

Our future  
needs Club Kids.  
But right now,  
Club Kids need YOU  
to power their potential.



# THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Your Hometown Newspaper

THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 2026

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



## TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy.  
Mid to late afternoon  
shower chance.  
Tonight: Rainy.  
HIGH: 60 LOW: 55



## Jessica Layman appointed as new Hamilton County Historian

### David Heighway named County Historian Emeritus

#### The REPORTER

The Indiana Historical Society announces the appointment of a new Hamilton County historian, along with the designation of a county historian emeritus.

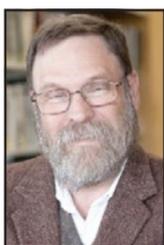
New Hamilton County historian Jessica Layman is a Local History and Genealogy Librarian at the Hamilton East Public Library in Noblesville. Born and raised in Arcadia, she got her bachelor's degree in Informatics and her master's degrees in Library Science and Public History from IUPUI in Indianapolis (now IUI), graduating

in 2020.

Before being nominated for the role of Hamilton County Historian, Layman was President of the board of the Hamilton County Historical Society for six years. She began volunteering there while still in high school in 2014. Her historic interests include genealogy of "ordinary people," building preservation,



Layman



Heighway

County Historian Emeritus, an honorary designation in recognition of his 18 years of service and dedication as former county historian.

In 1981, through an effort to improve the historical commu-

nication network in the state, the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau established the Indiana County Historian Program. County historians serve as volunteers appointed by the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana Historical Bureau to promote local history in their counties, connect individuals and groups with history resources, promote collaboration between local history organizations, and maintain connections with the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana Historical Bureau. Learn more at [IndianaHistory.org](http://IndianaHistory.org).

## Lions pursuits are not just trivial

### Kids need to see and you need to test your trivia intelligence

#### By LISA DICK

Noblesville Lions Club

The Noblesville Lions Club will soon hold Trivia Night on Thursday, Feb. 5 at Bier Brewery, 1618 S. 10th St., Noblesville, with proceeds benefiting Lions KidSight, a vision-screening program serving preschool-aged children in the community.

The fundraiser will help purchase a new vision-screening camera for the local KidSight program. Teams of one to eight players may participate for \$80 per team. Check-in begins at 6 p.m., with trivia starting at 7 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Trivia categories will focus on a range of topics. Prizes will be awarded for the highest-scoring team, as well as for best team name and theme.

Lions KidSight is a worldwide program that brings Lions clubs together to ensure children receive vision screenings and follow-up care when needed. The program trains and mobilizes volunteers to efficiently screen the vision health of young children, helping identify issues early. According to Lions KidSight, 80 percent of a child's learning and development depends on healthy, corrected vision, making early screening critical to academic and social success.

"Whether you're a trivia fanatic or a rookie, we guarantee you'll have fun supporting a great cause," said Josh Kozicki, Lions member and trivia host.

Registration is available online at [tinyurl.com/NoblesvilleLionsTrivia2026](http://tinyurl.com/NoblesvilleLionsTrivia2026).

For more information or to inquire about sponsoring a trivia round, contact Josh Kozicki at [josh@thekozickis.org](mailto:josh@thekozickis.org). Additional information about Lions KidSight is available at [lionskidsightusa.org](http://lionskidsightusa.org).



Photos courtesy of Noblesville Lions Club

(TOP) Members of the Blues Clues team celebrate their win at the 2025 Lions Trivia Night. (Back row, from left) Heather Perry, Charlie Perry, and Doug Thompson. (Front row, from left) Nancy Miller, Connie Nielson (team captain), Mary Thompson, Austin Thompson, and Emily Murphy. (ABOVE) Members of the Noblesville Lions Club are shown at the 2025 Trivia Night. (From left) Greg Clouse, Josh Kozicki, Lisa Rohe, Steve Shaw, Cheryl Helton, Bruce Moss, Mark Bachar, Ron Sinicki, Tim Baker, Eric Bachar, Jeff Dick, Lisa Dick, Jen Carr, and George Long.

## Dear sons

Dear Jonathon and Jacob,

I know you're adults who are out on your own now. I love to see it and witness the steps you're taking to be successful and make your dreams come true.

When people said to me years ago you never stop worrying as a parent, even when your children are grown, I didn't quite understand. Now ... oh, do I get it. Thank goodness I have my faith in God, and I can remember that He loves you even more than I do. That knowledge, along with a prayer, defeats worry every time.

Fortunately, I have a good memory. I remember those times in my early 20s when I could barely pay the bills. And I know the current obstacles don't make it any easier (I must remind myself not to clutch my chest when I see what houses sell for these days).

But I learned so much at your age, and you will, too. I'm glad you still reach out to me with questions about insurance, banking, budgeting, etc. While I'm not perfect, I know what to do in both good and lean financial times.

I promise I'll always be here to encourage and guide you. I'll work to not bug or smother you. It's hard to watch you make mistakes, but I know that's how you grow. Mistakes are great teachers.

While I want you to be independent, one thing you'll always have to do is text us when you get home after any trip that is 30 minutes or longer. Especially in the winter-time. I don't care how old you get ... we'll still make this request.

Your grandparents did the same thing to your father and me. Well, it was more like a phone call decades ago. And my mom never did get the hang of a cell phone before she died.

See Dear Sons ... Page 2

## Westfield Winter Market returns to West Fork Whiskey Company on Jan. 17

#### The REPORTER

The Westfield Winter Market, presented by V3, will launch its next season at West Fork Whiskey Company, 10 E. 191st St., Westfield, from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 17. The indoor, family-friendly market will run every Saturday through March 28.

"Small local businesses are the heartbeat of our community and play a major role in making Westfield so special," Mayor Scott Willis said. "The Westfield Winter Market is a great way to get out of the house, see your friends and neighbors, and shop local."

Up to 50 vendors whose offerings include fresh produce, locally sourced meats and cheeses, cookies and baked goods, houseplants, handcrafted artisanal goods, and more will participate in the market.

Popular returning vendors include Eagle Creek Apiary (honey), Bouge Cookie Company (cookies and baked goods), and Sugar Creek Lavender Farm (body and skincare). New vendors joining the Westfield Winter Market include Bear Fruit Farms (microgreens), Promise Land Farm (winter produce), Lucky Maeve's (matcha beverages), and Ruth's Garden (houseplants and accessories).

Free parking is available at the West Fork Whiskey Company lot. Overflow parking and a complimentary shuttle is available at Grand Park's Lot E (near the corner of Spring Mill Road and 191st Street). The shuttle will run for the entirety of the market.

To learn more about the Westfield Winter Market or to view the weekly line-up of vendors, please visit [westfieldin.gov/wintermarket](http://westfieldin.gov/wintermarket).

## Westfield Fire announces five promotions



Austad

Brock

Summers

Cree

Schroeder

Photos provided by Westfield Fire Department

Westfield Fire Department announces the following promotions to meet the needs of the growing community and department. After a competitive process, the following personnel have earned their merit promotions, effective Jan. 1, 2026. (FROM LEFT) Fire Fighter Justin Austad has been promoted to Lieutenant on Engine 382, A-Shift. Fire Fighter Kevin Brock has been promoted to Lieutenant on Engine 383, B-Shift. Lt. Danny Summers has been promoted to Captain, Shift Training Officer (STO), B-Shift. Lt. Jason Cree has been promoted to Captain, Battalion Chief Aid, A-Shift. Fire Fighter Mason Schroeder has been promoted to Engineer on Ladder 384, A-Shift.

# Applications open for free accessible vans for Hoosiers with Muscular Dystrophy

**The REPORTER**

For families living with muscular dystrophy, something as simple as a trip to the grocery store or a doctor's appointment can feel like an insurmountable challenge.

The Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation

(MDFF) gives away accessible vans every year to Hoosiers in need of transportation through the Accessible Van Giveaway Program.

The application window for 2026 is open now through Feb. 15. Each year, MDFF

awards one or more families an accessible van to help improve their mobility and quality of life. These customized vans are life-changing for families navigating the daily challenges of muscular dystrophy – restoring their independence and connec-

tion to their community. Without a van these families become isolated by their mobility limitations. Wheelchair accessible vans typically range from \$40,000 to \$100,000, depending on whether they are new or used and the type of modifications required – a cost that places them far beyond the reach of most families already facing the financial burden of managing a progressive neuromuscular disease.

“Every family deserves the freedom to participate in life – to attend school events, visit loved ones, access medical care, and simply enjoy the world around them,” MDFF President Jacob Buehler said. “An accessible van isn't just about getting from point A to point B. It's about dignity, independence, and staying connected to what matters most.”

An applicant must meet the following criteria to submit an application:

- Be diagnosed with a form of MD or neuromuscular disease as listed



on the national Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) at [mda.org/disease/list](http://mda.org/disease/list)

- Live in the state of Indiana
- Be Enrolled with MDFF. If they are not already enrolled, they may at [this link](#).

- Have a need for an accessible van

- Have the financial resources to pay for insurance, license plates, and ongoing maintenance of the vehicle

Access to the online version of the application is found at [this link](#). A paper version of the application may be requested by emailing [info@mdff.org](mailto:info@mdff.org).

The application cycle for

this year closes on Feb. 15.

*About the Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation*

The Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation is dedicated to providing direct financial assistance, equipment, and support to Indiana families affected by muscular dystrophy and related neuromuscular diseases. Through programs like accessible van donations and home modifications, MDFF works to enhance dignity, independence, and quality of life for individuals and families navigating the challenges of progressive neuromuscular conditions. For more information about MDFF's programs or to make a donation, visit [mdff.org](http://mdff.org).

## 2026 Comprehensive Plan a roadmap for Tipton County's future



**Public Presentation with Q&A**  
Jan. 15, 2026  
from 5-7 p.m.

**Tipton County Foundation**  
1020 W Jefferson St



The plan

CLICK  
HERE

The presentation

CLICK  
HERE

Comments and questions are welcome until Jan. 22  
email: [tiptonfeedback@hwcengineering.com](mailto:tiptonfeedback@hwcengineering.com)

## DEAR SONS

*from Page 1*

Even before your paternal grandfather passed away a few years ago, he would always ask your father to text him when we got home to Noblesville after we visited him in Illinois.

I appreciate you not rolling your eyes when we ask you to do this. And if time passes, I don't get a text, and I nudge you to see if you made it safely, please know I'm not angry. I used to forget on occasion to call

my mom and dad after a trip. I will never reach out to make you feel guilty. I'm glad we have the technology these days where I can easily send a message.

Sometimes you have to text me when I'm already in bed. That's okay. I'll still check my phone during my middle of the night bathroom trip. It always makes me smile to see you are safe and sound.

Thanks for being such

wonderful sons. You're smart, kind, funny, and a joy to be around. I can't wait to see how you help make the world a better place.

*All my love,  
Mom*

*Amy Shankland is an empty-nester, writer, and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John and two dogs. You can reach her via email at [amys@greenavenue.info](mailto:amys@greenavenue.info).*



# HUNGRY? OUR WINTER MARKET IS YOUR NEXT FOODIE SPOT.

## JANUARY 17–MARCH 28

### SATURDAYS | 9 A.M.–12 P.M.



## West Fork Whiskey Co.

10 E. 191st Street

Come check out our lively indoor market packed with fresh produce, baked goods, local honey, small-batch jams, and more!

For more details, scan the QR code or visit [westfieldin.gov/wintermarket](http://westfieldin.gov/wintermarket).

# Chief Deputy John Lowes files for Hamilton County Sheriff

**Submitted**

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, John Lowes, Chief Deputy of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, filed for election as Hamilton County Sheriff in the upcoming Republican primary.

A career law enforcement officer with more than 28 years of experience, Lowes is running to continue strong conservative leadership and ensure Hamilton County remains one of the safest communities in Indiana.

Lowes currently serves as Chief Deputy, where he oversees the daily operations of the Sheriff's Office and works closely with deputies and command staff to support public safety across the county. Over the course of his career, he has served in a wide range of roles, including patrol, investigations, field training, and administration, giving him a deep understanding of the

department and the community it serves.

"I am running for Sheriff because I believe Hamilton County deserves experienced conservative leadership that will protect our families, uphold the Constitution, and enforce the law fairly and firmly," Lowes said. "Public safety requires vigilance, accountability, and a commitment to conservative principles that put the rule of law first."

Lowes will appear on the Hamilton County Republican primary ballot in May.

Lowes has been endorsed by Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, who is term-limited and will conclude his second term in 2026. Quakenbush pointed to Lowes' experience, character, and leadership in announcing his support.

"John Lowes has served our community with in-



tegrity for more than two decades and has proven himself to be a capable and trusted leader," Quakenbush said. "As Chief Deputy, he has played a central role in leading our department and ensuring we remain focused on transparency, accountability, and keeping Hamilton County safe. I am confident he is the right person to lead this office into the future."

Lowes said he is grateful for Sheriff Quakenbush's

endorsement and the opportunity to continue serving the community.

"Dennis Quakenbush has led this department with professionalism and a clear focus on public safety," Lowes said. "I am honored by his support and committed to building on the strong foundation that has been established to keep Hamilton County safe."

For more information, please visit [LowesForSheriff.com](http://LowesForSheriff.com).

## CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Candidates and potential candidates who wish to have their campaign announcements in the pages of *The Reporter* can send them to [News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com).

Digital edition versions must be under 500 words. Print versions must be under 150 words.

### Candidates who have filed for the May 5, 2026 Primary Election as of Wednesday, Jan. 7

Note that \* indicates the candidate is the incumbent for that office. To view precinct and district maps, please visit [hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps](http://hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps).

#### U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

Todd Shelton (D)

#### STATE SENATORS

District 21

James (Jim) Buck (R)  
Tracey Powell (R)

District 25

Mike Gaskill (R)

District 31

Juanita Albright (R)  
Kerry J. Forestal (D)  
Lasima O. Packet (D)

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVES

District 24

Racheal Bleicher (D)  
Hunter Smith (R)

District 29

Coumba Kebe (D)  
John Ruckelshaus (R)  
Devon Wellington (D)

#### SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Superior Court No. 3

Chris Evans (R)

Superior Court No. 4

Chadwick Hill (R)  
Angela Brown Swenson (R)

Superior Court No. 5

David K. Najjar

Superior Court No. 8

Danica L. Eyster

#### COUNTY ASSESSOR

\*Kevin W. Poore (R)

#### COUNTY CLERK

Beth Sheller (R)

#### COUNTY CORONER

\*Jeff D. Jellison (R)

#### COUNTY RECORDER

\*Trini Beaver (R)

#### COUNTY SHERIFF

John Lowe (R)

#### COUNTY COUNCIL

District 1

\*Tim Griffin (R)

District 3

\*Mark F. Hall (R)

#### CICERO TOWN COUNCIL

At-Large (vote for 2)

\*Joe Cox (R)

Harrison J. Massone (R)

#### TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Fall Creek Township

\*Doug Allman (R)

Noblesville Township

\*Theresa Caldwell (R)

White River Township

Lisa Suzanne Flanders (R)

#### TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Delaware Township (vote for 3)

\*Kim Logan (R)

\*Marilyn A. Schenkel (R)

\*Rick Fain (R)

Fall Creek Township (vote for 3)

\*Susan Davis

Noblesville Township (vote for 3)

\*Peggy R. Pfister (R)

#### STATE DELEGATES – DEMOCRATS

Delaware Township (vote for 20)

Sarah Elizabeth Crawford

Fall Creek Township (vote for 20)

Janis Kaye Hinchcliff

Noblesville Township (vote for 20)

Christopher Hartig

#### STATE DELEGATES – REPUBLICANS

Clay 4 (vote for 5)

Robert Fulk

Delaware 1 (vote for 5)

Rick Fain

Fall Creek 3 (vote for 5)

Doug Allman

Pete Peterson

Noblesville 1 (vote for 5)

Trini Beaver

Noblesville 2 (vote for 5)

Lisa D. Hall

Mark F. Hall

Noblesville 3 (vote for 5)

Beth Sheller

Washington 1 (vote for 5)

Timothy Enyart

Washington 2 (vote for 5)

Matt Dooley

# Trini Beaver announces re-election bid for Hamilton County Recorder

**Submitted**

Trini Beaver is seeking re-election as Hamilton County Recorder in 2026.

During her tenure, she has enhanced public access to historical and current county records through a unified system, streamlined document recording processes, and prioritized exceptional customer service. She also

implemented a free fraud alert program to protect residents from deed and notary fraud.

Trini actively serves as Secretary of the Indiana Recorder's Association, Treasurer of the Hamilton County Republican Women's



Beaver

en, and is involved with the Noblesville GOP and Hamilton County Republican Party. She is a Precinct Committeeman for Noblesville 15 and was a delegate to the 2025 Republican State Convention.

Married to Brad for 36 years, Trini is a proud mother and grandmother. She enjoys family time, reading, fitness, and supporting many of the local charities.

"It has been an honor to serve Hamilton County, and I look forward to continuing to deliver the high-quality service our residents deserve."

# Beth Sheller announces candidacy for Hamilton County Clerk of the Circuit Courts

**Submitted**

Beth Sheller has officially filed to run in the Republican Primary for Hamilton County Clerk of the Circuit Courts.

With nearly 16 years of experience working in elections, Sheller currently serves as Election Administrator in the Clerk's Office, where she oversees all elections for Hamilton County.

Sheller and her husband, Mark, live in No-

blesville. They have two grown children who reside in Hamilton County and are proud grandparents to three grandchildren.

In addition to her professional role, Sheller serves as Secretary of the Hamilton County Republican Party and the Hamilton County Women's Republican Club. She has also been a member of the Hamilton East Public Library Board since 2024.



Beth Sheller (left) and retiring Clerk Kathy Williams.

# Republican Juanita Albright officially files as candidate for Indiana Senate District 31

**Submitted**

Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) School Board President and respected local physician, Dr. Juanita Albright, officially filed on Wednesday, Jan. 7 to run for Indiana Senate District 31.

The Republican primary election will be held on May 5, 2026, and Albright is currently the only announced Republican candidate in the race.

Albright is running on a platform focused on lowering inflation and the high cost of living, championing fiscal responsibility, advocating for quality education, and promoting public safety. Throughout her medical career, she has been especially committed

to addressing the unique healthcare challenges older Hoosiers face, which is evident in her appointment by Mayor Scott Fadness to the Fishers Senior Center Committee. In the State Senate, she will focus on promoting quality and affordable healthcare.

Dr. Albright has served on the Hamilton Southeastern School Board, overseeing one of the largest school districts in Indiana and helping guide strong leadership, responsible budgeting, and student-focused priorities. During her time as president of the HSE School Board, the district achieved record graduation rates.

"Public service has shaped my career," Albright



said. "Filing today is about continuing that work and bringing responsible, results-driven leadership to the Indiana Senate."

Dr. Albright has practiced medicine and lived in Fishers for more than 20 years with her husband,

Eric, a pediatric pathologist. They are proud parents of three children, all of whom graduated from Fishers High School and are now attending colleges in Indiana.

Learn more about Albright by visiting [AlbrightForIndiana.com](http://AlbrightForIndiana.com).

# Indiana Rural Summit Coalition members declare candidacies to give small-town Hoosiers a voice & a choice

**Submitted**

In the largest group filing in recent history, nearly 30 members of the Indiana Rural Summit coalition formally filed to be candidates for the Indiana House and Senate on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

The mass filing symbolized a united commitment to represent rural and small-town Hoosiers who are often overlooked at the Statehouse.

The Indiana Rural Summit is a statewide initiative designed to amplify the voices of rural and small-town Indiana residents and create real pathways for collaboration. In 2024, the Commit-

tee for Rural Engagement launched the Indiana Rural Summit. It began as a tour organizing 12 House candidates across 30 counties in south-central Indiana and quickly grew into a movement in all areas of the state.

Coalition members who filed to run as Democrats in Hamilton County districts include:

- Coumba Kebe, House District 29
- Devon Wellington, House District 29
- Stephanie Jo Yocum, House District 88

The coalition candidates will share resources, including training, technology,

joint events, and information in a bid to help more vision-aligned candidates in favor of high-quality public education, affordable and accessible healthcare, and living wages win seats in the Indiana General Assembly. The coalition will work to amplify local voices, reduce duplication of effort, and strengthen down-ballot races and voter turnout in communities often overlooked by traditional political infrastructure.

Indiana Rural Summit Founder Michelle Higgs says the group is strengthening coordinated, people-powered infrastructure

for rural and small-town communities across Indiana.

"This unprecedented mass filing is a visible symbol of our solidarity," Higgs said. "E Pluribus Unum – out of many, one – is more than a motto for the Indiana Rural Summit coalition. Together we will build power and give rural and small-town Hoosiers a voice, a choice, and a vote in 2026."

The Indiana Rural Summit was founded in 2024 and is a statewide initiative designed to elevate rural voices and create real pathways for collaboration. You can learn more at [indianaruralsummit.org](http://indianaruralsummit.org).

## NOBLE BUSINESS ADVISORS

Wendy Stevens CPA, CGMA, MSA  
Certified Business Advisor

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**Thanks for reading!**

# Indiana prosecuting attorneys oppose House Joint Resolution No. 1, expanding impeachment of prosecutors

## Submitted

*Editor's note: The following op-ed was released to The Reporter on Tuesday, Jan. 6. It was written and approved by numerous county prosecutors across the state.*

Indiana's elected prosecutors stand united in opposition to legislative proposals that would strip constitutional authority from duly elected prosecutors.

Representative Andrew Ireland has chosen to focus attacks on so-called "rogue prosecutors," suggesting that the challenges facing our criminal justice system stem from an individual prosecutor exercising prosecutorial discretion. These attacks oversimplify complex, systemic issues, and mislead the public. Public safety is a shared responsibility and will not be improved by eliminating prosecutorial discretion or impeaching elected prosecutors.

We are grateful for the attention the General Assembly is paying to strengthened public safety policy, and we outline below a handful of steps the legislature can take during this session.

First, the legislature should expand mandatory minimum executed sentences to include all violent crimes such as strangulation and rape and child molesting as level 3 felonies. The justice system's first obligation is to ensure accountability for those who choose to commit acts of violence. While Indiana has many strong judges dedicated to public safety, recent trends show that some judges do not approach violent crime with the seriousness it demands. In some cases, judges have imposed sentences that fail to reflect the severity of the crime, undermine deterrence, and erode public confidence in the justice system.

Expanded mandatory minimum sentences for all violent offenses serve as a safeguard against this inconsistency. Victims and law enforcement should not be left to wonder whether a dangerous offender will receive a slap on the wrist or a punishment that truly matches their crime. Mandatory minimums for violent crimes ensure that regardless of the personal philosophies of individual judges, these crimes will always result in meaningful punishment, and they create uniformity, predictability, and accountability in our justice system.

Second, we ask the legislature to continue to support preventive detention and pass a resolution as it did with Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 during the 2023 Session. Currently, Indiana law provides that all offenders are entitled to post bonds, regardless of their crimes or criminal history, with the limited exception of those charged with murder or treason. Far too often, violent offenders are released on their own recognizance, or with a low bond by judges, putting communities at further risk. Preventive detention will allow the justice system to hold violent offenders without bond pending trial when clear threats to public safety exist, a necessary step to restore confidence in our justice system and protect innocent citizens.

Third, we ask the legislature to help prosecutors hold violent juveniles account-

able by restoring direct filing of certain adult charges. Juveniles illegally carrying handguns has undermined community safety. Currently, these offenses cannot be directly filed as adult charges, and as a result, the most dangerous juvenile offenders are emboldened as the law does not hold them fully accountable. Juvenile gun violence is not a theoretical problem; it is a daily reality in our communities. Armed, violent juvenile offenders should be treated as adults because when judges keep these cases in juvenile court it sends the wrong message to both the offenders and to victims.

Fourth, we request the legislature expand "truth in sentencing." Too many convicted felons receive time cuts that dramatically reduce their sentences because of the way the Indiana Department of Correction has operated and doled out Case Plan Credit Time. We ask the legislature to remove or severely limit the DOC's discretion in handing out credit time without rehabilitation, education, or other earned efforts. For example, the DOC has given out significant time cuts for activities such as journaling or other insignificant aspects of a case plan. The Case Plan Credit Time program has resulted in numerous convicted felons receiving up to two actual years off their sentences. Time cuts should only be granted when an offender has made meaningful efforts toward rehabilitation. We ask the legislature to rein in these practices that make the Indiana Department of Corrections a revolving door for violent offenders.

Fifth and finally, prosecutors must be provided proper funding to do our jobs, and we ask the legislature to help us do so. The prosecutor, in everything the prosecutor does, enforces state law. A prosecutor is not answerable to county authorities, nor does a prosecutor exercise county power. The prosecutor's only connection with the county (or counties) in the prosecutor's circuit is that the county funds the operation of the office. Prosecutors in all communities across our state are asking for a lifeline from the legislature to help provide the resources necessary to effectively fight crime.

A recent study shows that Indiana's prosecutors are roughly 385 attorneys short of what is required to effectively prosecute crime. The clear evidence of severe staffing shortages that strain our ability to handle growing caseloads and continually expanding discovery call out for solutions. Specifically, prosecutors are asking the legislature to raise court costs to help provide funding necessary to fill vacant positions and attract qualified deputy prosecutors. Providing additional funding for prosecutors' offices will move the needle on tackling violent crime.

Indiana's prosecutors remain committed to protecting our communities and ensuring justice for victims. But we cannot do it alone. We look forward to partnering with the Indiana General Assembly and ask for help to invest in the staffing and resources prosecutors need and enact effective laws and sanctions to effectively combat crime.

Signed by the following prosecutors:

**Jeremy Brown**  
26th Judicial Circuit, Adams County

**Michael J. McAlexander**  
38th Judicial Circuit, Allen County

**Lindsey Holden-Kay**  
9th Judicial Circuit, Bartholomew County

**Joelle A. Freiburger**  
71st Judicial Circuit, Blackford County

**Kent T. Eastwood**  
20th Judicial Circuit, Boone County

**Theodore F. Adams**  
88th Judicial Circuit, Brown County

**Nicholas C. McLeland**  
74th Judicial Circuit, Carroll County

**Noah S. Schafer**  
29th Judicial Circuit, Cass County

**Jeremy T. Mull**  
4th Judicial Circuit, Clark County

**Emily Bookwalter Clarke**  
13th Judicial Circuit, Clay County

**Anthony J. Sommer**  
45th Judicial Circuit, Clinton County

**Abby J.M. Brown**  
49th Judicial Circuit, Daviess County

**Lynn Marie Deddens**  
7th Judicial Circuit, Dearborn/Ohio Counties

**Nathan W. Harter IV**  
69th Judicial Circuit, Decatur County

**Neal R. Blythe**  
75th Judicial Circuit, DeKalb County

**Eric Hoffman**  
46th Judicial Circuit, Delaware County

**Vicki E. Becker**  
34th Judicial Circuit, Elkhart County

**Betty Jo Jones**  
73rd Judicial Circuit, Fayette County

**Chris Lane**  
52nd Judicial Circuit, Floyd County

**Daniel L. Askren**  
61st Judicial Circuit, Fountain County

**Christopher D. Huerkamp**  
37th Judicial Circuit, Franklin County

**Michael T. Marrs**  
41st Judicial Circuit, Fulton County

**Michael R. Cochren**  
66th Judicial Circuit, Gibson County

**Scott J. Hunt**  
48th Judicial Circuit, Grant County

**Jarrold D. Holtsclaw**  
63rd Judicial Circuit, Greene County

**J. Gregory Garrison (retired)**  
24th Judicial Circuit, Hamilton County

**Josh Kocher**  
24th Judicial Circuit, Hamilton County

**Brent E. Eaton**  
18th Judicial Circuit, Hancock County

**Michael J. Mahoney**  
53rd Judicial Circuit, Henry County

**Mark A. McCann**  
62nd Judicial Circuit, Howard County

**Jeremy K. Nix**  
56th Judicial Circuit, Huntington County

**Jacob R. Taulman**  
30th Judicial Circuit, Jasper County

**Wesley A. Schemenaur**  
58th Judicial Circuit, Jay County

**David R. Sutter**  
5th Judicial Circuit, Jefferson County

**Lance Hamner**  
8th Judicial Circuit, Johnson County

**J. Dirk Carnahan**  
12th Judicial Circuit, Knox County

**J. Brad Voelz**  
54th Judicial Circuit, Kosciusko County

**Travis Glick**  
35th Judicial Circuit, LaGrange County

**Bernard A. Carter**  
31st Judicial Circuit, Lake County

**Sean P. Fagan**  
32nd Judicial Circuit, LaPorte County

**Samual C. Arp, II**  
81st Judicial Circuit, Lawrence County

**Rodney J. Cummings**  
50th Judicial Circuit, Madison County

**Aureola S. Vincz**  
90th Judicial Circuit, Martin County

**Jeffrey K. Sinkovics**  
51st Judicial Circuit, Miami County

**Erika L. Oliphant**  
10th Judicial Circuit, Monroe County

**Joseph R. Buser**  
22nd Judicial Circuit, Montgomery County

**Steven P. Sonnega**  
15th Judicial Circuit, Morgan County

**Holly N. Hudelson**  
87th Judicial Circuit, Orange County

**Benjamin C. Kim**  
78th Judicial Circuit, Owen County

**Samantha K. Hurst**  
70th Judicial Circuit, Perry County

**Gary S. Germann**  
67th Judicial Circuit, Porter County

**Thomas E. Clowers**  
11th Judicial Circuit, Posey County

**Kelly M. Gaumer**  
59th Judicial Circuit, Pulaski County

**Austin Malayer**  
64th Judicial Circuit, Putnam County

**Phillip J. Caviness**  
65th Judicial Circuit, Rush County

**Kenneth P. Cotter**  
60th Judicial Circuit, St. Joseph County

**Chris A. Owens**  
6th Judicial Circuit, Scott County

**Brad B. Landwerlen**  
16th Judicial Circuit, Shelby County

**Megan L. Bennet**  
84th Judicial Circuit, Spencer County

**Travis B. Musser**  
85th Judicial Circuit, Steuben County

**Ann Smith Mischler**  
14th Judicial Circuit, Sullivan County

**Ryan Marshall**  
91st Judicial Circuit, Switzerland County

**Patrick K. Harrington**  
23rd Judicial Circuit, Tippecanoe County

**Jay Rich**  
36th Judicial Circuit, Tipton County

**Andrew "A.J." Bryson**  
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1st Judicial Circuit, Vanderburgh County

**Bruce D. Aukerman**  
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**Tara Coats Hunt**  
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**Michael W. Shipman**  
17th Judicial Circuit, Wayne County

**Mark Delgado**  
39th Judicial Circuit, White County

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82nd Judicial Circuit, Whitley County

— Signed January 2026

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# New at Sheridan Public Library

**Submitted**

Here are some of the new items that can be found at the Sheridan Public Library.

**Fiction**

- Flesh – David Szalay
- Invisible Woman – James Patterson
- Midnight in Park City – Hope Holloway
- Sea Breezes at the Beach House Hotel – Judith Keim
- Waiting – Michael Connelly

**Non-Fiction**

- Fat Loss Habits – Ben Carpenter

**Inspirational Fiction**

- Amish on the Ranch – Tina Wheeler
- Amish Widower's Sur-

- prise - Laurel Blount
- Courage to Love – Donna Gartshore
- Fire Mountain – Dana Mentink
- Husband For an Amish Bride – Christina Rich
- On the Edge – Patricia Bradley
- Redeeming the Past – Linda Goodnight
- Texas Kidnapping Target – Laura Scott
- Winter Wonderland – Hope Callaghan

**Children's**

- Chirp! Chirp! I'm a Chick – Jo Lodge
- Let's party!: a DIY illustrated guide to 10 fantastic birthday parties - Melissa Iwai
- Talons of Power

- (Wings of Fire graphic novel) – Tui T. Sutherland
- Vortex of the Chaos Dragon – Tracey West
- Wild Robot Protects – Peter Brown

**Young Adult**

- Bitten – Jordan Stephanie Gray

**Movies**

- Karen Kingsbury's The Christmas Ring

**Video Games**

- Clair Obscur Expedition 33 (Xbox)

**Tonie Toppers**

- Gabby's Dollhouse
- LNMO Peas
- Mickey Mouse
- Moana & Simea and Pua
- Mr. Incredible
- PJ Mask

# Beauty, jealousy & mayhem at Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre

**The REPORTER**

*"Sparkle and Shine, the crown will be MINE...!"*

Step behind the scenes of a fictitious beauty pageant as talent, jealousy, intrigue, and mayhem rock the beautiful contestants of *The Pageant*.

*The Pageant* follows the final contestants through, fitness, talent, and interview portions; stepping behind the curtain and learning the secret truths, hopes, and fears of each contestant. No two performances are alike! A new winner is chosen each concert. Not even the Company Dancers know who will win, or what their interview questions will be.

Guests will enjoy an immersive and interactive joyous romp filled with stunning ballgowns, sumptuous costuming, tongue-in-cheek comedy, seamlessly intertwined with movement and poignant moments like only Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre can weave effortlessly into music, dance, and story.

This brand-new, full-length production takes place Feb. 7 to 22 at The Florence, 329 Gradle Drive,



Photo provided

which is within walking distance to Carmel City Center and perfectly timed to allow guests to enjoy dinner afterwards nearby at one of Carmel's many top-tier restaurants.

Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for students and be purchased at [gregoryhancockdancetheatre.org/tickets](http://gregoryhancockdancetheatre.org/tickets).

**Performance Dates & Times**

- Feb. 7 at 5 p.m.
- Feb. 8 at 3 p.m.
- Feb. 14 at 5 p.m.
- Feb. 15 at 3 p.m.
- Feb. 21 at 5 p.m.
- Feb. 22 at 3 p.m.

# U.S. Attorney's Office collects over \$10 million in civil & criminal actions in fiscal year 2025

**Submitted**

United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana Tom Wheeler announced Tuesday, Jan. 6 that the United States Attorney's Office collected more than \$10 million in asset forfeiture and financial litigation debt in fiscal year 2025.

Of this total:

- \$2.6 million was recovered in criminal restitution debts and forfeiture actions
- \$7.4 million was collected in civil actions to enforce debts.

Additional highlights underscoring the Office's commitment to public safety and justice include:

- \$1.8 million collected from criminal defendants who forfeited the proceeds and tools of their crimes.
- \$755,000 recovered through seizures connected to interdictions and other criminal investigations resulting in civil forfeiture actions.
- A substantial portion

of these funds distributed to local law enforcement agencies, strengthening their ability to combat crime.

- \$1 million in forfeited funds restored directly to victims, ensuring they received meaningful restitution.

All U.S. Attorneys' Offices are responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the United States, as well as criminal debts owed to federal crime victims. The law also requires defendants to pay restitution to victims of certain federal crimes who have suffered a physical injury or financial loss. While restitution is directed to victims, criminal fines and felony assessments are deposited into the Department of Justice's Crime Victims Fund, which supports federal and state victim compensation and assistance programs nationwide.

"These results demonstrate how asset forfeiture

not only disrupts criminal activity but also provides critical resources to law enforcement and, most importantly, delivers justice to victims," U.S. Attorney Wheeler said. "We are proud to have partnered with so many local, state, and federal agencies, and we will continue to hold accountable those who seek to profit from their illegal activities."

U.S. Attorney Wheeler thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Shelese Woods, Chief of the Office's Civil Division, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Kelly Rota, Chief of the Office's Asset Recovery Unit, along with the Office's dedicated support professionals- Shannon Stewart, Natoyia Sims and Jennifer Ross- and contractors Amanda Alexander and Teayne Trice. Their diligent efforts have been instrumental in upholding the law, holding wrongdoers accountable, and recovering funds for victims of crime.

# Learn about NASA's return mission to the moon at IUK Observatory

**Submitted**

In early 2026, four astronauts could take a giant leap into history as part of the first crewed flight toward the moon in more than 50 years.

Patrick Motl, Indiana University Kokomo professor of physics, will give an update on the Artemis II mission, which will circumnavigate the moon but not include a landing, at the campus Observatory's first free open house of 2026, starting at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11.

The Artemis program aims to return humans to the moon, establishing a long-

term presence on the lunar south pole, as preparation for future missions to Mars. Humans have not gone to the moon since the December 1972 Apollo 17 mission. Artemis I launched in late 2022 with an uncrewed test flight around the moon. Artemis II could lift off as soon as February 2026. Artemis III will land the first astronauts, including the first woman and the first person of color, in a later mission.

After the presentation, stargazers may be able to see Jupiter and Saturn, along with highlights from the win-

ter hexagon, through the Observatory's telescopes. They include a six-inch Takahashi refracting telescope and a 16-inch Meade reflecting telescope mounted together. The Takahashi provides exceptionally sharp images of planets, while the Meade allows viewers to see fainter objects in the sky, due to its larger light-collecting area.

Observation will continue through 9 p.m., weather permitting.

The Observatory is at 2660 S. Washington St., Kokomo. Free parking is available on campus.

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## — WESTFIELD —

## NOTICE OF THE ADOPTION OF A DECLARATORY RESOLUTION BY THE WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND OF A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON (EAST SIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA)

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield Redevelopment Commission (the "Commission"), being the governing body of the Department of Redevelopment of the City of Westfield, Indiana (the "City"), on November 17, 2025, adopted its Resolution No. 50-2025 (the "Declaratory Resolution") making certain proposed amendments to the declaratory resolution and the economic development plan (the "Plan") for the Eagletown Economic Development Area, each as previously amended (the "2025 Amendments"). The 2025 Amendments (i) designate certain additional parcels within the City as an economic development area (such new area, the "2025 Area") and consolidate the 2025 Area with the existing Eagletown Economic Development Area (collectively, the "Area"), (ii) designate all of the parcels in the 2025 Area as an "allocation area" (the "2025 Allocation Area") and consolidate the 2025 Allocation Area with the previously established Eagletown Economic Development Allocation Area into a consolidated allocation area, and (iii) adopt the Plan, as supplemented by a supplement thereto (the "2025 Plan Supplement") as the development plan for the 2025 Area, all as more particularly described in the Declaratory Resolution. However, in considering any final action following the public hearing, the Commission anticipates modifying the Declaratory Resolution to provide that the 2025 Allocation Area shall be a separate allocation area within the Area, and shall not be consolidated with the previously established Eagletown Economic Development Allocation Area.

A detailed description of the proposed 2025 Amendments, together with maps and plats of the 2025 Area, the 2025 Plan Supplement and copies of the Declaratory Resolution, can be inspected at the office of the Director of Economic Development, 2728 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074.

Notice is hereby given that the Commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (local time), in the Assembly Room of Westfield City Hall, located at 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074, to receive and hear remonstrances and objections from all persons interested in or affected by the 2025 Amendments and the proceedings pertaining thereto. Written remonstrances to the 2025 Amendments may be filed with the Commission prior to the public hearing at the office of the Director of Economic Development, 2728 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074, and via email to Jenell Fairman at: jfairman@westfield.in.gov. After considering the evidence presented at the public hearing, which may be adjourned from time to time, the Commission will take final action determining the public utility and benefit of the proposed 2025 Amendments and whether the proposed 2025 Amendments are reasonable and appropriate when considered in relation to the Plan, and confirming, modifying and confirming, or rescinding the Declaratory Resolution.

WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
R7258 1/8/26, 1/12/26

## NOTICE OF THE ADOPTION OF A DECLARATORY RESOLUTION BY THE WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND OF A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON (HAMILTON CROSSROADS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA)

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield Redevelopment Commission (the "Commission"), being the governing body of the Department of Redevelopment of the City of Westfield, Indiana (the "City"), on November 17, 2025, adopted its Resolution No. 48-2025 (the "Declaratory Resolution") for the purpose of (i) declaring that a certain area within the City, designated as the "Hamilton Crossroads Economic Development Area" (the "Area"), is an economic development area within the meaning of Indiana Code 36-7-14 (the "Act"), (ii) designating the entirety of the Area as an allocation area to be known as the "Hamilton Crossroads Economic Development Allocation Area" (the "Allocation Area") for the purpose of allocation and distribution of certain property taxes under Sections 39 and 43 of the Act, and (iii) approving an economic development plan for the Area (the "Plan").

A detailed description of the Area and the Allocation Area is included in the Plan. Maps and plats have been prepared and, along with the Plan and the Declaratory Resolution, can be inspected at the office of the Director of Economic Development, 2728 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074.

Notice is hereby given that the Commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (local time), in the Assembly Room of Westfield City Hall, located at 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074, to receive and hear remonstrances and objections from all persons interested in or affected by the proposed projects for the Area and other actions to be taken under the Declaratory Resolution. Written remonstrances to the proposed projects for the Area and other actions to be taken under the Declaratory Resolution may be filed with the Commission prior to the public hearing at the office of the Director of Economic Development, 2728 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074, and via email to Jenell Fairman at: jfairman@westfield.in.gov. After considering the evidence presented at the public hearing, which may be adjourned from time to time, the Commission will take final action determining the public utility and benefit of the proposed project or other actions to be taken under the Declaratory Resolution, and confirming, modifying and confirming, or rescinding the Declaratory Resolution.

WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
R7259 1/8/26, 1/12/26

## NOTICE OF THE ADOPTION OF A DECLARATORY RESOLUTION BY THE WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND OF A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON (EAST SIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA)

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield Redevelopment Commission (the "Commission"), being the governing body of the Department of Redevelopment of the City of Westfield, Indiana (the "City"), on November 17, 2025, adopted its Resolution No. 51-2025 (the "Declaratory Resolution") making certain proposed amendments to the declaratory resolution and the economic development plan (the "Plan") for the East Side Economic Development Area, each as previously amended (the "2025 Amendments"). The 2025 Amendments (i) designate certain additional parcels within the City as an economic development area (such new area, the "2025 Area") and consolidate the 2025 Area with the existing East Side Economic Development Area (collectively, the "Area"), (ii) designate all of the parcels in the 2025 Area as an "allocation area" (the "2025 Allocation Area") and consolidate the 2025 Allocation Area with the previously established Consolidated Aurora Allocation Area into a consolidated allocation area, and (iii) adopt the Plan, as supplemented by a supplement thereto (the "2025 Plan Supplement") as the development plan for the 2025 Area, all as more particularly described in the Declaratory Resolution.

A detailed description of the proposed 2025 Amendments, together with maps and plats of the 2025 Area, the 2025 Plan Supplement and copies of the Declaratory Resolution, can be inspected at the office of the Director of Economic Development, 2728 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074.

Notice is hereby given that the Commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (local time), in the Assembly Room of Westfield City Hall, located at 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074, to receive and hear remonstrances and objections from all persons interested in or affected by the 2025 Amendments and the proceedings pertaining thereto. Written remonstrances to the 2025 Amendments may be filed with the Commission prior to the public hearing at the office of the Director of Economic Development, 2728 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074, and via email to Jenell Fairman at: jfairman@westfield.in.gov. After considering the evidence presented at the public hearing, which may be adjourned from time to time, the Commission will take final action determining the public utility and benefit of the proposed 2025 Amendments and whether the proposed 2025 Amendments are reasonable and appropriate when considered in relation to the Plan, and confirming, modifying and confirming, or rescinding the Declaratory Resolution.

WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
R7260 1/8/26, 1/12/26

## NOTICE OF THE ADOPTION OF A DECLARATORY RESOLUTION BY THE WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND OF A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON (GRAND JUNCTION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA)

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield Redevelopment Commission (the "Commission"), being the governing body of the Department of Redevelopment of the City of Westfield, on November 17, 2025 adopted its Resolution No. 49-2025 (the "Declaratory Resolution") making certain proposed amendments to the declaratory resolution and the economic development plan (the "Plan") for the Grand Junction Economic Development Area (the "Area"), each as previously amended (the "2025 Amendments"). The 2025 Amendments (i) remove the parcels described in Exhibit A of the Declaratory Resolution from the existing Grand Junction Economic Development Allocation Area, and designate the parcels so removed, as a separate allocation area within the Area, to be known as the "Social Square Allocation Area," pursuant to Section 39 of the Act, and (ii) adopt a supplement to the Plan (the "2025 Plan Supplement"), all as more particularly described in the Declaratory Resolution.

A detailed description of the proposed 2025 Amendments, together with maps and plats of the Social Square Allocation Area and copies of the 2025 Plan Supplement and the Declaratory Resolution, can be inspected at the office of the Director of Economic Development, 2728 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074.

Notice is hereby given that the Commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (local time), in the Assembly Room of Westfield City Hall, located at 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074, to receive and hear remonstrances and objections from all persons interested in or affected by the 2025 Amendments and the proceedings pertaining thereto. Written remonstrances to the 2025 Amendments may be filed with the Commission prior to the public hearing at the office of the Director of Economic Development, 2728 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074, and via email to Jenell Fairman at: jfairman@westfield.in.gov. At the public hearing, which may be adjourned from time to time, the Commission will also determine the public utility and benefit of the proposed 2025 Amendments, whether the proposed 2025 Amendments are reasonable and appropriate when considered in relation to the Plan and the purposes of the Act, and whether the Plan, with the proposed 2025 Amendments, conforms to the comprehensive plan for the City.

WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
R7261 1/8/26, 1/12/26

# Combating lawsuit abuse: the case for Indiana litigation reform

Imagine your favorite local business forced to close, not because of poor service or lack of customers, but because a trial lawyer saw an opportunity for a quick payday.

Despite what the billboard and TV ads claim, too many trial lawyers are often in pursuit of a check by any means necessary. Whether by coercing plaintiffs into meritless lawsuits or receiving funding from shadowy third parties to drive settlements sky-high, excessive litigation inflicts real costs: higher prices for consumers, decreased innovation, and diminished job creation.

Business owners, workers, and consumers alike bear the burden of a broken litigation system. Excessive tort costs and settlements, secretive third-party litigation funding, and billboard lawyers promoting frivolous claims all contribute to an unfair and unjust legal environment.

When these abuses overrun a state's justice system, everyone pays the price. Hoosier families and businesses deserve a litigation system that delivers justice without serving special interests or driving up costs.

Change is necessary. In the upcoming legislative session, lawmakers should advance reforms that promote a fair and transparent justice system – one that encourages economic growth

## GUEST COLUMNIST



NATALIE CARROLL

and protects consumer affordability rather than undermining them.

We've already seen what effective legislative reform looks like. In Georgia, Governor Kemp's comprehensive reform package, signed into law in April 2025, marked a transformative shift toward a more predictable and balanced legal environment. These reforms tackled the root causes of excessive litigation and reduced the risk of financial strain from frivolous lawsuits – particularly by reforming premises liability standards, eliminating phantom damages, and increasing transparency in third-party litigation funding (TPLF).

Georgia is not the only state where legal reforms are delivering results. In Florida, legislation enacted in 2022 and 2023 to combat excessive tort costs has already produced measurable benefits for consumers. Top auto insurers reported an average **6.5 percent rate reduction**, while a leading property insurer announced **statewide decreases of 8.4 percent** for homeowner policies and 12 percent for condos. By reshaping policies affecting personal injury claims and litigation against insurers, Florida lawmakers took a crucial step toward **lowering the cost of living** and safeguarding the fairness of their justice system.

These examples make clear that commonsense reform packages foster a balanced legal environment – one in which consumers, families, workers, and businesses all benefit, rather than trial lawyers and third-party litigation funders.

Building on recent reforms such as House Enrolled Act 1160, signed into law in 2024 – which introduced critical transparency to third-party litigation funding and reaffirmed that lawsuits must serve the cause of justice rather than hidden financial interests – Indiana's business community has established the Indiana Alliance for Legal Reform. Modeled after successful initiatives in Georgia and Florida, the Alliance is committed to advancing policies that ensure Indiana companies can depend on fairness, consistency, and predictability in the courtroom, rather than confronting a system tilted against them. The Alliance is supported by a growing coalition of leading businesses and trade associations across the state.

Now is the time for our state to lead by rebalancing our legal environment towards fairness and transparency.

The consequences of inaction are clear. Businesses faced with excessive litigation fees are forced to raise prices and pause expansion plans, all while our state becomes less competitive, deterring investment and job

growth. Indiana households are also bearing the brunt, shouldering nearly \$3,000 each in tort costs in 2024, totaling more than \$7.8 billion statewide, or about 1.7 percent of our state's GDP.

These staggering numbers show the dire and immediate costs of an out-of-control legal landscape on Indiana's consumers, workers, and companies – especially our small businesses on main street, who often are unfairly targeted by opportunistic plaintiffs' lawyers. Our citizens deserve a balanced and equitable litigation environment that promotes jobs, lowers prices, supports small businesses, and keeps Indiana competitive, not one that rewards manipulation and abuse in our legal system.

To build on this momentum, we urge lawmakers to lead on this critical issue by enacting legislation that combats excessive litigation and abuse in our justice system. Georgia's reforms prove that comprehensive legal reform works: businesses can redirect funds that would otherwise be spent on litigation costs toward innovation, expansion, and hiring. Let's continue this momentum in Indiana to protect our consumers, support our businesses, and foster a fair and equitable litigation environment that works for everyone.

*Natalie Carroll is the Indiana State Director for the National Federation of Independent Business.*

## Indiana National Guard soldiers deploy to Romania for firefighting mission

By KENDALL PIERSON  
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Ten Indiana National Guard soldiers who specialize in firefighting techniques have deployed to Romania.

On Tuesday, soldiers with the 819th Firefighter Detachment, said goodbye to friends and family during a departure ceremony at Indianapolis National Airport.

This nine-month mission is in support of Operation European Assure Deter and Reinforce. The Hoosier Guard soldiers will join other National Guardsmen with firefighter detachments from Ohio, Nebraska, Puerto Rico, and Montana.

Over the last year they've been planning and preparing for the deployment. Within the last two weeks, the Hoosier Guardsmen conducted training and soldier readiness activities with the troops from the other states at **Muscatatuck**



Photo by Sgt. Skyler Schendt, Indiana National Guard

**Training Center**, located in Jennings County.

"Staff Sgt. Tyler Putnam, along with leadership from the 219th Engineer Brigade, briefed Indiana National Guard leadership on the training and personnel preparations conducted to reach this point in the mobilization," Brig. Gen.

Cathy Eaken, the 38th Infantry Division deputy commanding general for sustainment said.

Eaken says she has no doubt that each and every one of the soldiers will help support the United States' goal of deterring aggression and maintaining stability in the European theater.

This is the second deployment for the 819th, the first was to Afghanistan in 2011.

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/local-news/indiana-national-guard-soldiers-deploy-to-romania-for-firefighting-mission.*

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2/20/26 - 1980s Trivia

February 6, 13 & 20

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Letter to the Editor

# Thoughts on Trump: one reader's opinion

Dear Editor:

My latest observation: I believe I may have finally found a bit of truth – simply this: There will never again be a U.S. President like Donald Trump. With his direct, straight-forward, and sometimes baffling leadership, the man has gotten an amazing amount of his America First agenda accomplished.

Like him or not, you cannot say that he has not done what he promised he'd do in his campaign for the highest office.

His detractors spend all their energies opposing Trump's actions – to little avail. He is not at all affected. That is because he doesn't operate as a politician normally would. He is not bound as such. He is a businessman, running the country as a giant business entity, with an eye on the bottom line, seeking favorable results and dividends for its investors – the American people.

Trump doesn't care what people think of him – any people, anywhere. He doesn't have any touchy-feely attitudes about sects or sectors that might think badly of his actions. He just does what he said he would do – on the border, on the economy, on the up-til-now 'war in name only' War on Drugs.

You may not like the man or approve of what actions he has taken for the country, but you are nonetheless benefiting from them. I doubt we will ever again have another leader of his ilk.

**Morris Bedlam**  
Noblesville

*Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to [News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com). Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.*

## Serious crash on I-69 leaves one driver dead

**The REPORTER**

Just before 3 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, emergency crews were dispatched to a serious crash in the southbound lanes of Interstate 69 near the 212 mile marker.

First responders encountered two heavily damaged vehicles both engulfed in flames with a significant amount of crash debris spread across the interstate. The responding officers on scene requested Indiana State Troopers to investigate the crash.

Both the southbound and northbound lanes of I-69 were required to be closed due to the debris and the fires.

Preliminary investigation by the Indiana State Police determined a southbound SUV crashed into the back of a heavy-duty utility truck that was carrying welding supplies. The impact ignited some of the tanks containing oxygen and acetylene causing a large fire. The driver of the SUV was entrapped in the vehicle and pronounced deceased at the scene.

The driver of the truck was transported to a local hospital for check-out and released a short time later.

It is important to note

the truck was not stopped at the time of the crash; it was traveling at highway speeds when the SUV rear-ended it.

The remains of the deceased driver were recovered by the Hamilton County Coroner's Office, which is working to identify the person.

The southbound lanes were closed for nearly six hours while the crash was investigated and the wreckage was removed. The northbound lanes were closed for almost four hours and required heavy equipment to remove the debris. The interstate closure was also a result of a very large amount of fuel that had leaked out of the truck covering all three lanes for approximately 50 yards.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation and there is no further information to release at this time.

Several agencies assisted at the scene, including the Fishers Police Department, the Noblesville Police Department, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Madison County Sheriff's Office, Noblesville Fire Department, Fishers Fire Department, INDOT, and the Hamilton County Coroner's Office.

**Meeting Notices**

The Carmel Fire Department Merit Board will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, on the second floor of the Carmel Fire Department, 210 Veterans Way.

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners will meet at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

Pursuant to Indiana Code 5-14-1-5.5, The Hamilton County Election Board will convene a public meeting at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, 2026, in the Clerk's Office, Suite 106 at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville. The purpose of the meeting is to consider resolutions for the 2026 Elections, certify the voting equipment and electronic poll books, and address any late campaign finance reports.

The Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet for a work session from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, at the Mt. Vernon Administrative Service Center, 1806 W. State Road 234, Fortville.

At 7 p.m., the board will then hold a reorganization meeting, a finance meeting a regular meeting until 8:30 p.m.

*Each year, the Hamilton County Reporter requests government entities to notify us of public meetings as their Open Door Law notification under I.C. 5-14-1-5.5. The Reporter publishes these notices as a public service in our Tuesday through Friday digital editions. Meeting notices for Open Door Law compliance can be sent to [PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com).*

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# Heartland Film's signature fundraiser, Cinemania Presented by F.A. Wilhelm Construction Co., celebrates Westerns

**The REPORTER**

Cinemania Presented by F.A. Wilhelm Construction Co., Heartland Film's signature fundraising event, returns for year three on Friday, April 17 at The Crane Bay Event Center, 551 W. Merrill St., Indianapolis.

Known for its immersive themed experiences, the inaugural Cinemania's theme in 2024 was "A Tribute to The Beatles in Film," followed by "A Tribute to Dance Films of the '80s" in 2025.

In 2026, Heartland Film celebrates westerns with the Cinemania theme, "A Tribute to Westerns." The

interactive evening fundraiser draws inspiration from classic tales, including "The Magnificent Seven," "Wild Wild West" and "The Harder They Fall." Attendees are encouraged to lasso up their fellow outlaws for a night of saloon sips, rustic feasts, boot-stomping entertainment and yeehaw-worthy surprises.

F.A. Wilhelm Construction Co. has returned as the Marquee Sponsor for Cinemania 2026. Sponsorships are available at \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$25,000 levels and include benefits ranging from name and logo recognition to private studios. Sponsorship de-

tails can be found [here](#).

Individual tickets are \$300. There are also Party 12-Packs and Party 6-Packs (\$250 per ticket). Tickets and Party Packs are available for purchase at [this link](#).

Cinemania 2026 is proud to announce that the Honorary Chairs are Lynda Goeke-Katz & Don Katz. The Cinemania Committee is led by Committee Chair Kristi Lee. The Cinemania Committee includes Kelly Alexiou, Vicki Bohlsen, Charla Booth, Terry Bowdell, Beth Breymer, Heather Brogden, Brayton Dewey, Michael Durr, Cori Korn, Fred Lockett,

Amy Pauszek, Lisa Breall, Christopher Schneider, Ben Shine and Neelu Sondhi.

Since 1991, Heartland Film's mission has been to curate, promote and celebrate thoughtful and engaging films. Cinemania supports the non-profit arts organization's film festivals, community events and education program. Through sponsors, donations, ticket sales and event activations, Heartland Film raised roughly \$500,000 from this event between 2024 and 2025.

You can learn more about Heartland Film and Cinemania at [Heartland-Film.org](http://Heartland-Film.org).

## Actors Theatre of Indiana kicks off 2026 with madcap musical comedy *Lucky Stiff*

**The REPORTER**

Actors Theatre of Indiana (ATI) is kicking off 2026 with *Lucky Stiff*, a wildly funny, fast-paced musical murder mystery packed with mistaken identities, six million dollars, and one unforgettable corpse in a wheelchair.

With book and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens and music by Stephen Flaherty, *Lucky Stiff* marks the first-ever

collaboration of the celebrated Tony Award winning team behind *Ragtime*, *Once on This Island*, and *Anastasia*. Based on Michael Butterworth's novel *The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo*, the show is a deliciously offbeat blend of farce, mystery, and musical comedy.

The story follows shy Englishman Harry Witherpoon, who learns he has

inherited a fortune from his late Uncle Anthony – but only if he agrees to take the old man's body on one final trip to Monte Carlo. What follows is a globe-trotting escapade involving a determined charity representative, a sharp-witted femme fatale, her scheming brother and a trail of comic chaos fueled by disguises, double-crosses and rapid-fire surprises.

*Lucky Stiff* runs Jan. 30 through Feb. 15 at The Studio Theater, ATI's home at The Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts. With its clever score, irresistible humor and joyful theatricality, *Lucky Stiff* is a laugh-out-loud way to start the new year.

Tickets are available at [atistage.org](http://atistage.org) or through the Fifth Third Bank box office (317) 843-3800.

**Michael Ray Bassett***February 26, 1963 – January 1, 2026*

Michael Ray Bassett, 62, Danville, Ind., died peacefully at home in front of his roaring fireplace on New Year's Day with his wife, son and daughter by his side.

Michael was born February 26, 1963, in Mt. Carmel, Ill. He attended kindergarten through his sophomore years in Noblesville and graduated from Danville High School in 1981.

He joined the army in 1983 and served two years in the National Guard.

He worked at Kadel Engineering, U.S. Air airlines in Indianapolis, San Francisco, and Chicago, and Siemer Distributors before settling into 30 years with Scott Pet until 2020. He took the company from a small manufacturing company to a major supplier in the pet industry. He moved the company from Avon to Rockville in 1995. During his 25 years in Parke County, not only was he President and CEO of a multi-million-dollar company, he was very involved in the community as well. A Volunteer Sheriff Deputy for eight years, a Little League coach, member of the Elks Lodge 247, and a generous contributor for multiple organizations including police and fire departments, ACS, and practically every kid who wanted a sponsor for their sport.

Mike was an avid hunter, fisherman, golfer, NASCAR enthusiast, and a huge music buff. He loved nothing more than a live concert. He cared deeply for his friends and family but had a special place in his heart for his many dogs over the years, his Boer goats and his Angus cows.

For a "fun and relaxing" retirement, Mike helped manage the family's restaurant Two Guys Pizza and Wings in Danville where he continued his lifelong propensity of helping people.

His energy and intelligence were boundless and he will be remembered and missed.

Michael is survived by his wife of 38 years, Kathleen Scott Bassett; daughter, Betsy (Taylor); son, Jacob; sister, Julia Riffey (Mark); brothers, Don Bassett (Sabrina) and Jon Bassett (Erin); four grandchildren, and 13 nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Bettie Bassett, and his beloved grandmother, Vivian Cundiff. Condolences: [hamptongentry.com](http://hamptongentry.com)

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**Stephen Robert Percy***April 28, 1963 – January 4, 2026*

Stephen Robert Percy, 62, Indianapolis, was born on April 28, 1963, in Albuquerque, N.M. Steve passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 4, 2026, with his beloved wife Lisa at his side. Steve moved to Indianapolis at six weeks old and called Indy his home for the rest of his life.

Steve was a man of integrity, compassion, and wit. He enjoyed family time, travels, and cheering on his favorite amateur and professional teams.

He remained devoted to his Cubs even through the worst of seasons.

Steve graduated from Indiana University and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, where he enjoyed intramural sports and fraternal revelry. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Steve and Lisa became parents to three children: Jordan, Daniel, and Matthew. Steve loved being a dad and passing along wisdom and advice – sometimes followed, sometimes not. He enjoyed playing games with his kids, including all kinds of sports, but also teaching each one to play chess, euchre, and dominoes. Steve's wit and humor were always sprinkled into their family life.

Steve worked for Community Health Network Human Resources Department for his entire career but made sure he took time to have fun with the hospital golf and volleyball leagues. He made Geist Christian Church his spiritual home participating in worship, Bible studies, and service opportunities.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Lisa Percy; children, Jordan and Daniel Percy; mother, June Percy; sister, Lisa Birmingham; as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert "Bob" Percy, and son, Matthew Jacob Percy.

Visitation and Celebration of Life Services will be held at Geist Christian Church, 8550 Mud Creek Road, Indianapolis. Visitation will be held from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, January 9, with an additional visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, January 10 prior to services at 2 p.m. with Pastor Kyle Brown officiating. Burial will follow the services at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens.

Memorial contributions may be made to Geist Christian Church, 8550 Mud Creek Road, Indianapolis, IN 46256 ([geistchristian.org](http://geistchristian.org)); or Community Health Network Foundation ([ecomunity.com/community-foundation](http://ecomunity.com/community-foundation)). Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.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](http://ReadTheReporter.com/obitform).

**TODAY'S BIBLE READING****THE SETTING APART OF THE LEVITES**

*Moses, Aaron and the whole Israelite community did with the Levites just as the Lord commanded Moses. The Levites purified themselves and washed their clothes. Then Aaron presented them as a wave offering before the Lord and made atonement for them to purify them. After that, the Levites came to do their work at the tent of meeting under the supervision of Aaron and his sons. They did with the Levites just as the Lord commanded Moses.*

*The Lord said to Moses, "This applies to the Levites: Men twenty-five years old or more shall come to take part in the work at the tent of meeting, but at the age of fifty, they must retire from their regular service and work no longer. They may assist their brothers in performing their duties at the tent of meeting, but they themselves must not do the work. This, then, is how you are to assign the responsibilities of the Levites."*

*Numbers 8:20-26 (NIV)*

**Mary Ellen Buchanan Hazlett***December 9, 1932 – November 6, 2025*

Mary E. Hazlett, 92, Noblesville, formerly of Valparaiso, Ind., passed away Thursday, November 6, 2025. She was born December 9, 1932, in Hebron, Ind., to Jay and Hildreth (Summers) Buchanan and graduated from Hebron High School in 1950.



Over the last 53 years, Mary was a faithful member of the Valparaiso and the Noblesville First United Methodist Churches.

On April 6, 1952, she married Charles Hazlett, who preceded her in death in 2016. Survivors include their children: Charles (Patricia) Hazlett of Carolina Shores, N.C., Phillip (Kim) Hazlett of Columbia, S.C., Michele (Todd) Reel of Noblesville, and Ames (Connie) Hazlett of Valparaiso; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her parents and grandson, Brian (Holly) Abrams.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, January 16 at Valparaiso First United Methodist Church, 103 N. Franklin St., with memorial service beginning at 11 a.m., with Rev. Jared Kendall and Rev. Bob Coolman officiating.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Noblesville First United Methodist Church at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 18, with Rev. Nicole Caldwell-Gross officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter DT, 150 Harrowgate Drive, Carmel, IN 46033, to support education opportunities for women.

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# REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

Sports Editor Richie Hall | Sports@ReadTheReporter.com | Twitter @Richie\_Hall

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

## Boys Wrestling



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

The Westfield boys wrestling team honored its senior wrestlers and managers during the Shamrocks' dual meet with Zionsville on Wednesday.

## Eagles get past Rocks in back-and-forth dual

By RICHIE HALL  
sports@readthereporter.com

**WESTFIELD** – Westfield's boys wrestling team hosted Zionsville in the Shamrocks' Senior Night meet Wednesday at CSI Gymnasium.

The two teams then put on an exciting show, with the score going back and forth for the entire meet, until the end. The Eagles won the last two matches by pin to get a 35-24 dual victory over the Rocks.

"It was a good, fun dual," said Westfield coach Tom Griffin. "Both teams, good teams, two top-10 teams battling."

Both squads won seven matches, but Zionsville picked up more bonus points, winning four matches by pin. The Shamrocks had one win by pin: Seth Tanner got a first-round fall at 157 pounds.

After trailing 9-6, Westfield moved ahead

See Dual . . . Page 10

### ZIONSVILLE 35, WESTFIELD 24 Meet began at 150 pounds

150: Graydon Staley lost to Phenicia by fall, 3:38  
157: Seth Tanner def. Statenfield by fall, 1:32  
165: Blake Glodowski lost to Brown by decision, 14-12  
175: Max Brown def. Poland by decision, 9-7  
190: Jon Stryker def. Oakley by decision 12-9  
215: Sam Travis lost to Aeschliman by major decision, 16-4  
285: Aiden Padgett lost to McNeil by major decision, 10-1  
106: Charley Head def. Stauffacher by decision 10-6  
113: Brayden Head def. Elmore by decision 12-10  
120: Aiden Driscoll def. Van Veldhuizen by decision 5-2  
126: Keegan Carson lost to Miller by fall, 1:46  
132: Trevor Humburg def. Ingram by decision 6-5  
138: Abe O'Neil lost to England by fall, 5:25  
144: Alic Washburn lost to Davis by fall, 2:32

## Huskies beat GC in dual meet

By RICHIE HALL  
sports@readthereporter.com

**ARCADIA** – Imagine you're a wrestling coach and that over half of your team consists of freshmen.

That was Hamilton Heights coach Gary Myers at the beginning of the season. But as it turns out, those freshmen are pretty good. The young group has led the Huskies to a 17-2 record, with their latest victory a 70-12 win over Guerin Catholic Tuesday at the Heights gym.

"I've got nothing to worry about," said Myers. "Now we just got to train."

As it turns out, the young Huskies are good at training as well.

"They got a great work ethic," said Myers. "We've worked them hard. I've worked these guys harder than I have kids in the past, but these guys have absorbed all that. It looks different to me, because usually I get one or two ninth-graders, but I got 16 freshmen in a room. They've all just bought into winning and working."

Seven of those freshmen were winners in their Tuesday competition. That



Photo by Margaret Fallin

Hamilton Heights' Sam Van Hook and Guerin Catholic's Oliver Kerr wrestle during the Huskies-Golden Eagles match on Tuesday.

included pins from Braxtyn Baber, Seth Van Hook, Sam Van Hook, Kase Powell and Braden Rutledge. Two more freshmen, Thiago Zuniga and Jonah Wolfgang, won matches by forfeit.

There are upperclassmen on the Heights team as well. State-ranked senior Simon Kuhn won by pin at 150, and senior Nathan Flanders got a fall at 157. The other Huskies victories went to sopho-

mores Asher Barricks, Hans Frymier and Jude Bailey.

Guerin Catholic's two winners are also young. Freshman Rafe Liechty and sophomore Gabriel Liechty both won their matches by fall.

"We've got a lot of new kids, first-year wrestlers, whether they're seniors or freshmen," said GC coach Dan Hubbard. "We've been

getting a lot of mat time and getting better every meet."

Both teams will compete at the Elwood sectional, which takes place on Jan. 31. This week, Heights hosts Anderson tonight in a dual meet, then competes in the Bill Kerbel Invitational Saturday at New Haven. The Golden Eagles host their own invitational on Saturday.

## Girls Basketball

## Blazers extend win streak to four

The REPORTER

University's girls won their fourth consecutive game Tuesday night defeating Western 46-24 at The U Center.

Leah Norvell led three Trailblazers in double figures with 16 points. Gabby Culp added 15 points and Sydney Culp had 13.

Western jumped out to an 8-3 lead midway through the first quarter before the Trailblazers closed the quarter on an 8-0 run. Norvell got things started with a three pointer from the top of the key. Sydney Culp put the Blazers on top for good on a three pointer off a Norvell assist. Norvell scored with five seconds left after a Mack Feeney offensive rebound and nifty pass and University led 11-8 at the quarter break.

A four-point possession early in the second quarter stretched the lead to 15-8. Sydney Culp made the first of two foul shots before Feeney rebounded a miss of the second shot. The ball found its way to Gabby Culp for a three pointer. The Panthers ended a nine minute plus scoring drought with a rebound basket before the Blazers took control with a 7-0 run. Norvell made a three pointer from the left corner, Nyla Blanding had a fast break layin

off a Sydney Culp steal and Gabby Culp scored for a 22-10 lead. A late Western basket made the score 22-12 at halftime.

Norvell opened the third quarter with a basket before Western answered with a three pointer. Norvell scored on a rebound midway through the quarter for a 26-15 lead and University led by double digits the rest of the way.

University's defense was outstanding, holding Western to their lowest scoring output of the season. The Panthers scored just four points in each of the second and third quarters. The Trailblazers had a season high 20 steals among their 23 forced turnovers. University committed just four turnovers in the first three quarters.

Norvell had six rebounds, six steals and four assists. Gabby Culp had seven rebounds and four assists while Sydney Culp handed out five assists. Feeney had a team-high nine steals, seven rebounds and five assists.

University climbed back to .500 on the season while Western fell to 9-7.

The Trailblazers are next in action Saturday at Covenant Christian as part of a girls-boys doubleheader. The junior varsity boys game tips at 4:30 pm with the girls varsity game to follow.

## Irish best Millers in double overtime

By CRAIG ADKINS  
For The Reporter

The Millers hit the road Wednesday night at Cathedral and it was a test from start to finish. It was two fast-paced teams aiming to keep momentum going in a pivotal part of the season.

The host Irish were able to find a way late in double overtime to outlast the Millers, 69-68.

Noblesville led 12-10 after one quarter, but Cathedral took the second (9-7) for a 19-19 tie at halftime.

After a back-and-forth third, the Irish had a 36-35 lead heading to the fourth.

The Millers were able to tie it 51-51 in the final seconds of regulation to send it

to overtime.

The two speedy squads were knotted 59-59, sending to the second extra frame.

Noblesville had a 68-67 lead late, but a turnover allowed Cathedral to score with 3.9 seconds left to hold on for the win.

Sophomore Maia Blower led the Millers with a career-high 24 points. She also grabbed six rebounds and dished out five assists. Classmate Aleah Magee also scored a career-best 15, while senior Ally Hutchinson scored 14 and pulled down seven boards.

Noblesville (7-7) next visits former Hoosier Crossroads Conference foe Lafayette Jeff (11-4) on Jan. 13.

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**HAMILTON HEIGHTS 70,  
GUERIN CATHOLIC 12**  
Meet started at 144 pounds

144: Asher Barrick (HH) def. Jeremiah Richardson (GC) by fall, 0:40  
150: Simon Kuhn (HH) def. Liam Skelly (GC) by fall, 1:43  
157: Nathan Flanders (HH) def. Leo Walden (GC) by fall, 0:49  
165: Braxtyn Baber (HH) def. Jackson Kaufman (GC) by fall, 1:10  
175: Seth Van Hook (HH) def. Sean Canny (GC) by fall, 1:00  
190: Hans Frymier (HH) def. Stephan Abedalla (GC) by fall, 0:44  
215: Thiago Zuniga (HH) won by forfeit  
285: Sam Van Hook (HH) def. Oliver Kerr (GC) by fall, 0:39  
106: Rafe Liechty (GC) def. Zede Rice (HH) by fall, 1:19  
113: Jude Bailey (HH) def. Caden Muller (GC) by technical fall, 16-0  
120: Jonah Wolfgang (HH) won by forfeit  
126: Gabe Liechty (GC) def. Isaac O'Brien (HH) by fall, 0:58  
132: Kase Powell (HH) def. Joseph Dunasky (GC) by technical fall, n/a  
138: Braden Rutledge (HH) def. Isaiah Quirk (GC) by fall, 1:35

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# SPORTS SCHEDULE

## Girls Basketball

### Rocks win on Hatcher's buzzer-beater

#### The REPORTER

With a second-chance basket, the Westfield girls basketball team got a big win on Wednesday. The Shamrocks were playing at Bishop Chatard and the game was back and forth for the entire 32 minutes. But Westfield prevailed when MaKayla Hatcher made an offensive rebound putback at the buzzer, sending the Rocks

home with a 58-57 victory. Westfield led 24-17 after the first quarter, which included 10 points from Ellie Wheeler. The Trojans cut that lead to 33-31 by halftime, then led 46-45 after three quarters. But the Shamrocks stayed together and got the win at

the end. Hatcher scored eight points in the fourth, including her game-winning bas-ket. Hatcher shared leading scorer honors with Lillian Clark and Gabby Bassett, as all three finished with 13 points. Wheeler was next in line with 10 points,

followed by Audra Parker with nine points. The Rocks won the junior varsity game 56-32. Jolie Miller scored 17 points and Lizzy Foster scored 11 points. Westfield is 15-5 and hosts Hamilton Heights on Friday.

**Thursday, Jan. 8**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
 Pike at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.  
 Scecina at University, 7:30 p.m.  
**BOYS WRESTLING**  
 Anderson at Hamilton Heights, 6 p.m.  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
 Center Grove at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.  
 Noblesville at Cathedral, 7:30 p.m.  
**SWIMMING**  
 Guerin Catholic at Tipton, 6 p.m.  
 Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet, 6 p.m. at IU Natatorium

Please email schedule changes or corrections to [sports@readthereporter.com](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).



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**Tues Jan 6 - Boys Basketball**  
 6:00 pm Pike vs **Noblesville** | Junior Varsity | HCTV Sports  
 7:20 pm Legacy vs Horizon Christian | Indiana SRN  
 7:20 pm Covenant Christian vs Heritage Christian | Indiana SRN  
 7:30 pm Pike vs **Noblesville** | Varsity | HCTV Sports

**Tues Jan 6 - Girls Basketball**  
 5:50 pm Covenant Christian vs Heritage Christian | Indiana SRN  
 7:15 pm Indianapolis Shortridge vs **Fishers High School** | Fishers Sports

**Fri Jan 9 - Boys Basketball**  
 7:15 pm **Hamilton Heights** vs Northwestern | Varsity | Husky Sports (PPV)  
 7:20 pm Ritter vs Heritage Christian | Indiana SRN  
 7:20 pm Christel House vs Washington IPS | Indiana SRN  
 7:30 pm Pike vs **Fishers** | Fishers Sports Network

**Fri Jan 9 - Girls Basketball**  
 5:50 pm Ritter vs Heritage Christian | Indiana SRN  
 5:45 pm Tri-Central vs **Sheridan** | Girls/Boys Basketball | Bragg Sports Media

**Sat Jan 10 - Boys Basketball**  
 7:20 pm **University** vs Covenant Christian | Indiana SRN  
 7:20 pm Bloomington North vs Seymour | Indiana SRN

**Sat Jan 10 - Girls Basketball**  
 1:20 pm North Harrison vs Seymour | Indiana SRN  
 5:50 pm University vs Covenant Christian | Indiana SRN






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#### The REPORTER

FanDuel Sports Network play-by-play announcer Chris Denari has been announced as the 2025 Indiana Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sports Media Association (NSMA). Denari is in his 20th season as the television voice of the Indiana Pacers. It is the second time Denari will have received the honor as he also earned the award in 2022.



Image courtesy Pacers Sports & Entertainment  
**Chris Denari was named the 2025 Indiana Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sports Media Association (NSMA). Denari, a Westfield native, is in his 20th season as the television voice of the Indiana Pacers.**

“I’m flattered and honored to be the National Sports Media Association’s 2025 Indiana Sportscaster of the Year,” said Denari, a native of Westfield. “There are many outstanding sports broadcasters in our state. I feel incredibly lucky to be the television play-by-play announcer for the Indiana Pacers on FanDuel Sports Network. I couldn’t do what I do with-

out my on-air partners and the great crew behind the scenes that make our telecasts possible.” In addition to the two Sportscaster of the Year awards, Denari was named the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association 2003 Broadcaster of

the Year and was inducted into the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association Hall of Fame in 2016. Denari will be honored at the NSMA 66th annual awards weekend and national convention June 28-29 in Greensboro, N.C.

## DUAL

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with back-to-back decision victories. Max Brown won 9-7 to claim the 175-pound bout, much to the delight of his loud fan club at the top of the bleachers.

Jon Stryker came up next, and he got the most incredible win of the night. The match was tied 8-8 with 8.5 seconds left in the third period, and Stryker was in the down position. But he bolted out for an escape point, then immediately made a takedown to win the bout 12-8.

Charley Head won by decision at 106 pounds, then Brayden Head made a huge comeback to win at 113. Brayden Head was down 10-4 but scored the last eight points for a 12-10 decision.

Aiden Driscoll’s 120-pound decision win gave the Shamrocks a 21-17 lead, but Zionsville jumped ahead 23-21 after winning at 126 by fall.

Trevor Humburg toughed out a 6-5 decision at 132 to put Westfield on top, but the Eagles clinched the meet with their two pins.

“I think this is kind of a little wake-up call,” said Griffin. He said the team must “get a little grittier when we wrestle” and also get “a little tougher in certain situations.”

Westfield travels to Brownsburg on Saturday to compete in the IHSWCA Team State meet.

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