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THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

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TUESDAY, JAN. 13, 2026

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CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly to mostly cloudy.
Wind gusts to 30 mph.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy.



HIGH: 49 LOW: 33

Carmel's Golden Anniversary



Photo provided by City of Carmel
Fifty years ago last week, the members of Carmel's very first City Council took their seats, beginning the journey from a small town to a flourishing city. To celebrate, city officials recognized the inaugural seven-member Common Council at the Monday, Jan. 5 meeting. Surviving members Dave Coots, James Garretson, Jane Reiman, and Fred Swift were in attendance as the city thanked them for their legacy of leadership and service. (Front row, from left) Fred Swift, James Garretson, Fifth Grade Deputy Mayor Aariv Shah, Jane Reiman, Dave Coots, and Mayor Sue Finkam. (Back row, from left) Current City Councilmembers Jeff Worrell, Shannon Minnaar, Dr. Anita Joshi, Adam Aasen, Ryan Locke, Matthew Snyder, Rich Taylor, and Tony Green.

The Voodoo that you do

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This is *Forty-something in Fishers* broadcasting to you live from the newly opened Fishers establishment, Voodoo Brewing Co. Brew Pub. I must say, it is conveniently located just off of I-69 at 106th St. and Lantern Rd., so getting here was a breeze. That's a good start!



I am here with my better half, *When Nature Speaks*, my daughter, *Six-something in Fishers*, and my son, *Four-something in Fishers*. We've been anticipating this new restaurant for several months now, and the hour is finally here.

As we walk in the door, we are greeted by a courteous and professional hostess, who immediately shows us to our table for four. The indoor space is large and roomy. The tables are spaced out perfectly, so people are not squished together. There are high exposed ceilings with visible beams, adding to the spaciousness of the room. As a bonus, over in the corner is a talented gentleman with a guitar and a microphone, entertaining everyone with well-known songs. So far, so good!

There is a large painted mural on the wall of a bunch of dogs eating and drinking like humans. I'm a sucker for dogs. And we just found out that two of the painted dogs belong to the owner.

My favorite art here though is their logo. It's a skeleton driving an IndyCar. Yep, I'm in!

Before actually sitting, I wanted to go check out the outside area. It doesn't disappoint. It's a very large, walled-in area, with a bunch of tables and a stage. I am very much looking forward to coming here when the weather gets warm!

First thing's first. Let's decide on a drink. A cabernet for Lady Nature here, two kids waters for the Pint-Size-Somethings and I think I'll have one of the homemade brews. But which one? Well, I tend to like IPA's, but there are so many to choose from. There are at least two that sound good to me right now. What's that? You'll bring me a sample of each so I can decide. Outstanding!

The "Good Vibes" IPA is very good, but I think I'll choose the "Hazy Vibes" IPA. Thank you so much.

Now that we are relaxing and enjoying ourselves, it's time to order some apps. Hmmm, it all looks so good. I think we'll have a basket of chips and your wings with sweet chili sauce.

Oh good, the apps have arrived. These chips seem to be house made potato chips with a generous dusting of some kind of seasoning.

Crunch crunch
Well apparently the seasoning is crack because I can't stop eating these.

Crunch crunch crunch
Ok, time to dig into these wings ...
Nom nom nom

Wow! These are some of the most flavorful and meatiest wings I've ever had! Once I plow through these, I'll hardly need to order dinner. But I'm gonna!

Ok, the kids will have macaroni and chicken fingers. Mrs. Nature Speaks and I will split a Sweet Heat pizza and a prime rib sandwich.

See Voodoo ... Page 3

Hamilton Heights names November & December Coffee Bean awardees

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corporation

Hamilton Heights High School recognizes the following students who were named as Coffee Bean Award recipients for the months of November and December 2025. They include Alexander Davis, Aubrey Cloncs, Jolie Garcia, and Collin Woodruff.

The name and award, inspired by *The Coffee Bean*, a book written by Jon Gordon and Damon West, delivers a simple, yet powerful message on positive change. All students nominated receive a certificate of recognition. At the end of the month, the names of the students who were nominated during the month are included in a drawing where the first five to seven names drawn are called down to the office to enjoy a hot chocolate or coffee and a donut.

The monthly award objective is to encourage more acts of kindness, positivity, school spirit, and help foster a close-



Photo provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation
(From left) Alexander Davis, Jolie Garcia, Aubrey Cloncs, and Collin Woodruff.

er sense of community at the high school. Students and staff can nominate students. You can send a nomination by visiting the Student Services page at hs.hhschuski.org.

Westfield Education Foundation raises \$50K

Sold-out Bourbon & Bling benefits Westfield Washington students & staff

Submitted

The Westfield Education Foundation (WEF) raised more than \$50,000 in funds to directly support students and staff through its sold-out Annual Bourbon & Bling fundraising event from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 16, 2025, at Moyer Fine Jewelers.

Funds raised will support Westfield Washington Schools through grants, programs, and initiatives that enrich teaching and learning across the district.

The event welcomed community leaders, supporters, and partners for an enjoyable evening featuring catering by Prime 47, shopping throughout Moyer Fine Jewelers, a wine pull, and the signature high-end Bourbon & Bling Raffle, which showcased 33 highly sought-after bourbon selections.

The top prize – Pappy Van Winkle 12-Year – was won by



Photo provided by Westfield Education Foundation
The Westfield Education Foundation team welcomed a sold-out crowd to the annual Bourbon & Bling fundraiser held last month at Moyer Fine Jewelers.

Joseph Huntzinger. Additional raffle highlights included rare and premium bottles such as George T. Stagg, Thomas H. Handy, Blanton's Gold, Weller 12-Year, Knob Creek 18-Year, and Elijah Craig Barrel Proof, among many others. The evening also featured a 19-item silent auction with experiences and packages ranging from fine jewelry and premium spirits to sports tickets, dining experiences, travel, golf outings, and opportunities to directly support teacher grants, the Shamrock Supply Hub, and new scholarships for Westfield students.

See Bourbon ... Page 2

Donate blood Jan. 14 at Westfield Fire Dept.

The REPORTER

The Westfield Fire Department will hold a blood drive in recognition of National Blood Donor Month.

The blood drive will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14 at the Westfield Public Safety Building, 17535 Dartown Road.

Just one blood donation could save up to three lives. Your simple act of kindness could make a life-changing difference for patients in need.

Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. [Click here](#) to schedule your appointment.

BOURBON

from Page 1

WEF extends sincere appreciation to Moyer Fine Jewelers for graciously hosting the event and to Prime 47 for providing exceptional cuisine. WEF is also grateful to the many sponsors whose support made the evening possible:

CORE Construction, CSO, Elements Financial, Everwise Credit Union, Garmong Construction, Hagerman, KGR Law, KI, KrM, Market District, Meyer Najem, Moyer Fine Jewelers, Noble Wine & Spirits, Performance Services, Prime 47, Schmidt Associates, and St. Elmo's.

"Bourbon & Bling contin-

ues to be a powerful example of what's possible when our community comes together," WEF Executive Director Ashley Knott said. "The generosity in the room will have a lasting impact on the students and staff we serve."

Bourbon & Bling is an annual Westfield Education Foundation event, and plans are already underway for next year, which will mark a special milestone: the Foundation's 40th anniversary.

WEF invites you to join in strengthening the future of Westfield Washington Schools. Support WEF's work by becoming an annual partner, establishing a legacy

scholarship that reflects your family, business, or trade, investing in innovative teacher grants, or making a year-end contribution.

About the Westfield Education Foundation
Established in 1986, WEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to empowering and investing in Westfield's students and staff. WEF welcomes the opportunity to connect in person, learn more about your philanthropic priorities, and explore how your generosity can make a lasting impact in Westfield's schools and the community. Visit www.wsef.org to learn more.



Photo provided by Westfield Education Foundation
ACTS Students Garrett Tucker and Henry Everts.



Photos provided by Westfield Education Foundation
Kristy Kreiser (left) and Shane & Holly Heidt (right) won the Bourbon Raffle.



Photos provided by Westfield Education Foundation
Kyle Arnold (left) and Lori Hancock (right) won the Bourbon Raffle.

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

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For more details, scan the QR code or visit westfieldin.gov/wintermarket.



Westfield city employees celebrate milestones

Submitted by
City of Westfield

The City of Westfield kicked off the new year by recognizing employee milestones at the annual all-staff meeting on Thursday, Jan. 8. During the meeting, 36 employees were honored for their dedication to the city, representing more than 350 combined years of service.

Thank you to the following people for your commitment to your community:

5 Years of Service

- Daniel Summers
- Joshua Brown
- Taylor DeBaun

- Rafael Diaz
- Kristie Foote
- William Ottenweller
- Lisa Ottenweller
- Jonathan Mathioudakis
- Rita Chiu
- Lindsay Bevilaqua
- Justin Austad
- Jaime Taxilaga
- Shandra Hawes
- David Dugger
- Charles Terry
- Andrew Bowell
- James Roberts
- Tate Vermeulen
- Joshua Sloma

10 Years of Service

- Taylor McCorkle
- Tyler Dougherty
- Edward Stubbs
- Beau Leimbach

- Tyler Hittle
 - Nicholas Miller
 - Kelley Wells
 - Justin Jones
- 15 Years of Service**
- Joseph Walker
 - Christopher Larsen
 - Christopher McConnell

20 Years of Service

- Morgan Riley
- Scott Thompson

25 Years of Service

- Gary Biggs
- Chad Everitt
- James Wallace
- Michael Wheeler



Photo provided by City of Westfield

VOODOO

from Page 1

Ok the food just came out. Time to dig in ...

Nom nom nom

The pizza is great, with its pepperoni, chorizo, jalapeno peppers, and hot honey. And just when I didn't think it could get any better ... it did. It got way better. Because that prime rib sandwich is out of this world. I don't ever want to stop eating it.

Unfortunately, we didn't save enough room for dessert this time, but don't wor-

ry, we'll be back.

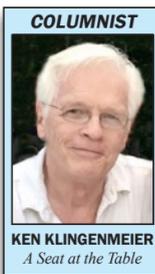
A great time was had by the entire Forty-Something-Nature-Speaks family. It's a great place to bring your family, or hang out with your buddies to watch a game.

The moral of the story is ... *nom nom nom* ... Don't bug me, I'm eating at Voodoo! *Nom nom nom* ...

Tim Rathz can be reached at 40somethingin-fishers@gmail.com. Follow on Facebook or Instagram.

Happy Hour at Eddie Merlot's

Eddie Merlot's Restaurant offers Happy Hour (HH) from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at their 3645 E. 96th St. location. The HH menu can be viewed online at [this link](#).



COLUMNIST
KEN KLIGENMEIER
A Seat at the Table

Luckily the white was a Chardonnay for my wife and I took the red, a Pinot Noir. Both were quite good, though both seemed like an economical pour – not the usual six ounces most places offer.

Mrs. K and I had never been to this restaurant, but it had been touted by our daughter as a great place to try. It's beautiful inside, as one would expect from such a high-end eatery. Our hostess seated us in the bar/lounge area which is richly appointed, with every table having four very comfy easy chairs to sit in. Our table was near the fireplace which provided a friendly warmth to the room. Save for a couple at the bar, we were the only visitors at 4 p.m.

Jolene, our bartender/server, came by right away to answer questions and to take our drink order. The \$8 HH wine list is very short – one white and one red.

For our food, we decided to try three things – Filet Mignon Sliders (\$15), Prime French Dip Sliders (\$10), and Filet Mignon Potstickers (\$10). Both the Sliders came with Home-Made Potato Chips, but we substituted Fries and Parmesan Fries, not realizing that there was an upcharge of \$2 and \$3 for them. Our fault for not asking, I guess.

While we waited for our food order, Jolene brought a fat round loaf of Sour Dough bread and a bowl of butter to our table (no upcharge). So we munched the bread and drank our wine and watched as the place slowly started to fill up.

Soon enough, the food came on three long plates, and was beautifully pre-

sented. Two sliders filled each of the orders, along with a large portion of fries. The five Potstickers, Wantons really, came arranged on a plate drizzled with an Asian Ginger-Chili Sauce and topped with cilantro. The Sliders were generously stacked high, with a piece of pickle to top each of the four. Everything was delicious, but my personal favorite was the Potsticker Wantons. The chewy fried dough was filled with Filet meat and, with the Asian Sauce, they were a real treat. I liked them so much, Mrs. K generously gave me her share of them.

While we ate, the manager, a man named Hal, came around the room to check on his guests and make sure that there was nothing we needed. I thought it was a genuinely

nice touch. As I expected, our bill was higher than any we have encountered on our HH tour: just under \$70 plus a tip. But, that included the unexpected upcharge and a second glass of wine. And we felt as if we had enjoyed a full meal.

At around 5 p.m., the place really started to fill up. As we were finishing up, a young guitarist arrived and started setting up in a corner of the lounge. We asked Jolene if this was a regular event and learned that there is entertainment at this location from about 6 or so on Tuesday through Friday evenings. Good to know.

Ken Kligenmeier offers this series of columns, called "A Seat at the Table," wherein he reviews Indy-area restaurants – specifically their Happy Hour offers. Keep reading *The Reporter* for future restaurant reviews.

Thanks for reading The Reporter!

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PG-13

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Barrows announces run for Superior Court 9 judge

Submitted

Christopher Barrows, Hamilton County Court Commissioner since 2022, filed Friday, Jan. 9 to run in the May Republican Primary for judge of Hamilton County Superior Court 9.

“With 27 years in the courtroom and the last four on the bench, the best place I can continue to serve Hamilton County is as Judge of Superior Court 9,” Barrows said. “My long experience, lifetime community service, and integrity to apply the law as written makes me the most qualified candidate for Superior Court 9.”

Court Commissioner Barrows has served in the Hamilton County Judiciary since 2022, when he was appointed by the Hamilton County Judges. In this role, he presides over the court’s Title IV-D court. The court manages a high-volume docket, with three full-time prosecutors, private coun-

sel, public defenders and pro se participants. Court Commissioner Barrows also serves as a judge pro tem handling criminal, civil, and family law matters.

A lifetime resident of Hamilton County, Court Commissioner Barrows chose to raise his family and grow his law practice here. He serves on the boards of the Westfield Youth Assistance Program, the Westfield Education Foundation, and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Indiana Chapter. He has coached Hamilton County youth sports including soccer, cross country, track and field, karate and wrestling.

Barrows has been a small business owner, litigator, mediator and arbitrator for over 27 years. Prior to his current position, he served as a Hamilton County guardian ad litem for over two decades. During his entire career, he has taught hundreds

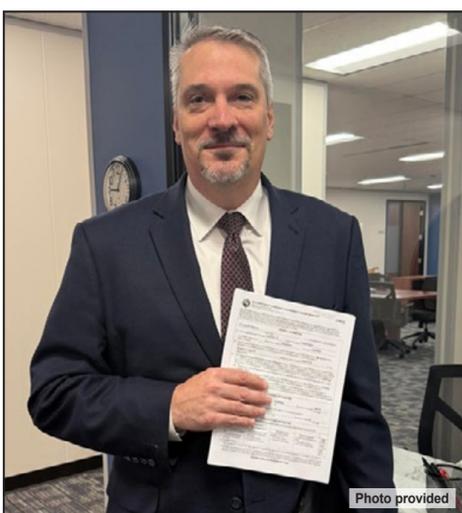


Photo provided

of hours of legal education with civility,” Barrows said. To learn more about Mr. Barrows, please contact the campaign at Barrows for Judge on Facebook, [ChrisBarrowsForJudge.com](https://www.facebook.com/ChrisBarrowsForJudge.com) and at barrowsforjudge@gmail.com.

“It is a privilege to serve on the Hamilton County Judiciary and to resolve conflicts between parties, while helping to ensure our laws are enforced equally and

Magistrate Danica Eyler files for judge of Hamilton County Superior Court 8

Submitted

Danica Eyler has officially filed to run for Judge of Hamilton County Superior Court 8 in the May 5, 2026, Republican Primary.

Superior Court 8 is a newly created court established by the Indiana General Assembly to expand judicial capacity and improve access to courts in one of Indiana’s fastest-growing counties.

Eyler currently serves as a Magistrate Judge, bringing daily courtroom experience

and a deep understanding of the judicial system to the race. Prior to her appointment, she practiced law for more than 20 years in a wide range of legal areas and spent several years focused on cases in Hamilton County, regularly appearing in local courts as both private counsel and a public defender.

“For years, I worked in our courts advocating for



Eyler

clients and exhibiting professionalism between my colleagues and the Courts,” Eyler said. “Now, as a Magistrate Judge, I am committed to fairness, preparedness, and efficiency, ensuring every individual who comes before the court is treated with respect and impartiality.”

Hamilton County has been home to Eyler for

nearly all of her adult life, further, Eyler is a graduate of Lawrence Central High School and earned degrees from Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business and the IU McKinney School of Law. She and her husband live in Westfield, where they are raising their family and where her husband also headquarters his business.

Danica Eyler will appear on the ballot in the Republican Primary Election on May 5.

Paul C. Sweeney officially files candidacy for judge of Hamilton County Superior Court 9

Submitted

Paul C. Sweeney, a Hoosier by choice, longtime Carmel resident and attorney with 29 years of trial and litigation experience, officially filed his candidacy last Friday, Jan. 9, for Judge of the newly established Hamilton County Superior Court 9.

Sweeney currently lives on the west side of Carmel with his wife Donna of almost 22 years and their two kids, Lizzie, a senior at Guerin Catholic High School, and Eli, an eighth grader at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School.

Sweeney announced his candidacy in May following the Indiana General Assembly’s creation of Hamilton Superior Court 9, which will begin operations on Jan. 1, 2027.

“Filing today is an important step, but my purpose

remains service,” Sweeney said. “I am committed to bringing my servant leadership, experience, fairness, and integrity to the bench for the people of Hamilton County.”

A graduate of Carmel High School, Indiana University, and the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, magna cum laude, Sweeney has represented individuals, small businesses, and Fortune 500 companies during his 29-year legal career. He has handled more than 60 bench and jury trials and arbitrations nationwide and currently serves as Senior Counsel at Ice Miller LLP, focusing on commercial and employment litigation.

Sweeney’s experience



Sweeney

does not end with the practice of law. Sweeney is deeply involved in the Hamilton County community. He recently completed his second three-year term on the Faith Formation Council at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church and has volunteered as a youth minister at St. Maria Goretti for nearly 20 years, and has served his church in many other roles. Sweeney currently serves on the Catholic Life Committee at Guerin Catholic High School in addition to his volunteer youth ministry work at his home parish. His prior service and service leadership also includes volunteer roles with the Carmel Symphony Orchestra, Hamilton County Youth as Resources, the Indiana Bar

Foundation’s High School Mock Trial competition (as a judge in Hamilton County), Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity (Delta Xi Chapter) Housing Corporation, and the United Way of Central Indiana’s Hamilton County Advisory Board.

Once elected, Sweeney plans to bring his servant leadership and extensive trial and litigation experience to the bench and supports expanding problem-solving courts in Hamilton County, including a mental health court.

“I believe judges should be prepared, compassionate, and committed to justice,” Sweeney said. “I am ready to serve.”

If you have any questions, please contact the campaign by visiting [SweeneyForJudge.com](https://www.facebook.com/SweeneyForJudge.com) or emailing sweeneyforjudge2026@gmail.com.

Spartz announces re-election campaign

Submitted

On Monday, Jan. 12, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz announced that she has filed to run for re-election.

“Our nation will soon face significant fiscal challenges, and my extensive expertise on fiscal issues and health care will be greatly needed in Con-

gress,” Spartz said. “Too many people are running for office with corrupt personal agendas and radical policies that have been destructive to our country and undermine President Trump’s conservative agenda, and we cannot allow them to prevail – too many Americans have sacrificed for our freedoms.”



Spartz

Mark Hall files for re-election to County Council

Submitted

Mark F. Hall has filed for reelection to the Hamilton County Council from District three.

“My district is comprised of Noblesville, Jackson, Wayne and White River Townships, but my votes impact all of our neighbors here in Hamilton County,” Hall said. “My first term has taught me to love the work much more than I expected, and to tolerate the politics. If reelected expect more of the same; tough scrutiny on spending, high involvement in the community and published transparent monthly updates. A few of my proudest moments from the last three years include balancing three budgets, lowering the

county tax rate, fighting off a tax increase, funding a domestic violence center, and maintaining the county’s excellent AAA bond rating, and keeping Hamilton County’s tax rate as one of the lowest in the State of Indiana.”

Hall and his wife Lisa have both also filed to be Republican State Convention delegates. More information is available at [MarkFHall.com](https://www.MarkFHall.com) or contact at (317) 832-1104 and mark@markfhall.com.



Photo provided

TIPTON COUNTY Candidates who have filed for the May 5, 2026 Primary Election as of Monday, Jan. 12

- U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 5TH DISTRICT**
 Scott A. King (R)
 Todd Shelton (D)
 *Victoria Spartz (R)
- STATE SENATORS**
 District 21
 James (Jim) Buck (R)
 Tracey Powell (R)
- STATE REPRESENTATIVES**
 District 38
 Nate Stout (D)
- CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, 36TH DISTRICT**
 Matthew B. Quigley (R)
- COUNTY ASSESSOR**
 Shannon Cassons (R)
- COUNTY AUDITOR**
 Jon DeBaun (R)
- COUNTY CLERK**
 Rhiannon Rhi Tansy (D)
- COUNTY SHERIFF**
 Craig R. Henderson (R)
 Matt Tebbe (D)
- COUNTY SHERIFF**
 Justin K. Clouser (R)
- COUNTY SURVEYOR**
 Jason R. Henderson (R)
- COUNTY TREASURER**
 Christy Crawford (R)
- COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
 District 1
 Dennis L. Henderson (R)
 Kirk D. Retherford (R)
 Ken Ziegler (D)
- COUNTY COUNCIL**
 District 2
 C.J. Taylor (R)
 Zack Timm (R)
 District 3
 Matthew L. Deckard (R)
 District 4
 Mike Terry (R)
- TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES**
Cicero Township
 Amber R. McLearnan (R)
Liberty Township
 Paul Kingery (R)
Madison Township
 Chuck Bell (R)
Wildcat Township
 Amanda Tolle (R)
- TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS**
Cicero Township
 Carla Good (R)
 Jane F. Harper (R)
 Steve Niblick (R)
Wildcat Township
 Nicholas Grant (R)
 Barry Tolle (R)

- HAMILTON COUNTY Candidates who have filed for the May 5, 2026 Primary Election as of Monday, Jan. 12**
- 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.
- U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 5TH DISTRICT**
 Scott A. King (R)
 Todd Shelton (D)
 *Victoria Spartz (R)
- STATE SENATORS**
District 21
 *James (Jim) Buck (R)
 Tracey Powell (R)
District 25
 *Mike Gaskill (R)
District 29
 David W. Greene, Sr. (D)
 John Ruckelshaus (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)
 *Alaina Shonkwiler (R)
 Devon Wellington (D)
District 32
 Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D)
District 37
 *Todd Huston (R)
 Joel Levi (D)
District 88
 Stephanie Jo Yocum (D)
- SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES**
Superior Court No. 3
 Chris Evans (R)
Superior Court No. 4
 Chadwick Hill (R)
 Angela Brown Swenson (R)
 Trampas Alan Whalin (R)
Superior Court No. 5
 *David K. Najjar
Superior Court No. 8
 Danica L. Eyler
Superior Court No. 9
 Christopher Barrows
 Sarah Shields
 Paul C. Sweeney
- COUNTY ASSESSOR**
 *Kevin W. Poore (R)
- COUNTY CLERK**
 Beth Sheller (R)
- COUNTY CORONER**
 *Jeff D. Jellison (R)
- COUNTY PROSECUTOR**
 *Josh Kocher (R)
- COUNTY RECORDER**
 *Trini Beaver (R)
- COUNTY SHERIFF**
 Dustin K. Dixon (R)
 John Lowes (R)
- COUNTY COMMISSIONER**
 District 1
 *Christine Altman (R)
- COUNTY COUNCIL**
District 1
 *Tim Griffin (R)
District 2
 *Amy Elizabeth Massillamany (R)
District 3
 *Mark F. Hall (R)
- CICERO TOWN COUNCIL**
At-Large (vote for 2)
 *Joe Cox (R)
 Harrison J. Massone (R)
- SHERIDAN TOWN COUNCIL**
At-Large
 *Michael Foote (R)
- TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES**
Clay Township
 *Paul D. Hensel (R)
Fall Creek Township
 *Doug Allman (R)
Jackson Township
 *Robyn Cook (R)
Noblesville Township
 *Theresa Caldwell (R)
White River Township
 Lisa Suzanne Flanders (R)
Wayne Township
 *Laura McNamara (R)
- TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS**
Clay Township (vote for 3)
 *Paul K. Bolin (R)
 Morgan B. Rinehart (R)
Delaware Township (vote for 3)
 *Rick Fain (R)
 *Kim Logan (R)
 *Marilyn A. Schenkel (R)
Fall Creek Township (vote for 3)
 *Susan Davis (R)
 Diane Eaton (R)
Noblesville Township (vote for 3)
 *Joe Arrowood (R)
 *Peggy R. Pfister (R)
 *Mary Sue Rowland (R)
White River Township (vote for 3)
 *John Dean (R)
 Brian Niec (R)
- PRECINCT CMTE. – DEMOCRATS**
Clay 40: Mindi Epstein
Clay 51: Mark Taber
Clay 68: Annette Gross
Delaware 19: Bill Stuart
Noblesville 2: Jeffrey Nickloy
Sheridan 3: Cheryl L. Popiela
Westfield 8: Evelyn J. Davis
- STATE DELEGATES – DEMOCRATS**
Adams Township (vote for 6)
 Cheryl L. Popiela
Clay Township (vote for 40)
 Ben Boyce
 Annette Gross
 Stephen K. Ring
 Susan Kelly Ring
Delaware Township (vote for 20)
 Sarah Elizabeth Crawford
 Litsi Plonski
 Bill Stuart
Fall Creek Township (vote for 20)
 Janis Kaye Hinchcliff
Noblesville Township (vote for 20)
 Christopher Hartig
 Jeffrey Nickloy
Washington Township (vote for 20)
 Evelyn J. Davis
- STATE DELEGATES – REPUBLICANS**
Clay 4 (vote for 5)
 Robert Fulk
Delaware 1 (vote for 5)
 Rick Fain
Fall Creek 1 (vote for 5)
 Tiffanie Ditlevson
 Diane Eaton
 Dawn Lang
Fall Creek 2 (vote for 5)
 Patricia (Trish) Poteet
 Evan Woodruff
Fall Creek 3 (vote for 5)
 Doug Allman
 Shelly Allman
 Pete Peterson
Jackson/White River (vote for 5)
 Ray Adler
 Max Engling
Noblesville 1 (vote for 5)
 Trini Beaver
 Darren Peterson
Noblesville 2 (vote for 5)
 Tim Berry
 Ellen Cortrecht
 Tim Cortrecht
 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

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

State Sen. Buck files for re-election

Submitted

Republican State Senator Jim Buck announced Monday, Jan. 12 that he has filed for reelection in Senate District 21, which is composed of Tipton County and portions of Hamilton and Howard counties.

A principled conservative and staunch defender of the U.S. Constitution, Buck is committed to continuing to represent Hoosiers with experience, honesty and integrity.

"I was raised with traditional Hoosier values – that hard work, faith, and personal responsibility build character and are the cornerstones of strong families and strong communities," Buck said. "I'm a lifelong Hoosier who raised my family here with those same values. These are the guiding principles I follow every day in

my service to the citizens of District 21 and Indiana."

Buck's experience in manufacturing and as a small business owner and licensed real estate broker have helped shape his core values that guide him every day as our representative at the Statehouse.

"I learned the importance of limited government, fiscal responsibility and policies that allow small businesses and workers to thrive and be an important contributor to Indiana's economy," Buck said.

Throughout his career Jim has championed:

- Protection of individual freedoms and local control
- Support of veterans, families and first responders



Buck

- Policies that strengthen Indiana's economy and communities
- Protecting the lives of the unborn
- Safeguarding our Second Amendment freedoms

- Defending our constitutional rights
- Lowering taxes and cutting spending
- Securing our Elections
- Improving education by empowering parents
- Combating illegal immigration

"For me, public service isn't about politics, Buck said. "It's about keeping Indiana a place where families, businesses and communities can prosper for generations to come – and that our state remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family. I will continue to champion these issues because I know the success of our state and our Hoosier families depends on it."

Buck and his wife Judy have raised five daughters. They reside in Kokomo and are active in the local community and in their church.

Buck's dedication to these core conservative values and leadership on these issues has been recognized by many organizations including CPAC and the American Conservative Union. He has also received the Indiana Chamber's Champion of Small Business Award and honors from the Indiana State Police Alliance for his consistent support of law enforcement and public safety.

His legislative priorities include:

Lieutenant Dustin Dixon files as candidate for Hamilton County Sheriff

Submitted

Lieutenant Dustin Dixon, a 24-year veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Army veteran, and lifelong public servant, has officially filed as a Republican candidate for Hamilton County Sheriff.

Dixon currently serves as a Lieutenant overseeing day shift patrol operations, including animal control and probation security. His leadership role reflects decades of experience, operational expertise, and a strong commitment to public safety and accountability.

Dixon began his public service career in 2001 as Pretrial Diversion Coordinator for the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office. In 2002, he was hired as a Merit Deputy with the Sheriff's Office. Over the past 24 years, he has served in Patrol, Investigations, the Canine Unit, and the agency's tactical team, gaining experience at every level of the department. He graduated as an Honor Graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in 2003 and is a graduate of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Leadership Academy

and the Hamilton County Leadership Academy.

Dixon holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice with a minor in Finance from Ball State University. He is an active member of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 103 and serves as the Sheriff's Office liaison, advocating for deputies and staff.

Dixon is deeply involved in the community, volunteering with organizations including Shop For Kids (President), Noblesville Youth Assistance Program (Vice President), Morse Waterways Association, and the Elks Lodge.

In addition to his law enforcement career, Dixon is a business partner and Client Manager for a local security consulting and staffing firm, where he oversees client relations and administrative operations, further strengthening his leadership and management skills.

Dixon has received the endorsement of Doug Carter, retired Indiana State Police Superintendent and former Hamilton County Sheriff, who will serve as Honorary Campaign Chairman.

"Dustin Dixon is the



Photo provided

right leader for Hamilton County," Carter said. "His integrity, character, and commitment to public service are unmatched, and his experience has prepared him to lead with professionalism and accountability."

Dixon said his decision to run is driven by his dedication to the community and the Sheriff's Office.

"Public safety will al-

ways be my top priority," Dixon said. "I believe in leading with integrity, supporting our deputies, and maintaining trust with the citizens we serve."

Dixon and his wife, Roslynn, have been married for 23 years and live in Noblesville with their son and retired K9, Fonzie.

For more information, visit DixonForSheriff.com.

Indiana Hospital Association announces 2026 legislative agenda

Submitted

The Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) announced last Friday, Jan. 9, its legislative priorities for the 2026 session of the Indiana General Assembly, focusing on ensuring continued access to care, protecting our essential workforce, and reducing unnecessary barriers that stand between Hoosiers and affordable, high-quality health care.

"Indiana hospitals are committed to ensuring every Hoosier has access to affordable, high-quality care," IHA President Scott B. Tittle said. "Our legislative agenda reflects the urgent need to strengthen the health care system, support our dedicated workforce, and preserve the nonprofit missions that allow hospitals to serve their communities."

IHA's key legislative priorities for 2026 include:

Access to Care Medicaid Rates

IHA will advocate for continued implementation of legislation enacted in 2025 that increases Medicaid reimbursement for all hospitals at no cost to the State, funded by fees paid by Indiana hospitals.

Dr. Brad Barrett, Chairman of the House Public Health Committee, has introduced legislation that would put guardrails in place to ensure the law is carried out as intended, helping hospitals maintain critical services statewide. **House Bill (HB) 1385** ensures Medicare is the floor for hospital reimbursement and that the fees paid by Indiana hospitals go to their intended purpose – funding the Healthy Indiana Plan and increasing reimbursements for hospitals.

"With Indiana Medicaid only reimbursing 57 cents

on the dollar on average for every Medicaid patient seen, Medicaid reimbursement reform is essential," Tittle said. "IHA supports HB 1385 as it seeks to provide stability ahead of the impacts of the federal reconciliation bill, which is expected to result in the loss of \$12.7B dollars to Indiana hospitals over the next decade."

Workforce Health Care Worker Protections

IHA supports enhancing criminal penalties for battery against health care workers as part of a multi-pronged approach to improve workplace safety. **HB 1040** would bring accountability for battery committed against any health care employee whose responsibilities involve contact or interaction with a patient.

Tittle stated, "We know HB 1040 is only one tool in the toolbox, but it demonstrates to our health care workforce that we see them, we stand with them, and we will not tolerate violence committed against them, as Indiana hospitals continue to implement other strategies across the state."

Payor Reforms Barriers to Practice & Payment

IHA will work to reform payor policies that delay patient care, reduce appropriate provider payments, and complicate

the patient experience. **HB 1271** prohibits unnecessary downcoding and recoupments, tactics used far too often by insurers, that redirect hospital resources from what is most important: high-quality patient care.

In addition, **HB 1279** would require insurers, not health care providers, to collect any cost-sharing requirements under their health plans, such as copays and deductibles, and allow patients to pay any cost-sharing requirements throughout the year.

"Far too often health care providers are tasked with implementing insurer policies," Tittle said. "HB 1279 would streamline the patient experience and hold insurers accountable for implementation of their health plan design."

Community Impact Protect Hospital Nonprofit Status

IHA will advocate for preserving hospitals' nonprofit status, ensuring they can continue delivering quality care while meeting the unique needs of their communities in alignment with their charitable missions.

Tittle stated, "Indiana's nonprofit hospitals are proud of the community benefit they provide, but we urge any legislation to be aimed at improving patient access and supporting high-quality care, not creating additional administrative burdens."



Photos provided

Fishers teen still missing

The REPORTER

Hailey Buzbee, 17, a junior at Hamilton Southeastern High School, has been missing since Jan. 5. She is 5-foot-3 and has brown eyes and brown hair.

According to the Fishers Police Department, Buzbee is believed to have run away from her home in the Enclave at Vermillion Neighborhood. That's along 101st

Street near Flat Fork Creek Park. She left their home on Jan. 5 around 10 p.m.

She was last seen wearing a white blouse, grey jeans, a black puffer jacket, and carrying a pink Vera Bradley duffel bag.

If you see Buzbee or have any information on her whereabouts, please call the Fishers Police Department at (317) 773-1282.

Veterans benefits seminar coming to Lebanon

The REPORTER

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a nonprofit charity that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families, helping more than 1 million veterans in positive, life-changing ways each year.

One of the various services DAV provides at no cost to veterans is the Information Seminar program. These seminars are available across the country to help veterans and their families obtain the services and benefits they have earned.

The next information seminar is set for 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17

at the Lebanon Senior Citizens Center, 707 S. Lebanon St.

Staffed by DAV national service officers, these information seminars provide professional support throughout the claims and appeals process.

Veterans attending a seminar should bring identification, their Social Security number, and any other pertinent documentation regarding their military service. DAV membership is not required to utilize these free services.

To learn more about DAV and the many services available to veterans, please visit DAV.org.

Meeting Notices

The Westfield Washington Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, in Meeting Room 2A at the library, 17400 Westfield Blvd. The Board of Finance will meet immediately after the regular board meeting.

The Noblesville Tree Board Committee meeting scheduled for 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, has been canceled.

The Noblesville Redevelopment Commission meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, has been canceled.

The Noblesville Board of Public Works and Safety will hold a special meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2026, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

A live stream of the meeting will be available at youtube.com/CityofNoblesville.

The Noblesville Common Council will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

A live stream of the meeting will be available at youtube.com/CityofNoblesville also streamed at HamiltonCountyTelevision.com.

A list of each appointed officer's name, their appointing authority, and term dates is available at noblesville.in.gov/447/Boards-Commissions.

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Board will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, at Osprey Pointe Pavilion at Morse Park & Beach, 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville.

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet in a special session at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St.

The Hamilton County Airport Authority Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Carmel Plan Commission will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

The Carmel Police Department Pension Board will meet in an executive session at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(7) for the discussion of records classified as confidential by state or federal statute.

A regular meeting will follow at 1:05 p.m. or immediately after the executive session (whichever is later) in the Support Conference Room at Carmel Police Department Headquarters, 1000 S. Range Line Road.

The Atlanta Plan Commission will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, 2026, at Atlanta Town Hall, 105 E. Main St.

Thanks for reading!

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.

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Huston Jeter Lopez Shonkwiler Smith

Local Republican legislators: Indiana House accepting student applicants for 2026 page program

Submitted

According to Hamilton County Republican lawmakers, Hoosier students who are interested in learning more about state government are invited to participate in the Indiana House Page Program during the 2026 legislative session.

House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) said pages can watch the legislative process in person, tour the historic Statehouse building and interact with their state representative.

"I hope to see several students from Hamilton County serve as House pages this session," Huston said. "This program offers an invaluable experience to young Hoosiers and often inspires the next generation of state leaders."

The full-day program is available for students who are 13 to 18 years old. State Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers) said pages are permitted by Indiana law to receive a one-day excused absence from school for their participation.

"Pages see the pace, responsibility and teamwork

that go into each legislative day," Jeter said. "Spending time at the Statehouse helps students understand how decisions are made and the work that happens behind each law."

State Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel) said the program offers students a unique experience to learn more about how Indiana's legislature operates.

"By participating in the House page program, students gain a better understanding of how laws are made and the role citizens play in Indiana's government," Lopez said. "Pages get a hands-on look at the legislative process and an early introduction to public service. I encourage students from my community to apply."

The program has opportunities every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday until the end of the legislative session. Eligible students and their parents are encouraged to submit an application corresponding with the date they would like to page. Pages are scheduled from 8:30 a.m.

to 3:30 p.m. on their chosen day, and groups serve together on Wednesdays. State Rep. Alaina Shonkwiler (R-Noblesville) said to schedule a group, contact the page program director at (317) 232-9410 or pageprogram@iga.in.gov.

"Pages have been visiting the Statehouse for years learning and watching the legislative process," Shonkwiler said. "I encourage all eligible students to take advantage of this unique opportunity to interact with their lawmakers."

Students are responsible for their own lunch and transportation to and from the Statehouse in Indianapolis.

"The page program is a unique experience that young Hoosiers should not pass up," said State Rep. Hunter Smith (R-Zionsville). "Students get the chance to witness the legislative process in person, and I encourage those who are interested to apply."

For more information and to apply, visit IndianaHouseRepublicans.com/Page-Program.

Indiana DNR opens Historic Preservation Month photo contest

The REPORTER

The annual Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology (DHPA) photo contest has started, and the deadline to enter is Friday, April 3.

Open to photographers of any age and skill level, the contest has been held since 2005 to promote Indiana's historic resources.

All structures in photo entries must be at least 50 years old and in Indiana but don't have to be fully restored. Photos of exclusively natural elements will not be accepted.

Photos must have been

taken within the last two years. There are five categories to submit photographs: Color, Black & White, Altered, Kids (under 18), and resources found along the National Road in Indiana, the theme of Historic Preservation Month. This year is the semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and DHPA will be recognizing the first federally funded highway and the historic Hoosier communities along it as part of the celebration.

Each photographer may enter up to three images along with the required respective entry form for each photo. Entries should

be emailed to DHPAConnect@dnr.IN.gov and must be JPEG files 10 MB or smaller. Participants should only send one photo and one entry form per email.

For complete rules and guidelines and for the required entry form, see on.IN.gov/preservation-month and click on "Historic Preservation Month Photo Contest" near the top of the screen.

Follow the DNR Instagram account (@indianadnr) in May where, for a week, the DHPA will feature selected photos along with contest winners to celebrate National Historic Preservation Month.

Start the new year by searching for money at IndianaUnclaimed.gov

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is reminding Hoosiers to start the new year right: by searching IndianaUnclaimed.gov for money that's rightfully yours but sitting forgotten in a government account.

"Searching a name in our database takes literally just a few seconds, and you can do it easily on your phone," AG Rokita

said. "Each year, thousands of Hoosiers are surprised to learn they have money just waiting for them to claim. Everyone owes it themselves to do a quick check."

Unclaimed property is real cash from forgotten wages, old bank accounts, safe-deposit boxes, refunds and more.

In 2025, AG Rokita

's Unclaimed Property team shattered its 2023 record by returning more than \$88 million.

So, head to IndianaUnclaimed.gov or text CLAIM to 46220. It's fast, free, secure and easy.

You can also contact the Unclaimed Property Division at 1-866-462-5246 or updmail@atg.in.gov.



Rokita

Farm Credit Mid-America opens applications for 2026 scholarships

Submitted

Farm Credit Mid-America is now accepting applications for its Customer Scholarships and Farm Credit Mid-America Scholars Program.

Over the past decade, the Association has awarded more than \$2 million in financial and educational support to students pursuing careers that strengthen agriculture and rural communities and expects to award up to \$125,000 in academic support this year.

"These students represent the future of agriculture and rural communities," said Scott Feitl, talent programs and onboarding manager at Farm Credit Mid-America. "Our investment in their education is more than support; it's a partnership to ensure long-term success for

them and the communities they serve."

Customer Scholarships provide \$1,500 in financial support to children or grandchildren of Farm Credit Mid-America customers pursuing careers connected to agriculture or rural communities. Applicants may attend an accredited two- or four-year college, university, vocational school, or trade school.

The Farm Credit Mid-America Scholars program is open to rising college sophomores and juniors majoring in agriculture. Each year, a new cohort of students receive \$5,000 in financial support over two academic years. Scholars also take part in onsite learning and travel experiences focused on leadership development and

financial literacy.

"Agriculture is one of the most important fields out there, and it's exciting that there are opportunities like this one that give students the financial resources and professional development they need to succeed," said Shaun Wimberly, recent Farm Credit Mid-America Scholar.

Customer Scholarship applications are due by Jan. 15, 2026. Applications for the Farm Credit Mid-America Scholars program are due by Jan. 31, 2026. Recipients for both programs will be announced in 2026.

To learn more about Farm Credit Mid-America's scholarship programs, including eligibility requirements and application deadlines, or to apply, visit the Scholarships page.

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Noblesville Creates' Comic Book in a Day returns with workshops, competition & exclusive VIP Night

Submitted

Noblesville Creates, in partnership with the Hamilton East Public Library, announces the return of its 13th annual Comic Book in a Day Challenge, taking place Jan. 16 and 17, 2026. Sponsored by Moonshot Games and Citizens State Bank, this beloved event invites creators of all ages and experience levels to turn big ideas into finished comic stories, often in just a single day.

With both virtual and in-person competitions, Comic Book in a Day welcomes artists of all ages and experience levels to imagine, create, and publish original comics – often in just a single day. What begins as a creative challenge becomes a shared achievement, with participants joining a growing legacy of published creators.

Create. Learn. Compete.

Participants in the in-person challenge will compete in one of two divisions:

- **Youth Division (ages 12 and under):** four-hour competition

- **Teen & Adult Division (ages 13 and up):** seven-hour competition

Guided by accomplished comic professionals Erik Lunderf and Victor Dandridge, creators will receive hands-on instruction, real-time feedback, and

encouragement throughout the day. Featured Artists and Judges Stuart Sayger, Gavin Smith, and Jackie Crofts will be on site engaging with participants, demonstrating techniques, reviewing submissions, and sharing insights from their professional careers.

All completed comics – from both the virtual and in-person competitions – will be professionally scanned and published in a printed Comic Book in a Day Anthology, with every registered contestant receiving a copy.

Free Pre-Event Workshops (space is limited)

Ahead of the competition, Noblesville Creates is offering three free, public workshops led by professional comic artists. These sessions are open to all and do not require participation in the competition, though advance registration is strongly encouraged due to limited space. The first session, held on Jan. 8, featured tips and tricks for starting a comic from instructor Erik Lunderf. The remaining workshops are:

- **Jan. 13:** How to Draw Convincing and Meaningful Worlds for Your Story. Instructor: Stuart Sayger. [Click here](#) to register.

- **Jan. 15:** COMICS 101. Instructor: Victor Dandridge. [Click here](#) to register.

An Exclusive VIP Night for Comic Fans (21+)

A standout highlight of Comic Book in a Day weekend is the VIP Night, taking place from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16 at Ball State Fishers. This 21-and-over event offers comic fans and collectors a rare opportunity to mingle with featured artists and creatives in a relaxed, celebratory setting.

The evening will feature a Drink & Draw-style experience led by Joe Wos, an Emmy Award-winning artist and beloved host known for his playful, interactive approach to art. Guests will take part in creative challenges, with opportunities to win prizes including:

- Exclusive art prints
- Original artwork
- Customized wine or whiskey bottles by Featured Artists
- Gift cards
- Prize money
- And, of course, bragging rights

Guests will enjoy beverages (with and without alcohol) alongside a luxurious charcuterie spread, all while connecting with some of the most imaginative minds in the comics community.

The night will also include a fund-a-need campaign supporting future comics-focused programming at Noblesville Creates. Donors will receive thank-you gifts available exclu-

sively during the event, such as:

- **\$50:** Signed comics from Featured Artists
- **\$100:** Five-minute quick sketches
- **\$250:** Bust drawing on a sketch-cover comic
- **\$500:** Customized wine or whiskey bottle
- **\$1,000:** Full-color drawing on a Batman/TMNT sketch cover by Stuart Sayger and/or Gavin Smith

Additional surprises, show-and-tell moments, and interactive experiences will be woven throughout the evening, making the VIP Night a once-a-year celebration of comics, creativity, and community.

Event Schedule at a Glance

- **Virtual Competition:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16

- **In-Person Youth & Teen/Adult Competitions:** Saturday, Jan. 17, Ignite Studio at Fishers Library

- **VIP Night (21+):** 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16 at Ball State Fishers

- **Awards Ceremony:** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 at Ignite Studio (with livestream option)

Space for workshops, competitions, and the VIP Night is limited. Early registration is strongly encouraged.

For full details and registration, visit noblesvillecreates.org/comicbookinaday.

Stay aware, alert & educated on trafficking

January is recognized as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about human trafficking and educate the public about how to identify and prevent this crime.

GUEST COLUMNIST



DANNY LOPEZ
State Representative

state. Last session, we passed HEA 1416, which helps raise awareness by requiring places like rest areas, gas stations, and welcome centers to display human trafficking awareness information.

The **National Human Trafficking Hotline** lists **different signs and societal factors** that can lead to trafficking. It's important to know that anyone can experience trafficking in any community, just as anyone can be the victim of any kind of crime. If you see something, say something. You can call the hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text "BEFREE" or "HELP" to 233733.

To learn more about human trafficking and ways you can help prevent it, [click here](#).

State Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel) represents House District 39, which includes a portion of Hamilton County.

Letter to the Editor

Fishers reader encourages voters to get informed before casting their ballots

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

As the 2026 Hamilton Southeastern School Board elections approach, it's important to take an honest look at what's at stake – and what we're already seeing take shape.

Over the past decade, HSE schools became a testing ground for highly political ideas: expanded equity bureaucracy, restorative justice frameworks, ideological training for staff, handbook language that blurred boundaries, and decision-making that often felt disconnected from parents and classrooms. Fishers One emerged – and candidates were elected – not to politicize schools, but to push back against a system that already had.

Now, many of the same activist networks are regrouping. Expect polished messaging about: "unity," "nonpartisan governance," and "moving past division." Behind those words are the same organizations and voices that previously drove staffing decisions, curriculum changes, and policies that divided the community and distracted from academics. Social media activism will again play a central role, often personal, misleading, and designed to discourage reasonable community members from engaging.

The risk in 2026 is not loud conflict – it's quiet reversal.

If school board seats are won by candidates supported by fully partisan organizations operating under neutral branding, the district could quickly return to governance defined by ideology, not academic outcomes.

Most families want the same things for HSE Schools:

- Strong academics and high expectations
- Safe, orderly schools
- Respect for parents and teachers
- Transparency and local accountability

Fishers One will continue to inform, organize, and support candidates who keep the focus where it belongs: classrooms, students, and results – not politics imported from outside the community. Engagement matters, even when it's uncomfortable. Unfortunately, silence creates a vacuum.

We encourage you to stay informed, not just to what candidates say, but who is organizing, funding, and amplifying them.

The future direction of HSE Schools will be decided by those who show up to vote.

Jennie J. Nicol
Fishers

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. Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.



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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

Trivia on the Tracks

Fridays at 6 pm in February

2/6/26 - Rom-Com Trivia
2/13/26 - Gilmore Girls Galentine Trivia
2/20/26 - 1980s Trivia

February 6, 13 & 20

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE PASSOVER

But some of them could not celebrate the Passover on that day because they were ceremonially unclean on account of a dead body. So they came to Moses and Aaron that same day and said to Moses, "We have become unclean because of a dead body, but why should we be kept from presenting the Lord's offering with the other Israelites at the appointed time?"
Numbers 9:6-7 (NIV)

Reginald Lamar Stepp

July 14, 1943 – January 9, 2026

Reginald Lamar Stepp, known affectionately by his loved ones as Reg or Reggie, passed away on January 9, 2026, at the age of 82. He was born in Noblesville on July 14, 1943.

Reggie was an adventurous and resilient man with an unwavering loyalty to those he loved. He was courageous in every aspect of his life, whether it was in his more than 30 years of employment at Steel Parts in Tipton or his love for the great outdoors. Reggie was an avid coin collector and a skilled woodworker. In his youth, he was an avid sportsman enjoying trapshooting, hunting, and fishing. He often embarked on hunting trips out West. He always maintained a garden, a testament to his love for nature and his dedication to nurturing life.

Reggie was widowed, but his legacy lives on in his family. He is survived by his sons, Brian (Michelle) Stepp and Ron Stepp, stepdaughter, Kim (Larry) LaVictoire; grandchildren, Matthew, Dylan, Danielle, Donavin, and Amanda; great-grandchildren; brothers, Tracy (Debbie) Stepp and Tom (Sherri) Stepp; sister, Sherrie (Robert) Reed; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Emmitt Lamar Stepp and Elizabeth Joan (Woods) Wallace; his beloved wife, Sarah (Wilson) Stepp; his daughter, Jill Stepp; and his brother, Michael Stepp.

Reggie's life and memory will be cherished and remembered by all who knew him. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the American Diabetes Association or the American Cancer Society. Reginald's care is under the direction of Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Home in Cicero.

We invite you to leave memories and upload photos of Reggie to the memorial page. Your stories and images will serve as a reminder of how much he meant to us all.

Condolences: hartleyfuneralhomes.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.

Angela "Angie" M. Pouch

September 25, 1965 – December 31, 2025

Angela "Angie" M. Pouch, 60, Noblesville, passed away on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, in Noblesville after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born on September 25, 1965, in Noblesville.

Angie married her loving husband, Tom, in 1993. They celebrated 32 years of marriage and life together. The day of Angie's passing marked the 33rd anniversary of their first date together.

Angie is a graduate of Noblesville High School Class of 1984. She spent more than 25 years working in the tiling industry. She began her career at Morgan & Associates. She was the co-owner of Mouse-PAD working alongside her friend. Angie concluded her titling career with Meridian Title. Angie later dedicated the last few years of her career to public service working at CICOA where she was a care coordinator helping elderly individuals and those with disabilities remain safe and independent in their homes. Many coworkers and friends would often refer to Angie as "Mama Pouch."

When her children were younger and played baseball and softball, she took the role of Team Mom very seriously. During her free time, Angie would bake various cakes for family events and watch *The Waltons* and *Little House on the Prairie*. In her youth, Angie loved singing karaoke and going out with friends. Angie enjoyed taking various family vacations and fell in love with Las Vegas. Angie always made Christmas and birthdays extra special by giving personalized gifts to her loved ones. She would always make sure to supply the children in her family with "Smarties" because she didn't want them to grow up to be "Dum-Dums."

Above all else, Angie's greatest blessing and joy in her life were her grandsons, Finn and Theodore, whom she adored beyond measure. She cherished every moment spent caring for them and watching them grow, a role she embraced with endless love and devotion.

Angie is survived by her husband, Tom Pouch; mother, Donna Castor; children, Garrett (Larissa) Pouch and Jessie Pouch; grandchildren, Finn Pouch, Theodore Pouch, and one on the way; siblings, Suzanne (Tony) Conger and Eric Castor; father-in-law, Ronald Pouch; brother-in-law, Mark (Terri) Pouch; sister-in-law, Debbie Pouch; many nieces and nephews; and several cousins and other extended family.

She was preceded in death by her father, George Castor; grandparents, Harvey and Ida Dotson; mother-in-law, Patricia Pouch; grandchild, Shiloh.

Angie will be remembered for her kindness, dedication to others, and the deep love she held for her family.

Services will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to the time of service at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023 (diabetes.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com



Matilda Ann Ubertini

April 11, 1935 – January 7, 2026

Matilda Ann Ubertini, 90, Noblesville, passed away January 7, 2025. She was born on April 11, 1935, in Brooklyn, N.Y., daughter of Frederick and Frances (Vela) Carbis.

Matilda and Napoleon Ubertini were married on August 25, 1956, and together built home and a life centered on devotion to family.

Matilda enjoyed spending time working in her beautiful flower garden, a place where she found joy and contentment. She learned how to crochet blankets and afghans that became treasured gifts, each stitch a reflection of her patience and care.

A true Italian cook, Matilda expressed her love most deliciously in the kitchen. Her home was often filled with the aroma of simmering sauces, pizzelles, and the promise of a meal that would bring everyone together. Her family dinners were lively, abundant, and made with the kind of love that will never be forgotten.

Matilda's legacy is one of warmth, generosity, and quiet strength. She leaves behind a family forever grateful for her guidance, her tenderness, and the countless ways she made their lives richer.

Her memory will continue to bloom in every garden she inspired, in every handmade blanket she crafted, and in every family gathering where her spirit will always have a seat at the table.

In addition to her parents, Matilda was preceded in death by her husband, Napoleon Ubertini; sister, Paula Bota; and son-in-law, Robert DiDonato.

Survivors include her daughters, Donna M. DiNorcia-Rieg (Robert Rieg) and Christine A. DiDonato; son, Robert A. Ubertini (Jami Ubertini); grandchildren, Bryan DiNorcia (Kaitlan Daly), Anthony DiDonato (fiancée, Hayley McGuirk) and Emily DiDonato.

A private family burial will take place in Our Lady of Peace cemetery.

In memory of Matilda, donations are welcomed to The American Cancer Society, 5635 W. 96th St., Suite #100, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family in arrangements.

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com



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REPORTER SPORTS TUESDAY

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

Sheridan High School announces new athletic director

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

At Sheridan Community Schools' (SHS) recent board meeting, members approved Jared Green as the next Sheridan High School athletic director.

SHS welcomes Green as he brings extensive experience in athletic administration, development, and student-athlete support. He also brings a strong commitment to building programs that serve students, families, and the school community.

"After an extensive search that included many outstanding candidates, Sheridan High School is excited to welcome Mr. Jared Green to the Blackhawk family as our new Athletic Director," SHS Principal Rick Davis said. "Mr. Green's experience, leadership, and vision will help continue to move Sheridan athletics forward with pride and success, while maintaining a strong commitment to the 'student' component of our student-athletes."

Green holds a Master's in Sport Administration from Ball State University and a Bachelor's in Sport Marketing and Management from Indiana University. His academic background, along with his professional experience, puts him in a great position to lead and support Sheridan's athletic programs.

Green, most recently, served as Associate Athletic Director for Development at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. While there, he oversaw athletic development initiatives, including fundraising, alumni relations, and donor engagement. He supervised the advancement team, managed budgets, and served as the administrator for the baseball team. He also helped raise funds for various projects, including a new basketball arena and

upgrades to soccer, baseball, and golf facilities.

Before Pepperdine, Green worked at IU-Indianapolis. While there,



Green

he helped guide growth in athletics through fundraising and sponsorship. While there, the athletic department had three record-breaking fundraising years, launched an NIL collective, and established new scholarships to benefit student-athletes. He also served as the administrator for men's soccer, women's volleyball, and women's tennis.

Green's experience also includes roles at Austin Peay State University, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, and Ball State University. But it all started when he was a student manager and bullpen catcher for IU Baseball. This gave him a firsthand insight into the student-athlete experience at the collegiate level.

"I am truly honored to join the Sheridan family as the next Athletic Director," Green said. "I look forward to elevating the experiences for each of our student-athletes and teams, retaining and growing participation at the middle and high school, and ensuring that Blackhawk student-athletes are positioned for success academically, athletically, and in life after graduation. My family and I are excited to return to a community we have proudly called home for much of the past four years."

Green and his wife, Ashlynn, are parents to Cali and Jaxon, and the family also includes their dog, Chloe. Outside of school, Green is a fan of Indiana University, the Chicago Cubs, and the Indianapolis Colts, and the Indiana Pacers. Sheridan High School looks forward to the leadership that Jared Green will bring to Blackhawk athletics and is excited for the future of its programs.

Girls Wrestling

Carmel's Ramirez-Zarate, HSE's Lannan get runner-up finishes

Sheridan's Pewarski places fourth

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

Carmel's Daniela Ramirez-Zarate will be making a return trip to the IHSAA state finals.

The senior 145-pounder advanced to state after a second-place finish at the Muncie Central regional on Saturday, Jan. 10. Ramirez-Zarate joins Hamilton Southeastern 120-pounder Lindsey Lannen as wrestlers from Hamilton County schools to advance to state.

Ramirez-Zarate had an easy time reaching the final, winning three matches by fall. She pinned Pendleton Heights' Addy Niedbalski in 59 seconds for a first-round victory, then got second-period falls over Trion Central's Farah Coen in the quarterfinals and Alexandria's Riley Thomas in the semifinals.

Ramirez-Zarate lost to Beech Grove's Caitlynn Dibbern in the championship match; Dibbern got a fall midway during the first period. Ramirez-Zarate is 21-2 for the season.

Lannen advanced to the quarterfinals after receiving a first-round forfeit, then pinned Perry Meridian's Valeria Velez in the first period of that match. Lannen took on Franklin Central's Madi-

son Mink in the semifinals and won a hard-fought 15-12 decision.

Lannen led 11-6 after the first period, but got nearfall points with 17 seconds left in the third period to lead 15-6. Those points helped Lannen hold off a furious comeback by Mink during the final seconds of the match.

Sheridan's Devyn Pewarski joined the state qualifier list, advancing from the Kokomo regional on Saturday, Jan. 10 by placing fourth at 135 pounds.

Pewarski won her first match by pinning Columbia City's Avah Hyden in the second period. That sent her to the quarterfinals, where Pewarski earned a state ticket by defeating Logansport's Jasmine Perez in a 9-4 decision.

After a scoreless first period, Pewarski started the second period in the down position. She earned an escape point, made a takedown for a 4-0 lead and maintained the lead for the remainder of the match.

Back-and-fourth bout

Pewarski wrestled Kokomo's Ja'layia Williams in the semifinals in what had to be the wildest match of the day.

See Wrestling . . . Page 11



Reporter photo by Richie Hall
Sheridan's Devyn Pewarski finished fourth at 135 pounds at the Kokomo girls wrestling regional on Saturday, Jan. 10 and qualified for this Friday's IHSAA state finals.

Girls Basketball

Rocks in right position, ready to challenge for HCC

By RICHARD TORRES

For The Reporter

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Shamrocks are right where they want to be.

With three games left on their regular-season schedule, including consecutive Hoosier Crossroads Conference matchups, the Class 4A Rocks enter the stretch run in control of their own fate.

A perfect 5-0 in the HCC, Westfield (16-5) is tied for first place with 4A No. 6 Hamilton Southeastern (15-3, 5-0). On Friday, Jan. 9, they host the Royals before traveling to 4A Brownsburg (9-7, 2-2) on Jan. 23.

"We've got two tough

ones coming up, but I'm proud of our girls for putting us in this position right now. To give ourselves a chance," Westfield coach Kelsey Steele said. "That's all you can ask for up to this point."

The past three seasons, the Rocks were out of the HCC conversation with back-to-back three-win showings and a two-win finish in 2022-23 for no higher than a fifth-place finish in the standings.

However, the program continues to progress upward, and now, the Rocks are on the verge of possibly matching their second place (5-2 HCC) or cham-



Reporter photo by Richie Hall
Westfield's Audra Parker (right) gets hold of a rebound during the Shamrocks' game with Hamilton Heights on Friday, Jan. 9.

pionship (6-1 HCC) seasons of 2021-22 and 2020-21, respectively.

"It's not finished yet," Steele emphasized. "That's the big thing that we keep telling them. We're not there yet. We haven't arrived yet."

Much like the team's win totals the past three seasons (12, 13, 16), the Rocks are building, particularly around six key veterans and the freshman duo of Lillian Clark (14.9 points per game) and Gabby Bassett (10.2 ppg).

Westfield has five seniors on the roster, and a junior Ellie Wheeler (7.3 ppg, 2.2 apg) at point guard, which provides the Rocks with depth and chemistry.

"We have leadership mixed in with our youth,

and our kids have really welcomed them," Steele said. "They want the ball in their hands. They want them to take shots, and that's what we want to be about here. We want unselfish basketball, and we want to share the ball."

The Rocks thrive on defense, allowing just 47.3 ppg, but offensively they are shooting 40 percent as a team (33 percent from 3-point) and are averaging 53.1 points scored per contest.

"We want to get a lot of shots up in practice, but we obviously spend a lot of time on defense, too," Steele said. "That's important to us. That's a cornerstone."

Mettle is another.

See Rocks . . . Page 11

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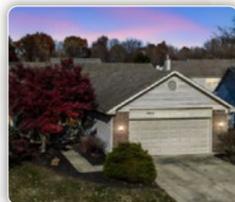
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Read about Hamilton Heights' girls basketball team in our Wednesday edition.

Boys Basketball

Carmel wins rivalry game at Westfield

The REPORTER

Carmel's boys kept their unbeaten season going on Saturday, Jan. 10 with a 75-69 win over county rival Westfield at the Shamrocks' CSI Gymnasium.

The Greyhounds led 21-20 after the first quarter, making five 3-pointers. Cash Daniels and Jamichael Fountain both drained two triples during that period. Westfield's Drew Haffner scored 10 points in the first, including a pair of 3s.

Carmel moved ahead in the second quarter to lead 42-35 at halftime. Adler Cole made two 3s during the period, while Daniels scored another five points.

Both teams added 16 points in the third period, so the Hounds led 58-51 going into the fourth. Evan Harrell scored eight points in the third. Haffner added nine points for the Shamrocks.

The game was a battle to the end, with Haffner pouring in 13 points in the fourth quarter, including a 5-of-5 effort from the free-throw line. Daniels scored 10 points in the fourth, throwing in two more 3-pointers.

Daniels finished the game with 26 points, six assists and four rebounds, making five 3s along the way. Harrell reached double-double status with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Fountain scored 11 points and collected four rebounds.

Haffner led all scorers with 33 points, draining four 3s and finishing 13 of 15 from the free-throw line. Brock Detamore and Ryan Hunsucker both scored 13 points, with Detamore pulling seven rebounds.

Carmel is 9-0 and hosts Plainfield on Friday.

On Friday, Jan. 9, Westfield won 72-44 at Yorktown.

The Shamrocks outscored the Tigers in each quarter, leading 33-24 at halftime. Westfield ran through the third period 20-5 to take further control



(ABOVE) Carmel's Cash Daniels makes a dunk during the Greyhounds' game at Westfield on Saturday, Jan. 10. Daniels scored 26 points. (BELOW) Westfield's Drew Haffner scored 33 points for the Shamrocks.

of the game.

Four Rocks players reached double-digit scoring; Haffner and Luke Vandegriff shared leader honors with 12 points each. Logan Sumpter and Detamore both had 10 points, while Graham Wilson scored nine.

Westfield is 6-4 and hosts Hamilton Southeastern Friday in a girls-boys Hoosier Crossroads Conference doubleheader.



Photos by Joshua Herd

IBCA boys basketball poll – Week of Jan. 11

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Fishers (21)	439	12-0
2	Crown Point (1)	414	10-0
3	Carmel	384	9-0
4	Pike	359	9-2
5	Silver Creek	347	14-1
6	Plainfield	342	12-1
7	Lawrence North	292	10-1
8	Mt. Vernon	289	11-2
9	Cathedral	243	8-3
10	Ben Davis	230	9-2
11	Northridge	201	10-1
12	New Albany	172	7-3
13	Homestead	130	8-2
14	Penn	129	8-2
15	Chesterton	122	10-2
16	South Bend St. Joseph	74	7-4
17	Noblesville	67	7-5
18	Northview	51	10-3
19	South Bend Riley	41	7-3
20	Columbia City	33	10-1

First place votes are in parentheses.

Other schools receiving votes, with records

Barr-Reeve (10-1), Blackhawk Christian (9-4), Centerville (11-1), Charlestown (7-5), Decatur Central (10-1), Evansville Bosse (6-3), Evansville North (9-2), Fort Wayne South Side (13-1), Goshen (9-0), Lawrence Central (4-7), New Haven (9-3), Oak Hill (10-0), Pendleton Heights (8-2), Portage (12-0), Parke Heritage (11-2), Shelbyville (10-2), South Bend Adams (10-0), Terre Haute North (8-3), Westfield (6-4), Westview (9-1), Zionsville (6-6), 21st Century Charter School – Gary (7-5).

IBCA girls basketball poll – Week of Jan. 11

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Warsaw (17)	434	18-1
2	Pike (5)	418	16-1
3	Center Grove	388	16-0
4	Homestead	385	15-3
5	Hamilton Southeastern	331	15-3
6	Lawrence Central	327	12-3
7	Valparaiso	298	15-2
8	Norwell	287	15-4
9	Pendleton Heights	253	14-3
10	Plainfield	234	14-5
11	Floyd Central	206	16-2
12	Bloomington South	175	13-3
13	Northridge	154	14-5
14	Brownsburg	116	9-7
15	Bellmont	103	15-1
16	Penn	95	16-3
17	Westfield	91	16-5
18	Roncalli	84	15-3
19	Evansville Reitz	74	13-2
20	Silver Creek	36	12-4

First place votes are in parentheses.

Other schools receiving votes, with records

Castle (13-4), Charlestown (14-3), Columbus North (14-4), Crown Point (14-3), East Central (16-2), Evansville Central (11-9), Fort Wayne Snider (13-5), Franklin Central (9-8), Franklin Community (12-6), Greensburg (13-5), Jennings County (13-4), McCutcheon (15-4), South Knox (14-3), Washington (15-4), Whitko (14-1).

WRESTLING

from Page 10

Williams went up 3-0 with the first takedown, but Pewarski got two penalty points, then reversed and scored four nearfall points before Williams escaped. That was all just in the first period, which finished with Pewarski ahead 8-4.

Pewarski began the second period on bottom and got two more penalty points. But Williams recovered and picked up four nearfall points, bringing her within 10-8 by the end of the period.

The third period started in the neutral position, and Williams quickly got a takedown and nearfall points to jump ahead 15-10. The two wrestlers traded reversals,

then Pewarski made another reversal and got two nearfall points before time ran out. The final score: Williams won 17-16.

Pewarski lost the third-place match to Seeger's Aubrey Bates by a 9-1 major decision. After receiving her ribbon, she reflected on the tournament.

"I'd day the main goal today was definitely, initially, just to qualify for state," said Pewarski. "But then the matches keep going and it becomes advancement, advancement and just working as hard as you can."

The state finals take place this Friday at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum.

ROCKS

from Page 10

MaKayla Hatcher (8.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg), a 5-foot-8 senior, along with 6-0 senior Audra Parker (7.0 ppg, 3.5 rpg) showcased theirs during Westfield's 61-39 win over 3A Hamilton Heights last Friday.

Both played roles in attempting to slow down Hamilton Heights Riley Suarez, a 6-1 freshman, who was averaging 24.0 ppg. Suarez finished with 19 points.

Parker also had 14 points, and Wheeler added nine to compliment Clark's game-high 22 and Bassett's 10.

"We just tell our kids to shoot with confidence, if they spend time in the gym getting shots up, and Lillian Clark spends a lot of time in the gym getting shots up," Steele said. "Lillian Clark is a hard worker, so every time she touches, we tell her to shoot with confidence."

The team's increasing self-assurance comes from

preparation and several hard-fought HCC wins to date.

The Rocks won 59-57 in overtime at Franklin Central on Nov. 29. They opened conference play with a 48-40 win against Fishers on Nov. 21 and won on the road at Zionsville, 51-46, on Dec. 12.

Westfield's 65-54 overtime win at Avon on Dec. 16, followed by a 46-32 victory at home against Noblesville on Dec. 20 has them knocking on the HCC door.

"Now, we've got to do our prep work, and we've got to prepare for two of the other best teams in the conference because we've done a good job up until this point," Steele said. "HSE is incredibly talented, but I think we have some toughness to us. We've shown that when our kids are locked in. When they're focused, we can compete with just about anybody that we play against. I'm excited about that matchup."

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Boys Basketball



(LEFT) Sheridan's Brielle Garner scored 12 points for the Blackhawks girls team during its 31-23 win over Tri-Central. (RIGHT) Devon Hamilton was one of 10 Sheridan boys players who scored during the Blackhawks' 81-30 win against Tri-Central.



Photos by Dwight Casler

Sheridan sweeps conference doubleheader

The REPORTER

The Sheridan basketball teams swept a Hoosier Heartland Conference doubleheader Friday, Jan. 9 at Tri-Central.

In the girls game, the Blackhawks won a defensive game 31-23. Sheridan blasted through the first quarter for a 15-7 lead. Sadie Timme scored eight points, while Brielle Garner made two 3-pointers for six points.

The Hawks stayed ahead in the second quarter and led

23-16 at halftime. The third period was the most defensive of all: the only points were scored by Sheridan's Lucy Marquis on a two-point basket. As a result, the Blackhawks led 25-16 going into the fourth and stayed in front the entire time.

Garner scored 12 points, including three 3s, while Timme had 11 points. The Sheridan girls are 3-1 in conference play and 8-8 overall, and continue HHC action tonight by hosting Carroll.

Sheridan's boys took further control of their conference destiny by overwhelming Tri-Central 81-30. The Hawks outscored the Trojans in each quarter, leading 29-9 after the first period and 48-19 at halftime. The Blackhawks ran through the second half 33-11, only allowing Tri-Central two points in the fourth quarter.

Ten different Sheridan players scored, starting with Trey Page. He made six 3-pointers on his way to 20

points. Jax Peerman drained a pair of 3s while scoring 17 points. Desh Donathan added 10 points and Devon Hamilton scored eight points.

The Blackhawks beat Rossville 61-46 in a home conference game on Saturday, Jan. 10. The win keeps Sheridan unbeaten in HHC play at 5-0 while improving its overall record to 8-1.

The Blackhawks play a non-conference game Friday at Lebanon.

Blazers win defensive slugfest

The REPORTER

The game was billed as a battle between the two highest scoring teams in Class 2A this season. The fans looking for fireworks at Covenant Christian Saturday evening came away disappointed as University won a 50-44 defensive slugfest over their Sectional 42 rivals.

Covenant Christian entered the game averaging 72.63 points per game (sixth overall in all classes) and University entered averaging 71.36 ppg (13th overall). University scored their second lowest point total of the season while holding

Covenant Christian to their lowest scoring output.

The game was tied at 39 after three quarters following a buzzer beating three pointer by the Blazers Faisal Mohamud from the top of the key. The Warriors scored the first five points of the fourth quarter on an Isaac Crane three pointer and two foul shots from Parker Williams. University's Faisal Mohamud made a game changing steal to spark the Blazers comeback. Mohamud passed ahead to a streaking Blake Gray who was fouled while making a layin. The Warriors were assessed a technical foul in the

aftermath of the foul call. Gray completed the three-point play and made one of two technical foul shots. University finished the six-point possession when Mohamud took the inbound pass and found Cooper Cammack for a layin and a 45-44 lead with 5:20 left.

The Blazers padded their lead with 4:20 left when Josh McGee made a steal, passed ahead to Mohamud who found Gray for a layin. The teams were scoreless for nearly four minutes before Gray made a steal with 41 seconds left. McGee added two free throws with 35 seconds left for a four-point

lead. University's defense forced Covenant Christian into a timeout with 10 seconds left. The Warriors were whistled for a moving screen on the inbound play. Gray added two foul shots to close the scoring.

Gray led University with 17 points. Josh Henderson and Mohamud each had nine with Cammack scoring eight. Williams had a game-high 20 to lead the Warriors while Crane scored 12 points.

University is 9-3 on the season. The Blazers are off until Saturday night when they host Mooresville Christian at The U Center.

Tigers cruise past St. Louis Ritter

The REPORTER

The Fishers boys stayed perfect for the season by beating St. Louis Cardinal Ritter 61-37 Saturday, Jan. 10 at the Highland (Ill.) Optimist Shootout.

The Tigers led 14-7 after one period, with Cooper Zachary and Kai McGrew both scoring five points. Fishers surged in the second quarter, pouring in 18 points for a 32-13 halftime lead. McGrew added eight more points in that period.

The third quarter was more of the same, as Fishers led 50-26 going into the fourth. McGrew scored seven more points in the third and made a free throw in the fourth period, so he scored in each quarter. McGrew finished with 21 points and was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

Zachary totaled 11 points, draining three 3s. Levi Walker and Ethan Hillsman both



Fishers' Kai McGrew was named the game's Most Valuable Player after the Tigers beat St. Louis Cardinal Ritter 61-37 at the Highland Optimist Shootout on Saturday, Jan. 10. McGrew scored 25 points.

finished with 10 points. Fishers is 12-0 and hosts

Brownburg Friday in a Hoosier Crossroads Con-

ference girls-boys doubleheader.

Huskies prevail over Northwestern

By CRAIG ADKINS

For The Reporter

Last Friday, Jan. 9, Hamilton Heights welcomed Northwestern in the first of two home games over the weekend.

The Huskies used a big second half to propel their second win in a row in a 66-56 win over the Tigers.

Heights held a slim 18-15 lead after one, but Northwestern pushed right back to overcome with a 14-10

second to lead 29-28 at halftime.

They got the breather that was needed at halftime. The Huskies scored 19 points in both the third and fourth quarters to outscore the Tigers 38-27 on the way

to a 10-point win.

Rees Knapp led all scorers with 24 points on 10-for-19 from the floor. Austin Day and Jackson Mikesell scored eight. Jack Kakasuleff and Will DeStefano both added seven.

besting the Tigers in overtime, 53-50.

Heights seemed to be in control from the opening tip, taking off from where they left off on Friday against Northwestern.

Leading 17-7 after one, it got a little more difficult.

Yorktown was able to score 28 to Heights' 17 in

the second and third periods to lead 35-34 heading to the fourth.

Hamilton Heights took the fourth 9-8 to tie it 43-43, forcing overtime.

Home court advantage took over in the extra frame as Heights outscored Yorktown 10-7 to hold off the Tigers.

Rees Knapp scored 20 to lead Heights. Jackson Mikesell and Gavin Lucchesi joined Knapp in double-figures with 10 apiece and Jack Kakasuleff pitched in with nine.

The Huskies (3-7) have a three-game winning streak heading into Friday's home game against Lapel (5-3).

Millers march into Marion & come home with win

By CRAIG ADKINS

For The Reporter

Last Friday, Jan. 9 the Miller boys basketball team paid a visit to historic Bill Green Arena at Marion. The Giants are one of the most successful teams in state history with eight state championships.

The Millers were able to escape Marion with a narrow 46-43 victory.

Noblesville led 17-15 at the end of the first, but Marion came charging back in the second with a 13-6 second to take a 28-23 halftime lead on their home court.

They were without the services of Valparaiso commit Justin Curry II for the second consecutive game, so it would be up to

Butler signee Baron Walker to lead the way.

The Giants narrowly took the third quarter 8-7 for a 36-30 advantage.

The fourth belonged to the Millers. They were able to hold Marion to just seven points in the final frame while scoring 16 to edge the Giants by a three-point margin.

Walker led all scorers with a game-high 24 points on 10-for-18 shooting and grabbed 11 rebounds.

Max Flanagan scored eight and Evan Magsamen seven.

Noblesville (7-5, 1-1 HCC) gets back to Hoosier Crossroads Conference action at Zionsville (6-6, 2-0 HCC) on Friday in the second game of the girls-boys doubleheader.

Girls Basketball

Blazers drop close game to Covenant Christian

The REPORTER

University's girls built a five-point halftime lead at Covenant Christian Saturday but scoring droughts to open the third and fourth quarters proved costly as the Trailblazers dropped a 39-36 decision.

University built a 17-12 halftime lead behind a strong defense, holding Covenant Christian scoreless for the last seven minutes of the second quarter. A Gabby Culp free throw put the Blazers ahead and baskets by Gabby Culp and Leah Norvell provided the halftime margin.

The Blazers did not score for the first 5:20 of the third quarter. Covenant Christian tied the game early in the fourth quarter but neither team scored for three minutes before the Warriors took a 20-17 lead. Gabby Culp broke University's scoring drought with a basket off a Mack Feeney assist before Norvell gave Univer-

sity their last lead at 21-20. The Warriors led 25-24 at the end of the third quarter.

A Sydney Culp foul shot was University's only scoring in the first four minutes of the final quarter as Covenant Christian built a 33-25 advantage after Gabby Culp fouled out with nearly seven minutes remaining. The Trailblazers battled back in the game. Nyla Blanding's three pointer and a three point play from Sydney Culp had the Blazers within 35-31 with 2:34 left. Sydney Culp made two foul shots and Norvell scored to cut the lead to one. After two Warrior foul shots with 4.7 seconds left the Blazers were unable to get off a potential game tying three pointer.

Norvell led University with 12 points. Gabby Culp had 11 and Sydney Culp nine.

University will carry an 8-9 record into Tuesday night's All County contest at Guerin Catholic.

Hounds cruise past Eagles

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

Carmel got off to a fast start on Saturday, Jan. 10 and used the momentum to pick up a 67-47 win over Heritage Christian on Bill Shepherd Court at the Eric Clark Activity Center.

The Greyhounds led 18-5 after the first quarter, with Sydney Bonds scoring eight of those points. Bella Ramsey added five points in the first, then drained a pair of 3-pointers in the second quarter. Bonds also contributed six points in the

second, helping Carmel to a 36-21 halftime lead.

The Hounds outscored the Eagles in each quarter of the game, adding 14 points in the third for a 46-29 lead. Ramsey scored six points in the third and four more in the fourth to finish with 22 points, making three triples along the way.

Bonds added 19 points. Catherine Bassi, still working her way back after an injury, reached double digits with 11 points.

Carmel is 8-8 and plays tonight at Pendleton Heights.

Men's Basketball

Boom announces schedule change for Jan. 19 game

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom, the NBA G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers, announced today that its upcoming MLK Day matchup against the Delaware Blue Coats on Monday, Jan. 19 has been rescheduled.

The game, originally set

for 7 p.m., will now tip off at 3 p.m. at The Arena at Innovation Mile. Doors will open at 2 p.m.

For single-game tickets, [click here](#).

Team updates are available at [Noblesville-Boom.com](#), and fans can stream every game live at [NBAGLeague.com](#).

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Jan. 13

BOYS WRESTLING

Guerin Catholic at Anderson, 6 p.m.
Pendleton Heights at Fishers, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Carroll at Sheridan, 6 p.m.
Carmel at Pendleton Heights, 7:30 p.m.
University at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
Western at Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.
Noblesville at Lafayette Jefferson, 7:45 p.m.

SWIMMING

Hamilton Heights at Western, 6 p.m.
University and North Central at Noblesville, 6 p.m.

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

Basketball



Reporter photo by Julie Brown

Guerin Catholic's Hayden Rogers came close to double-double status during the Golden Eagles' game at Bishop Chatard on Friday, Jan. 9. Rogers scored 13 points and dished out nine assists.

Golden Eagles split doubleheader with Chatard

The REPORTER

The Guerin Catholic basketball teams played a Circle City Conference doubleheader Friday, Jan. 9 at Bishop Chatard.

The girls game was first, and the Golden Eagles lost a tough game to the Trojans 56-50. Chatard led 15-10 after the first quarter and 28-21 at halftime, then maintained that margin during the second half.

Lorigrace Rockwood led Guerin Catholic with 14 points, while Lauren Keller added 11 points. Both players scored in each of the four quarters, making two 3-pointers along the way.

The GC girls are 0-2 in conference play and 11-7

overall; they host University tonight.

Guerin Catholic's boys broke out after a close first half and cruised past the Trojans 61-40 in their first conference game of the season.

The Golden Eagles outscored Chatard in each quarter, leading 15-13 after one quarter and 26-23 at halftime. GC held the Trojans to only six points in the third quarter and led 38-29 going into the fourth quarter. The Golden Eagles outscored Chatard 23-11 in that final period.

Jake Grissom scored 23 points, while Hayden Rogers added 13 points and dished out nine assists. Carter Murans and Andrew Reithman both collected five rebounds.

Guerin hands Heritage Christian second loss

By **CRAIG ADKINS**
For The Reporter

NOBLESVILLE – The atmosphere at The Nest on Saturday, Jan. 10 was quite the cheerful one. The competition cheer squad at Guerin Catholic hosted close to 100 youth at a clinic and then entertained the crowd at halftime of each game.

On the court, the Guerin boys basketball team gave Heritage Christian more than they bargained for, trouncing the visiting Eagles, 68-51.

Heritage Christian scored first on a three-point shot to go up 3-0. Three straight baskets from Jake Grissom and a pair from Carter Murans put Guerin up 6-3, a lead they wouldn't give back.

"A big focus of ours has been playing good basketball for 32 minutes," said Guerin Catholic head coach Sam Gardner. "I don't think we did that tonight. At the start of the season, we were playing good basketball for eight minutes and our results reflected that. Now, we're closer to 16 minutes of good basketball. So, the

goal by March is to be playing 32."

The Golden Eagles moved fast and their pace was that much quicker than HC's.

The second quarter was tighter with a slight GC edge at 16-15 for a halftime lead of 30-24.

The Eagles closed the gap in the third some, getting as close as down by four a couple of different times. The closest they got was cutting it to 40-38. But, that only fueled the fire for Guerin Catholic.

"I think one of the great things about this team this year is that we have multiple guys that can do multiple things," added Gardner. "Carter [Murans] was going early, played a great first quarter. Jake [Grissom] got going in the middle periods and when Jake got into foul trouble and Carter got slowed down a little bit, they caught on to some of our sets."

A couple of key field goals got Heritage Christian within two, but Hayden Rogers took it upon himself to lead the Golden Eagles.

Rogers scored the final six points of the third,

including a buzzer-beating three just beyond the halfcourt stripe, pushing it back to an eight point lead at 46-38.

"Then it was Hayden's turn to step up," Gardner said. "There's not a lot of selfishness on this team. We preach that and I think our guys really try to embody that when it's your time, it might be your time."

Guerin Catholic jumped to a double-digit lead just into the fourth. Murans swished a deep three from the left, followed by buckets from Will Bach and Rogers for a 53-40 score.

"Hayden [Rogers] gave great, great energy and I thought really turned the game around from a two-point game to the 17-point win. And that's attributable a lot to him," Gardner said

of Rogers' play.

Jack Linden grabbed an offensive board and put it in and followed it up taking a pass from Rogers for two straight scores and it was 57-42.

From that point, the Golden Eagles kept their defense up and staved off any comeback from Heritage Christian to beat the Eagles by 17.

Hayden Rogers led with a game-high 19 points and nine assists. Jake Grissom stayed solid with 17 and Carter Murans with 14.

Guerin Catholic (8-4) won the weekend. They also got a key Circle City Conference win at Bishop Chatard last Friday, 61-40.

The Golden Eagles stay home on Wednesday to play Crispus Attucks (5-4).

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