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THE HAMILTON COUNTY
REPORTER
 Your Hometown Newspaper

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly sunny.
 Tonight: Partly cloudy.



HIGH: 15 LOW: -5

Agape moving forward on planned expansion

Former Stony Creek Farm will help Agape reach "Beyond the Barn"

The REPORTER

Agape Therapeutic Riding Resources has selected Meyer Building as its construction partner for the development of its Stony Creek campus, an expansion that will serve as Agape's future headquarters and primary program site.

The Stony Creek project includes construction of two indoor, all-weather arenas, one outdoor/open-air arena, 24 horse stalls, a small animal barn for mini horses, a hay barn, maintenance barn, and a space for private boarding. In addition, Agape will renovate an historic 1800s-era barn to serve as an event and community gathering space.

Located in Noblesville, the 46.67-acre Stony Creek property, once the home of a popular harvest festival and cut-your-own Christmas tree lot,



Rendering provided

The land where Stony Creek Farm used to be was donated to Agape, and the total investment on the project amounts to \$14 million.

was generously donated by a longtime supporter who recognized Agape's growing need for space. Agape currently operates

out of its Cicero location, where demand exceeds capacity, with a waitlist of more than 200 individuals.

"This campus will allow us to expand our impact, serve

See Agape . . . Page 2

A teachable moment

Just out of college, I moved to Memphis, Tenn. Struggling to find work, I connected with a temporary agency. One assignment I received was a job as an assistant in a high school classroom.

My anxiety was high as the day approached. I was desperate to find work in my new city but had serious doubts going into this one.

Stepping into the hallways of a high school where I knew no one was about as terrifying of an experience as I could think of. My awkward gait often preceded my reputation. I feared being around kids because their filters were often not fully functioning.

I told myself I would not take offense no matter what I heard. Deep down, I knew there was no truth to that. I knew it would hurt like hell to hear unsolicited and brutal opinions about my body. It always did.

As I entered the classroom, I met the head teacher. He pointed me to my desk in the back of the room. The way he looked me up and down sent a chill throughout my body. It was as if his eyes were warning me to get the heck out of there.

I heard some giggles and comments as I limped my way back to my new desk. There were a few "what is wrong with her" remarks as I unsteadily made my way through the crowded desks.

I nervously began to set out my supplies. As I pulled open one of my desk drawers, I saw several cockroaches running around. I quickly shut the drawer and decided against putting my things inside the desk. That was too permanent a move for a temp anyway.

It was at the exact moment that I discovered I am deathly afraid of cockroaches. I almost fainted.

See Teachable . . . Page 2

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
 Disability in the City

Hamilton Heights Middle School launches Winter Guard Program



Photo provided

Hamilton Heights Middle School announces the formation of its first-ever competitive Winter Guard team. Under the direction of Hamilton Heights Color Guard Director Guy Groves, this talented group of students will represent the district in the Indiana High School Color Guard Association (IHSCGA) circuit this winter, showcasing their artistry, precision, and teamwork through choreographed performances set to music. Catch them in action at the following contests in February: DeKalb (Feb. 14), Brownsburg (Feb. 21), and Carroll (Feb. 28). Additional contest info can be found at ihscga.org. "We're excited to cheer on these young performers as they take the floor for their debut season," said Mark Snelson, HHSC Director of Bands. (ABOVE) Winter Guard members polish their routine in preparation for their debut season on the IHSCGA circuit next month.

Guerin Catholic Fine Arts to perform original musical

Submitted

St. Theodore Guerin High School announces that the first performance in the new Our Lady of Champion Fine Arts Center will take place at 7 p.m. March 6, 7, 13, and 14, and at 2 p.m. March 7 and 14.

Providence: A Love Story was written by Fine Arts Director Marcia Murphy to honor the school's patroness and intercessor, St. Theodore Guerin. The music was composed and arranged by Music Teacher Sarah May. This collaboration has also leaned heavily on Assistant Fine Arts Director Angie Goçur and Theatre Teacher Mike Panasuk.

The musical tells the story of two Sisters of Providence: St. Theodore Guerin (1798-1856) and Sister Theodosia Mug (1860-1943). Though they never met during their lifetimes, they were deeply connected through their shared love of God and unwavering trust in Providence.

Ellen Phillips, Sister Theodosia's mother, was a student of Mother Theodore during the 1850s, and Mother Theodore prepared her for her First Communion. Years later, Ellen sent her daughter, Theodosia, to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in Terre Haute, the school founded by Mother Theodore.

Theodosia eventually became a Sister of Providence and was appointed the official biographer of Mother Theodore Guerin. While compiling her manuscript, Sister Theodosia became the recipient of the first documented miracle attributed to St. Theodore Guerin.

Throughout the musical, audiences witness the challenges both women faced and how they continually chose to trust in Providence. The story is brought to life through beautiful music that captures both their struggles and their triumphs.

Murphy's inspiration for the show stems from her deep friendship with St. Theodore Guerin. Her desire to share this inspiring story – to encourage others to seek Mother Guerin as an intercessor and to let this saint's example guide their faith – is her ultimate desire.

Tickets are available at GuerinCatholic.org/fine-arts-events.

Learn history of Roberts Settlement at upcoming Westfield Rotary meeting

Submitted

The Rotary Club of Westfield invites you to a presentation at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 10 at the Bridgewater Club, 3535 E. 161st St., to hear from Bryan Glover, Vice President of the Board of Trustees for Roberts Settlement.

Meet Indiana's Black Pioneers

Seeking security and opportunity, those individuals who made Roberts Settlement home in 1835 set in motion a legacy of remarkable history and heritage that remains vibrant nearly two centuries later. Family descendants nurture this legacy as they walk in the footsteps of their Black Pioneer ancestors. Learn about the Legacy Walk.

Roberts Settlement is located at 3102 E. 276th St., Atlanta.



Photo provided



Reporter photo by Amy Adams



Roberts Chapel was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

TEACHABLE

I busied myself by carefully arranging a few supplies on top of the desk. As I went to set my bag on the floor a student warned, "I wouldn't put that there." Right about then I saw more roaches crawling along the edge of the room near my desk.

I smiled and thanked him for the warning.

On a normal basis I felt completely uncomfortable in my own skin. The position I was in, multiplied

that by a million. I wanted to escape from that room, from myself.

The bell rang and the teacher approached the front of the room. He introduced me as the temporary classroom assistant. He began his lesson and the students quickly became restless. There was a lot of talking and it was escalating in a concerning direction.

The next thing I knew, two students were arguing.

When they stood up to go towards each other, the teacher was understandably panicking. I knew it was not going to turn out well.

With my desk in the back of the room and all the student desks in front of me I felt trapped. Technically I wasn't alone. I had the roaches by my side.

The argument became physical and finally ended up on top of my desk! My carefully placed items flew

in all directions. I scooted my chair back as close to the wall as possible, but that was only a few inches.

It was an out-of-body experience. I knew I had nothing to give in that moment to stop the situation. My weakness was on full display. I could not protect myself or do anything to stop the fight happening just in front of me.

I imagined scenarios throughout my life when my weakness would hin-

der me from getting myself out of dangerous situations. This was not one of the imagined situations.

Finally, the teacher broke up the fight and sent the students to the principal's office. By the time lunch rolled around, I was still reeling from the events that had taken place since my arrival that morning.

Uncharacteristic of me, I broke the rules. I went against every ounce of people pleaser in me. I walked out of that school as quickly as my legs would take me, which was a snail's pace. A quick snail.

I told myself I would eat lunch in my car to regroup and then head back in and finish the day. Once I was in the safety of my car, I felt myself starting it and putting it in reverse. I told no one that I was leav-

from Page 1

ing. I felt immense guilt, but not enough to stop me.

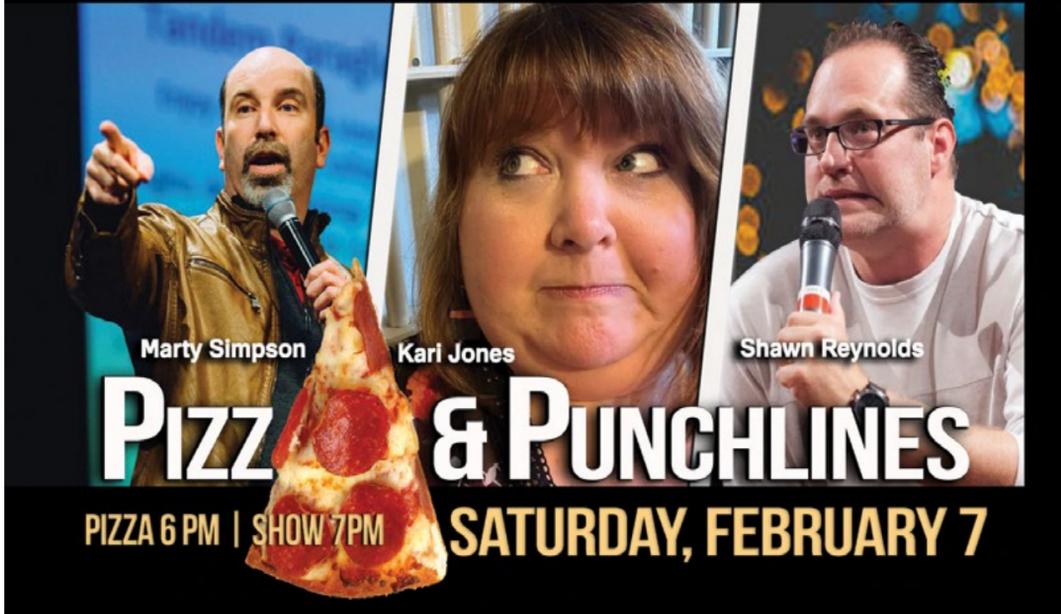
I made the generous decision to gift the roaches my pencil holder and other desks items.

From that point on, I started to speak up for myself at my work environments. It came slowly, but that was a turning point for me in realizing the importance of self-advocacy, in all areas of my life.

Until next time ...

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

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AGAPE

from Page 1

significantly more

individuals, and

provide a per-

manent home

where our hor-

ses and programs

can thrive year-

round," Agape

Executive Direc-

tor Denisse Jen-

sen said. "It's an investment

in our mission, our com-

munity, and the future of

Agape."

The total estimated in-

vestment for the Stony

Creek project is \$14 mil-

lion. Agape plans to break

ground on the hay barn

this spring as a part of the

relaunch of its Beyond the

Barn campaign, with addi-

tional construction phases

following as funding mile-

stones are reached.

Meyer Building was se-

lected for this project based

on its mission-aligned ap-

proach, experience with



Jensen

complex proj-

ects, and abili-

ty to deliver the

campus through

a thoughtful,

phased construc-

tion plan.

"Meyer

Building is hum-

bled and honored

to partner with Agape as

they embark upon the next

leg of their journey in de-

veloping the Stony Creek

property as their new home

in Noblesville," said Mat-

thew Gerber, Owner and

Business Development

Manager at Meyer Build-

ing. "We are committed to

providing physical build-

ings, but more importantly

to helping bring our part-

ner's vision to life."

For more information

about Agape Therapeutic

Riding Resources or the

Stony Creek project, visit

AgapeRiding.org.

Stony Creek church of Christ



We are a group of Christians doing our best to follow the Bible and nothing more. No outside organization(s). No man-made traditions. No man-made creeds. No additions or subtractions. Just hearts fully set on Jesus, His church, His word, and living His ways. We would LOVE for you to come join us! Please let us know if you are interested in having a personal Bible study.

WHY FOLLOW ONLY THE BIBLE?

CONSIDER ALL THE BIBLE CLAIMS ABOUT ITSELF! WE CANNOT BE ON THE FENCE ABOUT IT!

Divine origin, not human.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 SAYS IT IS GOD-BREATHED (INSPIRED).

2 PETER 1:20-21 SAYS WHILE MAN WROTE IT, THOSE MEN WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Divine authority and standard.

HEBREWS 4:12 SAYS IT IS LIVING, POWERFUL, AND WILL BE THE STANDARD TO WHICH WE MUST GIVE ACCOUNT.

JOHN 12:48 IS WHERE JESUS SAID HIS WORDS ARE THAT WHICH WILL JUDGE US IN THE LAST DAY.

Divine instructions that fully equip us.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 SAYS IT IS PROFITABLE FOR ALL THINGS & FULLY EQUIPS US FOR EVERY GOOD WORK GOD HAS ASKED OF US.

2 PETER 1:2 SAYS BY IT GOD HAS GIVEN TO US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS.

Divine truth, sufficient for salvation.

2 TIMOTHY 3:15 SAYS IT MAKES US WISE FOR SALVATION.

ROMANS 1:16 SAYS THE GOSPEL (GOD'S WORD) IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION.

JOHN 17:17 IS WHERE JESUS SAYS IT IS TRUTH AND BY IT GOD WILL SANCTIFY US.



15530 Herriman Blvd,
Noblesville, IN 46060

(BEHIND THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE AT THE STOP SIGN)



463-287-0664



speakingtruthinlove4.15@gmail.com

Our Assembly times:

Sunday Bible Study | 10:00 AM

Sunday Worship | 11:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 PM

In-Network Hospitals Should Use In-Network Doctors

When patients go to an in-network hospital, their doctors — and their bill — **should be in network, too.**

But hospitals are **cashing in on a billing loophole**, using costly out-of-network doctors when they shouldn't.

It's wrong, and it drives up healthcare costs for everyone — **like higher premiums and bigger tax bills.**

**Tell Hospitals:
Stop Using Out-of-Network
Doctors For In-Network Care.**

Learn more at
www.safeaffordablehealthcare.org

A large blue 'H' logo on a white building facade.A red sign with a white arrow pointing right and the word 'EMERGENCY' in white capital letters.A dark blue sign with a white arrow pointing right and the words 'South Entrance' in white.

Mail-order isn't a perk for Hoosier Veterans: it's survival

As an Indiana veteran, it matters when lawmakers listen to the people most affected by their decisions. By removing language from SB 173 that would have restricted mail-order pharmacy access, Indiana legislators made a smart, compassionate decision that protects veterans, seniors, and rural Hoosiers' access to essential medications.



GEORGE STAVROPOULOS

appointments through the VA. And that's before counting specialists, bloodwork, or follow-up procedures.

In addition, healthcare facilities in our rural communities are struggling to keep doors open and staff on the job, and the delays in care for rural residents, especially those who served, are already bad enough. Hundreds of thousands of Indiana households – more than a quarter of neighborhoods in our state – live in “pharmacy deserts,” where the nearest full-service pharmacy is more than 10 miles away. And in recent months, dozens of Indiana pharmacies closed their doors.

For veterans in rural communities across the

state, the burden of making costly trips to reach the medical facilities is heavy enough; what makes it manageable is being able to come home and have our prescriptions arrive by mail. What veterans and rural families need now is action that keeps doors open, preserves mail-order and specialty options, and makes it easier, not harder, for Hoosiers to get the medications they depend on.

The larger healthcare picture is just as troubling. Even if hospitals and clinics were abundant and easy to reach, 10.5 percent of Indiana adults already report not taking medicine as prescribed because of cost. Thirty-three counties lack hospitals that provide care to people expecting a child or services for someone in labor. These challenges are not minor inconveniences; they reflect long-standing

gaps in Indiana's healthcare system. That is why stripping language that could have effectively closed off mail-order and specialty pharmacy services was the right one – and lawmakers deserve credit for preventing a new barrier for veterans and rural families.

I commend the lawmakers who had the foresight to remove the mail-order provision from SB 173. Lowering healthcare costs is a worthy goal, but that language would not have cut costs on what Hoosiers pay for prescriptions; in fact, it would have made it harder for us to get the medications we depend on. Indiana can pursue real reforms that improve affordability and transparency without putting access to life-saving prescriptions at risk.

George Stavropoulos is a Vietnam War veteran and an active member of the Fishers Armed Services Commission. He has been awarded four Purple Hearts and the Silver Star in recognition of his distinguished service.

Noblesville to break ground on Embrace Downtown Project

Submitted

Noblesville officials will host a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, Feb. 2, to officially kick off the Embrace Downtown project. The multi-phase initiative will improve infrastructure, enhance pedestrian safety, and introduce beautification upgrades throughout downtown Noblesville.

The ceremony will feature remarks by Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen and Noblesville Councilor Megan Wiles. The ceremony will take place at 2 p.m., Monday, Feb. 2, at Syd's Fine Food and Spirits, 808 Logan St. The groundbreaking marks the start of construction on a long-term investment designed to create a more welcoming, accessible, and vibrant downtown for residents, visitors, and local businesses.

“Embrace Downtown represents an important step forward in preserving our historic downtown and embracing the future of our community,” said Nobles-

ville Mayor Chris Jensen. “This project will bring critical infrastructure improvements while supporting a safe, accessible area for people to shop, dine, and spend time downtown. We look forward to the positive impact this project will have for years to come.”

The first phase of the project will focus on underground infrastructure and streetscape improvements along Logan Street between Eighth Street and Ninth Street. Construction will be phased to minimize impacts on local businesses. Phase 1A construction will begin at the intersection of Eighth Street and Logan Street.

Access to businesses will remain available throughout the construction, and detours for vehicles and pedestrians will be clearly identified. Overall construction is anticipated to be complete in November 2026, weather dependent.

Visit EmbraceDowntownNoblesville.com to learn more about the project.

DESIGNER BAG BINGO!

THEME: THROUGH THE DECADES

- 14 FUNKADELIC ROUNDS OF BINGO
- GROOVY SIPS AT THE CASH BAR
- HEADS & TAILS SHOWDOWN
- DISCO-LICIOUS BUFFET
- CHANCE TO WIN A LOUIS VUITTON
- RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION

PRESENTED BY: **Paradigm Health**

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MARCH 19, 2026



Photos provided

(LEFT) Members Gloria DelGreco and Kari Disney tied the strips together to make into a ball. (RIGHT) Guest Gloria White cutting the bags into strips.

Altrusans help homeless of Hamilton County

By CAROL RADER
For The Reporter

The Altrusa Club of Hamilton County focused its January meeting on making sleeping mats for homeless people in Hamilton County.

All year, members of Altrusa and their friends collect plastic grocery bags to be made into sleeping mats. On special occasions and recently for our January meeting, we dedicate time to make these plastic bags into serviceable mats. The plastic bags are cut into strips and the strips are then attached together and rolled into balls. These balls are ready to crochet into six-foot mats that provide a more comfortable and warmer place than lying directly on a street or lawn. Member Brenna is crocheting the mats this month.

At our Feb. 9 meeting at MCL in Carmel, Omalara Makini will lead us in a conversation about human trafficking.

Anyone interested helping with this project or becoming a member of Altrusa



Photo provided

Just a few of the balls of strips ready for Brenna to crochet into six-foot mats.

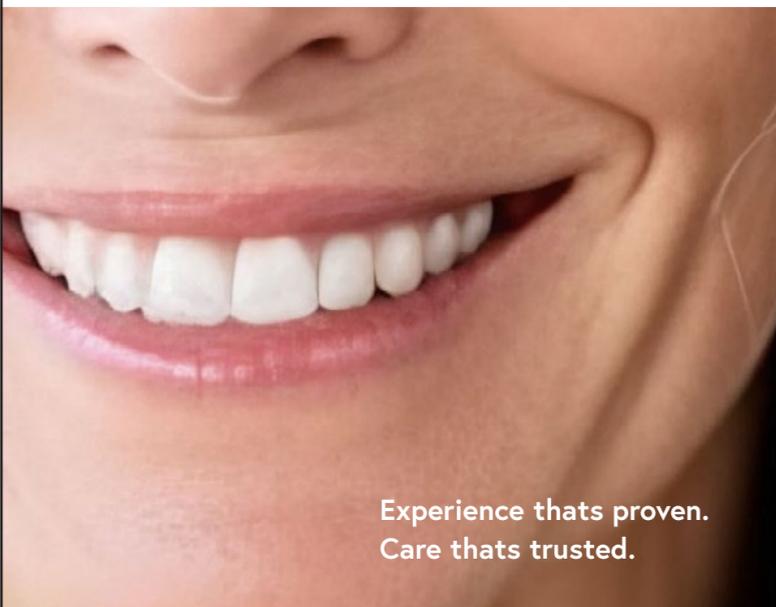
may contact Sharon by email at sharon@justnoteworthyevents.com.

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Chili Supper

Saturday, January 31

Serving from 4:30-7:30PM

Wayne - Fall Lions Club

11940 East 191st Street
Noblesville. At the intersection of 191st and Deshane Ave.

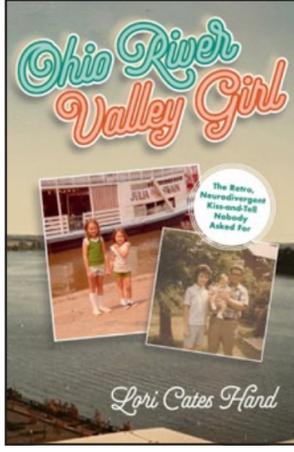
Serving Chili, Cornbread,
Dessert and Drink

All for a Free-Will Donation!

Hot Dogs will be available

Thank you for reading The Reporter!

Local author Lori Cates Hand gets warm reception for first book



Photos provided

Local debut author Lori Cates Hand presented a reading from her new book, *Ohio River Valley Girl*, at a launch party at Primeval Brewing on Jan. 15. More than 50 supporters gathered for the reading and book signing. The memoir, based on her experiences growing up in Evansville in the 1970s and '80s, is available online at [Barnes & Noble](#) and [Amazon](#), or directly from the author.

Community News

Mix & Mingle with local GOP women

Hamilton County Republican Women will hold their Mix & Mingle Social Event from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11 at Gaylor Electric Headquarters, 10405 Crosspoint Blvd., Indianapolis. Please use the entrance on the back side of the building.

Cost is free for members and sponsors; \$5 for guests. Refreshments will be provided. RSVP by Feb. 9 to hamcogopwomen@gmail.com. Bring a friend and win a prize!

Princess Ball tickets now on sale

Submitted by City of Noblesville

Noblesville Parks & Recreation announces that tickets are now on sale for the 2026 Princess Ball, taking place 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at the Embassy Suites Noblesville.

The Princess Ball is a cherished annual event that invites children and their special guests to enjoy an enchanting evening filled with music, dancing, crafts, desserts, and unforgettable memories in a fairytale setting. Attendees can look forward to themed décor, photo opportunities, and appearances from special royal guests throughout the evening.

"The Princess Ball is one of our most anticipated events each year," said Parker Irwin, Recreation

Manager for Noblesville Parks & Recreation. "It's a wonderful opportunity for families to create magical memories together, and we're excited to welcome the community back for another unforgettable night."

The event is proudly presented by the Noblesville Parks Foundation, whose support helps make this magical experience possible for families throughout the community.

Tickets are expected to sell quickly. Families are encouraged to **purchase tickets early** to ensure availability.

For more information about the Princess Ball or other Noblesville Parks & Recreation programs and events, visit noblesville.in.gov/parks or follow Noblesville Parks & Recreation on social media.

CCHA Law continues growth, welcomes business services & real estate attorney Josh Quandt

The REPORTER

Church Church Hittle and Antrim (CCHA Law) welcomes Josh Quandt as an Associate Attorney in the firm's Business Services and Real Estate practice groups. He will practice out of CCHA's Fort Wayne office.

"Josh brings a thoughtful, business-focused perspective to his work," Managing Partner Alex Pinegar said. "His experience advising businesses across a wide range of industries and sizes, from start-ups and closely held companies to nonprofit organizations and a large international, publicly traded corporation, as well as entrepreneurial-minded individuals. His practice centers on transactional and advisory matters, including business continuity planning, business formation, commercial transactions, contract drafting and negotiation, corporate governance, general corporate and business counseling, mergers and acquisitions, and real estate transactions."

Since graduating from Indiana University Maurer

School of Law in 2017, Quandt has focused his practice on advising businesses across a wide range of industries and sizes, from start-ups and closely held companies to nonprofit organizations and a large international, publicly traded corporation, as well as entrepreneurial-minded individuals. His practice centers on transactional and advisory matters, including business continuity planning, business formation, commercial transactions, contract drafting and negotiation, corporate governance, general corporate and business counseling, mergers and acquisitions, and real estate transactions.

Prior to joining CCHA, Quandt served clients as



Quandt

both external counsel and in-house counsel. Those experiences helped shape his practical, business-minded approach to the law. He is committed to being a trusted partner to his clients, taking the time to understand their priorities and delivering sensible, tailored legal solutions aligned with their goals.

Quandt earned his Juris Doctor from Indiana University Maurer School of Law and his Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University-Bloomington. He is admitted to practice law in Indiana and is a member of the Indiana State Bar Association, Allen County Bar Association, and Greater Fort Wayne Inc.

About Church Church Hittle + Antrim

Founded in 1880, CCHA Law is the oldest law firm in Hamilton County. As a full-service law firm, CCHA Law provides a myriad of legal services to clients across a wide variety of practice areas including: personal injury, business formation and representation, divorce and family law, estate planning and administration, collegiate sports, K-12 and higher education, complex litigation, governmental entity and municipal law, real estate law, criminal law, labor and employment law, mediation services and appellate litigation. CCHA Law serves clients across the country and has offices in Indiana in Noblesville, Fishers, Fort Wayne, Tip-ton, Crown Point, Westfield, and Zionsville. Learn more at cchalaw.com.

Thanks for reading The REPORTER!
For more news, visit ReadTheReporter.com

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HAMILTON COUNTY

Candidates who have filed for the May 5, 2026 Primary as of Tuesday, Jan. 27.

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

Steven Avitabile Avit (D)
J.D. Ford (D)
Scott A. King (R)
Jackson Franklin (D)
Dylan McKenna (D)
Todd Shelton (D)
*Victoria Spartz (R)

STATE SENATOR

District 21
*James (Jim) Buck (R)
Joseph Kazlas (D)
Tracey Powell (R)
Kirsten Root (D)
District 25
*Mike Gaskill (R)
District 29
V. Roni Ford (R)
David W. Greene, Sr. (D)
Demetrice Hicks (D)
Kristina Moorhead (D)
John Ruckelshaus (R)
District 31
Juanita Albright (R)
Tiffanie Ditlevson (R)
Kerry J. Forestal (D)
Travis Hankins (R)
Lasima O. Packet (D)
Catherine Torzewski (D)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 24
Racheal Bleicher (D)
*Hunter Smith (R)
District 29
Cumba 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 JUDGE

Superior Court No. 3
Chris Evans (R)
Amy B. Summerfield (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. Eyer
Superior Court No. 9
Christopher Barrows
Sarah Shields
Paul C. Sweeney

COUNTY ASSESSOR

*Kevin W. Poore (R)

COUNTY CLERK

Beth Sheller (R)

COUNTY CORONER

Brad Craig (R)
*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
Christopher Daniel (D)
*Tim Griffin (R)
District 2
*Amy Elizabeth Massillamany (R)
District 3
*Mark F. Hall (R)
District 4
*Ken Alexander (R)

ARCADIA TOWN COUNCIL

District 2
*Amanda Engle (R)

CICERO TOWN COUNCIL

At-Large (vote for 2)
*Joe Cox (R)
Harrison J. Massone (R)

SHERIDAN TOWN COUNCIL

At-Large
*Daniel A. Bragg (R)
*Michael Foote (R)
District 1
Garrett Gossard (R)
District 2
Heidi Kienholz (R)

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Clay Township
*Paul D. Hensel (R)
Delaware Township
*Deborah Debbie Driskell (R)
Fall Creek Township
*Doug Allman (R)
Jackson Township
*Robyn Cook (R)
Noblesville Township
*Theresa Caldwell (R)
Washington Township
*Jamie Goetz Mills (R)
Wayne Township
*Laura McNamara (R)
White River Township
Lisa Suzanne Flanders (R)

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER

Clay Township (vote for 3)
*Paul K. Bolin (R)
David Haboush (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)
Lynne Goodin (R)
Nicholas Edward Musselwhite (D)
Jackson Township (vote for 3)
Elizabeth Fouch (R)
Andre Maue (R)
*Jeffery S. Roberts (R)
Noblesville Township (vote for 3)
*Joe Arrowood (R)
Thomas (TJ) Houghtalen Jr. (R)
*Peggy R. Pfister (R)
*Mary Sue Rowland (R)
Washington Township (vote for 3)
*Jim Ake (R)
Bennie Britt (D)
Michael Cardwell (D)
*Danyele Easterhaus (R)
*Erica Strahm (R)
Wayne Township (vote for 3)
*Joy Sisson Kiskaden (R)
White River Township (vote for 3)
*John Dean (R)
*Edward Trent Gordon (R)
Brian Niec (R)
Jamie Rulon (R)

PRECINCT CMTE. – DEMOCRATS

Clay 12: Jessica Irvine
Clay 28: Edwin Russell
Clay 40: Mindi Epstein
Clay 47: Amber Davis
Clay 48: Beth Sprunger
Clay 49: Jessica Griffith Cortwright
Clay 51: Mark Taber
Clay 60: Elizabeth Stippler
Clay 68: Annette Gross
Delaware 19: Bill Stuart
Fall Creek 1: Barbara A. Jenkins
Fall Creek 23: Mary Dankoski
Fall Creek 24: Mani Subramaniam
Fall Creek 25: Jasmine Jackson
Fall Creek 33: Deetta Steinmetz
Jackson 6: Dorcia Bradley
Noblesville 2: Jeffrey Nickloy
Noblesville 18: Daryl Cobranchi
Noblesville 29: Brian S. Jonasen
Sheridan 1: Kirsten Root
Sheridan 3: Cheryl L. Popiela
Westfield 5: Axel J. Sundling
Westfield 8: Evelyn J. Davis
Westfield 10: Amy Christmas
Westfield 14: Andrew D. Kauffman
Westfield 20: Jacquelyn Grigg
Westfield 25: Bennie Britt
Westfield 33: Brandee L. Easterday
Westfield 34: Cheryl L. Austin
Westfield 35: Tracy M. Wheeler

STATE DELEGATE – DEMOCRATS

Adams Township (vote for 6)
Cheryl L. Popiela
Kirsten Root
Clay Township (vote for 40)
Amber Davis
Kirk Boller
Ben Boyce
James A. Grimes
Annette Gross
Jessica Irvine
Marcia Molenda
Zach Phillips
Stephen K. Ring
Susan Kelly Ring
David Rosenthal
Edwin Russell
Beth Sprunger
Elizabeth Stippler
Delaware Township (vote for 20)
Nancy Arce
Litsi Plonski
Bill Stuart
Fall Creek Township (vote for 20)
Patricia Trish Biggs
Samantha R. Chapman
Mary Dankoski
Sonia Ivy Fuller
Janis Kaye Hinchcliff
Amanda R. Slonaker
Deetta Steinmetz
Mani Subramaniam
Jackson Township (vote for 6)
Dorcia Bradley
John Bradley
Noblesville Township (vote for 20)
Angie K. Foreman
Christopher Hartig
Riley Issacs
Brian S. Jonasen
Sandra Kaufman Jonasen
Cumba Kebe
Debra Marcum
Joseph Marcum
Jeffrey Nickloy
Washington Township (vote for 20)
Cheryl L. Austin
Bennie Britt
Amy Christmas
Evelyn J. Davis
Brandee L. Easterday
Kirk King
Karen Klutze
Tracy M. Wheeler
Wayne Township (vote for 10)
Justin Canady-Flatt
Nocona Canady-Flatt

STATE DELEGATE – REPUBLICANS

Adams/Wayne (vote for 5)
Fredrick Fritz Good
Garrett M. Gossard
Joshua Pascoe
Tiffany Pascoe
Clay 1 (vote for 5)
Gary Duncan
Fred Glynn
Alexander T. Stencel
Clay 2 (vote for 5)
Paul Arbouw
Brad Craig
Thomas P. Dakich
Frederick Daniel Landis
Edison Gene Perry
Clay 3 (vote for 5)
Patricia Bratton
Robin Clark
Lisa Elmore
Diane Gomez
Rich Taylor
Clay 4 (vote for 5)
Rob Brown
Raju Chinthala
Robert Fulk
Carl Mills
Delaware 1 (vote for 5)
Rick Fain
Paul G. Nix
Matthew S. Rollins
Delaware 2 (vote for 5)
David Giffel
Wayne Nicodemus
Fall Creek 1 (vote for 5)
Tiffanie Ditlevson
Diane Eaton
Dawn Lang
Angela Morris
Fall Creek 2 (vote for 5)
Kevin W. Poore
Patricia (Trish) Poteet
Nathan Reitenour
Evan Woodruff
Fall Creek 3 (vote for 5)
Doug Allman
Shelly Allman
Mario Massillamany
Pete Peterson
Jackson/White River (vote for 5)
Ray Adler
Max Engling
Jamie Rulon
Noblesville 1 (vote for 5)
Trini Beaver
Kimberly A. Irvin
Darren Peterson
Karen Williams Pryor
Alaina Shonkwiler
Noblesville 2 (vote for 5)
Tim Berry
Ellen Cortrecht
Tim Cortrecht
Mike Davis
Lisa D. Hall
Mark F. Hall
Dana D. Webster
Noblesville 3 (vote for 5)
Laura Alerding
Susan Beckwith
Graham Louhead
Stu Rhodes
Beth Sheller
Martin Strother
Washington 1 (vote for 5)
Timothy Enyart
Washington 2 (vote for 5)
Matt Dooley
Richard (Rich) J. Hardcastle Jr.
Washington 3 (vote for 5)
Jim Ake
Nick Barbknecht
Lisa Marie Everling Baumgartner
Ron Mangus

Devon Wellington running for Indiana House of Representatives

Submitted

Democrat Devon Wellington of Noblesville recently announced her candidacy for the Indiana House District 29 seat.

"I am running because I believe every single Hoosier in District 29 deserves a representative who listens to their concerns and fights for their priorities," Wellington said. "I have listened, and the families of District 29 have made their priorities clear: they want a more affordable life, strong public schools, and real economic opportunities for themselves, their children,



Wellington

and future generations." Wellington, a Noblesville resident since 2023, is an educational policy advocate consultant and small business owner. She volunteers with her kids' school, on Noblesville school district boards, and with MadVoters. She and her husband, David, have one son and one daughter.

A campaign launch party is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 6 at Forest Park Lodge in Noblesville. For more information email info@votedevon.com or check out VoteDevon.com.

biology.

• Reagan Wilson of Noblesville, who is pursuing a degree in marketing.
• Isabelle Woodward of Carmel, who is pursuing a degree in entrepreneurship.
Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Three local students make Iowa State Dean's List

The REPORTER

More than 11,800 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the 2025 fall semester Dean's List.

Among them are three students from Hamilton County:

• Ella Case of Fishers, who is pursuing a degree in

TIPTON COUNTY

Candidates who have filed for the May 5, 2026 Primary Election as of Tuesday, Jan. 27.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 5TH DISTRICT

Steven Avitabile Avit (D)
J.D. Ford (D)
Scott A. King (R)
Jackson Franklin (D)
Todd Shelton (D)
*Victoria Spartz (R)

STATE SENATOR

District 21
*James (Jim) Buck (R)
Joseph Kazlas (D)
Tracey Powell (R)
Kirsten Root (D)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 38
Mark Hufford (R)
Nate Stout (D)
*Heath R. VanNatter (R)

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, 36TH DISTRICT

Matthew B. Quigley (R)

COUNTY ASSESSOR

Shannon Cassons (R)

COUNTY AUDITOR

Jon DeBaun (R)

COUNTY CLERK

Brent R. Baird (R)
Rhiannon Rhi Tansy (D)

COUNTY SHERIFF

Craig R. Henderson (R)
Matt Tebbe (D)

COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Justin K. Clouser (R)

COUNTY SURVEYOR

Jason R. Henderson (R)

COUNTY TREASURER

Christy Crawford (R)

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

District 1 (vote for 1)
Dennis L. Henderson (R)
Kirk D. Retherford (R)
Ken Ziegler (D)

COUNTY COUNCIL

District 2
Jim Purvis (R)
C.J. Taylor (R)
Matthew Terry (D)
Zack Timm (R)
District 3
Matthew L. Deckard (R)
Maureen A. Dougherty (D)
Janice L. Smith (R)
District 4
Chase Meyncke (D)
Mike Terry (R)

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Cicero Township
Amber R. McLearnan (R)
Jefferson Township
Jerry L. Larson (R)
Liberty Township
Paul Kingery (R)
Madison Township
Chuck Bell (R)
Wildcat Township
Amanda Tolle (R)

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER

Cicero Township (vote for 3)
Carla Good (R)
Jane F. Harper (R)
Janette Martin (D)
Steve Niblick (R)
George Sullivan-Davis (D)
Wildcat Township (vote for 3)
Carl R. Colbert (R)
Nicholas Grant (R)
Jeff Lacy (R)
Barry Tolle (R)

STATE DELEGATE – REPUBLICANS

At Large
Brent R. Baird
Michael Bollman

STATE DELEGATE – DEMOCRATS

At Large
Maureen A. Dougherty
Janette Martin
George Sullivan-Davis
Matthew Terry

PRECINCT CMTE. – DEMOCRATS

Cicero 2: Tom Frye
Cicero 3: Janette Martin
Cicero 4: Thomas Dolezal
Cicero 6: Matthew Terry
Cicero 7: George Sullivan-Davis
Liberty 1: Linda S. Smeltzer
Prairie 1: Maureen A. Dougherty

Hamilton County Reporter



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... and more readers!
Thank you, Hamilton County!

CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Candidates and potential candidates who wish to have their campaign announcements in the pages of The Reporter can email them to News@ReadTheReporter.com.

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

Deep from the heart of Texas

Ginny and Thomas never expected to live in Indiana, especially under these circumstances – to get a call like this one, learning they were to be guardians of their grandchildren, but understanding that it meant uprooting their lives and moving from Texas to Indiana.



MARK HALL
The Feeding Team Feature

so unexplainable, so diametrically opposed to logic or something so improbable that the only possible explanation is that it was divinely orchestrated. In other words, a “God Wink.”

They did this knowing that they had zero support system here in Hamilton County. No friends, no jobs, and no leads. They just had to be here for family, drawn here by circumstances, they packed up and headed north.

Every so often we get to see God wink. What I mean by that is that something

and third Thursday mornings of every month, Feeding Team opens our offices to the public from 10 a.m. to noon to give away groceries that aren’t available in any of the pantries. This includes produce and meat in addition to some of our normal food distributed. It is meals for a few days. While we promote this community service on social media and in local press media, it is still sparsely at-

tended. We average just a handful of families for each open pantry.

Ginny and Thomas just hit town the day before and coincidentally happened across The Feeding Team post about open pantry the next day. They described it as a Godsend, food to take care of them and their newly expanded family until they could get settled. I am merely reporting what happened. That said, the odds that complete strangers from one thousand miles away found a Feeding Team post, found the office, and secured groceries for their family, must be astronomical.

Welcome to Hamilton County, folks. You are going to be alright.

This is the challenge and the work: getting a

consistent food supply, distribution, and promotion to needy neighbors is not easily accomplished. It takes dozens of volunteers every month. To each reader, you too can easily be a part of the solution. It’s as easy as taking a can of spinach (or anything else for that matter) and putting it in a pantry near you. Simple, right? Anonymous neighbors, sometimes in town from Texas, are blessed by your generosity.

One last note: Ginny and Thomas are not these folks’ real names. We make it a policy not to ask questions or be nosy. In many cases, like this one, folks just want to say thank you and part of that means telling their story. Feeding Team is a no-questions-asked food source for anyone, regard-

less of your situation or story. We are here to help serve the community to the best of our abilities.

About FeedingTeam.org

More than 44,000 people in Hamilton County struggle with food needs. **FeedingTeam.org** is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit that offers outdoor, no-questions-asked food pantries that are open 24/7, all year long. These pantries help families who may not qualify for other programs but still need a few meals to get by.

We are so thankful for all the volunteers, hosts, donors, and sponsors who help us every day. We love serving our neighbors and seeing how your generosity changes lives. Hunger doesn’t always look the way people think it does,

FeedingTeam.org Facts
78 pantries
20,000 meals per month
Over 30 volunteer families

and every meal makes a big difference.

A simple can of food can mean everything to a parent who has nothing left to feed their kids. A few meals can change someone’s life.

If you’d like to help, there are many volunteer opportunities. We are also looking for new spots for future pantries. If you know a good location, please contact us.

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

Reviewer finds *St. Sebastian* to be uniquely modern American play

By **KELLYN MERRELL**
A Seat on the Aisle

That Other Theater Company’s *St. Sebastian* by Andrew Kramer is undoubtedly a product of our unique zeitgeist.

This play, which made its world debut in 2022, feels intensely connected to modern American thoughts and fears. Under direction by Jay Hemphill, three actors perform this 90-minute dark comedy which explores the relationship of a gay white couple who move into a black neighborhood.

Eric Olson plays Ben, a former priest, who convinces his partner Gideon, played by Joe Wagner, to move into a fixer-upper with him. Ben intends to flip the house, but fails to tell Gideon they are entering a historically black

area. Gideon is appalled, insisting that buying a home in a black space with the intention to fix it and sell for profit is how white people erode and replace the local culture. As Gideon tries to help Ben “not to be a gentrifier,” their ongoing argument about what it means to be part of the problem devolves as they each work to rationalize their own beliefs about what it takes to be decent.

Their complicated relationship is juxtaposed by Reuben, as portrayed by Jy’erre Jones, whose innocent playfulness serves as a reminder of how hope and lightheartedness can be a powerful tool in finding the strength to push forward when you fear a misstep.

Eric Olson’s performance as Ben was so natural, I liked his reactions just

as much as his lines. His work with Wagner in the beginning was effortlessly intimate, and their warmth toward each other onstage was outright infectious. His performance didn’t feel entirely relaxed at first, but I was very impressed with the myriad of complex feelings portrayed, his wounds so open I couldn’t help but sympathize.

Joe Wagner as Gideon was openly loving and vulnerable. Seeing him onstage with Olson felt like real representation, and at their best, I saw my own queer relationship reflected in their love for one another. Their pace was excellent and their banter was natural. Their movements felt authentic and they escalated so well together. Wagner’s heart-on-his-sleeve characterization always felt

unguarded and genuine. He has me convinced that he must fully understand the character in order to have played him so well. His openness and emotionalism was never overdone, but created the perfect opposition for Olson’s steadfastness.

Jy’erre Jones made Reuben feel like a real person, so much so that he reminded me of my own friend. He was passionate, effortlessly transitioning between playful and apprehensive. He was earnest, whether gesturing wildly, sharing his thoughts, or making a point. Jones’ work made for a truly moving monologue at the story’s end.

Lighting Designer Tim Dick did a great job, using the right amount of color during transitions, or between day and night. There were sub-

tle differences depending on mood, but the lights stayed simple while highlighting the actors. Sound Designer Ben Dobler also had believable end products, which went off exactly as needed without a hitch. Costume Designer Jacob Harris helped emphasize each character’s distinctive personality.

Director Jay Hemphill surely helped solidify the chemistry between the leads, which was marvelous. The two truly seemed drawn to each other. I also loved his use of space and touch in his blocking. I applaud the use of Intimacy Coordinator Chris Saunders, whose work in helping each touch feel loving and sincere really brought these moments close to my heart.

On a personal note, I felt bothered by race being the

plot device used to perpetuate an ongoing argument between white people, and I therefore have trouble endorsing it. The acting was wonderful, and this show is certainly thought-provoking, but I expected more from a play praised for intersectionality. This was definitely a show by a white person about white people. My thoughts are nuanced, but to avoid spoilers, I’ll end them there.

To enjoy the hard work of those involved, and their undoubtedly immersive payoff, please go to indyfringe.org for ticket information.

That Other Theatre Company’s *St. Sebastian* runs through Feb. 8 at the IF Theatre in Indianapolis.

Read more great play reviews from *A Seat on the Aisle* at asota.wordpress.com.



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Military Academy Nominations

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



US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

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

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East District Office: (765) 639-0671

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Twenty short films receive 44 Academy Award nominations

The REPORTER

Congrats to the 20 films – nine short films and 11 feature films – celebrated by Heartland Film that received 44 total Academy Award® Nominations.

With eight short film nominations, the Indy Shorts Film Festival programmed more short film Oscar® nominees than any other festival in the country. “The Singers” received their Oscar®-qualifying Narrative Grand Prize Award at the 2025 Indy Shorts Film Festival, as well as the festival's Narrative Audience Choice Award.

In October, the Heartland Film Festival showcased nine Oscar®-nominated films, including “Sentimental Value,” which is up for Best Picture and a total of

nine nominations. Three recipients of Heartland Film's Truly Moving Picture Award also received Oscar® nominations, including Best Picture nominee, “Hamnet.”

“Each year, Heartland Film reviews thousands of submissions across both of our festivals,” Greg Sorvig said. “From that wealth of creativity and talent, we shape programs designed to enrich, challenge and resonate with Hoosier audiences. When those films go on to earn Oscar® nominations, it's a thrilling reminder of why we do this work. Congratulations to all of the nominees, and here's to an unforgettable night on March 15!”

Click here for more information on the nominations.

Versiti calling on Indiana to help restore blood supply

Winter storm impact creates urgent need for donors

The REPORTER

The massive snow-storm may be over, but the winter weather left a serious gap in the local blood supply. In this short period, numerous blood drives and donation appointments were canceled due to weather and closures.

Unfortunately, blood cannot be stockpiled. When donations pause, local patients still need care for surgeries, trauma responses, cancer treatments and emergency transfusions.

Community call to action

The Versiti Blood Center of Indiana is calling on all Hoosiers, as soon as it is safe, to keep their appointments this week, reschedule, or sign up to donate. If you are healthy and able to donate, now is a powerful time to act.

Versiti's blood centers in Indiana are now open for donations. Donors can also check Versiti.org to find a mobile drive in their area that is still scheduled.

Hamilton County loca-

tions include:

- Carmel: 726 Adams St., Suite 150

- Fishers: 11005 Allisonville Road

Why you should donate

- Blood cannot be manufactured or stockpiled for long.

- Each day of lost collections puts a strain on the resources available for local patients.

- When severe weather keeps donors at home, the impact is felt immediately by local hospitals.

- Versiti serves more

than 80 hospitals across Indiana.

Anyone who signs up to donate blood with Versiti at its donor center through the rest of January will receive a \$25 e-gift card. Donors should enter the word FREEZE in the appointment notes when registering online.

To find a blood drive near you or to book an appointment, visit Versiti.org or call 1-800-632-4722. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcomed.

Tipton School Board Briefs: Jan. 13, 2026

Submitted by Tipton Community Schools

Tipton Community School Corporation Board Briefs is designed to share highlights from the most recent School Board of Trustees monthly meeting. Official minutes of each Board meeting are posted on the district website and are available for public viewing.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees is Feb. 10. School board meetings are conducted from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the TCSC Board Room at the Administrative Offices and are open to the public.

Tipton Mayor Kegan Schmicker was in attendance to present a proclamation recognizing January as School Board Appreciation Month, thanking the Board for its service and commitment to Tipton students and families.

The Board completed its annual reorganization. Nominations and votes were held for President, Vice President, and Secretary, following standard procedure. Robert Cochrane, II was named president, Jennifer Humrichous as Vice President, and Kimberly Fague as secretary. The Board also recommended the reappointment of Brook Cleaver as Treasurer and Dawn Benefiel as Executive Secretary. The Board voted to continue meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The Board recessed briefly to conduct its annual Board of Finance Meeting.

Blue Future Awards
TCSC Superintendent Dr. Ryan Glaze presented

this month's Blue Future awards to:

- Valerie Boyd, Erica Hawkins, Madison Holloway, Josh Ireland, Mara Isenhower, Jenna Smith, Na-Tasha Surface, and Ashley Winn: TES Kindergarten Team Praise from Indianapolis Children's Museum

- Diane Mast and Missy Henry: iLEARN Checkpoint 1 Opportunity 2

- THS Guidance Department, Staff, and Administration: THS Class of 2025 Graduation Rate of 100 percent

Superintendent Report

Dr. Glaze updated the Board on the following:

TES Playground Project

The district received a \$200,000 contribution from the Tipton County Foundation and paid a \$249,586 invoice covering turf and the final pieces of equipment. TESO is expected to provide an additional \$25,000 in the coming months. The only remaining project cost is labor for installation.

Auditorium Sound System Upgrade

The Board reviewed a \$66,146 quote from Sound of Music and has already paid a \$33,000 deposit. Installation will take place over the next few months, with completion expected before Spring Break and in time for the High School Musical. The project includes a new sound system and updated wireless microphones.

Reroof Project Update

Work on the auditorium roof is progressing, with only minor delays due to weather and the holiday period. The project remains ahead of schedule, and gutter and downspout installation is set to begin soon.

Student Scholarship Honors

He shared congratulations to seniors' Lillian Cloud, recipient of the 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship and the Myerly Scholars Josie Butler, Grant Day, Brogan Foerg, Alyssa Hoover, and Noah Walker, who earned five of the six Tipton County scholarships awarded for the Class of 2026. In addition, Dr. Glaze gave a short out to Girl's Wrestling Regional/State qualifiers: Ana-leigh Hood-(Regionals) and Emersyn Adkins (Regionals - Placing 2nd Overall) and a State Finalist for the Second Year.

Associate Superintendent Report

Associate Superintendent Scott Jaworski shared early Winter assessment results for grades K-2, the only grades still using the i-Ready Diagnostic following the state's transition to ILEARN Checkpoints in grades 3-8. Results for 2025-2026 show a strong start, with student growth in Reading and Math consistent with the district's stable four-year trend. Reading remains a relative strength, and Math – while lower overall – shows meaningful gains from Fall to Winter, suggesting instructional supports are taking hold. Spring data will offer a fuller picture, but early indicators point to steady growth and effective instructional systems.

Jaworski also summarized Veregy's preliminary Micro-Turbine Feasibility Study, which examined installing microturbine generators and capacitor banks to reduce long-term electric costs by producing a portion of the district's power on site. The \$2.95 million project is projected to generate more than \$5 million in savings over 20 years, with an estimated return on investment around year 14. While the long-term outlook is favorable, the upfront cost is not feasible at this time. Jaworski and CFO Brook Cleaver recommend revisiting the concept during a future bond cycle, when capital financing options may make the project more viable. For now, the study will serve as a planning tool as the district continues monitoring energy costs and long-term sustainability strategies.

Jaworski reported that first-semester attendance for 2025-2026 shows notable improvement across the district compared to the past two years. Districtwide, 79.2 percent of students met the 94 percent attendance benchmark, with stronger and more consistent patterns than typically seen heading into winter. Tipton Elementary posted the largest gains, with more than 80 percent of students meeting the benchmark – its strongest performance in three years and a sign of reduced chronic absenteeism. Tipton Middle School also improved, ending the semester at 80.5 percent following its strongest Quarter 1 in recent years.

Tipton High School's attendance remains more challenging, with 76.8 percent of students meeting the benchmark. However, the number of students with very low attendance (below 90 percent) is comparable to other buildings, suggesting the primary issue is consistency among students just shy of the benchmark. Districtwide average daily attendance remains strong at 95.8 percent, and fewer students are falling

below 90 percent. Overall, the first semester reflects steady, systemwide progress, with elementary and middle school gains driving improvement and high school attendance remaining a key focus.

Director of Food Service Report

Adam Proulx shared the Food Service Department is preparing for its upcoming State Department of Education Administrative Review, which will audit last year's operations and examine current practices. The team is awaiting confirmation of the inspection date. Efforts continue to fill the open high school kitchen position using the current applicant pool, which would bring the department to full staffing. The search for substitute workers also remains active, as there are currently no substitutes available.

Old Business

Second Reading and Adoption for Batch #10 of CCHA Board Policy, Administrative Guidelines, and Forms

The following new policies were presented for a second reading were approved as written. (G425) Pledge of Allegiance Moments of Silence, (G450) Advertising, Sponsorship, and Naming Rights, (G475) Prohibition of Unmanned Aircraft, (G500) Intellectual Property Ownership and Revenue, (H125) Corporation Support Organizations, (H150) Public Records, H175 Questioning of Students, and (H200) Relations with Special Interest Groups. Retired NEOLA Policies: Policy 8800, Policy 9700.01, Policy 7440.03, Policy 9211, Policy 8310, Policy 5540, and Policy 9700.

New Business

Mileage Reimbursement Rate for 2026 Approved

The Board approved updating TCSC's mileage reimbursement rate to 72.5 cents per mile, aligning with the new federal rate effective Jan. 1. The rate applies to employee travel for professional development and off-campus meetings.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

The Board reviewed and approved the annual Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements, as required by Indiana Code 35-44-1-1-4, submitted by Tami Brown, Andrea Campbell, Robert Cochrane, Jennifer Humrichous, Kim Fague, Beth Woelfert, and Eric Underwood.

Participation Fees to Support Transportation Costs Approved

The Board approved implementing participation fees to help offset transportation costs associated with SEA 1 (2025). The plan includes a Fixed Participation Fee for co-curricular and extracurricular activities beginning July 1, and a Field Trip Fee for curricular activities beginning Feb. 1.

RefReps Athletic Officiating Class Approved

To help address the statewide shortage of athletic officials, the Board approved offering a RefReps officiating course at THS for the second semester of 2025-2026. Eighteen students expressed interest. The course will be taught by Mr. Vester, with Mr. Leach supporting curriculum and certification questions.

Important Dates

- Feb. 9: Staff PD Day (No Students)
- Feb. 10: Monthly Board Meeting
- Feb. 16: President's Day (No School)



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BIDDING OPENS: Tuesday, Jan. 20th @ 11am
SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, Jan. 31st @ 6pm
PREVIEW DAY: Thursday, January 29th from Noon - 6pm
PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, February 2nd from Noon - 6pm
Tuesday, February 3rd from Noon - 6pm

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Indiana hospitals face mounting financial pressures as Medicaid shortfalls & rising costs threaten access to care

Submitted by Indiana Hospital Association

Indiana hospitals are facing a worsening financial outlook that threatens access to essential health services across the state, according to a **new analysis** prepared by Kaufman Hall for the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA).

The report reveals that Indiana hospitals continue to operate on razor thin margins – with a median operating margin of just 1.9 percent in 2025 through August, below the national median of 2.6 percent during that time. Meanwhile, operating income among Indiana hospitals fell 5.5 percent year-over-year, representing nearly \$50 million in diminished resources available to support patient care. Further, modeling shows a high probability of \$1 billion in annual losses for Indiana hospitals over the next three to five years.

“These findings make clear that Indiana hospitals are approaching a breaking point,” said Scott B. Tittle, president of the Indiana Hospital Association. “With the eighth-lowest Medicaid reimbursement rates in the nation and rapidly rising costs, hospitals simply do not have the tools they need to continue providing the level of care Hoosiers deserve. Without meaningful policy changes, more hospitals – particularly in rural communities – will be forced to scale back or eliminate essential services.

Rural services already in jeopardy

Indiana’s rural hospitals remain among the most financially vulnerable. Earlier this year, Greene County General Hospital was forced to shut down its obstetrics (OB) department – an essential service for families in the region – due to chronically inadequate reimbursement.

“We could no longer sustain the OB unit because Medicaid and commercial insurance pay so far below the actual cost of care,” said Brenda Reetz, CEO of Greene County General Hospital. “This was a heartbreaking decision for our community. No hospital wants to cut services, but when reimbursement fails to cover even basic operating costs, we are left with no choice.”

Medicaid shortfalls straining urban providers

For urban safety net hospitals, the financial challenges are equally severe, driven in large part by Medicaid underpayment and shifts in payer mix.

“At Methodist Hospitals, Medicare and Medicaid make up 80 percent of our payer mix, and the reimbursement simply does not match the cost of providing care,” said Matt Doyle, president and CEO of Methodist Hospitals. “Our mission is to provide high quality health care to all those in need, but as more patients move into government coverage programs or go uninsured due to gaps in coverage, hospitals like ours struggle to maintain the level of services our communities rely on.”

Rising costs outpacing revenue

The Kaufman Hall analysis shows expenses increased by 4.7 percent for Indiana hospitals in 2025, outpacing revenue growth of 4 percent. Labor expenses alone rose 4.2 percent, even after hospitals reduced reliance on more expensive contract labor by nearly 50 percent. Nonlabor expenses – including medical supplies and purchased services – also grew significantly.

“This report reflects what our teams see every day,” said Dr. Patrick McGill, president and CEO of

Community Health Network. “We’re caring for patients with increasingly complex needs, as we face continued financial pressure. Over time, that limits our ability to invest, grow services, and retain caregivers. What’s at risk is our ability to provide access to care for the communities we serve.”

Emergency department visits surge, adding pressure, not relief

Indiana emergency department (ED) visits grew 16.8 percent in 2025, far exceeding the national average of 1.4 percent, according to the report.

Even with high patient demand, many hospitals are still operating at a loss. This increase represents a major financial strain for hospitals because ED care is extremely resource intensive and costly to provide – requiring high staffing levels, complex clinical capabilities, and absorbing a disproportionate share of uninsured and underinsured patients.

“We were the busiest we have ever been last year – and we still ended up with a negative margin,” said Mike Schroyer, president of Baptist Health Floyd. “That is not sustainable. Hospitals cannot continue absorbing these losses year after year. Legislative reform is urgently needed to ensure we can continue meeting the needs of our patients and our communities.”

Indiana hospitals continue prioritizing patient affordability

Despite these challenges, Indiana hospitals continue prioritizing efforts to make care more affordable. According to the report, hospitals in Indiana provide more charity care than the national average, demonstrating a strong commitment to ensuring patients can access needed services regardless of their ability to pay.

Simulation modeling shows severe risks ahead

To better understand future risks, Kaufman Hall conducted simulation modeling examining likely financial scenarios for Indiana hospitals over the next three to five years. The results show a high probability of more than \$1 billion in annual losses for hospitals statewide, driven by continued underpayment, shifts toward government payer programs, and rising costs. Under the most likely scenarios, Indiana hospital operating margins are projected to fall to -3 percent, pushing many hospitals into severe financial strain.

These projections illustrate that, without intervention, Indiana hospitals will face increasingly untenable conditions – leading to further service reductions, workforce cuts, and potential consolidations.

Urgent need for legislative action

IHA is calling on state and federal lawmakers to address the systemic challenges facing hospitals by:

- Modernizing Medicaid reimbursement rates
- Reducing administrative burdens and insurer-imposed delays and denials
- Ensuring hospitals can continue providing essential services, particularly in rural areas
- Supporting financial stability to prevent hospital closures and service reductions

“Indiana hospitals have demonstrated remarkable resilience, but resilience alone cannot fix a fundamentally unsustainable financial environment,” Tittle said. “We stand ready to work with our state and federal policymakers on solutions that will protect access to care for all Hoosiers.”

Letter to the Editor

Does anyone have a real solution to violence around ICE protests?

Dear Editor:

Well, it’s really hit the fan now ... I’m talking about the dire Minneapolis situation, of course.

The deaths of two U.S. citizens as they protested against ICE operations have put a different face on the ICE agents’ presence, as well as on the protests themselves. Talk about Separate Realities.

The latest incident, the shooting of a man who lost a frenzied fight on the street with ICE and Border Patrol agents, was video-taped from more angles than we see in an NFL replay. I have seen many of them and read the differing interpretations. There is no consensus. More views are set to come out as they break down the officers’ body cam shots.

As it is, one side says he was murdered, another side says he was armed and had intentions of his own. It re-

ally does not matter which is true – the damage is done, and the resulting stand-off makes for even more trouble than before. It’s a really messy fan.

So – one solution to the conundrum that is offered is for ICE to leave town, just as the protesters have been crying, shouting, and chanting for. This, of course, would give victory to the unruly mob and would encourage more of the same in other places.

Another solution would be for the Minnesota governor and the Minneapolis mayor to cooperate and give aid to the ICE process, stopping protection of the ICE targets. This would be political suicide for those leaders and a victory for the Administration.

It seems the deadlock is purely political in nature and propaganda flies in from all corners. *The View* expounds their version of the incident, *The Five* expounds theirs. Neither is

strictly the truth.

Now, Tom Homan, the so-called “Border Czar,” has taken over the direction of the MN operation and is expected to bring order and perhaps a different strategy to the admin side of things. The governor and mayor have spoken with the President and are said to seek to have things become calmer, if possible – although they still seem to want to stir the passions of the people on the street.

Now, we learn of a third faction, a Socialist leaning organizer who uses social media to rally the troops to various hot-spot locations and to target the agents in a personal manner. It is all completely out of control. It is not unlike a war.

So, who is going to clean the fan? It doesn’t look very promising.

Morris Bedlam
Noblesville

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

Go beyond the stage at Carmel’s Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts

The REPORTER

Brrrrrr! Frosty weather getting you down? Now’s the time to think warm thoughts and make plans for you and your loved ones to enjoy upcoming opportunities at Allied Solutions Center.

Not too early to pick a summer camp

The Prism Project, our annual performing arts day camp for youth with physical, sensory and cognitive

disabilities, is marking its fourth year on campus by doubling in size to meet growing demand. With sessions set for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from May 27 through June 19, the 2026 edition will offer a choice of morning or afternoon sessions. The culminating performances, built around the performers’ specific talents and interests, will take place June 20 in the Studio Theater.

Be a Buddy! Each Prism Project participant is assigned an official Buddy who provides one-on-one support and encouragement during the camp, which is a great opportunity for anyone 16 and older who wants to serve their community and/or gain experience working with people. Ball State University students can even earn academic credit. And this year, funding is available to pay the previously

all-volunteer Buddies for their time and effort! Interested parties should drop an email to Outreach@TheCenterPresents.org.

Special thanks to Prism Project sponsor American Structurepoint and the generous donors and grantors who support this program.

[Click here](#) to register.

Also on tap this summer

See *Arts* . . . Page 10

Thanks for reading
The Reporter!



THANK YOU TO OUR MEDIA SPONSOR!

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

FIRE FROM THE LORD

Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the Lord and the fire died down. So that place was called Taberah, because fire from the Lord had burned among them.

QUAIL FROM THE LORD

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a hand mill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into loaves. And it tasted like something made with olive oil. When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down.

Numbers 11:1-9 (NIV)

Paul J. Lund
July 18, 1931 – January 16, 2026

Paul J. Lund, 94, formerly of Herscher, Ill., passed away following a short illness at Majestic Care of Carmel on Friday, January 16, 2026. He was born on July 18, 1931, in rural Gardner, Ill., to the late Theodor and Maren Lund.

While in high school, Paul played the accordion throughout the central Illinois area. After graduating from Dwight High School, he enlisted in the Navy. He served from 1951 to 1955 in the Medical Corps at Naval bases in Honolulu, Hawaii, Bremerton, Wash., and Astoria, Ore. While in the Navy, he met his future wife, Arlene Metzger, who also was serving in the Navy at the time. They were married on September 4, 1954, and were married just short of 65 years.

Paul worked in sales and service for 15 years at Hendrix in Herscher, 12 years at Home Appliance in Kankakee, and 15 years at Bade Appliance in Bradley. He served 41 years as Pilot Township Clerk, helped organize the Herscher Townhouses senior citizens complex on South Main Street and was a former president of the townhouse board, served 15 years as a member, and former president of the Herscher Chamber of Commerce, served 12 years on the Trinity Lutheran Church Council, former treasurer of the Herscher Sanitary District, was the Grand Marshal for the 2009 Labor Day parade and for 51 years he was part of the "Before Sunrise Cleanup Crew" at the village park following the Labor Day festivities.

Upon retirement, Paul worked on the grounds at the village park, enjoyed winters in Arizona and gardening. He was a certified Master Gardener through the University of Illinois, an active member of the Herscher Area Historical Society and the Central Illinois Green Club. In 2016 he and his wife traveled to Washington, D.C., as participants in the Indy Honor Flight program for veterans. In recent years he enjoyed an active life in his 55 and older community in Noblesville with family and friends.

Survivors include his daughter, Marina (Dan) Papineau of Westfield; son, Steven Lund of Lafayette, Ind.; grandson, Brendon (Trista) Papineau of Troy, Ill.; granddaughter, Brianne (Mark) Ellison of Westfield, Ind.; great-grandchildren, Violet, Lillian, and Liam Ellison; and Analee and Liam Borah; brothers, Henry Lund and Harold (Bev) Lund both of Dwight, Ill.; and several nieces and nephews.

Paul is preceded in death by his wife, Arlene; brother and sister-in-law, Francis and Dorothy Lund; and his sisters-in-law, Edith Lund, Dorothy Edens, and Darlene Lotspeich. Visitation will be at 10 a.m. Monday, February 9, with the memorial service starting at 11 a.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 4283 E. 191st St., Westfield.

The second visitation will be at 1 p.m. Friday, February 27, with the memorial service starting at 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 255 E. 3rd St., Herscher, Ill. Burial with military honors will follow at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery in Herscher.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Herscher American Legion, 102 S. Oak St., Herscher, IL 60941. Randall and Roberts Funeral Homes, Noblesville, Ind., has been entrusted with the arrangements. Condolences: randallroberts.com



ARTS

from Page 9

is the ever-popular Jungle Jams music camp for children ages 5 to 7, returning July 20 to 24 with daily sessions from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Led as always by friendly and energetic instructor "Miss Lisa" Colleen, the kids will sing, dance, play instruments and construct their own sound-making devices, meanwhile building self-esteem and a sense of community. On the closing Friday, grownups can join their campers in a big, noisy drum circle, which is even more fun than it sounds.

Registration will open in February. If you have questions in the meantime, feel free to ask them at (317) 819-3516 or Outreach@TheCenterPresents.org.

Folk music for wee folks

American folk music is a unique mix of traditions from around the world, and Traveler's Dream – the musical duo of Michael Lewis and Denise Wilson – has been roaming that territory for over 20 years with rich voices, engaging personalities and a wide variety of folk instruments. Bring the kids to the Studio Theater on Feb. 21 for our next Peanut Butter & Jam session, an interactive morning sing-along of timeless tunes.

Admission is just \$10 per child (ages 1 to 7), including free admission for two adults, so **grab them while you can** for this Musical Journey to Early America.

Lighting up the arts

Every other month on

a Tuesday afternoon, we bring in a thoughtful and creative guest speaker to share perspectives on arts and culture for a series called Luminaries.

The January gathering at 2 p.m. this coming Tuesday features globetrotting motivational comedian Kevin Wanzer, sharing stories, poetry and humor in a program titled **Choose to Love and the Art of Storytelling**.

Coming up March 24, musician, educator and publicist Ron Kadish will present **The Roots of Rock 'n' Roll**, a discussion of the pre-British Invasion pioneers who blended American musical traditions to create a homegrown but world-changing art form.

Bookies to probe art, history & political intrigue

Our reading club for grownups, the Palladium Bookies, meets at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 9 to discuss *Booth* by Karen Joy Fowler, a look at the famous 19th century theatrical family that spawned a presidential assassin.

That should give you plenty of time to score a copy and join the free and friendly conversation. But if not, you can look ahead to April 13, when the Bookies' topic will be *The Queen's Musician* by Martha Jean Johnson. The 2025 novel imagines the life of Mark Smeaton, a 16th-century rock star executed by Henry VIII for his alleged dalliance with Anne Boleyn.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Palladium Bookies.

Meeting Notice

The Carmel Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Hearing Officer meeting at 5 p.m. and a regular meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square. The meetings were originally scheduled for Monday, Jan. 26.

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

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



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18826 LONG WALK LANE
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REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

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

NFL Flag Championships heads to Westfield this July

3rd annual event coming to Droplight Grand Park Sports Campus

The REPORTER

The NFL announced on Tuesday that the third annual NFL Flag Championships Presented by Toyota will move to Westfield from July 23 to 26, 2026, with the championship games scheduled for Sunday, July 26. Operated by RCX Sports, this year's event will take place at the Droplight Grand Park Sports Campus, a 400-plus-acre sports complex featuring more than 30 multi-purpose fields in the Indianapolis metro area.

The NFL Flag Championships are the largest youth flag football tournament in the world, and this year's event marks the biggest iteration yet, with more than 350 girls and boys teams from across the globe participating. The tournament has quickly become the premier stage for youth athletes to compete at the highest level, showcasing the growing popularity and international reach of flag football.

ESPN will once again provide live coverage of the tournament, bringing the ex-

citement of youth flag football to fans everywhere. Starting Friday, July 24, through the championship games on Sunday, July 26, games will be available on ESPN, ESPN2, ABC, ESPN Deportes and NFL+, with select games also available on Disney+, Disney Channel, Disney XD, the ESPN App and ESPN on YouTube. Games will also be available in select international markets.

"As the nation's largest and preeminent youth sports campus in the country, we are thrilled to have been selected by the NFL for this world-class event," explained Greg Stremlaw, Co-Chief Executive Officer of Grand Park Sports & Entertainment. "As the operator of the campus, it has been a key objective of ours to diversify our sport base and we are investing significantly into flag football in multiple ways as part of a multi-faceted flag football vision. One of those objectives was to see the NFL Flag Football Championships make Grand Park home in a multi-year



Graphic provided

partnership with the NFL."

The move to Indiana continues the NFL's storied history with the region, which has hosted numerous marquee league events. Home to the Indianapolis Colts and the annual NFL Scouting Combine, the area has long been a hub for football innovation and talent development. Its world-class facilities and passionate fan base make it the perfect backdrop for the NFL Flag Championships, continuing the tradition of bringing the tournament to communities that live and breathe football.

"Hamilton County, In-

diana, has built a reputation as a destination where champions play, and we are certain that this NFL Flag Championship at Droplight Grand Park Sports Campus will be one to remember," said Hamilton County Tourism President & CEO Karen Radcliff. "Our team looks forward to welcoming these world-class athletes to Hamilton County, thanks to collaborative efforts by our affiliate the Hamilton County Sports Authority and our partners throughout the region."

See Flag . . . Page 12

Weather postponements

The REPORTER

All Tuesday basketball games were canceled or postponed because of the winter storm.

In girls basketball, Carmel will host Cathedral tonight, while Westfield plays at Ben Davis tonight. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.

Noblesville's game at Anderson will take place at noon Saturday, with Sher-

idan's Hoosier Heartland Conference game at Clinton Central set for 1 p.m. Saturday. The Blackhawks' game with Seeger that was scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 24 was canceled and will not be made up.

Hamilton Southeastern's boys game with Muncie Central takes place tonight at 7:30 p.m. The girls game with Pike was canceled and will not be made up.

Girls Basketball Rocks fall to Brownsburg

The REPORTER

The Westfield girls basketball team dropped a 60-52 Hoosier Crossroads Conference game at Brownsburg on Friday, Jan. 23.

The Shamrocks led 10-6 after one quarter. The Bulldogs jumped ahead in the second quarter, scoring 21 points to lead 27-23 at halftime.

Brownsburg extended its lead after three periods, going up 44-36. MaKayla Hatcher helped keep Westfield close with eight points in the third.

Both teams scored 16 points in the fourth.

Freshman Lillian Clark scored 15 points to lead Westfield. Gabby Bassett, another freshman, joined Hatcher in scoring 11 points for the game. Both Clark and Bassett made three 3-pointers.

The Rocks finished HCC play with a 5-2 record. Westfield is 16-7 and plays at Ben Davis tonight; the game was originally scheduled for Tuesday but was postponed due to the winter storm.

Boys Wrestling Hawks compete at HHC meet

The REPORTER

The Sheridan boys wrestling team finished its regular season by competing in the Hoosier Heartland Conference meet Saturday, Jan. 24 at Delphi.

The Blackhawks scored 85.5 points to finish in eighth place. Sheridan had eight place winners out of its 11 competitors at the meet.

Two Blackhawks placed third in their weight classes: Parker Cravens at 157 pounds and Alex Cravens at 165. Eli Bales finished fourth at 175, while Brody McKinney took fourth at 285.

Four additional Sheridan wrestlers finished sixth: Camdyn Vespa at 120, Treyton Bogus at 132, Gabriel Snider at 150 and Oscar Obst at 190.

Women's Volleyball

Indy Ignite off to good start

The REPORTER

The second season of the Indy Ignite is off to a good start.

The Ignite, members of Major League Volleyball, won their first three matches of the season before falling to the Omaha Supernovas 3-1 on Saturday, Jan. 24. The Ignite are hoping for a repeat of last season where they made the MLV playoffs in their inaugural season.

Indy began the season Jan. 10 with a 3-1 victory over the Dallas Pulse. The set scores were 25-27, 27-25, 26-24, 25-20. Azhani Taler led offensively and defensively with 19 kills and 16 digs.

Lektor Member-Meneh also hit 10 kills and collected 10 digs. Libero Elena Scott made 13 digs. Mia Tuaniga handed out 32 assists, followed by 14 assists from Ainise Havili. Emoni Bush made three blocks.

Fighting off Fury

The Ignite played the Columbus Fury on Jan. 17 and won a five-set match, 25-23, 24-26, 25-18, 22-25, 22-20. The match took 2 hours, 46 minutes to complete.

Indy put down 73 kills as a team, with Member-Meneh hitting 23. Anna DeBeer hit 21 kills; they were joined in double digits by Tealer with 12 kills and Lydia Martyn with 10.

Scott scooped up 15 digs, with Martyn making 11 digs and 11 blocks. Tuaniga handed out 61 assists.

The Ignite won those first two matches on the road, and they went back on the road Jan. 22 to face the Orlando Valkyries. Indy won that match in four sets, 25-18, 23-25, 27-25, 25-18.

Balanced offense

Kayla Lund was the hitting leader in that match, spiking 14 kills. Bush was



Photos by Justin Sicking

(ABOVE LEFT) Azhani Tealer hit 16 kills for the Ignite against the Supernovas. (TOP RIGHT) Lektor Member-Meneh hit 50 kills over the Indy Ignite's first four matches, including 23 in Indy's win over the Columbus Fury and 12 in the Ignite's home opener against the Omaha Supernovas (pictured). (ABOVE RIGHT) Lydia Martyn had 11 digs and 11 blocks during the Ignite's win over the Fury. She made another block against the Supernovas (pictured), giving her 12 for the season.

next with 13, while Tealer was part of the balanced offense with 10 kills. Havili dished out 31 assists and Tuaniga handed out 28.

Lund also led the defense with 13 digs. Blake Mohler made six blocks.

Indy finally played its first home match Saturday, Jan. 24 when the Ignite hosted the Omaha Supernovas. Omaha won the match in four sets, 23-25, 25-22, 25-16, 25-23.

Tealer led the offense with 16 kills, while Member-Meneh hit 12 kills and DeBeer spiked 11. Tuaniga dished out 46 assists.

Scott collected 15 digs, while DeBeer scooped up 14 and Member-Meneh made 10 digs. Tealer also had four blocks.

The Ignite will play their next three matches at home. Indy hosts the Atlanta Vibe on Thursday, then has a re-

match with Dallas on Saturday, Jan. 31. The Ignite finish their homestand on

Friday, Feb. 6 with a match against the Grand Rapids Rise.

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Oscar Mayer Wienie 500 returns for second year with sizzling new twist

Submitted by IMS

The meatiest race in motorsports is officially back!

Oscar Mayer today announced the second annual Wienie 500 will return to the iconic Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Friday, May 22 leading up to the 110th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge.

Serving as the unofficial kickoff to summer with 72 million hot dogs consumed every Memorial Day Weekend, the Wienie 500 sets out to remind fans that anywhere is the perfect time for an Oscar Mayer Wiener – even a professional racetrack.

Selling nearly half a million more wieners last year, the spectacle drew 85,000 fans in the stands at IMS and 8 million more via livestream. Revving up for its second lap, the race

will feature the full fleet of six Oscar Mayer Wienermobiles, who will be competing for the title of Top Dog – this year with a new live nationwide broadcast and the chance for fans to get in on the action.

With each Wienermobile named after a regional hot dog, millions rallied behind their favorites – but it was Slaw Dog who secured last year's victory. This year, Slaw Dog (Southeast) is back to defend its title along with Chi Dog (Midwest), New York Dog (East), Chili Dog (South) and Seattle Dog (Northwest). Following a disappointing performance, the Sonoran Dog is officially relegated due to not cutting the mustard, leaving a spot open for a new regional dog to enter the competition. Starting today, race lovers

can visit @Wienermobile on Instagram to cast their vote in the first-ever 'Pick Your Dog' Wienie 500 bracket where they can choose from a fresh lineup of seven new regional hot dogs or opt to give Sonoran Dog another shot at qualifying.

"The response to the first Wienie 500 was overwhelming, and we heard the fans loud and clear that they were hungry for more," said Kelsey Rice, brand communications director at Oscar Mayer. "This year, we're supercharging the experience, delivering an even bigger, bolder and more unforgettable event that puts the fans at the forefront. With amplified engagement, intensified rivalries and more surprises in store, we're giving the people what they want – an unparalleled live experience that will



Photo courtesy IMS

leave them craving more."

Many of the beloved traditions from the inaugural Wienie 500 are back for this year's race, including custom Wienermobile decals, Hotdogger racing suits, the iconic "Wiener Song" anthem and finally, the trophy

presentation at the "wieners circle" podium – complete with a mustard spray and Borg-Wiener trophy. All part of an experience that only Oscar Mayer can provide, the Wienie 500 is designed to spark smiles and serve up a uniquely delightful race.

For more information on the second annual Wienie 500, 'Pick Your Dog' Wienie 500 bracket and how to follow along to see who the sixth regional hot dog will be, follow @Wienermobile on Instagram and @Oscar-Mayer on TikTok.

FLAG

"We are honored to welcome the NFL Flag Championships to Westfield and to showcase Grand Park on an international stage," stated Westfield Mayor Scott Willis. "This event brings the world to our community and highlights why Westfield has become a premier destination for youth sports, hospitality, and unforgettable experiences."

Flag football is one of the fastest growing sports in the world, with 20 million players globally, and will make its Olympic debut in Los Angeles in 2028. Recently, NFL clubs voted to support financial development and launch of a professional

flag football league. In addition, the NCAA recently approved the addition of flag football to the Emerging Sports for Women program, an important step in establishing flag as a varsity women's sport across the NCAA. Flag football is now offered for girls at the high school level in 38 states, and more than 100 colleges and universities have women's flag football programs.

In Indiana, the Colts have led the charge to grow youth flag football across the state, including launching the Colts Flag Football Leagues, a statewide network that connects young athletes to NFL Flag-sanctioned

"We're thrilled to bring the NFL Flag Championships to Westfield, Indiana for what will be our biggest and most exciting tournament yet. Flag football's global growth, accelerated by its upcoming inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, has been remarkable, and that momentum will be on full display with thousands of young athletes traveling from around the world to compete in the NFL Flag Championships. The greater Indianapolis area has a rich football tradition, and we are looking forward to creating even more unforgettable moments for these athletes and the community."

Peter O'Reilly, NFL EVP of Events, International and Club Business

"The NFL Flag Championship has quickly become a marquee event on our summer programming calendar, and this year's move to Westfield, Indiana marks an exciting next chapter. With an NFL-caliber facility at Grand Park and a strong football culture, Indiana provides a great setting for an event of this scale, and we're proud to showcase these young athletes and the continued growth of flag football across ESPN platforms."

Mark Gross, ESPN Sr. Vice President, Sports Production

"The NFL Flag Championships have truly become the premier global stage for youth football. Each year, the event continues to raise the bar in scale, competition, and overall impact. This year's championship will bring together more than 350 teams from around the world at a world-class venue. The energy, talent, and international reach we're seeing are a powerful reflection of the extraordinary momentum behind flag football's growth. We're incredibly proud to partner with the NFL to deliver an unforgettable experience for hundreds of young athletes and their families."

Izell Reese, CEO of RCX Sports

"For 50 years, our region has been known around the globe for our expertise and success in hosting the world's greatest sporting events, and we're proud to welcome the NFL Flag Championships to this storied tradition. The Colts are excited and completely invested in the growth of flag football in Indiana and around the world, so we look forward to working with stakeholders from Westfield, Drophlight Grand Park Sports Campus and across the Indianapolis region to make this the best flag tournament to date anywhere."

Kalen Jackson, Colts Owner & Chief Brand Officer

programs. The Colts have also committed \$1 mil-

lion to support girls high school flag football and

have advanced numerous initiatives designed to in-

crease access and participation.

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HAMILTON COUNTY TELEVISION

Logan Street SIGNS & BANNERS

Upcoming Broadcasts

Wed Jan 28 - Boys Basketball
7:20 pm Chatard vs Covenant Christian | Varsity Boys Basketball | Indiana SRN

Fri Jan 30 - Girls/Boys Basketball
5:45 pm Taylor vs **Sheridan** | Girls/Boys Varsity | Bragg Sports Media
6:00 pm **Hamilton Southeastern** vs **Noblesville** | JV Boys | Hamilton County TV Sports
7:15 pm Tipton vs **Hamilton Heights** | Varsity Boys | Husky Sports Network (PPV)
7:20 pm Floyd Central vs Seymour | Varsity Boys | Indiana SRN
7:20 pm Deaf School vs Providence Cristo Rey | Varsity Boys | Indiana SRN
7:20 pm Heritage Christian vs Seccina | Varsity Boys | Indiana SRN
7:30 pm **Hamilton Southeastern** vs **Noblesville** | Varsity Boys | HCTV Sports

Sat Jan 31 - Boys Basketball
1:00 pm **Guerin Catholic** vs **Noblesville** | Junior Varsity | Hamilton County TV Sports
2:00 pm Believe Circle City vs **Hamilton Heights** | Boys Varsity | Husky Sports (PPV)
2:30 pm **Guerin Catholic** vs **Noblesville** | Varsity | Hamilton County TV Sports
7:15 pm Covenant Christian vs **Sheridan** | Varsity | Bragg Sports Media
7:30 pm Pendleton Heights vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Varsity | Southeastern Sports

www.HCTV1.com

www.HCTV2.com

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Jan. 28

BOYS BASKETBALL
Hamilton Southeastern at Muncie Central, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Cathedral at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.
Crispus Attucks at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
Westfield at Ben Davis, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Valentine's Day Express
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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