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FRIDAY, JAN. 30, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Partly to mostly cloudy. Afternoon flurries or snow showers possible.
Tonight: Evening snow showers possible. Clearing late.

HIGH: 15 LOW: -3



Photos provided by Sheridan Community Schools

A strong community's foundation is great teachers and great schools. Sheridan is lucky to have two of those teachers in Angie Viehe (above left) and Libby Doublestein (above right).

Sheridan honors two teachers for their many years of service

The REPORTER

Sheridan Community Schools (SCS) boasts great teachers, many of whom spend large parts or all of their careers in the district.

Two of those teachers are Angie Viehe, a Kindergarten teacher for 13 years, and Libby Doublestein, a Fine Arts teacher for 19 years.

Angie Viehe

Viehe's Kindergarten class

proudly hosted an Alphabet Fashion Show to celebrate completing learning all 26 letters, a milestone worth celebrating and a reflection of the engaging learning that is happening in her classroom.

Viehe truly embodies what it means to be an exceptional educator. As a Kindergarten teacher, she is known for being able to do it all with patience, passion, and kindness. She in-

spires her students, colleagues, and families throughout our community. To know her is to love and respect her.

SCS is fortunate to have Angie Viehe shaping young learners and setting such a high standard for excellence in education.

Libby Doublestein

SCS recognizes Libby Doublestein for 19 years of dedication to the district, namely her

outstanding efforts to the Fine Arts programs, particularly choir, band, and drama productions.

Doublestein has helped students find their voices and a lifelong love for music. As SCS prepares to create a new space for the choir program through the upcoming construction, the district is fortunate to have her passion and leadership guiding the way.

How it feels matters, too – even in winter

This morning in Noblesville, the thermometer told a simple story: it was about -6°F outside. But the moment I stepped out my front door, reality whispered something different: more like -14°F against my face and fingers.



Pooja Thakkar
Taste of Community

That's the magic (or mischief) of winter "feels like" temperatures: they remind us that what something is and what it feels like can be very different.

Meteorologists call this number the "feels like" temperature because it accounts for wind chill: the way wind steals warmth from our skin faster than the thermometer can measure. A gentle breeze makes cold air feel colder, and a brisk one can make familiar winter air downright biting.

In other words, while the official temperature gives us a number, the "feels like" number gives us experience.

I found myself laughing a little at how icy the air felt – not because it was funny in a burst-of-laughter way, but because it was so distinct from the modest number on the weather screen. It got me thinking about how in life we often focus on the "official" version of something: the label, the statistic, the simple fact. But we forget that another person's felt experience may be something very different.

See *Feels . . .* Page 2

Riverview Health named 'Great Place to Work' for third straight year

The REPORTER

Riverview Health has once again been Certified™ by Great Place To Work® for the third consecutive year, a recognition based entirely on feedback from current employees about their experience within the organization.

This year, 74 percent of employees said it's a Great Place To Work – a figure 17 percent higher than the average U.S. company.

"We are proud to be Certified by Great Place To Work,

an achievement that underscores the strength of our organizational culture," Riverview Health Interim CEO John Bowen said. "It validates the progress we've made toward our mission to be the best place to work, practice medicine and receive care. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and passion of the Riverview Health team."

Great Place To Work® is the



global authority on workplace culture, employee experience, and the leadership behaviors proven to deliver market-leading revenue, employee retention and increased motivation.

"Great Place To Work Certification is a highly coveted achievement that requires consistent and intentional dedication to the overall employee experience," says Sarah Lew-

is-Kulin, the Vice President of Global Recognition at Great Place To Work. She emphasizes that Certification is the sole official recognition earned by the real-time feedback of employees regarding their company culture. "By successfully earning this recognition, it is evident that Riverview Health stands out as one of the top companies to work for, providing a great workplace environment for its employees."

See *Riverview . . .* Page 2

Duke Energy stands ready to help you manage your bill

The REPORTER

Prolonged below-normal temperatures are pushing home energy use higher across Indiana, and higher use will mean higher bills. Duke Energy is sharing practical steps and flexible options to help customers manage costs during this cold stretch.

What's happening

Indiana is experiencing an unusually long stretch of cold weather, with weeks of temperatures below freezing – about 20 to 25 degrees below what's typical for this time of year. It could be the longest cold stretch since February 2021.

Why it matters

When temperatures stay low, heating systems run longer to maintain comfort – the primary driver of higher home energy use.

Duke Energy is here to help

Here are simple steps and flexible options to help you save energy and take control of your bill during this extended cold stretch.

Tips to help you save

- Set your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting.
- Seal leaks and insulate to keep warm air inside.
- Let the sun help heat your home by opening blinds and curtains during the day and closing them at night.
- Operate ceiling fans clockwise to push warm air down.

Rates & rewards

- **Smart thermostat rewards** – Get \$75 through an initial bill credit and \$25 annually after that when you enroll a qualifying smart thermostat in Power Manager®. Participants agree to brief adjustments to their thermostat temperature, no more than 4 degrees, typically for one to two hours during periods of peak electricity demand.
- **Smart Usage Option (time-of-use rate)** – Lower your energy costs by shifting some energy use to off-peak times.
- **Take control of how you pay**
- **Pick Your Due Date** – Choose the date your monthly bill is due to align with payday.

See *Electric Bill . . .* Page 2

Hamilton County Leadership Academy announces Andrew Bradford as Dean of Class of 2027

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Leadership Academy (HCLA) has announced that Andrew Bradford will serve as Dean for the Class of 2027. Applications for HCLA's 36th cohort of community leaders will open on Friday, Feb. 27.

"Every role I've held with HCLA has deepened my understanding of what makes Hamilton County extraordinary," Bradford said. "More importantly, each role has shown me how this program builds pathways for others to experience and serve this community in meaningful ways. I'm honored to bring all of that experience into partnership with our panelists, speakers, staff, and board as we guide the Class of 2027 through these 10 months. This organization changed the trajectory

of my career and my connection to this place. Helping others discover that same sense of purpose is the privilege of a lifetime."

HCLA provides participants (those who live and/or work in Hamilton County) an immersive, 10-month experience that takes a deep dive into issues that are critically important to our communities. The dean plays a key role in each HCLA class year, building community among the class, facilitating class sessions, and empowering participants to engage deeply with the topics covered. "HCLA has a strong leg-



Bradford



HCLA

acy of deans who have mentored their classes, modeled leadership, and invested in our community," HCLA Executive Director Maria Kanger said. "I have no doubt that Andrew will carry on this legacy. He has served HCLA well throughout the years, as a member of the board of directors, chairman, and currently as a member of the Curriculum Committee. We are excited that he is now bringing his passion for Hamilton County and HCLA to the dean role."

Bradford is the found-

er and managing partner of Bradford Consulting Group (BCG), a firm dedicated to helping nonprofits, municipalities, and community organizations achieve transformational growth. In its first year alone, BCG has driven the engagement of over \$50 million in private philanthropy and supported the scaling of privately owned businesses.

Before launching BCG, he served as vice president and chief advancement officer at Conner Prairie Museum for eight years, where he raised nearly \$100 million to expand capital projects, build endowments, and remove barriers to access through partnerships with organizations like Kids Belong, Youth Assistance Program, and A Kid Again.

See *Dean . . .* Page 2

Town of Atlanta Now Hiring

Certified Water/Wastewater Operator Full Time Position

The Town of Atlanta is now seeking a dedicated individual for a full-time position as Certified Water/Wastewater Operator. For a full job description, list of duties and benefits please see Town of Atlanta website www.atlantaindiana.com or Town of Atlanta Facebook page.

Applications can be downloaded from the Town of Atlanta web site or picked up at the Atlanta Town Hall
105 E. Main St. Atlanta, IN. 46031
Applications can be submitted to:
jfarley@atlanta.in.gov

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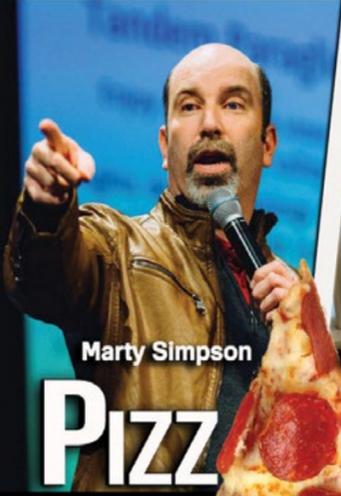
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FEELS

from Page 1

Maybe you remember the snowstorms that swept across Indiana a few weeks ago – heavy, shimmering, and breathtaking from the warmth of a window seat. For me, the fresh-fallen snow made me feel both cozy and cautious that day. For some, it inspired joy and play; for others, it meant slippery roads, nervous walks, and anxious planning. The snow didn't change, but how each of us experienced it did.

That difference – between how things are and how they feel – isn't just weather lore. It's a gentle metaphor for community.

We live in places with neighbors who see the same sunset but feel it differently. We sit at the same table, yet come with stories that shape how we dig into the food and conversation. Just as winter has its "feels like" number, our shared life together has unspoken temperatures – emotional, cultural, and personal – that influence how we move through our days.

Recognizing this doesn't dilute reality. It enriches it. It invites us to listen with care, to ask not just "What is it like?" but "How does it feel for you?" It reminds



Photo provided by Pooja Thakkar

us that empathy isn't only about agreeing with everyone's perspective, but about valuing the diversity of those experiences.

So today, as the cold challenges us to zip up coats and pull on gloves, let it also remind us of a kindness that's just as essential as staying warm: the willingness to consider how others feel in the same world we share.

In a season that tests our tolerance for cold, maybe it can also teach us warmth of understanding.

"We are more alike than we are different; let us honor each other's experience as we walk together through every season of life."

Pooja Thakkar is working to build connections through cuisine. You can read her column each week in the pages of The Reporter.

RIVERVIEW

from Page 1

Riverview Health fosters an environment encouraging both structured and unstructured learning, empowering employees to expand their knowledge and strengthen their capabilities to deliver high-quality care. Employees have access to an extensive range of continued development opportunities, including tuition reimbursement, internally facilitated BLS, ACLS, and PALS certifications, job-shadowing experiences, and partnerships with

educational institutions. Collectively, these programs demonstrate Riverview Health's commitment to cultivating a supportive, growth-oriented environment for its workforce.

"This certification is a testament to the meaningful progress happening across our organization," said Dr. William Kirsch, Vice Chairman of the Riverview Health Board of Trustees. "Their focus on delivering high-quality care and supporting one another is what

makes our organization a great place to work."

Riverview Health is currently hiring a variety of clinical and non-clinical roles across its system. With a strong focus on employee development and well-being, Riverview Health offers team members the chance to build a meaningful career while making a significant impact in healthcare. Visit the Riverview Health careers page for more information at careers.riverview.org.

DEAN

from Page 1

Bradford is also deeply engaged in his local community. After graduating with the Hamilton County Leadership Academy Class of 2019, his classmates nominated him to

the board of directors, where he rose to board chairman. As co-chair of Hamilton County Community Foundation's Opportunity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, he gained perspective on community needs that continues to inform his work. His recent nomination to the Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation board reflects the community's continued trust in his leadership.

Applications for the HCLA Class of 2027 will close on April 1, 2026, and the cohort will be announced in June. Throughout the month of March, HCLA will be hosting interest sessions, where prospec-

tive applicants can learn more about the program and the application process:

- Thursday, March 5, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Bier Brewery, 1618 S. 10th St., Noblesville

- Wednesday, March 18, 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Fishers Community Center, 11400 Johnson Farm Way

- Monday, March 23, 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Westfield Washington Township Office, 17400 Westfield Blvd., Suite B., Westfield

Those who are interested in learning more about HCLA and applying for the class of 2027 are encouraged to complete an interest form, which can be found at hcla.net/programs/application.

ELECTRIC BILL

from Page 1

- **Due Date Extensions** – If you know you won't be able to pay by the due date, request a short extension.

- **Installment Plans** – Break down payments on a past-due balance over time.

- **Need more help?**
- **Payment Assistance Finder** – Locate local organizations that offer utility bill assistance on [Duke Energy's website](http://DukeEnergy's website).

- **Share the Light Fund®** – Duke Energy shareholder and community contributions that help qualifying customers pay energy bills.

- **Call 211** – Get connected to additional community resources in your area.

For more information and to get started, visit duke-energy.com/WinterEnergySavings.



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Your overall health is like a three-legged stool

"Build up your weaknesses until they become your strong points." – Knute Rockne

Who does not have "football on the brain" these days? Between IU's amazing and record-breaking season and the current playoffs and upcoming Super Bowl, most of us are "football focused." And the quote above by the legendary Coach Rockne, while referencing football players' challenges and attributes, could also speak to our own challenges and how we can interpret and meet those.

This column will focus on how our physical weaknesses, or what we consider them to be, challenge us and how we can turn those into strong points. Although I certainly do not have credentials

COLUMNIST



SHARON McMAHON
Be Well

which allow me to speak professionally on mental health issues, I believe it is true that those issues can be addressed by modalities which include professional counseling and possibly even medications.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to licensed mental health care professionals if you are in need.

One of the analogies I use when explaining to my class members or a client about how we can visualize our fitness plan is that of the three-legged stool. As we know, a stool with one or two legs cannot stand. A stool with at least three legs and a seat (of course!) is stable.

One of the three legs is flexibility, the ability to bend, turn, reach, and stretch. A

second leg is strength. As we age our muscles naturally begin to atrophy and they require resistance to sustain or build strength. Thirdly we need aerobic conditioning. Our lung capacity diminishes with age and adequate oxygen levels are critical for both our physical breathing and nourishment for our brain cells.¹

Of course, any operational stool needs a seat! I like to think of the seat as an analogy for nutrition. Proper nutrition is the foundational seat for the three "legs" of the stool mentioned above – flexibility, strength, and aerobic conditioning – and which will allow the stool to be stable and durable as we strive for optimum health and fitness.

A key component of this healthy endeavor is knowing a baseline of your overall health. You can obtain this by a complete physical with

your licensed physician and a report of your bloodwork which your physician will share with you and make recommendations. After this you will know more about any "weaknesses" or what I prefer to call "challenges."

Dear readers, once those are addressed and you commit to a program following the three-legged stool analogy mentioned above, your perceived weaknesses can indeed become your *strong points!*

Need inspiration? Tune in to the opening ceremonies of the 2026 Winter Olympics on Feb. 6! Go USA!

¹ brainfacts.org
Sharon McMahon, CNWC
The opinions expressed in this article are not intended to replace advice of your personal physician or licensed health professional. Please consult your physician for any issues you may have related to nutrition or fitness activity.

While some Indiana hospitals are struggling financially, others report substantial profit margins

The REPORTER

On Thursday, Jan. 29, the Employers' Forum of Indiana (EFI) released a review of the Indiana Hospital Association-commissioned Kaufman Hall report on hospital finances, along with its own analysis of publicly available data, finding that Indiana hospitals' financial performance varies widely and does not support a uniform narrative of financial distress.

Editor's note: The Reporter published the Indiana Hospital Association's findings in our Wednesday, Jan. 28 edition. You can read it at [this link](#).

"EFI recognizes that some Indiana hospitals are facing real financial challenges and that maintaining access to care in those

communities must remain a priority," EFI President and CEO Randa Deaton said. "Publicly available data indicates we have a bifurcated market where some hospitals are extremely profitable while others are clearly struggling. Policy-makers should therefore rely on complete financial data and pursue targeted solutions that protect access where it is most at risk while appropriately accounting for financial capacity of the state's most profitable hospitals."

Among Hamilton County's hospitals, only Riverview Health reported a net loss for 2024: \$31,579,453, or negative 12 percent.

Read the full review and analysis at [this link](#).

IU Health's Mobile Lung Unit coming to Fishers & Noblesville

The REPORTER

The IU Health Mobile Lung Unit is traveling across Indiana, offering low-dose CT scans to individuals at high risk for lung cancer.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States, claiming more lives each year than breast, prostate, and colon cancers combined. Yet, what many people don't realize is that lung cancer is often preventable, and highly treatable, when detected early. Unfortunately, most cases are diagnosed at an advanced stage when treatment options are limited and survival rates are low.

IU Health's mission is to promote early detection, which can significantly improve treatment outcomes and save lives. This initiative is not only about providing access to care; it's about giving Hoosiers a fighting chance.

Watch [this short video](#) to see how easy lung screening on the mobile really is.

Details

Low-Dose CT Lung Screenings for eligible individuals ages 50 to 77 who are current or former smokers of 20 years. (Former smokers who have quit in the past 15 years may also be eligible.)

The screening is covered by most insurance plans, in-

cluding Medicare and Medicaid. IU Health will cover the cost for those without insurance.

Locations

- Thursday, Feb. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fishers Health Department, 11400 Johnson Farm Way
- Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fishers Fire Department, 22 Municipal Drive
- Thursday, Feb. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fishers Fire Department, 22 Municipal Drive
- Tuesday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hamilton County Health Department, 18030 Foundation Drive, Noblesville

Why it matters

Early screening saves lives. Early-stage lung cancer often has no symptoms, which means people at risk may feel healthy while the disease silently progresses. A low-dose CT (LDCT) scan is a quick, painless screening tool that can detect lung cancer before symptoms appear. Studies show that LDCT screening can reduce lung cancer deaths by up to 20 percent among high-risk individuals.

That's not just a statistic, it is lives saved, families kept whole, and futures preserved.

Learn more at iuhealth.org/mobile-lung-screening.



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SKYLAKE Adventures partners with Butler University

State's first 'large-scale adventure park' coming to Hamilton County this summer

Submitted

SKYLAKE Adventures, Indiana's first and only large-scale adventure park of its kind, has announced a partnership with Butler University Institute for Sports and Entertainment (BISE), reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening local communities and driving economic development in central Indiana.

Opening this summer in Hamilton County, SKYLAKE will be a year-round destination offering a personalized, outdoor-adventure experience where guests can choose their own thrill level across water obstacle courses, ropes courses, and other land attractions, or relax along a six-acre, white-sand lake.

"Butler helped set the foundation for everything we've built, so teaming up with the BISE program feels full circle," said Sean 'Mouse' Howard, co-owner of SKYLAKE and a proud Butler University alumnus. "This partnership puts Butler students where they belong – inside real sports and entertainment experiences, doing real work that builds real careers. We can't wait



to collaborate with the next generation of Bulldogs and give them a front-row seat to the industry."

BISE is an interdisciplinary initiative to connect Butler University students to sports and entertainment opportunities in Indiana. The SKYLAKE team will pour into BISE students with mentorship and real-life experiences in the entertainment industry. In turn, the Butler students will learn practical skills in marketing, social media, and communications while contributing to SKYLAKE's growing brand presence.

"We're proud to partner with SKYLAKE as they build an exciting new destination for our community," said Stephanie Hinshaw, MBA, ED.D, Associate VP of Transformation. "Through BISE, Butler students gain real-world experience in sports and entertainment while con-

tributing their skills and creativity to a growing Indiana-based business. It's exactly the kind of collaboration that benefits students, partners, and our broader community."

Since launching in June 2025, BISE student projects included the WNBA All-Star Weekend, LIV Golf Tournament in Westfield, TED Sports event, World Aquatics Championships in Carmel, Percussive Arts Society International Convention, BIG Ten Football Championship, and hospitality at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas with Westfield-based In-Mobi. Spring projects will include working with the Indiana Sports Corp at the BIG Ten Women's Tournament and then more than 100 students assisting with the Div. I, II and III NCAA Men's Basketball Championship weekend and the Final Four.

"It's been unbelievable to be a part of the rapid progression of BISE in year one," said Butler senior Trevor Fox, president of the BISE Student Alliance. "This partnership with SKYLAKE is a great staple in BISE's youthful history. I'm excited to be on the SKYLAKE team myself, and I can't wait for fellow students to assist with their fast-moving efforts and showcase what Butler students are made of."

SKYLAKE will feature multiple water adventure courses, high-energy slides, a sand-bottom lake, and much more – a shared adventure destination designed for families, young adults, and groups. The water attractions at SKYLAKE are set to open this summer with a high ropes course and snow tubing area set to launch later this year. For more information, visit skylakeindiana.com.

Jenell Fairman to speak at next Westfield Chamber luncheon

The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber invites business leaders, community members, and guests to attend the February Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19 at The Club at Chatham Hills, 1100 Chatham Hills Blvd., Westfield.

The guest speaker will be Jenell Fairman, Executive Chief of Economic and Community Development for the City of Westfield.

Westfield is going through a series of economic development and planning updates, including a comprehensive plan, downtown development plan, and a master plan for the Grand

Park District. Fairman will provide an overview of the status of each of these efforts, her vision for developing a city designed to facilitate walkability and alternative transportation strategies, strategically grow the commercial tax base, and deliver community centers that foster relationships and business success.

Please plan to attend for what is sure to be an insightful event. Discounted Partner Tickets and Non-Partner Tickets are available. Corporate Reserved Tables (seating for eight) are also available.

[Click here](#) to get your tickets now.



Fairman

The power of partnership: strengthening the future for all of Indiana's children

At Kids' Voice of Indiana, our mission is simple yet powerful: to amplify the voice of children and youth in the legal system to improve individual outcomes and inspire system-wide advances.



LINDSAY SCOTT

Our vision extends beyond the courtroom. We imagine a truly child-centered legal system that not only protects children but promotes family preservation, stability, and the opportunity for every young person to thrive. Achieving that vision takes more than one organization. It takes a community of partners working together to meet the evolving needs of Indiana's youth and families.

Lifting up youth transitioning from foster care

One essential partnership in advancing this work comes from the very young people who have spent their formative years in foster care. Transitioning to adulthood can be overwhelming for any young person, but youth aging out of foster care face unique challenges, including housing instability, financial strain, and limited access to mentorship and career development. Too often, they face these challenges alone.

That's why we launched the Youth Impact Board (YIB), an initiative designed to empower older foster youth and young adults who have aged out of care. The YIB gives these remarkable young people a platform to share their lived experiences, influence child welfare policy, and shape the services that impact their peers. Members meet monthly to build connections, develop leadership skills, and collaborate directly with stakeholders

committed to improving outcomes for youth in foster care.

Their courage, honesty, and insight are helping to transform how our community understands and supports young people leaving care.

Partnerships that advance community well-being

Meaningful progress in child welfare and youth advocacy happens when public systems, nonprofits, and private organizations come together with shared purpose.

Our partnership with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is a powerful example of this collaboration in action. Anthem's support helped launch the YIB and continues to sustain its growth, ensuring that participants have access to transportation, professional development opportunities, and the resources they need to succeed. This partnership also supports the creation of a Youth Resource Guide, translation services, and a Youth Enrichment Closet stocked with essentials such as clothing, toiletries, and technology items.

Anthem's partnership demonstrates what is possible when the private and nonprofit sectors work hand in hand to strengthen the systems that serve children and families. Together, we are helping young people build confidence, pursue education and careers, and navigate adulthood with dignity and support.

These types of partnerships are essential to advancing the health and well-being of all Hoosiers, particularly our most vulnerable.

A shared commitment to Indiana's children

At Kids' Voice, we are

deeply grateful for the partners who sit at the table, listen, and believe in the potential of every child we serve. Every young person deserves to be heard, and every story deserves to be valued. With the leadership of courageous young people, the support of committed partners, and the dedication of community advocates, we will continue working together to strengthen the systems that protect children and help families thrive.

Forty years of advocacy in action

For more than four decades, Kids' Voice of Indiana has delivered programs that empower and protect children involved in the legal system.

Our Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program pairs trained community volunteers with children who have experienced abuse or neglect, ensuring their voices are heard in court and providing stability during times of uncertainty.

Through the Children's Law Center of Indiana, we share over 30 years of legal expertise to equip attorneys, judges, and service providers with the tools they need to make informed, compassionate decisions affecting children's lives.

Our Guardian ad Litem (GAL) volunteers advocate for children's best interests in complex legal cases, while our Supervised Parenting Time (SPT) program provides a secure, neutral environment where children can safely connect with non-custodial parents. Together, these programs reflect our unwavering belief that every child's voice matters.

Lindsay Scott serves as the president and CEO of Kids' Voice of Indiana.

Read it here.
Read it first.
The Reporter

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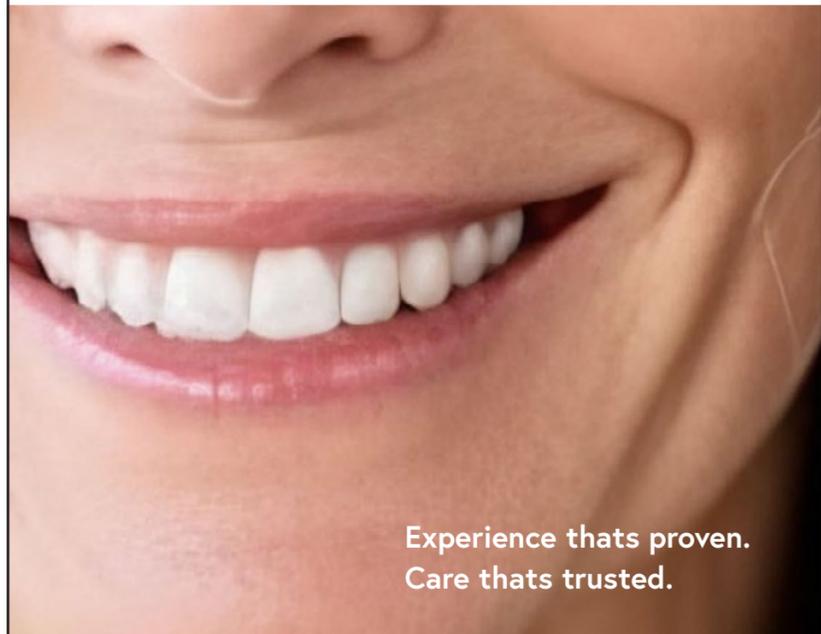
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HAMILTON COUNTY

Candidates who have filed for the May 5, 2026 Primary as of Thursday, Jan. 29.

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.

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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

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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. Eyster
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 Koche (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)
District 4
Andrew R. Porterfield (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)
Mulalo Rikhotso (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)

Wayne Township (vote for 10)
Justin Canady-Flatt
Nocona Canady-Flatt
Mary Frischkorn-Meza

STATE DELEGATE – REPUBLICANS

Adams/Wayne (vote for 5)
Daniel A. Bragg
Fredrick Fritz Good
Garrett M. Gossard
Joshua Pascoe
Tiffany Pascoe
Jordan A. Wood
Clay 1 (vote for 5)
Gary Duncan
Fred Glynn
Alexander T. Stencel
Clay 2 (vote for 5)
Paul Arbouh
Brad Craig
Thomas P. Dakich
Frederick Daniel Landis
Edison Gene Perry
Clay 3 (vote for 5)
Jenny Brake
Patricia Bratton
Robin Clark
Lisa Elmore
Diane Gomez
Roxy Morgan
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
Rachel Quade
Fall Creek 2 (vote for 5)
Kevin W. Poore
Patricia (Trish) Potet
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
Julie Melvin
Noblesville 1 (vote for 5)
Trini Beaver
Kevin Custis
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
Mike Neal
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

Looking into my bourbon psychosis

"Civilization begins with distillation." – William Faulkner

Why bourbon? That's easy. It's delicious straight, it makes great cocktails, it has an illustrious, mischievous, and even dark history, it has a touch of class, and ... it's uniquely American.

What's not to like? I'm certainly not going to attempt to go into the entire history of bourbon here; there are countless books on the topic. Here's a simplified gloss-over from off the top of my head.

Scottish immigrants came to the United States in droves during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. Many of these Scottish immigrants settled on the frontiers of the American Colonies, namely Kentucky and Tennessee to get away from English tyranny. They had left a country that had a solid tradition of whiskey making, I'm talking about Scotch of course. Well, Kentucky and Tennessee weren't the greatest places to grow malted barley, which is a key ingredient in Scotch. Nor are they known for their peaty soil, another key aspect to Scotch making. What did they have? Corn!

Wham, bam, they began to make a uniquely American whiskey made from corn, aged in new American charred oak barrels, and they "bottled" it at least 80 proof. Viola! We just defined what bourbon is. Seriously – by law.

Specifically, Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations (1964). This law codified that "bourbon is a distinctive product of the United States." It also listed certain criteria for its manufacturing/bottling. These are:



JON SMYRNIS
Bourbon Psychosis

- Minimum of 51 percent corn in the mashbill
- Distilled at a maximum of 160 proof
- Entered into barrels at a maximum of 125 proof
- Bottled at a minimum of 80 proof

- Aged in new charred oak containers
- No artificial coloring or flavoring permitted
- Mandatory age statements for bourbons aged less than four years

Note: It does NOT have to be made in Kentucky. Yet, ask a bourbon aficionado from Kentucky about that and see what they say!

Fast forward through Prohibition, two world wars, several bourbon slumps and comebacks, to today. We are living in a bourbon renaissance. It is everywhere. Everyone is drinking it – young, old, men, women, little elderly ladies, college kids. It's not just old guys in suits enjoying their lunchtime Manhattans anymore. Searching for rare or hard-to-find bourbons, or just buying and collecting any bourbon one can get one's hands on, has become a pastime for many.

And ... yes, I'm one of those who strives to get my hands on any bottle of bourbon I can find. I have about 300 bottles ranging from bottom-shelf hooch to very nice rarities. Hence the "psychosis," but that's a story for next time.

I hope you've enjoyed this beginning, and I hope you'll join me in the future for more musings on my bourbon psychosis.

Jon Smyrnis is a lifelong Indianapolis area resident. He enjoys traveling, hiking, biking, kayaking, dining out, and, of course, fine cocktails and great bourbons.

TIPTON COUNTY

Candidates who have filed for the May 5, 2026 Primary Election as of Thursday, Jan. 29.

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)

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)
Rhianon 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)
Madison Township (vote for 3)
Mark E. Noble (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

PRECINCT CMTE. – DEMOCRATS

Clay 2: Cynthia Henry
Clay 12: Jessica Irvine
Clay 28: Edwin Russell
Clay 31: Deborah Pickett
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
Delaware 20: Judy Delp
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
Wayne 1: Mary Frischkorn-Meza
Westfield 3: David M. Garcia
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 26: Rhonda Ann Cardwell
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
Lindsay Gramlich
James A. Grimes
Annette Gross
Cynthia Henry
Jessica Irvine
Grace Johnston
Marcia Molenda
Deborah Pickett
Zach Phillips
Stephen K. Ring
Susan Kelly Ring
David Rosenthal
Edwin Russell
Beth Sprunger
Elizabeth Stippler
Jean M. Upton
Delaware Township (vote for 20)
Nancy Arce
Judy Delp
Litsi Plonski
Bill Stuart
Fall Creek Township (vote for 20)
Patricia Trish Biggs
Samantha R. Chapman
Mary Coyle
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)
Kathleen A. Boyle
James Wood
Angie K. Foreman
Lori C. Hand
Christopher Hartig
Riley Issacs
Brian S. Jonasen
Sandra Kaufman Jonasen
Cumba Kebe
Debra Marcum
Joseph Marcum
Jennifer Midkiff
Jeffrey Nickloy
Michele A. Tharp-Taylor
Roger W. Tharp-Taylor
Washington Township (vote for 20)
Cheryl L. Austin
Racheal Bleicher
Bennie Britt
Rhonda Ann Cardwell
Amy Christmas
Evelyn J. Davis
Brandee L. Easterday
David M. Garcia
Gabriel Hohneke
Kirk King
Karen Klutzke
Amy J. Stewart
Tracy M. Wheeler
Kirk Young

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.

ACCURATE. BALANCED.
You're reading
THE REPORTER

Senate Bill 238 is essential to protect Tipton's fiscal future

Tipton is a community that takes pride in delivering reliable, high-quality services while living within our means. As we have strategized city operations over the last two years, our focus has been on fiscal responsibility both in the short- and long-term.



GUEST COLUMNIST
KEGAN SCHMICKER
Mayor of Tipton

Like many communities across the state, we have both short-term problems and long-term opportunities – both which require financial resources. We have worked diligently to address these short-term problems and I'm proud of our team that has worked so hard to realize these changes. We are near a point where we can focus more of our attention and resources on long-term opportunities, but all of that is at serious risk.

Last year's Senate Enrolled Act 1 (SEA 1) made sweeping changes to Indiana's tax structure. While most of the public conversation focused on property taxes, SEA 1 fundamentally reworked the Local Income Tax (LIT) system—a change that has significant and unintended consequences for communities like ours. In Tipton's case, the new formula is projected to reduce our LIT revenue by nearly 45 percent once the system

fully phases in. For a city our size, this is a financial shock from which we cannot simply "budget our way out."

Our present forecasts estimate that Tipton will receive approximately \$7.1 million in property and local income tax revenue in 2026. In 2027, the revenues in those buckets are estimated to drop to approximately \$5.8 million, which is an 18 percent combined loss. This type of revenue reduction will have significant adverse impacts on city services and our ability to be strategic with future planning.

Cities don't plan month to month. We plan years ahead, crafting strategies to address utility infrastructure, industrial park expansion, quality-of-life investments, public safety, fleet management, downtown revitalization, housing, and more. Long-term capital planning, infrastructure replacement cycles, police and fire readiness, bond obligations, and quality-of-life investments all rely on stable and predictable revenues. When that stability disappears, so does the ability to serve our residents effectively and responsibly.

Tipton has worked hard to build momentum. Our

community-driven "Tipton Thrives" initiative is helping to shape a downtown renaissance. We're reinvesting in neighborhoods, improving streets and sidewalks, expanding housing opportunities, and caring for our parks, trails, and amenities that make Tipton an attractive place for families and businesses. All of this depends on a revenue system that supports – not undermines – local progress.

If LIT revenues drop nearly in half, we will face difficult and painful choices, such as:

- Delaying or canceling infrastructure projects,
- Postponing equipment replacement for police, fire, street, parks, cemetery, and golf course,
- Holding vacancies unfilled, even when they represent essential positions across the city, and
- Scaling back or eliminating quality-of-life programs that our community depends on.

These choices might not be immediately visible, but they compound quickly – and they cost taxpayers more in the long run.

That is why I am urging Tipton residents, and our partners across the region, to support **Senate Bill 238** as introduced. SB 238 provides the targeted, responsible fixes needed to prevent the fiscal cliff SEA 1 inad-

vertently created.

SB 238 includes three essential corrections:

1. Adjusting the Local Income Tax formula to prevent a municipal funding crisis.
2. Allowing municipalities with populations above 2,000 to participate in the countywide municipal services LIT rate.
3. Eliminating the requirement to re-adopt LIT rates every year.

These are not dramatic policy shifts. They are practical, well-considered adjustments developed in collaboration with municipal leaders, financial experts, and Aim's Balanced Solutions Initiative. They preserve the intent of SEA 1 while ensuring that local communities aren't financially destabilized by it.

Tipton wants to be a strong, reliable partner to the State of Indiana. We want to continue our work of strengthening our downtown, supporting economic development, maintaining public safety, and building a high-quality community where people want to live and invest.

But without the fixes in Senate Bill 238, our ability to deliver on those commitments is in real jeopardy. This bill is essential to protecting the progress we've made – and to ensuring that Tipton continues to thrive in the years ahead.

Braun says 'Power Up' initiative strengthens Hoosier workforce

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Indiana Governor Mike Braun on Wednesday, Jan. 28 highlighted the transformative impact of Power Up Indiana's workforce development initiative, showcasing a wide range of success stories from employers and Hoosiers across the state who have leveraged training, upskilling, and career development to strengthen Indiana's economy.



Braun

Power Up Indiana continues to empower businesses large and small to invest in their current workforce, grow wages, and build a stronger, more competitive talent pipeline.

"Power Up Indiana is proving that workforce development isn't just good for business – it's life-changing for Hoosiers and their families," Gov. Braun said. "We're proud to celebrate these success stories and the employers who are shaping a future where every Hoosier has the opportunity to build a rewarding career right here in our state."

Through Power Up, companies such as Gaylor Electric, Hoosier Crane, Evonik, and Cook Group

are leading the charge by creating pathways for employees to access industry-recognized credentials, expand skill sets, and transition into high-demand careers with sustainable wages.

Other employers like Arcamed, Twin Springs Counseling, Endress+Hauser, and Dot Transportation have embraced upskilling as a core part of their growth strategy, strengthening their teams and enhancing opportunities for workers at every stage of their career.

Power Up successes span a diversity of sectors and employee experiences – from healthcare providers building direct pipelines for nursing and clinical roles to manufacturing and logistics firms cultivating technical talent and leadership potential from within. These stories reflect not only improved business outcomes but also increased personal and economic mobility for Hoosier workers, demonstrating that when employers invest in their people, Indiana's workforce thrives.

The full collection of Power Up Indiana success stories can be viewed at [this link](#).

Thanks for reading!



CONGRESSWOMAN
VICTORIA SPARTZ
PROUDLY SERVING **INDIANA'S 5TH DISTRICT**

Constituent Services



Help with Federal Agencies

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

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



US Flag Requests

Obtain commemorative flags flown over the US Capitol from my office.



Military Academy Nominations

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



US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

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

West District Office: (317) 848-0201

East District Office: (765) 639-0671

www.spartz.house.gov

Did you mean to elect parents?

"I don't know if I should do what the people who voted for me want, or what's best for the community."

Someone I trust and respect said that to me recently. Other than a reactionary "Pardon me?" I was speechless.

The problems with that kind of thinking are legion.

Why are those two things mutually exclusive?

How do you know better than the clear majority of people who elected you what is best for their community?

What is this mythic difference between people and the community?

Does "community" even exist in concrete reality in the same way people do, or is it just a useful abstraction you can lean on to justify acting against the interests of real people?

Also, what about doing what all your constituents want, not just the ones who voted for you?

"I don't know if I should do what the people who voted for me want, or what's best for the community."

Some of the logical errors in that thought go to the heart of why voters, even in this most influential county in the state, feel ignored, used, and distrustful of anyone in office.

I spend what I think is too much time reminding people that feelings are not facts, but this is a case where feelings reflect facts. Voters are ignored. Voters often get used. People in office frequently break the trust we gave them when we voted for them.

Property Taxes

At the state level, Indiana elected a governor whose platform was largely based on resetting property tax rates to pre-COVID levels. The majority of Hoosiers who went to the polls in November 2024 voted for Mike Braun and his platform.

On Dec. 4, 2024, then-Governor-elect Braun



STU CLAPPITT
Chasing Wisdom

released his "Freedom and Opportunity Agenda." The Reporter published it on Dec. 5, 2024. Click here to read it.

The very first point was "Providing tax relief to address inflation and reduce the burden for everyday Hoosiers." Under the heading "Historic tax relief for Hoosier families," that agenda read in part "Cut property taxes by resetting homeowner bills to their pre-COVID levels."

In his 2026 State of the State address, Braun said, "I led the way to historic, meaningful property tax reform." [Here's a link to that video.](#)

Look at your 2019 property tax bill. As they arrive, look at your 2026, 2027, and 2028 property tax bills. Let me know if yours drops to pre-COVID levels.

Ignored. Used. Distrustful.

Let's look closer to home.

Rails to Trails

In 2017 the debate about removing most of the rails for the old state fair train and turning them into trails was a hot topic.

The majority of people appearing at public meetings held by Hamilton County, Fishers, and Noblesville spoke against turning the rails into trails. At one meeting, 416 people were present to voice their concerns.

There were angry voices.

There were protests.

There were letters written.

There were even shenanigans.

You can go to [ReadTheReporter.com/Archive](#) and look up 2017 editions from March 1, 22, 24, 27, and July 27 for details.

In the end, Hamilton County, Fishers, and Noblesville did what they thought was best for the community, rather than what their constituents wanted.

Ignored. Used. Distrustful.

The Hamilton County Reporter supports the Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad as it exists today. In 2022, the owners of this newspaper purchased naming rights for one of the passenger cars, and, in my admittedly biased opinion, The Reporter Lounge Car has the best seats on the Nickel Plate Express.

Morse Village

At issue was the plan to change zoning from single-family residential areas to a mix of single-family residential, multi-family residential, and planned business zoning for the 173 acres of the Morse Village project near Hague Road and 206th Street.

The people who wanted to be heard about that proposal were so numerous that, to its great credit, Noblesville Common Council allowed public comments at the Dec. 3, 2024 meeting in order to give those who did not get the chance to speak at an earlier Noblesville Plan Commission meeting to go on the record about Morse Village.

That Dec. 3 meeting was quite civil. People speaking against the proposal – and there were many – did so without anger, threats, or loud voices.

That civility did not last. After threats to city officials, six Noblesville Police officers were present at the final meeting about Morse Village on Dec. 17, 2024.

The council approved that project by a 6-3 margin.

Ignored. Used. Distrustful.

You can read all about it in our Dec. 5, 18, and 19 editions from 2024.

I could go on for literal days citing examples from Washington, D.C. all the way down to the most local level possible, but let's end on a high note.

Overdorf Road Batteries

On July 23, 2025, the Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) denied an application for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located at 21598

Overdorf Road.

That BZA meeting lasted more than two hours and was attended in person by over 100 members of the community. Thirty people spoke against the facility. Three spoke in favor of it. The BZA unanimously voted against allowing the BESS to be built.

In this case, constituents were heard, their views appreciated, and they may be willing to trust again.

Reflections

Voters elect representatives. Voters do not elect parents.

The goal is to have someone in office to represent the public interest. Voters entrust representatives to speak for them – to amplify their voices, not to replace their voices with different ideas about "what is best."

Voters deserve advocates, not caretakers.

This is not an issue of morality. It is, however, an issue of ethics.

Morality is about an individual's beliefs about right and wrong. Ethics are standards for conduct, usually from external sources, that have been codified into sets of rules.

"I don't know if I should do what the people who voted for me want, or what's best for the community."

In two out of three local examples above, governing bodies chose the latter. Let's see what the Cicero Town Council chooses next month when it votes on a proposed battery storage facility.

That proposal came out of the Cicero/Jackson Township Plan Commission with an 6-3 unfavorable recommendation. At a public hearing, well over 100 people spoke against it, while only a few spoke in favor.

I do not believe history repeats itself. It does, however, go round and round.

If history is a song, there are some common refrains.

Stu Clappitt loves both wisdom and efficiency. After over 30 years of chasing wisdom, he has not caught much, which means he is neither wise nor efficient. You can reach him by email at News@ReadTheReporter.com.

Battery storage can be a quiet win for Indiana communities

Across Indiana, local leaders are being asked to make thoughtful decisions about how to support growth while protecting the character of their towns.

One technology increasingly part of that conversation is battery energy storage, often called BESS. While it may sound abstract, the reality is simple: battery storage can provide real, tangible benefits to communities with very little impact on how those communities look or function day to day.

Indiana's economy is growing. Manufacturing, logistics, and technology employers are expanding, and residential energy use continues to rise. At the same time, regional grid operators have warned that parts of the Midwest face near-term capacity and reliability challenges.

Battery storage helps address these pressures by storing electricity when supply is abundant and releasing it when demand is highest. That makes the grid more stable and helps prevent outages, especially during extreme weather or peak demand events.

What often gets overlooked is the local economic upside. Standalone battery storage facilities bring private investment into host towns, generating new tax revenue that can support schools, public safety, road maintenance, and other essential services. Unlike many forms of development, these projects typically require only a few acres of land, have no smokestacks, produce no noise during

normal operation, and operate largely out-of-sight. In practical terms, they offer a strong revenue-to-footprint ratio that is hard to match.

Battery storage sites are designed and built to rigorous national safety standards and have been deployed successfully in rural, suburban, and urban communities across the country. Once constructed, they are low-traffic facilities with minimal ongoing activity, meaning they integrate easily into existing land use patterns.

Local planning conversations about battery storage are not about choosing growth at all costs. They are about evaluating whether a well-regulated, small-scale infrastructure investment can help towns meet future energy needs while strengthening local budgets. In many cases, battery storage offers exactly that balance. Thoughtful local review and clear standards can ensure battery storage projects are safe, well-sited, and beneficial, allowing towns to capture the upside while preserving what residents value most.

Indiana communities have an opportunity to lead with pragmatism: supporting infrastructure that quietly does its job, takes up little space, and delivers long-term value.

Lisa Dan serves as the Midwest Director for the Center for Energy Education, where she works with local leaders, utilities, and community stakeholders across the region on grid reliability and energy infrastructure issues.



LISA DAN

Hamilton County Reporter

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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.



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Our Assembly times:

Sunday Bible Study | 10:00 AM

Sunday Worship | 11:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 PM

Garrett Doan named regional executive for Northwest Bank

Submitted

Northwest Bank has named Garrett Doan as Regional Commercial Banking Market Executive for Indiana, a role in which he will lead the bank's commercial banking strategy and growth efforts across the state.

Doan will be based out of Northwest Bank's downtown Fishers banking center, supporting the bank's expanding presence in central Indiana.

In this role, Doan oversees the Commercial Bank in Indiana, with a focus on building strong teams, expanding commercial relationships, and supporting commercial and industrial businesses through a relationship-driven banking approach.

Doan brings more than 30 years of banking and financial services experience, including over 20 years spent living and working in the Central Indiana and Fishers area, where he has built deep familiarity with the region's business community and economic environment.



Doan

"I'm excited for the opportunity to lead and continue building Northwest Bank's Commercial Bank across Indiana," Doan said. "Central Indiana is a community I know well and care deeply about. We are focused on growing our commercial banking presence by investing in strong teams and delivering thoughtful financial solutions to businesses throughout the region."

Basing this role in Fishers reflects Northwest Bank's focus on central Indiana as a key area for continued commercial banking growth.

"Garrett brings deep experience, strong leadership, and a relationship-focused approach that aligns well with our goals for Indiana," said Mark Worthy, executive director and head of regional commercial banking at Northwest Bank. "His understanding of this region and commitment to building strong teams will help support our continued growth across the state."

Learn more at northwest.bank.

AARP Indiana accepting 2026 Community Challenge grant applications from local governments & nonprofits

The REPORTER

AARP Indiana invites local eligible nonprofit organizations and governments to apply for the **2026 AARP Community Challenge** grant program by 5 p.m. March 4.

AARP Community Challenge grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable by improving public places, transportation, housing, digital connections, and more.

Now in its tenth year, AARP will double its investment, awarding over \$8 million in grants as part of its nationwide **Livable Communities** initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for all residents, especially those age 50 and older.

"Since the Community Challenge grant program began, we have seen leaders across the state step up to make their community more livable for people of all ages, especially Hoosiers 50 and older," AARP Indiana State Director Sarah Waddle said. "We look forward to the opportunity this year to again work closely with local residents, advocates, and policymakers to provide support across the state."

This year, the AARP Community Challenge is accepting applications across three different grant opportunities. All projects must be consistent with AARP's mission to serve the needs of people 50 and older along with other eligibility criteria.

- **Flagship grants** support projects that improve public places; transportation; housing; digital connections; and disaster resilience. Awards range from a few hundred dollars to \$15,000.

- **Capacity-building microgrants** are paired with expert support, webinars, and cohort learning for projects to improve

walkability and bikeability; implement safe, accessible home modifications; and disaster preparedness training. Awards are \$2,500.

- **Demonstration grants** fund projects that encourage replication of exemplary local efforts. This year's focus is on improving pedestrian safety, with funding support from Toyota Motor North America; expanding high-speed internet access and adoption, with funding support from Microsoft; and housing choice design competitions. Awards typically range from \$10,000-\$20,000, not to exceed \$25,000.

"Over the last decade, AARP has invested in communities to help people of all ages and abilities to thrive," said Nancy LeMond, AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer. "The impact that our Community Challenge grants have had in cities, towns and counties nationwide is significant, supporting everything from crosswalks and home improvements to increased community engagement while also serving as a catalyst for further action. We look forward to expanding the program and its cumulative results over the next 10 years."

Since 2017, AARP has invested \$24.3 million toward 2,100 livability projects – including 40 in Indiana – across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands through the Community Challenge. The program aims to provide support to all community types, including rural, suburban, and urban communities with a special focus on the needs of those 50 and older.

AARP Indiana works in collaboration with communities across the state, bringing people together, and providing resources and expertise to help make the

See *AARP* . . . Page 10

Letter to the Editor

Westfield reader urges representatives to get serious about governing

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you as a Westfield resident, a mother, and a disabled veteran. I served this country to protect the stability and dignity of our institutions, yet today I find myself deeply concerned by the direction of our federal leadership.

As we enter tax filing season, the threat of another government shutdown – following the one we endured just months ago – is a crisis for families like mine who are already struggling.

We need a functional government that prioritizes the economic well-being of its citizens over political theater.

Furthermore, as the child of an immigrant, I find the current focus on aggressive ICE funding and the targeting of vulnerable communities – including immigrants and transgender people – to be a distraction from the real issues facing Hamilton County.

Our neighbors are not the problem; the problem is a leadership that governs through division and diver-

tissement, such as the bizarre focus on purchasing Greenland, while our own people struggle.

I served to protect the rights of all Americans. I urge our representatives, including Victoria Spartz, to prioritize a clean budget and return to the serious work of governing. Our children deserve to grow up in a country that values stability and inclusivity over partisan agendas.

Janet Franklin
Westfield

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

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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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Thanks for reading!

AG Rokita reminds parents of their rights in educating their children

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

National School Choice Week (Jan. 25 to 31) is an ideal time for parents to reflect on their rights and responsibilities in directing their children's education, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said on Thursday, Jan. 29.



Rokita

"When parents aren't in control of their children's education, bureaucrats and ideologues step in to fill the void – indoctrinating our kids with divisive ideologies instead of teaching core fundamentals," AG Rokita said. "That's just one reason school choice is essential: it empowers Hoosier parents to select the best path – public, charter, private, faith-based or homeschool, ensuring education aligns with family values rather than one-size-fits-all government mandates."

To support parents navigating K-12 education, the Attorney General's Office first released the Parents' Bill of Rights in 2021. Now in its fourth edition, this

comprehensive guide covers key areas such as curriculum transparency, medical decision-making, school choice and religious liberty.

Additionally, in February 2024, AG Rokita launched the Eyes on Education portal, an online tool for parents, teachers, and citizens to report concerning classroom materials or curricula. AG Rokita invites Hoosiers to visit the Eyes on Education portal and submit any materials that raise concerns.

"Here in Indiana, we are blessed to have many great schools and outstanding teachers," AG Rokita said. "But we are not immune from the troubling trend nationwide of left-wing indoctrination creeping into our kids' classrooms. We must remain vigilant and fight back when necessary. And we must exercise our rights to choose where our kids get their schooling in the first place."

Both the **Parents' Bill of Rights** and the **Eyes on Education portal** are available at the Attorney General's website.

School choice is key to meeting state's new attendance rules

The **Indiana Department of Education** (IDOE) considers a student chronically absent if they miss 10 percent or more of school days in an academic year. That equates to 18 days, or roughly two days per month, which may not sound like much. However, **research shows** that once a student becomes chronically absent, they have a much greater chance of falling behind academically, or even dropping out of school altogether.

GUEST COLUMNIST



DR. LIZ SLIGER

• Poor attendance among younger students influences whether they will be able to read proficiently by third grade.

• Chronic absenteeism becomes a leading indicator that students will drop out of high school by as early as sixth grade.

• Conversely, students who improve their attendance rates also improve their academic prospects and chances for graduation.

Chronic absenteeism has been a significant issue for schools since the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the pandemic, chronic absenteeism rates hovered in the 8 to 11 percent range – still high, but far from the peak in 2022 when one in five students was considered chronically absent. **Rates have come down** from that historic high, but **17.8 percent** of Indiana students were still considered chronically absent last year.

To improve absenteeism rates, the IDOE is considering stricter school

attendance rules as part of a new statewide accountability model. Under this proposal, schools must maintain a 94 percent attendance rate or risk facing penalties from the state.

While it's rooted in the right place, the policy fails to account for the unique barriers students face that can make in-person school attendance a challenge. Schools and families must work together to find the path that best fits students' needs while meeting the state's attendance goals.

An important note: Chronic absenteeism includes **both excused and unexcused absences**, meaning it's not just for students who are skipping classes without their families' knowledge. Chronic illness, poor transportation, housing and food insecurity, lack of access to the internet and technology, trauma, and violence in the community impact families as a whole and make it much more challenging for students to attend school.

Parents and students can't simply overcome these barriers alone. They require a support network that may be difficult to find. Fortunately, for parents who don't know where to look for help, they can reach out to their child's school district. For example, at K-12-powered schools, we can provide hotspots and laptops to students who don't have access to the internet or modern technology at home. We actively work with families to help

remove barriers to their students' education. Other examples of school district support include working with families to establish or improve bussing routes, visit food pantries or shelters, and partnering with the community to identify challenges that make it difficult for children to attend school.

Of course, the above barriers are far from the only reasons why students may be chronically absent from school. Aversion to school attendance can spring from struggling academically or behaviorally, social and peer challenges such as bullying, anxiety, or having an undiagnosed disability that needs more accommodation. For others, it may not be an aversion to school at all, but a matter of priority. Student athletes competing at elite levels, families who travel often or are in the military, students who work to support their families, or students who are chronically ill and have to attend medical appointments can all impact their ability to attend school in-person five days per week.

Fortunately, attending a brick-and-mortar school is not the only option. Online education works well for many students too, not simply because it's online, but because it supports multiple learning models and allows more individualized learning pathways. Online education can travel with an athlete as they compete around the globe, wait for a student to feel well after a medical procedure, start early for a student who has to go to work, or simply be paced at a rate that's more

comfortable for a student who may be struggling.

On the surface, Indiana's proposed attendance rules are a good step toward improving chronic absenteeism among Hoosiers. However, it doesn't consider the many real barriers students face in their education journey. Our education leaders must better accommodate family dynamics, the economic climate, and lived environments in its attendance policy, or it risks punishing schools for absenteeism rather than working together to solve the problem.

Hoosier families have a choice when it comes to their students' education. During National School Choice Week (Jan. 26-30), evaluate the barriers impacting your student's ability to learn and what they – and you – need to find success. Reach out to the school district and see what support they can provide. If they can't help in the ways you need, it may be time to consider other options to create the best learning environment for your student.

Dr. Liz Sliger, M. Ed., has more than 13 years of experience in teaching and education leadership, with an additional 15 years in publishing. She currently serves as the Executive Director at Indiana Digital Learning School and Indiana Digital Alternative School, tuition-free, full-time online public schools serving grades K-12 and 9-12, respectively. INDLS and INDAS offer a range of academic and school support services tailored to meet the unique needs of each student.

AARP

from Page 9

state's counties, towns, and cities great places to live for people of all ages.

The Community Challenge is open to eligible 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants

can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger projects.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. March 4. All projects must be completed by Dec. 15, 2026. To submit an application and view past grantees, visit AARP.org/CommunityChallenge.

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Experience timeless treasures of the Great American Songbook

The REPORTER
 The Great American Songbook Foundation offers visitors a rare opportunity to view timeless treasures of music history with a special temporary display

of artifacts from the Songbook Library & Archives.

This display is available for viewing from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, now through Feb. 27, in the Traditions Senior Communities Songbook Gallery inside the Payne & Mencias Palladium at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts.

This display is also open to ticketed *Center Presents* patrons prior to select performances during the exhibition's run:

- CeCe Teneal's Divas of Soul on Jan. 31
- Wayne Newton: Mr. Las Vegas – Memories & Melodies on Feb. 14
- Great American Crooners: A Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents Production on Feb. 25

Ticket Information
 Admission is free but tickets are required. Guests may reserve tickets in advance or pick them up at the Fifth Third Bank Box Office upon arrival. There is no timed entry; tickets are valid for use at any time during public gallery hours.

Reservations may be made online, by phone at (317) 843-3800 or toll-free (877) 909-2787, or in person at the Fifth Third Bank Box Office, 1 Carter Green, Carmel.

See rare artifacts
 The Timeless Treasures exhibition offers visitors a rare opportunity to view seldom-seen items from the Songbook Library & Archives.

This specially curated

display showcases some of the most noteworthy pieces in the Foundation's collections. Representing iconic vocalists, composers, lyricists, and music industry professionals active from the 1920s through the 1960s, these artifacts come together to tell the story of the Great American Songbook and its lasting impact on music and American culture across generations.

Highlights of the display include:

- Original subway poster from *Mame* belonging to Jerry Herman
- Datebook and Academy Award of Vincente Minnelli, on loan from Liza Minnelli
- Emmy Award belonging to Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gormé
- Musical arrangement and performance costume worn by Ella Fitzgerald
- Musical arrangements performed by Andy Williams, including "Moon River" and "Sleigh Ride"
- Autographs and memorabilia of the Andrews Sisters

Support for the Songbook Library & Archives

Designated support for the Songbook Library & Archives is made possible by our Preservation Partners, whose generosity sustains the Songbook Foundation's efforts to preserve, share, and celebrate the Great American Songbook.

This important work is made possible by Diane and John Abrams, Maureen Charles, Michael Charles and Dr. Larry Weeda Jr.

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Megan Brooke Ndlovu

February 26, 1991 – January 23, 2026

Megan Brooke Ndlovu, 34, Westfield, passed away on Friday, January 23, 2026, surrounded by the family who adored her. Born on February 26, 1991, in Vincennes, Ind., to James and Barbara (Lomas) Tredway, Megan grew into a woman whose kindness, compassion, and quiet strength touched every life she encountered.

Megan was a graduate of East Richland High School, Olney, Ill. She graduated with honors and was very athletic, having played tennis, basketball, and softball. A dedicated learner with a gift for helping others find their voice, Megan graduated Summa Cum Laude from Eastern Illinois University and earned her Master of Science in Communication Disorders. She went on to serve as a Speech-Language Pathologist at Ascension St. Vincent, where she approached each patient with patience, empathy, and unwavering commitment. Her colleagues knew her as a steady presence; her patients remembered her as someone who truly listened.

As a child, Megan accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior. She attended CrossRoads Church At Westfield where she grew in her faith.

On June 16, 2016, Megan married Mbongeni Ndlovu. Together they built a home filled with laughter, respect, and deep affection. Megan's greatest joy came from being a mother to their two daughters, Aubrey and Maddyx, who were the light of her days and inspiration. She was a dedicated and loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend.

Megan's life was defined by generosity – of spirit, of time, of love. She had a way of making people feel seen and valued, whether through a thoughtful word, or a warm embrace. Her presence brought comfort; her absence leaves an ache that words cannot fully express.

Though Megan's time here was far too short, the legacy she leaves – of compassion, dedication, and love – will continue to echo in the lives she touched and with everyone who knew her.

Megan will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

Survivors include her loving husband of nine years, Mbongeni "Bong" Ndlovu; children, Aubrey Ndlovu and Maddyx Ndlovu; parents, James and Barbara Tredway; sister, Melissa (Bryan) Vinson; brother, Jeremy Brown; nephew, Nathaniel Vinson; father-in-law, Vusa Mabhena; uncle, Kelvin Lomas; aunts, Sue Tredway, Pam Tredway, and Joyce Tredway; grandmother, Joyce Ndlovu; and beloved cousins.

Megan was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Robert and E. Mae Lomas; paternal grandparents, Bernard and Betty Tredway; mother-in-law, Thenjiwe Ndlovu; aunts, Karen Lomas, Bev Johnson, and Ann Tredway; uncles, John Tredway and Joe Tredway; cousins, Lucas Heckler and Tony Tredway; and nephew, Baby Vinson.

Family and friends will gather at 10 a.m. Friday, January 30, 2026, at CrossRoads Church At Westfield, 19201 Grassy Branch Road, Westfield, where the Celebration of Life Memorial Service will begin at 11 a.m.

Megan's final resting place is in Carmel Cemetery, Carmel.

In memory of Megan, donations may be made to the Memoriam of Megan Ndlovu in care of CrossRoads Church At Westfield, 19201 Grassy Branch Rd, Westfield, IN 46074 (secure.myvanco.com/L-YR0F/campaign/C-168KV). Envelopes will be available at the church.

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

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Meeting Notices

The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees will meet in an executive session at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9) To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to a discussion of the salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process; and IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(11) To train school board members with an outside consultant about the performance of the role of the members as public officials.

The Cicero Redevelopment Commission meeting scheduled for 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, has been moved to the Red Bridge Community Building, 697 W. Jackson St.

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

Thanks for reading!

Each year, the Hamilton County Reporter requests government entities to notify us of public meetings as their Open Door Law notification under I.C. 5-14-1.5-5. The Reporter publishes these notices as a public service in our Tuesday through Friday digital editions. Meeting notices for Open Door Law compliance can be sent to PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com.

— NOBLESVILLE —

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION
Notice is hereby given that the City of Noblesville Common Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on February 10, 2026, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, Indiana.
The purpose of the public hearing is to consider additional appropriation authority in the General Fund to restore appropriations adopted after the preliminary budget was advertised to comply with the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance requirements.
The foregoing appropriations are in addition to all appropriations provided for in the existing budget and tax levy.
Taxpayers of the City of Noblesville appearing at the hearing shall have a right to be heard in respect to this additional appropriation.
Dated this 28th day of January, 2026.

CITY OF NOBLESVILLE
/s/ Evelyn L. Lees, Clerk
1/30/26, 2/2/26
R7367

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION
Notice is hereby given that the City of Noblesville Common Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on February 10, 2026, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 16 South 10th Street, Noblesville, Indiana.
The purpose of the public hearing is to consider additional appropriation authority in the Civil City Capital Projects Reserve Fund to supplement other sources of funding for the Embrace Downtown project bond.
The foregoing appropriations are in addition to all appropriations provided for in the existing budget and tax levy.
Taxpayers of the City of Noblesville appearing at the hearing shall have a right to be heard in respect to this additional appropriation.
Dated this 28th day of January, 2026.

CITY OF NOBLESVILLE
/s/ Evelyn L. Lees, Clerk
1/30/26, 2/2/26
R7368

— ARCADIA —

Notice
The Arcadia Town Council will meet in an Executive Session on Monday, February 2nd at 6:30 to discuss IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(D) the purchase or lease of real property by the governing body up to the time and contract or option to purchase of lease is executed by the parties. This will be located at 208 W. Main St Arcadia, IN 46030
R7406 1/30/26, 2/2/26

PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

QUAIL FROM THE LORD

"Tell the people: 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The Lord heard you when you wailed, 'If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!' Now the Lord will give you meat, and you will eat it. You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the Lord, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, 'Why did we ever leave Egypt?'"

But Moses said, "Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot, and you say, 'I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!' Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?"

The Lord answered Moses, "Is the Lord's arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you."

So Moses went out and told the people what the Lord had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again.

However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!"

But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!" Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

Numbers 11:18-30 (NIV)

The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

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

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REPORTER SPORTS FRIDAY

Sports Editor Richie Hall | Sports@ReadTheReporter.com | Twitter @Richie_Hall

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

Meet Sheridan's new Athletic Director

The REPORTER
Sheridan Community Schools invites community members to a special meet-and-greet to welcome new Athletic Director Jared Green.



Green

The event will take place from 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4 at

Greek's Pizza, 417 S. Main St., Sheridan.

This gathering offers students, families, faculty, and the public a chance to stop by, introduce themselves, and get to know Green in a relaxed environment, as well as enjoy a slice of great pizza.

Girls Basketball

Trailblazers win regular-season finale

The REPORTER

University's girls finished their regular season with a 76-2 win over Heron Thursday at the U Center.

The Trailblazers led 43-0 at halftime; the Achaeans scored their only points on a third-quarter basket.

Leah Norvell scored 22 points, while Gabby Culp

added 16 points. Sydney Culp scored 15, including three 3-pointers. Julie Montiel also reached double digits with 10 points.

University is 9-11 and plays at Class 2A Sectional 42 next Saturday, Feb. 6, against the winner of Tuesday's game between Covenant Christian and Cardinal Ritter.

Arabians pull away from Millers

By CRAIG ADKINS
For The Reporter

The Noblesville girls basketball team was on the road Thursday for the first of their two final regular season games.

The Millers gave the No. 10 Arabians all they could handle for a good part of three and a half quarters. It took until midway through the fourth before Pendleton Heights was able to pull away for the 49-39 win.

The two battled back and forth in the first and Pendleton clung to an 11-7 edge.

Noblesville fought hard in the second, doubling up the Arabians 12-6. Tied 13-13 late in the half, Aleah

Magee banked a three with 2:30 left to make it 16-13. Maia Blower increased the lead to 19-13 with a three of her own with 53 seconds in the quarter and the Millers led 19-17 at halftime.

Pendleton would lead 33-30 through three, but they didn't take over until late in the period.

The Arabians found ways late in the game and pushed away for the 10-point win.

C.C. Quigley led with 20 and four rebounds. Blower had nine on three triples and Magee five boards and five assists.

Noblesville (8-11) travels to Anderson (6-15) for the regular season finale Saturday for a noon game.

Rocks, Millers gymnasts have high scores and potential

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

CARMEL – The Noblesville and Westfield gymnastics teams met on Thursday night for a dual meet at Hollywood Sports Center in Carmel.

Both teams are already well into their seasons, which have so far produced high scores and high hopes for the post-season tournament. The Shamrocks won the dual over the Millers 101.275-99.375.

Westfield coach Ally Dunkin said the season has been going "fantastic" for the Shamrocks.

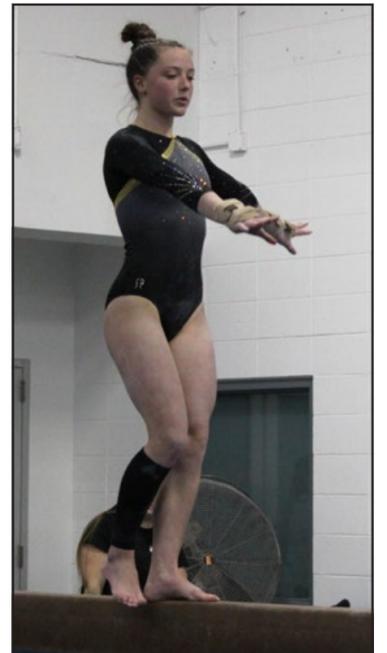
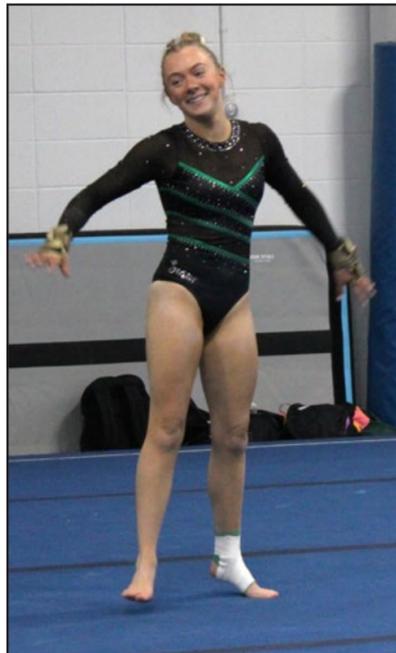
"This is the biggest team we've ever had," said Dunkin. "We've got 14 girls and there's just a lot of talent on our team."

The Rocks are a very young team, with only one senior, Madie Doran. Meanwhile, sophomore Sonoma Fischer led the way for Westfield, winning the all-around and three individual events: the vault, uneven bars and floor exercise, with 9.05s on the vault and floor.

Fischer may be new to high school gymnastics, but she participated in club gymnastics for years.

"It's different, but I really like it," said Fischer. "And I like the community and it's fun."

Doran's best score of



Reporter photos by Richie Hall
(LEFT) Westfield's Madie Doran is the lone senior on the Shamrocks' team this season. **(RIGHT)** Noblesville's Valorey Bittles placed second on the vault and floor exercises.

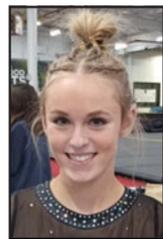
the night was 8.80 on the floor, which placed her third in that event. She has a simple message for her young teammates.

"I just try and tell them to have fun, go out there, do their best. No worries at all, just do their best," said Doran.

Noblesville's Emmerson Leckrone had the Millers' event win, scoring an 8.325 on the balance beam. There are no seniors on No-

blesville's team, but gymnasts like juniors Leckrone and Valorey Bittles are helping to lead the way. Bittles was second in the vault and floor events, while Hailey Nobbe placed second on bars.

"Emmerson, Hailey and Valorey are leaders on the team," said Millers coach



Fischer

Erica Eder. "We're throwing some big skills, which naturally come with big falls," said Eder. "But we're getting big skills, so I think by the time sectionals come around we'll have those skills and be ready to show them off."

See Gym . . . Page 13

Girls Wrestling

HSE's Lannen reflects on qualifying for state

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

At last week's Hamilton Southeastern boys wrestling meet, the Royals stopped for a moment to congratulate one of their girls wrestlers.

The congratulations were well-deserved, as Lindsey Lannen was the first HSE girl to qualify for an IHSAA-sanctioned state tournament. Lannen was in attendance watching the boys and she took a few minutes to speak to The Reporter about her accomplishments.

A 120-pound senior, Lannen began her run at the Muncie Central sectional on Jan. 2. She cruised through the bracket, making two pins to reach the final, which she won by a 6-0 decision. Lannen also helped Southeastern win the team championships, its first ever. The Royals went back



Photos courtesy HSE Athletics
Hamilton Southeastern's Lindsey Lannen was the first girls wrestler to qualify for the IHSAA-sanctioned state finals on Jan. 16.

to Muncie Central on Jan. 10 for the regional. Lannen received a forfeit in the first round, which sent her to the quarterfinals, or the "ticket round," as the winner is guaranteed a top-four finish and a place at the state meet.

Lannen easily punched her ticket to state: she pinned Perry Meridian's Valeria Velez in the first round.

"It was unreal," said Lannen. "I remember getting my hand raised and just running off the mat, hugging my coaches. It was just unreal."

Lannen toughed out a 15-12 decision over Franklin Central's Madison Mink to reach the championship match, where she fell to Richmond's Claire Abbitt in a first-period pin. But she was on her way to the state meet, which took place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum on Jan. 16.

Right before wrestling begins, all of the state qualifiers lineup for the Parade of Champions, which Lannen called "really cool." She noted the bright lights at the Coliseum as wrestlers walk out on to the floor.

"There's no way to really describe how it exactly feels, but it's such a neat experience to have been able to go state, the Parade of Champions and just be recognized for what I accomplished this season," said Lannen.

Lannen competed for the Royals wrestling team three years, beginning with her sophomore year. That was the last season girls



wrestling in Indiana was a club sport; it became sanctioned by the IHSAA beginning with the 2024-25 season. As a result, Lannen got to see the changes that come with sanctioning the tournament up close.

"I think there's more recognition now," said Lannen. "I think people really see that this is an evolving sport, the fastest-growing sport in the country for high schoolers." "As a club sport, it was more like something for people to do. It wasn't really taken seriously, even in practices and stuff. But now that we've been sanctioned, we now have

See Lannen . . . Page 13

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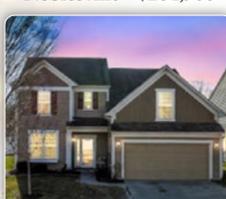
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Wrestling sectional information **SPORTS SCHEDULE**

The REPORTER

There is now one day left before Indiana boys wrestling teams compete in the sectional tournament.

The first Hamilton County wrestlers begin their quest at 8 a.m., as teams from Guerin Catholic, Hamilton Heights and Noblesville compete at the Elwood sectional. The county's other five teams - Carmel, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Sheridan and Westfield - start their day at 8:30 a.m. at the Frankfort sectional.

Here is a complete list of Hamilton County competitors from each school.

At Elwood

Meet begins at 8 a.m.

[Link to live results](#)

Guerin Catholic wrestlers - 106: Rafe Liechty, 113: Caden Muller, 126: Gabe Liechty, 132: Joseph Dunasky, 138: Andrew Uremovich, 144: Jeremiah Richardson, 150: Liam Skelly, 157: Parker Howell, 165: Jackson Kaufman, 175: Quentin Klee, 190: Jack Hubbard, 215: Stephen Abdalla, 285: Oliver Kerr.

Hamilton Heights wrestlers - 106: Ezekiel Rice, 113: Jude Bailey, 120: Jonah Wolfgang, 126: Kolter Galloway, 132: Kase Powell, 138: Braden Rutledge, 144: Asher Barrick, 150: Simon Kuhn, 157: Nathan Flanders, 165: Braxtyn Baber, 175: Seth Van Hook, 190: Hans Frymier, 215: Thiago Zuniga, 285: Samuel Van Hook.

Noblesville wrestlers - 106: Henry Antrobus, 113: Eli

Kincaide, 120: Blake Weimer, 126: Brody Weimer, 132: Zach Nekolite, 138: Justus Suddarth, 144: Isaac Suddarth, 150: Luke Chastain, 157: Kyle Howard, 165: Aidan Kincaide, 175: Evan Nicholls, 190: Yan Tioua, 215: Cale Metzler, 285: Jackson Apple.

At Frankfort

Meet begins at 8:30 a.m.

[Link to live results](#)

Carmel wrestlers - 106: Clayton Alexander, 113: Sulivan Mahar, 120: Carlo Federici, 126: Jordan Penquite, 132: Brock Raasch, 138: Elliott Leonard, 144: Tyler Elliott, 150: Jaxen Timmons, 157: Braydon Mack, 165: Austin Yunker, 175: Eli Isen, 190: Gavin Adkins, 215: Will Massey, 285: Jensen Bruckner.

Fishers wrestlers - 106: Nick Molter, 113: Bryce Rogers, 120: Seth Lamb, 126: Tanawin Ngamkamolrat, 132: Will Hruskoci, 138: Ellis Burns, 144: Johnny Irving, 150: James Schwartz, 157: Ezekiel Kramer, 165: Preston Springer, 175: Carter Fraley, 190: Camden Funk, 215: Julian Burgett, 285: Ryan Dungee.

Hamilton Southeastern wrestlers - 106: Nolan Culp, 113: William Lakes, 120: Raj Nagra, 126: Cale Beattie, 132: Owen McGuire, 138: Parker Culp, 144: Max Inman, 150: Roben Randhawa, 157: Dylan Lane, 165: Cohen Davis, 175: Evan Biehl, 190: Reid Snider, 215: Brandon Alvarez, 285: A.W. VanKirk.

Sheridan wrestlers - 113: George Buskirk, 132: Treyton



Manford Photography / File photo
Noblesville's Aidan Kincaide, shown at the Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet, will wrestle for the Millers at 165 pounds during the Elwood sectional on Saturday.

Bogus, 150: Gabriel Snider, 157: Parker Cravens, 165: Alex Cravens, 175: Eli Bales, 190: Oscar Obst, 215: Jordan Byrne, 285: Brody McKinney.

Westfield wrestlers - 106: Connor Maddox, 113: Brayden Head, 120: Aiden Driscoll, 126:

Oliver Baud, 132: Trevor Humburg, 138: Alic Washburn, 144: Brayden Rhea, 150: Graydon Staley, 157: Seth Tanner, 165: Blake Glodowski, 175: Maxwell Brown, 190: Jon Stryker, 215: Samuel Travis, 285: Aiden Padgett.

GYM

Team score: Westfield 101.275, Noblesville 99.375.

All-around scores: 1. Sonoma Fischer (W) 34.55, 2. Valorey Bittles (N) 33.825, 3. Hallie Walther (W) 33.40, 4. Emmerson Leckrone (N) 32.45, 5. Madie Doran (W) 31.575, 6. Vera Deichman (N) 31.125, 7. Avery Mason (W) 31.00.

Vault: 1. Fischer (W) 9.05, 2. Bittles (N) 8.95, 3. Walther

(W) 8.875, T4. Hailey Nobbe (N) 8.65; Doran (W) 8.65, T6. Leckrone (N) 8.575; Avery Mason (N) 8.575, 8. Kaleia Cole (W) 8.425, 9. Kelsey Atkinson (W) 8.35, 10. Sterling Southard (N) 8.25, 11. Deichman (N) 8.20, 12. Phoenix Rollins (N) 7.75.

Uneven bars: 1. Fischer (W) 8.75, 2. Nobbe (N) 8.425, 3. Bittles (N) 8.00, T4. Mason (W) 7.925; Walther (W) 7.925,

6. Cole (W) 7.525, 7. Deichman (N) 7.50, 8. Atkinson (W) 7.56, 9. Leckrone (N) 7.075, 10. Doran (W) 6.175, 11. Southard (N) 4.275, 12. Rollins (N) 3.975.

Balance beam: 1. Leckrone (N) 8.325, 2. Walther (W) 8.025, 3. Bittles 8.00, 4. Doran (W) 7.95, 5. Nobbe (N) 7.80, 6. Fischer (W) 7.70, 7. Deichman

(W) 7.625, 8. Harper Roy (W) 7.225, 9. Lilly Martin (N) 6.85, 10. Southard (N) 5.75, 11. Mason (W) 6.575.

Floor exercise: 1. Fischer (W) 9.05, 2. Bittles (N) 8.875, 3. Doran (W) 8.80, 4. Walther (W) 8.525, 5. Roy (W) 8.50, 6. Leckrone (N) 8.475, 7. Mason (W) 7.925, 8. Deichman (N) 7.80, 9. Rollins (N) 6.65.

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LANNEN

from Page 12

individual practices from the boys. We used to practice with the boys. Now we have our own individual practices, different locations, so it's been really great."

Lannen is undecided about which college she will attend and was open to continuing to wrestle in college. She said she would "love to see more college teams have girls wrestling." As for high school, Lannen said she

hopes to see more girls get into wrestling as well, with the girls eventually having "teams the size of the guys teams right now."

"With it being a growing sport, you have teams ranging from 20 people to a handful of girls," said Lannen. "Having more consistent-size teams for duals and stuff like that, I think would be really cool to see in the next five to 10 years."

Friday, Jan. 30
BOYS BASKETBALL
Avon at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.
Carmel at Ben Davis, 7:30 p.m.
Fishers at Franklin Central, 7:30 p.m.
Guerin Catholic at Lebanon, 7:30 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.
Taylor at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.
Tipton at Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.
University at Anderson Prep Academy, 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Fishers at Franklin Central, 6 p.m.
Taylor at Sheridan, 6 p.m.
Ben Davis at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31
BOYS BASKETBALL
Believe Circle City at Hamilton Heights, 2 p.m.
Guerin Catholic at Noblesville, 2:30 p.m.
Fishers at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.
Pendleton Heights at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
Sheridan at Covenant Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Westfield at Mooresville, 7:30 p.m.
BOYS WRESTLING SECTIONALS
Guerin Catholic, Hamilton Heights, Noblesville at Elwood, 8 a.m.
Carmel, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Sheridan, Westfield at Frankfort, 8:30 a.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Noblesville at Anderson, noon
Sheridan at Clinton Central, 1 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 2
BOYS BASKETBALL
Bishop Chatard at University, 7:30 p.m.

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

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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 Scecina | 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

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