained three 3-pointers for nine points and also dished out four assists. Bayleigh Eisele had a solid all-around game, with eight points, six rebounds, six assists and four steals.

The Huskies are 9-2 and play in the New Castle Tournament on Saturday. Heights takes on Oldenburg Academy at noon in the second first-round game.

HAMILTON HEIGHTS 65, BLACKFORD 34				
Heights	FG	FT	TP	PF
Addison Blum	3-9	0-0	9	0
Bayleigh Eisele	3-4	2-2	8	1
Kamryn Rhoton	2-4	0-0	5	3
Riley Suarez	11-19	2-3	24	0
Zoey Curry	4-4	0-0	8	0
Stella Taylor	4-5	2-2	10	2
Abi Hilfiker	0-2	0-0	0	2
Reece Blanton	0-0	0-0	0	1
Evie Millsaps	0-0	1-2	1	0
Gabi Lowe	0-0	0-0	0	1
Kaylee Smith	0-1	0-0	0	0
Annie Sheller	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	27-48	7-9	65	10

Score by Quarters				
Blackford	8	11	8	7 - 34
Heights	19	19	22	5 - 65

Heights 3-point shooting (4-16) Blum 3-7, Rhoton 1-2, Suarez 0-4, Taylor 0-1, Eisele 0-1, Hilfiker 0-1.
 Heights rebounds (20) Eisele 6, Rhoton 3, Suarez 3, Blum 2, Hilfiker 2, Curry 2, Millsaps 1, Blanton 1.

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Heights' Smith honored for 1,000 digs



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights Athletics
Hamilton Heights volleyball player Macie Smith was honored by the Huskies at their girls basketball game on Saturday, Dec. 20 for clearing 1,000 career digs during her senior season. Smith, a West Virginia University commit, received a game ball from Heights athletic director Kurt Ogden.

Jenn Anderson inducted in Hamilton County Basketball Hall of Fame

The REPORTER

Westfield graduate Jenn Anderson was inducted into the Hamilton County Basketball Hall of Fame on Saturday, Dec. 20, prior to the Westfield-Noblesville girls basketball game.

Anderson is a 2013 graduate of Westfield, where she was a four-year All Hoosier Crossroads Conference selection and was an Indiana All-Star in 2013. She was part of two Shamrocks sectional championship teams, in 2010 and 2013.

Anderson went on to play at Indiana University, where she helped the Hoosiers to an 81-52 overall record, two WNIT appearances and one NCAA tournament berth.

"It's such a huge honor," said Anderson. "I never really thought that this was possible, so I'm super excited to now be inducted."

Anderson is a Pathway IA at Noblesville High School and is in her sixth season as a varsity assistant coach for Donna Buckley and the Millers' team.



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Westfield graduate Jenn Anderson was inducted into the Hamilton County Basketball Hall of Fame on Saturday, Dec. 20. Anderson graduated from Westfield in 2013, where she was an Indiana All-Star and helped the Shamrocks to two sectional championships.

"I've had the best support system and I love that I get to come back on an all-female staff with Donna and that she gave me the opportunity here," said Anderson. "Just adding more marks on my story, because it's not over yet."

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