

TUESDAY, FEB. 3, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy.
 Flurries or snow showers.
 Tonight: Partly cloudy.



HIGH: 28 LOW: 9

Noblesville firefighters save woman from burning home

Submitted by Noblesville Fire Department

Shortly after 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30, the Noblesville Fire Department (NFD) was dispatched by Hamilton County Public Safety Communications to a reported residential structure fire with entrapment in the 3000 block of Cicero Road.

Neighbors alerted emergency services after observing smoke coming from the residence. While en route, first-arriving units observed a visible column of smoke and immediately upgraded the incident to a working fire.

Upon arrival, crews encountered one resident outside the home suffering from burn injuries. That individual was evaluated by emergency medical personnel and transported by ambulance to a local hospital.

Firefighters faced difficult conditions while conducting a primary search of the residence. Crews successfully located a second resident who

was trapped inside the home and removed her to safety. She was also transported to a local hospital for treatment. A total of two occupants were transported as a result of the incident.

The fire caused significant damage to the residence, resulting in the displacement of the occupants. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

The Noblesville Fire Department was assisted on scene by the Cicero Fire Department, Jackson Township Fire Department, and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

The Noblesville Fire Department reminds residents that working smoke detectors save lives. Ensure you have functioning smoke detectors installed on every level of your home. If you need assistance checking or installing smoke detectors, residents may contact the Noblesville Fire Department to schedule a time for a firefighter to assist at thash@noblesville.in.gov.



Photos provided by Noblesville Fire Department

No matter what

Sometimes you hear someone say something somewhat simple, but it has a profound impact on your life. Perhaps it even feels like God purposely had you hear something just to reassure you of a truth you already knew.



MEGAN RATHZ
 When Nature Speaks

Mel Robbins is a podcast host and popular author. She has taken the world by storm with her book, *The Let Them Theory*. One day I heard her say, "No matter what happens today, I can handle it." This made me pause. What an empowering statement and outlook.

How many times do we let the fear of the unknown clutter our thoughts? I think it is what makes us human. The idea of taking back your own day and power with the mindset that you're strong enough to handle anything that comes your way that day is something that many people, including me, need to hear sometimes.

Waking up and looking at the upcoming day filled with unknowns and potential negative things that could happen is not any way to live your life. It's easy when something happens or you are struggling to assume the worst or even brace for impact. Many look at this as being prepared, but what does that do to your mind? Constantly assuming the worst just in the event that you're not taken off guard is very unhealthy for your spirit.

What if you go to bed and instead of overthinking every conversation from that day and analyzing what you should have said and done differently, you go to bed with the perspective that tomorrow is a new day and no matter what, I am strong enough to face it and handle it with grace? This allows us to reclaim our own power.

We cannot control many factors in our lives. If you're a person of faith, the unknown is a place we put our trust in God and His plan. You've made it this far. God isn't just going to leave you now.

See *No Matter . . .* Page 2

Body of missing Fishers teen Hailey Buzbee found in Ohio

By KATY DONINGER & CAT SANDOVAL
 WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Investigators have located the body of Hailey Buzbee, a missing 17-year-old girl from Fishers.

Buzbee's remains were found Sunday in Perry County, Ohio, according to attorney Sam Shamansky. Shamansky represents 39-year-old Tyler Thomas, the primary suspect in Buzbee's disappearance.

Shamansky told News 8's Garrett Bergquist that Thomas led investigators "directly to Buzbee's remains."

Police said Sunday that Thomas, of Columbus, Ohio, admitted to picking up Hailey Buzbee at her home in Fishers in January and driving her to Ohio. Investigators believe Thomas and Buzbee met through online gaming.

Thomas faces felony charges of pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor and tampering with evidence. The charges are not directly tied to Buzbee's death. Additional charges could be filed.

On Monday, a judge set bond for Thomas at \$1.5 million. If he posts bond, he will be barred from unsupervised visits with minors and will not be allowed to access the internet.

Court records show Thomas has a preliminary hearing at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

In a Sunday press conference, Fishers Police Department officials said they believed Buzbee was deceased.

"It pains me today to let you know that, after an extensive investigation, we feel that Hailey is deceased," said Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness.

The mayor said he spoke with Hailey's family.

"Their wish was truly to express what an incredible human being Hailey was," Fadness said. "She was a bright light in the family. She was a wonderful big sister. She had a tremendous promise and hope."

On Facebook, Hailey's father Beau Buzbee wrote, "Hailey was a smart, beautiful, kind, and caring young lady with a bright future. She had a deep love for her family and holds a very special place in so many hearts. Our family is devastated. We want the community and others to know that we are so thankful for the support we received. It's been tremendous and gave us the hope and strength we needed during our darkest hours."

See *Buzbee . . .* Page 2

Pretty Woman: The Musical struts onto Beef & Boards stage Feb. 19

The REPORTER

Unlikely soulmates Vivian and Edward step off of the silver screen and onto the stage at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre in *Pretty Woman: The Musical*, opening Feb. 19. The first musical of Beef & Boards' 2026 Season, *Pretty Woman* features national tour veterans leading the cast, and all of the iconic moments from the popular film.

When Edward asks Vivian for directions in late 1980s Los Angeles, she unknowingly sets them both on a course that will change their lives forever. From the glamour of Rodeo Drive to the vulnerability of two people

breaking down barriers, *Pretty Woman* celebrates transformation, connection, and the power of taking chances on love.

National tour veterans Dani Kucera and Charlie Fusari headline the production as Vivian Ward and Edward Lewis,



Kucera



Fusari



respectively. Kucera, who made her Beef & Boards debut as Vivienne Kensington in *Legally Blonde* and performed as a swing and understudy for Vivian Ward in the recent *Pretty Woman* National Tour, steps into the leading role. Fusari, making his Beef &

Boards debut, brings his experience from the same tour, where he performed in the ensemble and understudied his starring role as Edward, the corporate mogul with a guarded heart. Ariana Valdes also makes her Beef & Boards debut as Vivian's friend Kit De Luca, while Logan Moore, Joey Boos, and Antony Winfrey return to the Beef & Boards stage as Philip Stuckey, Giulio, and the landlord, respectively.

With an original score by Grammy Award-winner Bryan Adams and his longtime

See *Musical . . .* Page 2

Hamilton Heights pulls all stops to honor Sonny Beck as first of 'Distinguished Alumni'



Lawrence "Sonny" Beck was honored as Hamilton Heights' inaugural entry into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame during a ceremony and dinner last Friday, Jan. 30 at the high school. A 1958 graduate of Jackson Central High School and CEO of Beck's Hybrids, Beck has spent his life cultivating leadership, innovation, and service that has shaped the agriculture and education of the Hamilton Heights community. Thank you, Sonny Beck, for everything you have done and continue to do for your community.

Reporter photos

Town of Atlanta
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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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 by John Cariani

Directed by Kathy Watson

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www.basilewestfieldplayhouse.org





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Alamo Drafthouse Cinema named presenting sponsor of Heartland Film Festival

Submitted

Heartland Film has announced Alamo Drafthouse Cinema at The Square as the presenting sponsor of the Heartland Film Festival for the next three years. In addition to being the presenting sponsor, Alamo Drafthouse Cinema will host many of the screenings and events during the festival's run in October of 2026, 2027, and 2028.

"I am incredibly grateful for the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema's continued support of the Heartland Film Festival," Heartland Film President Michael Ault said. "In 2025, their theaters, dining and hospitality far exceeded the expectations of our festival filmmakers, attendees, volunteers and staff. Over the next three years, I look forward to growing the Heartland Film Festival through their dedicated partnership."

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema opened on Nov. 18, 2024, at The Square, 3898 Lafayette Road, Indianapolis, with 13 screens, 4K projection, an arcade, a private screening room, locally-sourced food, and craft drinks. Alamo Drafthouse Cinema is committed to excellence in every way.

"Heartland Film Festi-



Photo provided



val reminds us why movies matter with people sitting together, sharing a moment, and leaving with something new," said Fabio De La Cruz, CEO of Sojos Capital. "It values good films, good people and a place where filmmakers and audiences feel welcome."

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema at The Square stands apart from other theaters through a unique blend of high-end amenities and a deep respect for the moviegoing experience. The theater enforces a strict no-talking, no-texting policy to ensure every screening is immersive and uninterrupted. Guests can enjoy an elevated dining experience with

chef-inspired menus and a made-from-scratch kitchen, with food and drinks delivered silently during the film. Each of the 13 auditoriums features stadium seating, heated full recliners and individual tables for maximum comfort. Equipped with state-of-the-art projection and Dolby surround sound, Alamo delivers a cinematic experience that rivals any in the country.

The 35th Heartland Film Festival is set for Oct. 8 to 18, 2026, with screenings at Alamo Drafthouse Cinema and theaters across the Indianapolis area. The films and tickets will be available starting on Sept. 17 at HeartlandFilm.org.

NO MATTER

from Page 1

No matter what it is that you're worrying about right now, tell yourself that *no matter what* you can handle it. No longer allow it the power to control your thoughts and fill your mind with fear.

This is a time in the year where winter is still here and it seems like spring is too far away. Some folks are struggling with seasonal depression. The holidays are over. Perhaps it feels like you're alone and there isn't much to look forward to right now, but let me remind you that no matter what happens today, YOU can handle it!

If you or someone you love is struggling with mental health or life feels overwhelming right now,

reach out and get help. Talk to someone. Go for a walk. Turn off the news and call a friend.

You're here for a reason, and you matter. Don't ever let your mind tell yourself differently. You're

strong and you're needed right now, and don't you ever forget it.

Megan Rathz is a wife, mother, and teacher. She says everything she has ever learned in life came from her Master Gardener mother.

MUSICAL

from Page 1

collaborator Jim Vallance, alongside a book by the film's legendary director Garry Marshall and screenwriter J.F. Lawton, this production marks the first time the hit Broadway musical has been staged at Beef & Boards.

Tickets are currently on sale exclusively through Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre at BeefAndBoards.com or by calling the box office at (317) 872-9664. Patrons are advised that tickets purchased from third-party sellers may not be valid for performances and may include additional fees.

Pretty Woman: The Musical is on stage for 45 performances through April 4. Every performance includes

Beef & Boards' signature dinner buffet, along with coffee, tea, or lemonade. Gourmet desserts and bar beverages are available for purchase.

Pretty Woman is sponsored by Current Publishing and is rated PG-13 for adult content. It is licensed by Music Theatre International (MTI).

Note: Starting in 2026, all Tuesday through Saturday evening shows begin at 7:30 p.m., while the start time for Sunday early evening performances remains at 7 p.m.

Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Indiana's only year-round professional dinner theatre, has been serving up exceptional entertainment since 1973.

BUZBEE

from Page 1

Police say Buzbee was at Thomas' home in Columbus, Ohio, and a short-term rental in Hocking County, Ohio.

"Our detectives identified Thomas as the suspect she left with," said Fishers Police Chief Ed Gebhart. "We made contact with him in Ohio, and he admitted to picking Hailey up in her home."

Thomas is being held at the Franklin County Jail in Columbus, Ohio.

On Sunday, **Hailey's father posted** about his hopes to create an alert for missing people when there are credible risk indicators called a "Pink Alert" or "Hailey's Law." Hailey was initially classified as a runaway, so no alert was issued.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wistv.com/news/crime-watch-8/fishers-police-missing-17-year-old-girl-believed-to-be-dead.

Thanks for reading The REPORTER!

For more news, visit ReadTheReporter.com

Dinner will benefit LifeWise Academy of Sheridan students

Submitted

LifeWise Academy in Sheridan will hold a Dinner for a Cause at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at Sheridan High School in the cafeteria, 24185 Hinesley Road.

The dinner will benefit students attending LifeWise Academy, and will take place before the Blackhawks' last home boys varsity game versus Traders Point. This event is open to the public and will provide information for parents interested in enrolling their children while also raising funds to support students attending LifeWise Academy at Sheridan Elementary and Middle school this year.

"We are excited to offer Bible-based character education to participating students in fifth and sixth grade and look forward to

growing a relationship with Sheridan community members," LifeWise Academy Sheridan Director Elisabeth Kennedy said.

To attend Dinner for a Cause on Feb. 26 you may purchase tickets for \$15 each at [this link](#) or by emailing sheridanin@lifewise.org. Charleston's Restaurant of Carmel has committed to donating the meal and will give each ticket holder a \$10 gift card to the restaurant. The Sheridan Dairy Queen is donating desserts as well.

There will be a silent auction with valuable items which have been donated by generous local businesses and attractions. The bidding will conclude at the buzzer starting the third period of the basketball game. Thanks to Conner Prairie, The In-



Photo provided by LifeWise Academy

dianapolis Zoo, and many other participants that make these baskets appealing for all. *Note:* You do not need to be present to win.

LifeWise lessons teach the Bible chronologically. Each lesson connects a Bible passage to a relevant character trait in which students learn how to apply the teachings to life outside of the classroom.

LifeWise Academy, based in Hilliard, Ohio, is a released-time religious instruction program providing Bible-based character education to public school students. With parent permission, students are released from school for one hour per week to attend off-campus classes. For more information about LifeWise Academy, visit lifewise.org.

Community News

Phi Beta Psi's Euchre Tournament set for Saturday

It's time for Phi Beta Psi Sorority Sheridan Chapter's annual Euchre Tournament.

The fun starts at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 at The Studio On Main, 302 S. Main St., Sheridan

Cost to play is \$20, plus \$1's to pay the pig. Snacks are included.

Open florist callout for Indiana Peony Festival

By **KELLY McVEY**
President, Indiana Peony Festival, Inc.

January is behind us, and we're blooming right into February, a month full of flowers, lush bouquets, and the exciting kickoff of our Florist Callout.

We're on the lookout for florists and landscape artists with a creative eye, superb floral skills, and a true passion for peonies. This year's festival will feature impeccable floral installations throughout Seminary Park and Downtown Noblesville,

and we'd love for you to help bring these vibrant displays to life.

Whether you're a seasoned designer or just blooming into the floral world, there's a perfect spot for your talent. This is your chance to show off your creativity, share your artistry, and wow festival visitors with your floral magic. Are you interested in joining us?

[Click here](#) for more information and to apply. The deadline is Friday, Feb. 20.

Let's make this May unforgettable ... one beautiful bloom at a time!

Franklin College recognizes seven Hamilton County students for academic achievement

The REPORTER

Franklin College has announced the president's and dean's list for the fall 2025 semester.

Students named to the president's list have achieved academic distinction by earning a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours during a regular semester.

Jamie Schlieper, a junior from Carmel, is among those students named to the president's list.

Students named to the dean's list have completed a

minimum of 12 credit hours during a regular semester, earning a grade-point average of at least 3.5 but less than 4.0.

The following Hamilton County students have been named to the dean's list:

- **Abigayle Clayton**, a freshman from Noblesville
- **Hanna Maudlin**, a freshman from Fishers
- **Kaylee Rhoton**, a junior from Cicero
- **Destiny Sweney**, a freshman from Westfield
- **Gabriella Sweney**, a freshman from Westfield
- **Sky Wrightson**, a freshman from Carmel

Healthy relationships ... that's the move!

When I think back to my teenage years in the 1980s, dating looked very different. If someone wanted to talk to you, they had to call your house phone and hope a parent didn't answer first.



TAMI WANNINGER
Prevail, Inc.

Notes were passed in hallways. When the school day ended, so did most of the communication.

Today, teens live in a completely different world.

Technology has changed how young people connect, form relationships, and unfortunately, how control and abuse can occur. As a mother, I understand how challenging it can be to parent through these situations that did not exist when we were growing up. Texting, social media, location sharing, and

constant access does not stop at the school doors. They can follow teens home and into every hour of the day.

Teen dating violence today often doesn't look like what many of us remember. It may show up as:

- Pressure to constantly text or respond immediately
- Request for passwords or access to social media
- Monitoring locations or who someone is spending time with
- Public shaming, threats, or manipulation online

At Prevail, we know it can be confusing for families.

As parents and caregivers, it's easy to feel unsure, but the good news is that you do not need to have all the answers. What matters

most is connection. Talking openly about healthy relationships, listening without judgement, and reminding teens they can always come to a trusted adult when something does not feel right, can have a powerful impact.

Love should never feel controlling, isolating, or scary.

One thing hasn't changed since the '80s is that teens want to feel seen, valued, and understood. When teens know the adults in their lives are paying attention, they are more likely to reach out when something doesn't feel right.

This Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM), we invite you to reflect, learn, and start the conversation. Together, we can help young people build relationships rooted in respect and safety ensuring they don't have to navigate

today's challenges alone. [Click here](#) to access Prevail's TDVAM Toolkit.

Wear Orange Day
Tuesday, Feb. 10

What is #WearOrange-Day?

It is an annual effort every year during TDVAM to show solidarity and raise awareness about dating violence by dressing in orange.

We encourage you to share pictures on your socials using #WearOrange-Day and tag us @prevail.inc. In doing so, you're helping us spread the message that everyone deserves a healthy relationship!

Thank you for standing with Prevail and for helping us create safer futures for teens and families in our community. Healthy relationships ... that's the move!

Tami Wanninger serves as the Executive Director of Prevail, Inc.

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Dinner at Culinary Dropout

Mrs. K and I braved the freezing temps last Thursday night to escape our week-long self-imposed lockdown to enjoy a night out including dinner at Culinary Dropout, 1320 E. 86th St., Indianapolis. We

had recently attended Happy Hour there and wanted to get a feel for their dinner offerings.

We arrived at about 6 p.m. and the parking lot had only one space for us to glide into. It seems the weather was not keeping folks from having dinner out! Culinary Dropout is a large restaurant, and the place was mostly full when we arrived.

We were taken to our two-top table in the bar/lounge area by a very friendly hostess, who asked if we had been there before and chatted for a short while about the bad weather and the good crowd. Soon, our server Julianne was with us, informing us of the evening's special dishes and cocktails. She took our drink order – Chardonnay (Duckhorn "Decoy" 9 ounces for \$21) for Mrs. K and a Sauvi-



COLUMNIST
KEN KLINGENMEIER
A Seat at the Table

gnon Blanc (The Crossings 9 ounces for \$19.50) for me. Time to peruse the menu, available [here](#).

Culinary Dropout has what I would call a \$\$ and ½ \$ menu. There are dishes priced from \$15.50 for a Dinner Salad (Butternut Squash and Kale) up through Sandwiches (\$18 to \$26) and on into Entrees (\$21 to \$41). Each category has a varietous selection to choose from and we were tempted by more than a few.

When it came down to ordering, we chose wisely, I think. My wife ordered the Shaved Prime Rib Dip (\$26) which came with a House Salad. She asked Julianne if she could have it on a hamburger bun instead of the hoagie roll as was usual, and it was no problem with a small upcharge. I chose Roasted Salmon (\$29) which came with couscous.

As we waited for our food to arrive, we enjoyed the background sounds of a musician who was set up near the front of the building. (Music is offered Thursday/Friday/Saturday

evening and at Saturday/Sunday brunch). His guitar and vocal performance brought a nice ambiance to the restaurant.

Restaurant manager James Long was making his rounds, visiting tables and greeting his guests. We had met James on our previous visit and he had a ready smile and lots of info about the menu, the restaurant, and the future of Fox Restaurant Concepts, which is the umbrella company out of Arizona that administers a string of various establishments throughout the country, including Culinary Dropout and Flower Child, which is across the parking lot at this site.

Our food came fairly quickly for such a busy night. Mrs. K's plate consisted of a bun stacked high with thinly Shaved Prime Rib, dressed with horseradish sauce, and a pickle on the side. A bowl of warm au jus accompanied her meal. My salmon was served perfectly prepared in a small bowl with the fish portion seated atop a mound of couscous dressed with an herb pesto, with added bits of butternut squash and crispy Brussels sprouts.

Both were very delicious – we sampled each other's meals as always and Mrs. K made sure I had a good portion of her sandwich as it was more than she needed. A shared plate of Mississippi Mud Pie (a repeat from our last visit) finished the meal.

Culinary Dropout Restaurant this evening was a delightful experience. We sat adjacent to a man's birthday celebration and a team of workers' evening out together. Everyone was having a good time. The help was friendly and accommodating. Julianne was especially attentive. Our server from our last visit, Devlin, even came by to say hello and ask how we were doing.

Overall, we felt welcome and I thanked James L. for his hospitality, and the great style of wonderful food matched with wonderful service that he and his team have fostered at Culinary Dropout in Nora.

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

Trump moved cannabis to Schedule III. Indiana should move from "no" to regulation.

For years, Indiana lawmakers have said cannabis policy was not ready for serious consideration. That position is no longer credible.

Just before Christmas, President Donald Trump directed the federal government to move cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III, formally recognizing its accepted medical use while preserving states' full authority to regulate it. This was not a cultural gesture. It was a regulatory decision rooted in reality.

Now Indiana faces a choice: continue pretending cannabis does not exist or do what government is supposed to do: set clear rules, enforce standards, and protect the public.

The status quo is not conservative, and it is not safe

Cannabis is illegal in Indiana, but it is widely available. Hoosiers either buy tested, regulated products in neighboring states or turn to an unregulated market at home with no testing, no labeling, and no accountability.

That is not public safety. It is an abdication.

Forty states allow medical cannabis. Nearly half regulate adult use. Indiana's refusal to act has not stopped cannabis, it has simply surrendered oversight. Doing nothing is not a middle ground. It is the least regulated option available.

Indiana knows how to regulate

This debate is often framed as radical change. It is not. Indiana already regulates alcohol, prescription drugs, gaming, and other controlled products because prohibition without enforcement creates chaos.

Recent General Assembly sessions have shown lawmakers understand this. Proposed cannabis legislation focused on physician oversight, controlled access, product testing,



GUEST COLUMNIST
DARREN REESE

and enforcement authority – core principles of responsible regulation. Those efforts demonstrated that Indiana can design a system that reflects Hoosier values: cautious, orderly, and focused on safety rather than promotion.

Regulation is not endorsement

A safe and regulated market does not encourage use. It acknowledges reality and replaces disorder with structure.

A responsible path forward starts with a tightly regulated medical program: physician certification, defined qualifying conditions, independent lab testing, secure packaging, strict advertising limits, and strong enforcement. For lawmakers not yet ready to address adult-use cannabis, regulation still offers a clear, phased path forward – one written into law, with benchmarks and legislative oversight.

Leaving cannabis unregulated is not restraint. It is neglect.

A moment Indiana should not miss

Cannabis regulation is not a culture war. It is a governance question; one Hoosiers increasingly expect their leaders to address with seriousness and discipline. President Trump's action removed the last excuse for inaction. Cannabis now has a clear federal regulatory framework. Indiana has the authority – and the responsibility – to respond.

Hoosiers deserve clear rules, strong enforcement, and policies grounded in reality. The 2026 legislative session is an opportunity for Indiana to move from denial to regulation, from slogans to solutions, and from "no" to responsible leadership.

It is time for Indiana to act.

Darren Reese is the Republican Party Chair for Indiana's 5th Congressional District.

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Letter to the Editor

How prior authorization protects Hoosier patients

Dear Editor:

More and more these days, I see lawmakers at all levels of government debating health care. I think it is important that in the midst of these conversations, leaders don't lose sight of what matters most to patients. As someone living with an incurable skeletal disease, I know firsthand what patients need – affordable and impactful care.

My quality of life depends on accessing the treatments and medicines I need. Living with my condition means navigating appointments, medications, and treatment decisions. Trying to balance these demands along with my day-to-day life is a full-time job. For patients like me, stability and consistency in care make all the difference. Well-balanced systems, like prior authorization, ensure that I am receiving the proper care that addresses my needs, while keeping costs manageable. In my experience, these measures add an important layer of review that is cost-effective, backed by medical evidence, and give me peace of mind that I am receiving the right treatments.

When it comes time to costs, Hoosiers pay some of the highest hospital bills in the country. Prior authorization seeks to rein in these hospitals and their opaque billing practices, protecting patients from both unnecessary care and costs that could harm their household budgets. We should not have to choose between going to the hospital and putting food on the table.

As lawmakers continue to deliberate, they must remember patients like me deserve timely access to care, and deserve systems that prioritize quality, keep costs in check, and provide a more healthy lifestyle in the long term.

Rachel Leigh
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.

Licence to kill it behind the bar



Reporter photo

Last weekend, after visiting the Carmel Fire Department's S.A.F.E. House, friends of The Reporter stopped by Grindstone on the Monon, 1740 Wheeler Road, Westfield, for dinner and the opportunity to reflect on our S.A.F.E. visit. Our bartender, Kyle Payne, was working through his very first week. He not only did a fine job of dealing with our friendly banter, but he made our publisher the second-best Vesper cocktail he's ever had. The Vesper has a rather demanding recipe that few people can get right. We are confident even 007 would have approved of yours, Mr. Payne (a name that, upon reflection, should belong to a Bond villain).

Gov. Mike Braun celebrates impact of Indiana's Career & Technical Education programs as pathway to well-paying jobs

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Last week, Governor Mike Braun called attention to the successes of Indiana's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in creating clear pathways to prepare students for in-demand, well-paying jobs that drive our state's economy. He celebrated those successes while hosting a proclamation signing at the Statehouse declaring February 2026 as CTE Month in Indiana.

Gov. Braun was joined by Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner, educators, and local CTE students. During the event, Gov. Braun and Sec. Jenner spoke about the growing impact of CTE programs and the opportunities they create for Indiana students.

"Career and Technical Education prepares Hoosier students for the most in-demand careers that power our economy," Gov. Braun said. "Our North Star is more jobs and higher wages, and career and technical train-

ing is a big part of getting there. Indiana's CTE programs are giving students transferable skills and a clear pathway to success after graduation."

Participation in CTE programs has never been higher. During the 2025-2026 academic year, more than a quarter of a million Indiana students were enrolled in at least one CTE course. Indiana currently offers 65 CTE programs of study, helping students explore high-demand fields including advanced manufacturing, healthcare, digital technology, agriculture, skilled trades, and more.

"These programs connect classroom learning to real-world experiences," Sec. Jenner said. "CTE helps students gain confidence, earn credentials of



Braun



Jenner

value, and get a head start on their next steps, whether that's entering the workforce, pursuing a certificate, or continuing their education."

Over half of the 2024-2025 graduating class achieved CTE concentrator status, with many earning dual credits and credentials of value while still in high school. Nearly 10,000 CTE students also participated in work-based learning experiences aligned to their career pathways, gaining hands-on experience with Hoosier employers.

The proclamation formally recognizes February 2026 as Career and Technical Education Month in Indiana and encourages Hoosiers statewide to celebrate and support CTE programs and students.

11 Indiana Orthopedic Institute physicians named to Castle Connolly's 2026 Top Doctors

Submitted

Indiana Orthopedic Institute is proud to announce that nine of its orthopedic surgeons and two of its anesthesiologists are recognized as **2026 Castle Connolly Top Doctors®**, a peer-driven honor that places them among the elite of U.S. physicians.

The Castle Connolly Top Doctors® distinction represents only around 7 percent of the nation's physicians. In 2026, about 72,000 physicians earned the recognition of Top Doctors from a pool of more than 1.1 million U.S. physicians, according to Castle Connolly.

Physicians are peer-nominated. Each submission is evaluated by Castle Connolly's physician-led research team to ensure every Top Doctor demonstrates excellence in clinical care and interpersonal skills.

"We created the Indiana Orthopedic Institute to provide patients with the highest level of fully integrated care and surgical skills, all while treating patients like family," said Indiana Orthopedic Institute CEO Dr. Michael Meneghini, a hip and knee replacement surgeon and Top Doctor since 2013. "Our approach emphasizes clinical research and patient care to provide better quality at greater value."

Indiana Orthopedic Institute's honorees practice at its flagship Noblesville (Indianapolis metro area) outpatient surgery center as well as its Terre Haute and Fort Wayne locations. They specialize in hip and knee replacements, shoulder and elbow surgery, fracture care, traumaplasty, and anesthesia.

Having a team of surgeons and anesthesiologists, including leadership of the in-house perioperative clinic, is crucial to Indiana Orthopedic Institute's outpatient surgery center model that integrates care within one team from start to finish to improve patient outcomes and efficiency. The list of the 2026 honorees from Indiana Orthopedic Institute are:

• Dr. R. Michael Meneghini, Founder and CEO of Indiana Orthopedic Institute Hip and Knee Replacement Surgeon, Indianapolis and Terre Haute

• Dr. Carlos Belmar, Hip and Knee Replacement Surgeon, Terre Haute

• Dr. Anthony Feher, Hip and Knee Replacement Surgeon, Fort Wayne and Indianapolis

• Dr. Peter Hogg, Shoulder and Elbow Surgeon, Indianapolis and Fort Wayne

• Dr. Robert Malinzak, Hip and Knee Replacement Surgeon, Indianapolis and Terre Haute

• Dr. John Meding, Hip and Knee Replacement Surgeon, Indianapolis and Terre Haute

• Dr. Anthony Sorkin, Fracture Care/Traumaplasty Surgeon, Terre Haute

• Dr. Daniel Williams (starting May 2026), Sports Medicine Surgeon, Indianapolis

• Dr. Timothy Williams, Hip and Knee Replacement Surgeon, Indianapolis and Terre Haute

• Dr. Dave Conrad, Director of Anesthesia, Indianapolis, Terre Haute and Fort Wayne

• Dr. Grant Carson, Anesthesiologist, Fort Wayne and Indianapolis

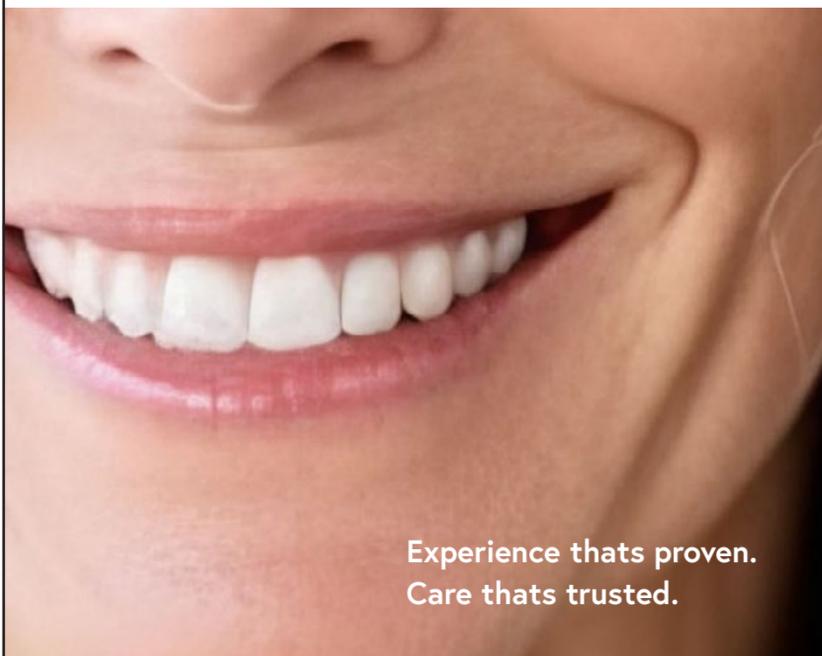
For more information, please visit indianaortho.com or call (317) 620-0232.

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

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MARCH 19, 2026

Local News. Local Sports. Local Views. Local Events.
This is Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper

Apply now for energy & heating assistance

Submitted by Office of State Rep. Danny Lopez

With colder temperatures here and heating costs on the rise, there is assistance available for Hoosiers struggling to pay their bills. The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program** provides a one-time, annual benefit to help eligible Hoosiers with home energy payments. Applications are now open and will be accepted through April 20, 2026.

Please note the program

does not cover all home energy expenses, so it is important that you continue to pay your utility bills. Hoosiers at risk of having their utilities disconnected should contact their provider as soon as possible to discuss payments. You can find a map of utility providers **here**, or simply call 211 for local resources.

Several utility providers also offer payment assistance resources. Visit your local provider's website for assistance options. To learn more about Indiana's electric providers, **click here**.

TIPTON COUNTY

Candidates who have filed for the May 5, 2026 Primary Election as of Monday, Feb. 2

- 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)
 Rhiannon Rhi Tansy (D)
- COUNTY SHERIFF**
 Craig R. Henderson (R)
 Matt Tebbe (D)
- COUNTY PROSECUTOR**
 Justin K. Clouser (R)
- COUNTY SURVEYOR**
 Jason R. Henderson (R)
- COUNTY TREASURER**
 Christy Crawford (R)
- COUNTY COMMISSIONER**
District 1 (vote for 1)
 Dennis L. Henderson (R)
 Kirk D. Retherford (R)
 Ken Ziegler (D)
- COUNTY COUNCIL**
District 2
 Jim Purvis (R)
 C.J. Taylor (R)
 Matthew Terry (D)
 Zack Timm (R)
District 3
 Matthew L. Deckard (R)
 Maureen A. Dougherty (D)
 Janice L. Smith (R)
District 4
 Chase Meyncke (D)
 Mike Terry (R)
- TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE**
Cicero Township
 Amber R. McLearnan (R)
Jefferson Township
 Jerry L. Larson (R)
Liberty Township
 Paul Kingery (R)
Madison Township
 Chuck Bell (R)
Wildcat Township
 Amanda Tolle (R)
- TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER**
Cicero Township (vote for 3)
 Carla Good (R)
 Jane F. Harper (R)
 Janette Martin (D)
 Steve Niblick (R)
 George Sullivan-Davis (D)
Madison Township (vote for 3)
 Taylor Fettig (R)
 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
 Miguel S. Mike
 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

Letter to the Editor

Cohort of municipal clerks & clerk-treasurers detail their opposition to House Bill 1381

Editor's note: The following letter was submitted to The Reporter on Monday afternoon, Feb. 2, concerning House Bill 1381. The digest of the bill as published on the Indiana General Assembly's website is as follows: "Allows the legislative body of a city or town (municipality) to petition a court for removal of the municipality's fiscal officer for any of the following: (1) Charging illegal fees for services. (2) Failing to perform official duties. (3) With certain exceptions, failing to be present in the officer's office. (4) Failing to participate in four consecutive meetings of the legislative body of the municipality."

Signatories of the letter below include clerks and deputy clerks from cities and towns across the state. As of press time, they number just shy of 200, so the full list will not be published here, but you can see them on our website, ReadTheReporter.com.

* * *

Dear Members of the Indiana General Assembly,

We write to you as a group of municipal Clerk-Treasurers who believe strongly in accountability, transparency, and doing this job

well. We understand the intent behind HB 1381. There are rare situations where a fiscal officer truly stops performing the duties of the office, and there should be a clear path to address that. No one in this role disagrees with that principle.

Our concern is that this bill goes far beyond that situation and blurs the line between the legislative body and a separately elected fiscal officer in a way that disrupts the balance that has long existed in municipal government. By allowing a council to create a policy that defines how much time a Clerk-Treasurer must be physically present, including hybrid or remote work, the bill gives the legislative body the ability to set expectations for how the job is performed and then use that same policy as grounds for removal. That is not simply addressing abandonment of duty. That is giving one branch of local government practical supervisory authority over another.

This creates a real risk that removal actions could be driven by disagreements, misunderstandings about how the job works, or political conflict rather than clear failure

to perform statutory responsibilities. The same body that defines what "reasonable" looks like would be the body that claims it was violated.

If the goal is to address true non-performance, the focus should be on whether statutory duties are being completed and whether public funds are being properly managed. Those are objective outcomes that a court can evaluate. They are very different from whether someone is physically sitting in an office a certain number of hours each day.

Modern municipal work does not happen only at a desk in city hall. Clerk-Treasurers rely on deputies, technology, and constant availability to keep financial operations running. Physical presence is not the same thing as performance.

We respectfully ask that the language of HB 1381 be reconsidered and refined so that it addresses the extreme cases it is meant to solve without weakening the structural independence that is essential to municipal fiscal integrity.

Respectfully,
Indiana Municipal Clerk-Treasurers

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.

HAMILTON COUNTY

Candidates who have filed for the May 5, 2026 Primary as of Monday, Feb. 2.

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

- U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 5TH DISTRICT**
 Steven Avitabile Avit (D)
 J.D. Ford (D)
 Scott A. King (R)
 Jackson Franklin (D)
 Dylan McKenna (D)
 Todd Shelton (D)
 *Victoria Spartz (R)
- STATE SENATOR**
District 20
 *James (Jim) Buck (R)
District 21
 *James (Jim) Buck (R)
 Joseph Kazlas (D)
 Tracey Powell (R)
 Kirsten Root (D)
District 25
 *Mike Gaskill (R)
District 29
 V. Roni Ford (R)
 David W. Greene, Sr. (D)
 Demetrice Hicks (D)
 Kristina Moorhead (D)
 John Ruckelshaus (R)
District 31
 Juanita Albright (R)
 Tiffanie Ditlevson (R)
 Kerry J. Forestal (D)
 Travis Hankins (R)
 Lasima O. Packet (D)
 Catherine Torzewski (D)
- STATE REPRESENTATIVE**
District 24
 Racheal Bleicher (D)
 *Hunter Smith (R)
District 29
 Coumba Kebe (D)
 *Alaina Shonkwiler (R)
 Devon Wellington (D)
District 32
 *Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D)
District 37
 *Todd Huston (R)
 Joel Levi (D)
District 39
 Lindsay Gramlich (D)
 *Danny Lopez (R)
District 88
 *Chris Jeter (R)
 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. Eyley
Superior Court No. 9
 Christopher Barrows
 Sarah Shields
 Paul C. Sweeney
- COUNTY ASSESSOR**
 *Kevin W. Poore (R)
- COUNTY CLERK**
 Beth Sheller (R)
- COUNTY CORONER**
 Brad Craig (R)
 *Jeff D. Jellison (R)
- COUNTY PROSECUTOR**
 *Josh Kocher (R)
- COUNTY RECORDER**
 *Trini Beaver (R)
- COUNTY SHERIFF**
 Dustin K. Dixon (R)
 John Lowes (R)
- COUNTY COMMISSIONER**
District 1
 *Christine Altman (R)

- COUNTY COUNCIL**
District 1
 Christopher Daniel (D)
 *Tim Griffin (R)
District 2
 *Amy Elizabeth Massillamany (R)
District 3
 *Mark F. Hall (R)
District 4
 *Ken Alexander (R)
 Jason E. Frank (D)
- ARCADIA TOWN COUNCIL**
District 2
 *Amanda Engle (R)
District 3
 *Doug Grishaw (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)
 Terry Thompson (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)
 Paula Jo Gilliam (D)
 Thomas (TJ) Houghtalen Jr. (R)
 *Peggy R. Pfister (R)
 *Mary Sue Rowland (R)
 Joe Spangler (R)
Washington Township (vote for 3)
 *Jim Ake (R)
 Bennie Britt (D)
 Michael Cardwell (D)
 *Danyeale 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)
 Paula V. Trowbridge (R)

Thanks for reading!

HAMILTON COUNTY

Candidates who have filed for the May 5, 2026 Primary as of Monday, Feb. 2.

To view precinct and district maps, please visit hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps.

PRECINCT CMTE. – DEMOCRATS

- Clay 2: Cynthia Henry
- Clay 12: Jessica Irvine
- Clay 23: Dawn Sparks
- 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 55: Lawrence McCormack
- Clay 68: Annette Gross
- Delaware 5: Amy Klodzen
- Delaware 8: Ronald F. Crawford
- Delaware 9: Sara Schmitt
- Delaware 19: Bill Stuart
- Delaware 20: Judy Delp
- Fall Creek 1: Barbara A. Jenkins
- Fall Creek 16: Glen D. Kemery
- 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 27: Julia Ann Resler
- Noblesville 29: Brian S. Jonasen
- Sheridan 1: Kirsten Root
- Sheridan 3: Cheryl L. Popiela
- Sheridan 4: Pam Williams
- Wayne 1: Mary Frischkorn-Meza
- Wayne 7: James (Jim) Harter
- 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 24: Elizabeth H. Anderson
- 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
 - Pam Williams
- Clay Township (vote for 40)
 - Kirk Boller
 - Sharon Boller
 - Ben Boyce
 - William Clontz
 - Jason Cookson
 - Christopher Daniel
 - Amber Davis
 - Robert Draper
 - Sara Draper
 - Mindi Epstein
 - Pam Fischer
 - Lindsay Gramlich
 - James A. Grimes
 - Annette Gross
 - Cynthia Henry
 - Jessica Irvine
 - Cynthia Johnson
 - Grace Johnston
 - Lawrence McCormack
 - Susan Mills
 - Marcia Molenda
 - Deborah Pickett
 - Zach Phillips
 - Stephen K. Ring
 - Susan Kelly Ring
 - David Rosenthal
 - Edwin Russell
 - Beth Sprunger
 - Elizabeth Stippler
 - Jean M. Upton
 - Judith A. Weitzman
- Delaware Township (vote for 20)
 - Nancy Arce
 - Ronald F. Crawford
 - Judy Delp
 - Amy Klodzen
 - Lasima O. Packett
 - Litsi Plonski
 - Diana W. Rigsbee
 - Bill Stuart
- Fall Creek Township (vote for 20)
 - Patricia Trish Biggs
 - Samantha R. Chapman
 - Daniel R. Cooper
 - Mary Coyle
 - Jeb Stuart Cox
 - Eric Crouse
 - Jane B. Crouse
 - Mary Dankoski
 - Sonia Ivy Fuller
 - Janis Kaye Hinchcliff
 - Dylan Zachary Noble
 - Mulalo Rikhotso
 - Amanda R. Slonaker
 - Deetta Steinmetz
 - Mani Subramaniam
- Jackson Township (vote for 6)
 - Dorcia Bradley
 - John Bradley
- Noblesville Township (vote for 20)
 - Kathleen A. Boyle
 - Diane E. Evans
 - James Foote
 - Angie K. Foreman
 - Paula Jo Gilliam
 - Lori C. Hand
 - Christopher Hartig
 - Riley Issacs
 - Brian S. Jonasen
 - Sandra Kaufman Jonasen
 - Coumba Kebe
 - Debra Marcum
 - Joseph Marcum
 - Jennifer Midkiff
 - Jeffrey Nickloy
 - Julia Ann Resler
 - Michele A. Tharp-Taylor
 - Roger W. Tharp-Taylor
 - Jessica Garten Vandergraff
 - David R. Wellington
 - Devon Wellington
- Washington Township (vote for 20)
 - Elizabeth H. Anderson
 - Cheryl L. Austin
 - Racheal Bleicher
 - Bennie Britt

- Rhonda Ann Cardwell
- Amy Christmas
- Emily M. Cook
- Alyssa Crawford-Paree
- Gabriel Crawford-Paree
- Evelyn J. Davis
- Brandee L. Easterday
- Natalie K. Fonte
- David M. Garcia
- James Hiatt
- Gabrial Hohneke
- Kirk King
- Karen Klutzke
- Jennifer Ann Kocolowski
- Mary P. Milewski
- Vicki Semler
- Amy J. Stewart
- Nicholas Joseph Tomaszewski
- Lisa M Walters
- Tracy M. Wheeler
- Kirk Young

Wayne Township (vote for 10)

- Justin Canady-Flatt
- Nocona Canady-Flatt
- Sherri Elder
- 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
- Timothy M. Hensel
- Alexander T. Stencel

Clay 2 (vote for 5)

- Paul Arbou
- Brad Craig
- Thomas P. Dakich
- Stephanie Flittner
- Will A. Haines
- Frederick Daniel Landis
- Edison Gene Perry

Clay 3 (vote for 5)

- Jenny Brake
- Patricia Bratton
- Robin Clark
- Lisa Elmore
- Diane Frantz
- Diane Gomez
- Roxy Morgan
- Rich Taylor

Clay 4 (vote for 5)

- Rob Brown
- Raju Chinthala
- Robert Fulk
- Sue Lile
- Carl Mills
- Michelle W. Murphy

Delaware 1 (vote for 5)

- Rick Fain
- Paul G. Nix
- Matthew S. Rollins
- Gaven Schulz
- Cynde Vits

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) Poteet
- Nathan Reitenour
- Anthony Simons
- Alyssa Simons
- Evan Woodruff

Fall Creek 3 (vote for 5)

- Doug Allman
- Shelly Allman
- Mario Massillamany
- Pete Peterson

Jackson/White River (vote for 5)

- Grant Achenbach
- Ray Adler
- Max Engling
- Julie Melvin
- Chad A. Phifer
- Jamie Rulon
- Keith A. Troutman
- Paula V. Trowbridge
- Terrance L. Trowbridge

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
- Scott A. Baldwin
- Susan Beckwith
- Christopher Jensen
- Graham Louhead
- Stu Rhodes
- Beth Sheller
- Emily Daniels Spaulding
- Martin Strother

Washington 1 (vote for 5)

- Timothy Enyart
- Mike Neal
- Kate Healey Snedeker

Washington 2 (vote for 5)

- Matt Dooley
- Richard (Rich) J. Hardcastle Jr.
- Caleb Herne

Washington 3 (vote for 5)

- Jim Ake
- Nick Barbknecht
- Lisa Marie Everling Baumgartner
- Ron Mangus

How to set up a small business for success in Hamilton County

Hamilton County is one of the **best places in Indiana to start a business** due to its pro-business climate, low tax rates, and high-quality infrastructure. These factors



GUEST COLUMNIST
NICOLE HARDIN

local presence to your business takes time.

Patience is particularly important in promoting your business. When we opened Hailey Nicole Bridal, brand visibility became imperative, especially at the beginning, to educate the community about who we are and the value we bring to the area and our customers.

That's why we prioritized developing and executing a promotion strategy that builds sustained engagement and drives website traffic, which requires time, focus, and ongoing effort. Our promotion strategy focused on digital spaces, including a detailed social media plan and dedicated digital channels that aligned with our target demographics to drive brand awareness.

Exceed expectations, every time

A wedding dress appointment can be the first time a bride imagines saying, "I do," and we want to make the experience unforgettable. That's why we listen closely to brides in the community and focus on what they value beyond the dress.

Today's brides want a highly personalized, welcoming experience with honest guidance, high-quality gowns, and modern yet timeless designs. They desire transparent pricing, thoughtful styling guidance, and one-on-one appointments to feel supported and confident. To succeed, we have to deliver on those expectations.

At Hailey Nicole, we've curated a collection of world-class bridal gown designers while intentionally creating an experience that feels welcoming and relaxed. As a mother-daughter-inspired business, we want everyone who walks through the door to feel like family. Those expectations have become the foundation of our small business.

Small business life isn't easy

Opening a new small business is no small feat. The groundwork is crucial to lay a solid foundation, both physically and online, to set yourself up for success. Before opening your doors, understand your market and your audience, be patient, and have a plan. Then, keep listening, learning, and refining your approach to meet the community you serve.

Nicole Hardin is the owner of **Hailey Nicole Bridal**, located in Hamilton Town Center at 13976 Town Center Blvd., Suite 150, Noblesville.

In my case, the gap was the lack of bridal boutiques, despite Hamilton County's large concentration of residents within the prime marriage-age demographic. Through careful evaluation, I determined that Hamilton County could support a luxury bridal boutique and brought my vision to life.

Starting a business doesn't happen overnight. The steps below can serve as a framework for other small businesses seeking to achieve long-term success in Hamilton County.

Spot the gap

Even with extensive knowledge of the bridal industry across central Indiana, identifying Hamilton County's need for a luxury bridal boutique wasn't enough. I needed to confirm the idea was viable.

Determining viability required time, energy, and, most importantly, comprehensive market research. This included a deep analysis of target consumers, a clear understanding of customer needs, identification of market opportunities, and refinement of my business strategy, specifically for the types of luxury products I planned to offer.

Ultimately, this research revealed Hamilton County could support my dream of opening a luxury bridal boutique.

Do the homework

Small businesses make up 99 percent of all businesses in the U.S. and play a vital role in local economies. For Hamilton County specifically, opening a small business helps keep dollars local, raises economic activity, and builds the local tax base.

Small businesses are also risky, with **20 percent of them failing in their first year**, making a business plan essential. Writing one takes time, but it will be critical for survival. Researching the industry, evaluating demand, and pinpointing opportunities provides clarity on the market and the viability of your idea.

Patience pays off

Patience is not my strong suit, but it is absolutely essential when launching a new business. Building awareness, establishing a credibility, and drawing a

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.

Paul Poteet... Your Hometown Weatherman!

Heroic success: Comic Book in a Day 2026 crowns winners & celebrates community support

Submitted

Capes weren't required, but creativity was in full force as the 13th annual Noblesville Creates Comic Book in a Day Challenge returned to Fishers with record-setting energy, packed rooms of artists, and hundreds of newly created comic pages.

Hosted in partnership with the Hamilton East Public Library and Ignite Studio – and sponsored by Moonshot Games, Citizens State Bank, U Cre-8 Comics, Fishers Maker Playground, and Griffy's Art Supply – the 2026 event brought families, fans, and creators together for an unforgettable weekend celebrating storytelling through sequential art.

Created by Noblesville Creates to grow and champion the comics community, Comic Book in a Day once again united collectors, professionals, students, and first-time artists alike. Nearly 300 participants and visitors flowed through Ignite Studio during the in-person competition day, with artists of all ages working side-by-side to bring brand-new stories to life, starting from blank pages and ending with complete comics in just hours.

Momentum began building weeks earlier with three free, sold-out pre-competition workshops led by professional comic creators. More than 30 aspiring artists sharpened their skills in drawing, pacing, and visual storytelling, setting the stage for a thrilling Challenge weekend.

Comic Book in a Day featured three competitive

divisions: an in-person Youth Division, an in-person Teen/Adult Division, and a Virtual Division. Participants received guidance and encouragement from Host Artists Erik Lundorf and Victor Dandridge, along with Featured Artists and Judges Stuart Sayger, Gavin Smith, and Jackie Crofts. Throughout the day, contestants gained real-time feedback, learned professional techniques, and connected directly with working creators from the comics industry.

Across all divisions, artists produced an astounding 344 pages of original comic art, all of which will be professionally scanned and published in the official Comic Book in a Day 2026 Anthology – a lasting testament to the talent and dedication on display.

Ahead of the Challenge, Noblesville Creates hosted an exclusive VIP Night at Ball State Fishers, sponsored by Office Works and Vantage:Inhouse Productions. Nearly 60 guests attended the 21-and-over celebration, enjoying a lively Drink & Draw session led by Emmy Award-winning artist Joe Wos, along with games, prizes, and behind-the-scenes conversations with fellow creators. The evening raised \$13,100 in support of Noblesville Creates and Central Indiana's arts community.

Ignite Studio at the Hamilton East Public Library once again proved to be a cornerstone for creative programming in Fishers, generously supporting the event with space, staff, and resources.

Noblesville Creates extends its heartfelt thanks to its sponsors, partners, artists, volunteers, and participants for helping make Comic Book in a Day 2026 one of its most successful chapters yet.

The celebration continued at the Awards Ceremony held the following week at Ignite Studio, where 75 attendees gathered to honor standout achievements and rising stars across multiple categories.

2026 Winners

Best Overall

- Adult/Teen: Phoebe Jean-Pierre
- Youth: Mason Young
- Online: Grace Brickson

Best Drawn

- Adult/Teen: Julia Owens
- Youth: Oliver Andrews
- Online: David Coffin

Best Page

- Adult/Teen: Jack Ludington
- Youth: Maggie Cheek
- Online: Adam Allery

Best Story

- Adult/Teen: Isabela Morgan
- Youth: Arthur Deckert
- Online: Iris Furuseth

Level Up Award

- Bruce Nelson

Funniest

- Maxwell Blake

Most Creative

- Youth: Harper Baker
- Adult/Teen: Lina Carter

Most Ambitious

- Online: Dustin Guinn
- Youth: Luca Guyer
- Adult/Teen: Nat Hicks

Emerging Talent

- Alexandria Schmackers

Judge's Choice Awards

- Helen Raza: Youth – Eliza Hochstetler; Adult/



Teen – Greg Clack
 • Henry Leopold: Youth – Emily Irwin
 • Jackie Crofts: Youth – Lucas Muncie; Adult/Teen – Phoebe Jean-Pierre
 • Gavin Smith: Youth – Naomi Owens; Adult/Teen – Loch Ness
 • Stuart Sayger: Youth – Zoey Kreinbrink; Adult/Teen – Henry Schmackers

Vote for the People's Choice Award

Noblesville Creates is now accepting votes for the Comic Book in a Day 2026 People's Choice Award through its Facebook channels. Fans can vote by "liking" their favorite comic in each division. Voting closes Feb. 21.



Photo illustrations provided by Noblesville Creates



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Linda (Lin) Gilbey (Sgouros)

November 17, 1947 – January 29, 2026



Linda "Lin" Gilbey (Sgouros), 78, passed away peacefully on January 29, 2026. She was born on November 17, 1947, to the late Genevieve (Klikas) and Peter Sgouros.

Linda was born in Chicago and raised on Van Buren Street in Gary, Ind. During her childhood, she was very close to her younger brothers, sharing a strong bond with Nick Sgouros and often acting as a second mother to her youngest brother, John Sgouros. These early family relationships remained important throughout her life.

She graduated from Lew Wallace High School in 1965 and stayed closely connected with her classmates, serving on her class reunion committee, and maintaining lifelong friendships – especially her friendship with Wendy Bohl.

In 1967, she married Dennis Gilbey, and together they made their home in Merrillville, Ind., where they raised their family. Dennis passed away in 2019, shortly after they celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary.

Linda balanced many roles in her life, including raising her daughters, Paula and Denise. During their childhoods, she spent much of her time taking them to horseback riding lessons, leading Brownie troops, and serving as a room mother at school. She took pride in keeping a very clean home and yard and enjoyed doing yardwork alongside her next-door neighbor, Annie A.

Linda maintained close friendships throughout her life. Her longtime best friend, Margie Chakos, her aunt Nancy (Klikas) De Vita, and Lilann Sgouros were all considered honorary sisters.

Proud of her Greek heritage, Linda was known in the dance community by her Greek name, Loukia. She taught belly dancing for many years and also performed professionally at festivals, birthdays, and retirement parties, becoming a familiar presence at community events.

When her daughters were in high school, Linda returned to college and earned her nursing degree. She worked for decades as a nurse, primarily in assisted living communities, where residents appreciated her steady care and attention.

Linda valued health and fitness and enjoyed working out, rollerblading, and playing tennis.

In 2000, Linda and Dennis, along with her mother Genevieve, moved to Avon, Indiana, to be near her youngest daughter, Denise, her husband Ron, and her grandchildren Chris and Jack. She spent frequent time with her grandchildren and joined them on outings to the Children's Museum, the zoo, playgrounds, and playgroups. They affectionately called her "Plain Old YAYA."

Linda also cared for her mother until her passing in 2016. She enjoyed hosting Jimmy Buffett-style parties, so please raise a margarita in her honor. Cheers to Linda.

Linda is survived by her daughters Paula (Bo) Coody and Denise (James; Ron, honorary) Purciful; her grandchildren Ashley (Travis) Smith, Chris Moe, and Jack Moe; her great-grandchildren Cole and Eli Smith; her brothers Nick (Lilann) Sgouros and John (Lynn) Sgouros; her sisters Peg (Doug) Fralinger and Sandy Orfanos; and her honorary sisters Margie Chakos, Nancy (Klikas) De Vita, and Lilann Sgouros.

Linda will be remembered for the many connections she maintained over the years and for the distinct and active life she lived.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

QUAIL FROM THE LORD

Now a wind went out from the Lord and drove quail in from the sea. It scattered them up to two cubits deep all around the camp, as far as a day's walk in any direction. All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered quail. No one gathered less than ten homers. Then they spread them out all around the camp. But while the meat was still between their teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the Lord burned against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague. Therefore the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved other food.

From Kibroth Hattaavah the people traveled to Hazeroth and stayed there.

Numbers 11:31-35 (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/obiform.

Meeting Notices

The Cicero Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, at Cicero Town Hall, 70 N. Byron St.

The Westfield Board of Zoning Appeals meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, has been canceled due to no business items for consideration.

The Fall Creek Township Board will meet to discuss the adoption of the 2025 Annual Report at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday Feb. 10, 2026, in the Community Room at the Fall Creek Township Trustee's Office, 11595 Brooks School Road, Fishers.

The Westfield Plat Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, has been canceled due to no business items for consideration.

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

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Boys Wrestling

Millers have near-perfect day at Elwood

Noblesville advances all 14 to regional, claim nine individual champs

The REPORTER

Is it possible to have a perfect day at a wrestling sectional?

The Noblesville boys wrestled that possibility at the Elwood sectional on Saturday, Jan. 31. The Millers had an incredibly dominant day, sending someone to the championship match of all 14 weight classes.

Noblesville won nine of those championship bouts, and finished with a team score of 327.5 points, well ahead of runner-up Alexandria's 186.5. Also, the Millers send all 14 of their wrestlers on to the Pendleton Heights regional, which takes place this Saturday, Feb. 7.

It was a special day, even more so for Noblesville coach Michael Weimer. This is his ninth year coach-

ing the Millers, not just in high school, but in the youth wrestling program as well – "all of these kids have been together since Day 1 when I started as a coach," said Weimer.

"These kids are special because they believe in each other and they've had a relationship built for the past nine years," said Weimer.

Noblesville was dominant out of the gate, easily getting everyone into the semifinals. Remarkably, the Millers increased their level even more in that round. Thirteen of the 14 Noblesville wrestlers won their matches by pin, with the 14th match a technical fall. That means none of the Millers had to be on the mat the full six minutes of their semifinal matches.

"At that point, I felt like I



Photo provided

The Noblesville boys wrestling team dominated the Elwood sectional on Saturday, Jan. 31. The Millers scored 327.5 points for the team trophy and sent all 14 of their wrestlers to the championship match of their respective weight classes, winning nine.

was floating," said Weimer. Noblesville kept things rolling in the championship, winning the first six matches. In order, the Millers got

victories from Henry Antrobus at 106 pounds, Eli Kincaide at 113, Blake Weimer at 120, Brody Weimer at 126, Zach Nekolite at 132

and Justus Suddarth at 138. Three more Noblesville wrestlers claimed titles later in the meet. Aidan Kincaide at 165 (keeping him unbeat-

en for the season at 27-0), Yan Tioua at 190 and Jackson Apple at 285.

See Millers . . . Page 11

Shamrocks defend sectional title at Frankfort

The REPORTER

Westfield defended its boys wrestling sectional title Saturday, Jan. 31 at Frankfort's Case Arena.

The Shamrocks fought off Hamilton Southeastern, 221-205 for the team title, their fifth in program history. Westfield led after the semifinals, but the Royals took the lead for a time during the wrestlebacks, which determine who wrestles for third and fifth place.

The Rocks had four champions, which helped them to score enough points to retain their trophy.

"It was back and forth between the two of us all day long," said Westfield coach Tom Griffin. The coach said he was "pretty happy" with how the team performed.

Connor Maddox won at 106 pounds in his first action in a month. Maddox is undefeated for the season at 23-0.

"He hadn't wrestled in about four weeks," said Griffin. But Maddox quickly got a pin, "so he did what he needed to do," said Griffin.

Brayden Head was the 113-pound champion, Alic Washburn claimed the 138-pound crown and Graydon Staley won at 150. All three advance to the North Montgomery regional on Saturday, Feb. 7, along with six other Westfield wrestlers that finished in the top four.

The Royals qualified

10 for the regional and also had two champions. Cohen Davis won at 165 pounds, while A.W. VanKirk was the 285-pound winner.

Carmel finished third as a team with 194.5 points. The Greyhounds advanced 12 to North Montgomery, including their two champions: Carlo Federici at 120 and Tyler Elliott at 144.

Fishers was a close fourth, scoring 189 points. The Tigers had three champions out of their nine that qualified for regional. Will Hruskoci won the 132-pound division, Camden Funk was the 190 champion and Julian Burgett claimed the 215-pound title. Sheridan advanced one wrestler to the regional. Alexander Cravens finished fourth at 165.

Team scores: Westfield 221, Hamilton Southeastern 205, Carmel 194.5, Fishers 189, Rossville 133, Lebanon 103, Clinton Central 76, Frankfort 37, Clinton Prairie 25.5, Sheridan 20.

106: 1. Connor Maddox (W), 2. Nolan Culp (HSE), 4. Nick Molter (F), 6. Clayton Alexander (C).

113: 1. Brayden Head (W), 3. William Lakes (HSE), 4. Sullivan Mahar (C), 6. Bryce Rogers (F).

120: 1. Carlo Federici (C), 2. Seth Lamb (F), 3. Aidan Driscoll (W), 6. Raj Nagra (HSE).

126: 2. Cale Beattie (HSE),



Photos by Manford Photography

(TOP) The Westfield boys wrestling team defended its Frankfort sectional championship on Saturday, Jan. 31. **(ABOVE LEFT)** Hamilton Southeastern's A.W. VanKirk won at 285 pounds. **(ABOVE RIGHT)** Carmel's Carlo Federici (gray and yellow) battled Fishers' Seth Lamb in the 120-pound championship. Federici won the match.

144: 1. Tyler Elliott (C), 2. Oliver Baud (W), 6. Tanawin Ngamkamolrat (F).

132: 1. Will Hruskoci (F), 2. Trevor Humburg (W), 4. Brock Raasch (C), 6. Owen McGuire (HSE).

138: 1. Alic Washburn (W), 3. Parker Culp (HSE), 4. Elliott Leonard (C), 6. Ellis Burns (F).

150: 1. Graydon Staley (W), 2. Jaxen Timmons (C), 3. James Schwartz (F), 4. Roben Randhawa (HSE).

157: 2. Dylan Lane (HSE), 3. Ezekiel Kramer (F), 4. Bray-

don Mack (C), 5. Seth Tanner (W), 6. Parker Cravens (S).

165: 1. Cohen Davis (HSE), 2. Blake Glodowski (W), 3. Austin Yunker (C), 4. Alexander Cravens (S), 5. Preston Springer (F).

175: 3. Eli Isen (C), 4. Maxwell Brown (W), 6. Evan Biehl (HSE).

190: 1. Camden Funk (F), 2. Jon Stryker (W), 3. Reid Snider (HSE), 4. Gavin Adkins (C).

215: 1. Julian Burgett (F), 2. Will Massey (C), 5. Samuel Travis (W).

285: 1. A.W. VanKirk (HSE), 3. Ryan Dungee (F), 6. Aidan Padgett (W).

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Girls Basketball

Sheridan basketball teams bring community together for LG30 Game

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

Sheridan High School's (SHS) girls and boys basketball programs recently teamed up with the Logan Gellert Foundation for the 2nd annual LG30 Game.

The LG30 Game was created to honor Logan Gellert and to support the Foundation, which funds AirPods for teens undergoing cancer treatment. This gift helps teens feel connected, comforted, and supported during their treatment.

This year's event is expected to raise close to \$5,000 for the foundation, with 100 percent of the proceeds going directly to the Foundation. This is due to the overwhelming support from Sheridan's community and the generosity of the amazing T-shirt sponsors.

This fundraiser is especially meaningful for the SHS girls basketball program, as the players take full ownership of the event and manage every step of the process. They pass out



Photos provided by Sheridan Community Schools

order forms, collect money to sell the shirts, and even make every T-shirt themselves.

"This fundraiser means a

lot to our program," Girls Basketball Head Coach Jaidlin Bradshaw said. "Our girls take ownership of everything, and that account-

ability is really special. Logan would have been a junior this year, so this night truly hits home."

Sheridan Community

Schools and the SHS basketball programs are incredibly grateful to everyone who made the night so impactful.

"We look forward to continuing to grow the LG30 Game each season and keeping Logan's legacy alive," Bradshaw said.

Blackhawks split conference games to finish regular season

The REPORTER

Sheridan's girls split a pair of Hoosier Heartland Conference games to finish their regular season last weekend.

On Friday, Jan. 30, the Blackhawks beat Taylor 55-10 at Larry Hobbs Hall. Sheridan led 20-2 after one quarter and 36-5 at

halftime.

Eleven different players scored for the Hawks, led by Marah Faucett's 14 points. Sadie Timme and Olivia Long both added eight points, with Brielle Garner scoring seven.

Sheridan dropped its regular-season finale Saturday, Jan. 31 at Clinton Cen-

tral, 45-41.

The Bulldogs led 6-4 after the first quarter and 16-11 at halftime. The Hawks stayed in it, cutting CC's lead to 29-25 after three periods, with Timme scoring seven points in that quarter. Both teams scored 16 points in the fourth, allowing the Bulldogs to get

the win.

Timme scored 14 points, followed by Faucett with nine. Garner and Long each totaled eight points.

Sheridan finished conference play 4-4 and is 9-12 overall. The Blackhawks play Sectional 39 host Lapel in the first round of the tournament on Tuesday.

Tigers battle before falling to Flashes

By RICHARD TORRES

For The Reporter

The Fishers girls basketball team put up a fight at Franklin Central on Friday, Jan. 30, but their second-half comeback fell just short, 43-40.

Down 19-11 after the first half, the Class 4A Tigers clawed back behind a 13-point third quarter and tied the host Flashes, 24-24, before contending through a back-and-forth final eight minutes.

Unfortunately, the Tigers couldn't match Hoosier Crossroads Conference foe Franklin Central in the fourth quarter, 19-16, and narrowly lost to conclude their regu-

lar-season schedule.

Fishers finished the year with an 11-10 overall record and 1-6 in the HCC. The Tigers faced HCC rival Zionsville in the opening round of Sectional 8 at Carmel on Tuesday, Feb. 3.

Fishers lost to Zionsville, 50-30, during their regular-season meeting on Nov. 25.

Sophomore Reagan Reiff led the Tigers with 13 points against Franklin Central, pouring in nine points in the second half. Senior Makayla Triplett had nine points with all of them coming in the final 16 minutes. Sophomore Ella Bursleson added six points followed by senior Natalie Thomas with four.

Girls basketball sectional previews: Class 2A, Sectionals 39 and 42

By CRAIG ADKINS

For The Reporter

The 51st annual IHSAA girls basketball state tournament tips off tonight around the state of Indiana.

A total of 383 teams will be competing for 64 sectional championships this week in the four classes. It all culminates at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on Saturday, Feb. 28 when the four state champions will be crowned.

No. 3 South Knox is the defending Class 2A state champ and second-ranked Rensselaer Central the runner-up.

Class 2A Sectional 39 at Lapel
Elwood Panthers (10-13) vs. Frankton Eagles (9-13), 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Elwood started off 5-1, but went 5-12 in its final 17 heading into sectional play. The Panthers won at Frankton on Jan. 31 to close out the regular season. Breelyn Norris scores 18.7 points and Addison Stout 6.2 re-

bounds per game.

Frankton has won six of its last eight prior to their sectional rematch with the Panthers. Macy Curtis' 13.7 points and 11 rebounds pace the Eagles.

Sheridan (9-12) at Lapel (18-4)

The Blackhawks faced the toughest team in the Lapel sectional and have dropped four of their last five. Head coach Jaidlin Bradshaw is 111-65 in her eighth season.

Sheridan is led by juniors Brielle Garner and Sadie Timme. Garner scores 11.1 per game and Timme 8.4 with 6.5 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 2.9 steals.

Lapel has won five of its last six, including a Jan. 6 win at home over Sheridan (54-37). The Bulldogs are led by all-state candidate Laniah Wills. The future Butler Bulldog averages 27.3 points and 12.4 rebounds, both good for fifth in the state.

Tipton (6-16) and Taylor (3-21) both drew a bye.

Tipton plays the Elwood/Frankton winner at 6 p.m. in the first Friday semifinal. Taylor faces the Sheridan/Lapel winner in the second semifinal.

The Blue Devils have lost seven straight and the Titans have dropped four in a row.

Class 2A Sectional 42 at Park Tudor
Indianapolis Riverside (3-13) at Park Tudor (11-11), 6 p.m. Tuesday

Riverside is just in its ninth season as a program. The Argonauts are 2-3 in the month of January leading up to the sectional. Zachary Mackie is in his first season.

The host Panthers are 4-5 in the last month and 3-2 in their last five. Mike Smiley is 47-38 in his fourth season at Park Tudor.

Covenant Christian (10-12) vs. Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter (6-16), 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Covenant is 5-5 in the 2026 calendar so far. Head coach Dan Nietz is 57-83 in six seasons. The War-

rriors won the regular season meeting 43-26 at home.

Cardinal Ritter has lost nine of its last 10. Head coach Jennifer DesJean is 21-45 in her fourth season.

No. 15 Monrovia (18-5) and University (9-11) both drew a bye. The Bulldogs face the Riverside/Park Tudor winner in the first semifinal Friday at 6 p.m. and the Trailblazers play the Covenant Christian/Cardinal Ritter in the second semifinal.

Monrovia has won seven of eight heading into sectional play. Head coach Daryl Gibbs is 50-23 in his third year.

Head coach Lindsey Syrek is 5-6 since taking over the program mid-season. The Blazers are 5-3 in their last eight prior to sectionals.

University is led by a trio of seniors that average in double figures. Gabby Culp is at 12.1 points and 7.7 rebounds, while twin sister Sydney scores 10.3. Leah Norvell puts up 11.5 and grabs 6.4 boards.

MILLERS

from Page 10

What made Weimer the happiest was how the team was together the entire day, coming down to three things everyone was doing for each other – love, trust and fight.

"When everyone won, everybody celebrated that, when they lost in the finals everybody was there to console each other," said Weimer. "Everybody was in the moment, doing something with their team."

Weimer also credited his assistant coaches, calling them "phenomenal." "They're making the right calls and their keeping their kids dialed in," he said.

Noblesville won its third consecutive sectional title and 24th in program history. **Huskies advance six, Kuhn wins**

Hamilton Heights finished third as a team, scoring 171.5 points. The Huskies also had six wrestlers move on to the regional at Pendleton Heights.

Simon Kuhn won a championship for Heights, taking the 150-pound division with three first-period falls. Kuhn is now 35-1 for the season.

Jonah Wolfgang (126) and Kolter Galloway (132) both finished as runners-up, while Nathan Flanders (157) and Braxtyn Baber (165) took third place. Ezekiel Rice finished fourth at 113. The top four place winners in each class qualify for regional.

Guerin Catholic advanced four wrestlers to Pendleton Heights. Rafe Liechty (106) and Jack Hubbard (190) were runners-up, while Gabe Dunchy (126) and Joseph Dunasky (132) placed third.

Team scores: Noblesville 327.5, Alexandria 186.5, Hamilton Heights 171.5, Pendleton Heights 136, Frankton 103.5, Tipton 100.5, Elwood 83.5, Guerin Catholic 82.5, Lapel 53, Anderson 6.

106: 1. Henry Antrobus (N), 2. Rafe Liechty (GC), 5. Asher Barrick (HH).

113: 1. Eli Kincaide (N), 4. Ezekiel Rice (HH), 5. Caden Muller (GC).

120: 1. Blake Weimer (N), 5. Jude Bailey (HH).

126: 1. Brody Weimer (N), 2. Jonah Wolfgang (HH), 3. Gabe Liechty (GC).

132: 1. Zach Nekolite (N), 2. Kolter Galloway (HH), 3. Joseph Dunasky (GC).

138: 1. Justus Suddarth (N), 5. Braden Rutledge (HH).

144: 2. Isaac Suddarth (N), 6. Jameson Mullins (HH).

150: 1. Simon Kuhn (HH), 2. Luke Chastain (N).

157: 2. Kyle Howard (N), 3. Nathan Flanders (HH).

165: 1. Aidan Kincaide (N), 3. Braxtyn Baber (HH).

175: 2. Evan Nicholls (N), 6. Seth Van Hook (HH).

190: 1. Yan Tioua (N), 2. Jack Hubbard (GC), 5. Hans Frymier (HH).

215: 2. Cale Metzler (N).

285: 1. Jackson Apple (N), 5. Samuel Van Hook (HH).

Girls basketball sectional previews: Class 3A, Sectionals 24 and 25

By CRAIG ADKINS

For The Reporter

Class 4A No. 6 Norwell won the 2025 Class 3A state championship and moved up to 4A due to the success factor. No. 3 Greensburg was last year's runner-up.

Class 3A Sectional 24 at Yorktown
Jay County (15-7) vs. New Castle (14-8)

The Patriots have won three straight and five of seven. Sherri McIntire is 47-23 in three seasons at Jay County.

Averaging 60.6 points as a team, 38.5 of those come from junior and freshman sisters Hallie (19.8) and Karsyn (18.7) Schwieterman.

New Castle head coach Bobby Jones is 22-46 in his third season. The Trojans are 7-2 since the beginning of January and Carlee Lanzer leads with 13.8 and grabs 5.2 rebounds.

Hamilton Heights (14-6) vs. Connersville (16-7)

The Huskies are coached by Erin Trimpe (19-23) in her second season. Heights started off 10-2 and are 4-4 since. On Dec. 6, Trimpe's squad edged the Connersville Spar-

tans 50-47 in Arcadia.

Flying under the radar in 3A, Hamilton Heights is led by five freshmen, two juniors and a sophomore.

Freshman Riley Suarez heads up the group of young Huskies at 21.8 points per outing, along with three of the frosh just below double digits. Addison Blum (9.6), Zoey Curry (9.5), Bayleigh Eisele (9.1) and Kamryn Rhoton (6.1) help balance out the offense.

Freshman Stella Taylor, sophomore Abi Hilfiker and junior Reece Blanton are also key contributors off the bench.

Heights has quality wins over potential semifinal opponent Jay County, Bishop Chatard, Kokomo and Oldenburg Academy.

The Spartans' head coach Shana Williams (44-26) is in her third year. They have seven wins in their last eight and 11 of the last 13.

Connersville has four averaging in double figures. Serenity Pennington (12.8), Kendyl Bottomley (11.7), Ahnyiah Bennett (11.3), Addison Jones (10.8) and Kenzi VanMeter (6.6) pace the Spartans.

Delta (15-8) and Yorktown (9-12) drew the byes.

The Eagles started 7-0, but have gone 8-8 since, including a three-game losing skid heading into sectional action.

Ty'Ronda Benning (44-28) is in her third season at Delta.

The host Tigers' head coach Leigh Ann Barga is 89-73 in her seventh season. Yorktown was 9-6 before ending the regular season on a six-game losing slide.

Class 3A Sectional 25 at Lebanon
Guerin Catholic (15-8) vs. Brebeuf Jesuit (11-11), Tuesday 7 p.m.

The Golden Eagles are another youthful team that's in search of its first sectional title.

Head coach Danielle Cardinal is 42-48 in her fourth year. Guerin started the season 5-2 and since Dec. 23, GC is 8-3 with four wins in their last five. Their only recent setback was Jan. 23 at Brebeuf in overtime, 37-34.

Guerin is led by freshman Cecilia Titus at 9.4 per contest. She has 2.5 assists and gets 3.1 steals per game.

Junior Caroline Ford scores 8.3, grabs a team-leading 6.6 boards and 3.5 steals. Frosh Ella Horvath nets 8.2 points and 4.2 rebounds. Freshman Lauren Keller (7.1) and Lorigrace Rockwood (7.0), senior Dana Dues (2.7) and freshman Emersyn French (4.2) help share the wealth.

Tri-West (12-10) vs. Danville (6-17), Wednesday 6 p.m.

The Bruins are 4-4 in their last eight. Head coach Lacy Grafton is 26-20 in year two.

Danville's struggled, but two of their wins are over Tri-West. Ella Collier is in her first year as head coach.

Frankfort (1-22) at Lebanon (9-12), Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

The Hot Dogs' lone win against Taylor mid-season. Head coach Bethany Meachum's in her first year.

The Tigers are 5-2 in their last seven after starting 4-10. Aaron Vaughn (18-26) is in his second season.

Crawfordsville (4-19) drew the bye and plays the Guerin/Brebeuf winner. Joe Ferguson is 8-61 in three years.

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IBCA girls basketball poll – Week of Feb. 1

NOTE: This is the final poll of the season

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Pike (19)	435	22-1
2	Homestead (2)	411	22-2
3	Center Grove	393	22-0
4	Warsaw (1)	382	23-2
5	Lawrence Central	349	18-4
6	Norwell	323	20-4
7	Hamilton Southeastern	290	17-4
8	Valparaiso	266	20-2
9	Plainfield	264	19-5
10	Pendleton Heights	240	19-3
11	Floyd Central	230	19-3
12	Penn	207	21-3
13	Evansville Reitz	175	18-2
14	Roncalli	154	21-3
15	Brownsburg	121	12-9
16	Washington	81	18-4
17	Greensburg	80	18-6
18	Northridge	60	17-7
19	Bellmont	59	19-3
20	Westfield	20	17-7

First place votes are in parentheses.

Other schools receiving votes, with records

Bloomington South (17-5), Castle (19-4), Charlestown (20-3), Columbus North (17-6), East Central (19-3), Fort Wayne Snider (16-6), Franklin Central (12-9), Jennings County (16-6), McCutcheon (19-5), Silver Creek (16-5), South Knox (17-3), Whitko (21-1).

IBCA boys basketball poll – Week of Feb. 1

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Fishers (22)	440	18-0
2	Plainfield	389	17-1
3	Silver Creek	385	18-1
4	Crown Point	364	14-1
5	Pike	356	15-3
6	Lawrence North	331	15-2
7	Carmel	295	11-3
8	Mt. Vernon	312	16-2
9	Cathedral	272	14-3
10	Northridge	240	15-1
11	New Albany	210	11-4
12	Ben Davis	196	11-4
13	Penn	169	12-3
14	South Bend St. Joseph	141	11-4
15	Chesterton	113	13-3
16	Terre Haute North	108	14-3
17	Portage	80	16-0
18	South Bend Riley	61	12-4
19	Northview	43	12-4
20	Oak Hill	28	14-0

First place votes are in parentheses.

Other schools receiving votes, with records

Barr-Reeve (14-1), Brownsburg (9-7), Centerville (15-2), Columbia City (13-3), Crispus Attucks (10-5), Evansville North (12-3), Fort Wayne South Side (16-1), Fort Wayne Wayne (10-7), Homestead 12-5), Kouts (14-0), New Haven (14-4), Paoli (15-0), Pendleton Heights (12-3), Princeton Community (13-3), Parke Heritage (13-4), **Westfield (9-6)**, Zionsville (10-8), 21st Century Charter School – Gary (9-5).

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Feb. 3

GIRLS BASKETBALL SECTIONALS

Sectional 8 at Carmel

Zionsville vs. Fishers, 6 p.m.

Westfield vs. Hamilton Southeastern, 7:45 p.m.

Sectional 24 at Yorktown

Jay County vs. New Castle, 6 p.m.

Hamilton Heights vs. Connersville, 7:30 p.m.

Sectional 25 at Lebanon

Guerin Catholic vs. Brebeuf Jesuit, 7 p.m.

Sectional 39 at Lapel

Elwood vs. Frankton, 6 p.m.

Lapel vs. Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

Sectional 42 at Park Tudor

Riverside vs. Park Tudor, 6 p.m.

Covenant Christian vs. Cardinal Ritter, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hamilton Heights at KIPP Legacy School, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL SECTIONALS

Sectional 25 at Lebanon

Tri-West vs. Danville, 6 p.m.

Frankfort vs. Lebanon, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 5

BOYS BASKETBALL

Franklin Central at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.

Lawrence North at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

Noblesville at Mt. Vernon, 7:30 p.m.

Sheridan at Herron, 7:30 p.m.

Westfield at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING SECTIONAL PRELIMS

University at Lafayette Jefferson, 5:30 p.m.

Fishers, Hamilton Heights at Hamilton Southeastern, 6 p.m.

Guerin Catholic, Noblesville, Westfield at Carmel, 6 p.m.

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

Boys Basketball



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

(ABOVE LEFT) Fishers' Kai McGrew (left) and Carmel's Evan Harrell jump for the tipoff to begin the Tigers-Greyhounds boys basketball game on Saturday, Jan. 31. (ABOVE RIGHT) Fishers' Cooper Zachary (left) and Carmel's Cash Daniels both had outstanding games. Daniels scored 23 points for the Greyhounds while Zachary scored 16 points.

Tigers keep streak alive, survive thriller against Hounds

By RICHARD TORRES
For The Reporter

CARMEL – A day after setting a school record for 3-pointers made in a single game, Fishers junior Cooper Zachary still had more left for rival Carmel, and he didn't miss – much.

With the Sectional 8 preview stage set inside the Eric Clark Activity Center on Saturday, Jan. 31, the Tigers' career leader for 3-pointers made airballed his first attempt from deep, as Class 4A No. 7 Carmel surged ahead, 9-2.

Then, the sharp-shooting guard zeroed in and sparked the top-ranked 4A Tigers' comeback with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to end the first quarter that cut the deficit, 11-8, and another to end the third that kept Fishers in control en route to a 53-50 victory.

Zachary finished with a team-high 16 points and shot 5-for-10 from 3-point range, giving him 23 treys in three games, while the Tigers (18-0) pushed their regular-season winning streak to 48 consecutive.

Zachary's final 3-pointer and buzzer-beater against Carmel (11-3) capped his

own 10-point third quarter and the team's 22-point frame.

A feat Zachary achieved after going 10-for-11 from long range at Franklin Central on Friday, Jan. 30, where he tallied a game-high 36 points with six 3s made in the third quarter alone.

"I think everybody here, himself included, knew this was coming, knew what he was capable of, and it's not just like he's doing it this year," Fishers coach Garrett Winegar said. "He's got to do it in a higher dose this year, and he's been hitting big shots, making big plays for us since he walked in the door as a freshman."

The program's career leader in steals and assists, Zachary added to all three categories at Carmel with his second dish setting up freshman Max Hopkins in the post that made it 11-10.

Two minutes later, Fishers mounted a tide-turning 11-0 run to go ahead 24-13 and never trailed again.

"That's a huge play for a freshman to make. Kai [McGrew] had two fouls there, and Max came in, and I thought, had great minutes in the second quarter," Winegar said. "He had a huge

bucket."

Junior Levi Walker followed up Hopkins' and-I layup with one of Fishers' 11 made 3-pointers to deadlock the game 13-13 in the second quarter. Walker finished with 10 points.

"We punched, and they punched back, but I feel like we had the last punch," Zachary said.

Carmel didn't go down without a fight, seeking to end Fishers' streak where it symbolically began nearly two years ago.

Fishers' last regular-season loss, 54-46, occurred at Carmel's ECAC on Jan. 27, 2024, which propelled the Tigers towards a 13-game winning streak down the stretch and their first IHSAA 4A state title.

"That year we won the state title, we lost here, and I think that team needed it at that time. We took a loss, didn't play our best and through that loss, we learned a lot," Winegar said. "I think it helped us win the state title."

Saturday's postseason atmosphere fueled the tug-of-war matchup.

Carmel junior Cash Daniels had a game-high 23 points and trimmed the

Greyhounds' deficit to one possession three times, including 25-23 at halftime with a last-second, fadeaway jumper.

Senior Julian Vogt had 15 points capped by a floater in the final 1:20 remaining that cut Fishers' advantage 51-50.

Carmel outscored Fishers 14-6 in the fourth, but 7 of 17 free-throw shooting for the Tigers (2 of 6 in the final 27.6 seconds) protected their lead.

"It's kind of been a recurring problem in the fourth quarter of us not continuing to be aggressive on offense," Winegar said. "That was the unfortunate thing, but obviously, a heck of a game."

For Carmel, the loss was its third one-possession lesson. Something they intend to capitalize on in March.

"We've been in some tight games. We've been right there, and we're going to get over the hump. I believe in these guys," Carmel coach Ryan Osborn said. "My message to them was that the only failure right here is a failure to respond or to quit. This is like life, right? If you're signing up for easy, then what are you really signing up for? These are chances to respond."

Westfield sweeps weekend games

The REPORTER

Westfield's boys went 2-0 this past weekend.

The Shamrocks started with a Friday, Jan. 30 Hoosier Crossroads Conference victory over Avon at CSI Gymnasium. It was Westfield's first HCC win of the season.

The Rocks blasted out to a 20-9 lead after one quarter, with Drew Haffner scoring nine points. Westfield witheld a strong charge from the Orioles in the second period, with Avon cutting

the Shamrocks' lead to 37-30 by halftime.

The second half was similar to the first. Westfield outscored the Orioles 15-8 in the third quarter; Luke Vandegriff scored eight of the Shamrocks' points. Westfield kept comfortably ahead of Avon in the fourth; Haffner scored seven points in that quarter.

Haffner finished with 26 points, scoring in each period. So did Vandegriff, who totaled 16 points.

The Rocks traveled to

Mooresville on Saturday, Jan. 31 and came home with a 56-38 victory.

Westfield led 16-10 after the first quarter, including 11 points from Haffner. The Pioneers got within 29-27 by halftime, but the Shamrocks took control in the third period, outscoring Mooresville 16-5. Haffner nailed three 3s

in that quarter. An 11-point fourth quarter sealed the win.

Haffner threw in five triples on his way to 23 points. Brock Detamore scored 14, including eight in the second period. Wyatt Freehauf had 10 points.

Westfield is 9-6 and plays an HCC game Thursday at Fishers.

Daniels' basket lifts Hounds past Giants

The REPORTER

Carmel's Cash Daniels made a layin with a few seconds left in the Greyhounds' game at Ben Davis on Friday, Jan. 30, and that was enough to send Carmel home with a 68-66 win over the Giants.

The Hounds led 20-19 after one quarter and moved ahead 37-34 by halftime. Carmel extended its lead to 54-47 after three periods and withstood a Ben Davis comeback in the fourth quarter.

Evan Harrell scored 25

points and five rebounds for the Greyhounds, while Daniels finished with 11 points, five rebounds and five assists. Both players were perfect from the free-throw line: Daniels was 8-of-8 and Harrell was 5-of-5, accounting for all 13 of Carmel's foul shots.

Julian Vogt added 11 points, including three 3-pointers. Aiden Dickerson pulled five rebounds.

The Hounds host Lawrence North on Thursday.

Hamilton County Reporter

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Boys Basketball

Hawks clinch share of HCC championship

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

SHERIDAN – Friday, Jan. 30 was a big night for Sheridan.

The Blackhawks welcomed their new athletic director, Jared Green. Sheridan conducted its Hardwood Homecoming, with Ji Warren named Queen and Devon Hamilton named King.

Hamilton accepted the crown in his Blackhawks basketball uniform – he is one of the players on the team. Minutes later, he was back on the court at Larry Hobbs Hall helping Sheridan to a 59-53 comeback win over Taylor.

With the victory, the Blackhawks improved to 7-0 in Hoosier Heartland Conference play and have won at least a share of the HHC championship. Sheridan's only conference game left is a Feb. 13 home date with Carroll; the Cougars are 3-1 in the HHC with four league games remaining.

"This was an emphasis all week," said Hawks coach Bill Bowen. "We knew this game was going to be tough."

Sheridan led 20-12 after one quarter, with Jax Peerman contributing seven of those points. The Titans blasted back in the second period, outscoring the Blackhawks 25-11 to take a 37-31 halftime lead.

Sheridan worked its way back into the game in



(ABOVE LEFT) Sheridan crowned its Winter Homecoming Queen and King during halftime of the Blackhawks' boys basketball game with Taylor Friday, Jan. 30. Ji Warren was named Queen and Devon Hamilton was named King. **(ABOVE RIGHT)** Sheridan's Chance Spencer scored six points for the Blackhawks during their 59-53 win over Taylor. With the victory, the Blackhawks clinched at least a share of the Hoosier Heartland Conference championship.

the third quarter, cutting Taylor's advantage to 48-46 by the end of the period. Five different Blackhawks players scored points in that quarter, showing Sheridan's balance.

"We've had three guys in double figures and two more guys right under 10 points," said Bowen.

The Hawks cruised through the fourth quarter, allowing the Titans only five points. Desh Donathan made a crucial three-point play, then consecutive lay-ins by Hamilton clinched the win.

Hamilton finished with 14 points, while Peerman and Donathan each had 13 points. Trey Page scored

nine points.

Sheridan kept the momentum going on Saturday, Jan. 31, with a 90-78 win at Covenant Christian.

The teams were tied at 19-19 after one quarter. The Hawks led 39-36 at halftime, after which the Warriors poured in 30 points during the third period for a 66-64 lead.

But Sheridan once again stepped up in the fourth period. The Blackhawks outscored Covenant 26-12 in that period, scoring their most points in a game this season.

It was the first time Sheridan reached the 90-point mark since doing so twice in the 2011-12 season: The

Reporter photos by **Richie Hall**



Hawks put up 94 on Clinton Central Dec. 9, 2011 and 90 on North Newton Dec. 21, 2011.

Page had an incredible game, scoring 30 points with five 3-pointers. Hamilton added 18 points and six rebounds, while Donathan scored 16 points and pulled five rebounds.

Sheridan totaled 25 assists as a team. Chance Spencer dished out eight assists, Peerman handed out seven, Donathan had four, while Page and Hamilton both dished out three.

The Hawks are 12-2 overall and play two road games this week, Thursday at Herron and Saturday afternoon at Alexandria.

Blazers return to action with big win

The REPORTER

University's boys took the floor Friday, Jan. 30 at Anderson Preparatory Academy for their first game in three weeks. Any concerns about the Trailblazers showing any rust from the layoff were quickly dispelled as University scored 39 points in the first quarter and cruised to a 79-36 win over the Jets.

The Blazers did trail 5-2 just 90 seconds into the game before exploding for 22 unanswered points over the next 2:50 to take a commanding 25-5 lead midway through the opening quarter.

Josh Henderson got the run going scoring at the rim off a Faisal Mohamud assist before hitting a three pointer from the right wing off a kick out from Cooper Cammack to put University on top 7-5. The Trailblazers then stole the ball on four consecutive possessions to score eight points in a 37 second span and force a Jets timeout. Blake Gray, Josh McGee (twice) and Mohamud had the baskets. Anderson Prep turned the ball over 11 times in the first quarter.

Seven Trailblazers scored in the first quarter that ended with a three-point play from Noah Cortez with 0.6 seconds remaining. University led 39-13 after the opening

eight minutes. Henderson had 10 points in the quarter with McGee adding eight, Peter Morales six on a pair of three pointers and Gray and Mohamud scored five each.

The pace slowed down in the second quarter but University kept the defensive intensity dialed up forcing 10 more Jets turnovers and holding the hosts to just four points as the Blazers led 55-17 at halftime. Henderson added eight more second quarter points while McGee had four more.

The second half was played with a running clock as 15 Trailblazers saw playing time with 10 denting the scoring column.

Henderson made 9 of 10 field goal attempt for a game-high 22 points. McGee had 14 points on 6-for-7 shooting. Mohamud had 12 and Gray 10 to put four Trailblazers in double figures.

Cammack led the way on the boards with a team high nine rebounds. Henderson, Gray and DJ Willis each pulled down four rebounds.

University had 21 steals on the night with Mohamud leading the way with five steals and Henderson had four as eight Blazers recorded at least one steal. Gray led with six assists.

Zachary sets 3-point record in Tigers' win over FC

By **RICHARD TORRES**
For The Reporter

The top-ranked Class 4A Fishers Tigers wasted no time at 4A Franklin Central on Friday, Jan. 30.

Up 14-5 after the first quarter, junior Cooper Zachary made certain the margin never grew closer with a historic performance from 3-point range through the second and third frames.

Zachary buried 10 of 11 attempts from beyond the arc, which set a school record for most 3-pointers made in a single game, and led the Tigers to a 76-28 victory.

Zachary finished with a game-high 36 points, as

Fishers improved to 17-0 overall and 5-0 in the Hoosier Crossroads Conference.

Zachary sank four 3-pointers in the second quarter en route to a 16-point outburst followed by six 3-pointers in the third for 24 points. He also went 4-for-4 from the free throw line.

Senior Kai McGrew had seven points, and senior Ethan Hillsman provided 12 points. Both junior Levi Walker and senior Torey Breland had six points apiece.

Currently, Zachary owns the school's career records for most steals, assists and 3-pointers by any player in program history.

Golden Eagles come back at Lebanon

The REPORTER

Guerin Catholic got a nice comeback win against a possible sectional opponent on Friday, Jan. 30.

The Golden Eagles out-

lasted Lebanon 55-53 at the Tigers' Rosenstihl Gymnasium. Lebanon blasted off to a 20-12 lead after one quarter, then were up 29-15 during the second period.

Guerin Catholic cut into that lead before halftime, getting within 29-19.

The Golden Eagles got going in the third quarter, outscoring the Tigers 15-

8. Lebanon still led 37-34 going into the fourth, but Guerin Catholic continued to roll, scoring 21 points.

Jake Grissom had an outstanding game, scoring 27 points and collecting nine rebounds. Luke Keller added nine points and pulled five rebounds, with Andrew Reithman also getting five rebounds. Hayden Rogers made four steals.

Both teams will compete in Class 3A Sectional 25 at Frankfort.

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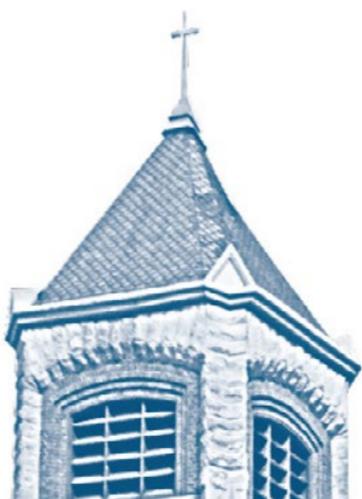
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Boys Basketball

Millers bounce back against rival Royals

By **RICHARD TORRES**
For The Reporter

NOBLESVILLE – The stage was set for a Noblesville Millers’ bounce back on Friday, Jan. 30. It also had the potential to become another setback.

Instead, senior Baron Walker and the Millers chose the former and halted their two-game losing streak by defeating Hoosier Crossroads Conference rival Hamilton Southeastern, 56-49.

Welcoming back senior Justin Curry II after the Valparaiso recruit missed five games with a knee injury, the Class 4A Millers (8-7, 2-3 HCC) were initially at full strength inside The Mill through the first few minutes.

Then, Curry “banged” his knee and was forced to sit, which limited him the rest of the way.

“I hate that for him. He’s been fighting this thing for six weeks, but our guys really hung tough,” Noblesville coach Scott McClelland said. “We had a great start. I thought that was really important.”

The Millers opened with an 8-1 run and led 20-7 after the first quarter with Curry II reentering for the final 2:20, as Noblesville caught fire, shooting 8 of 11 from the field and 4-for-5 from 3-point range.

All in the first eight min-



Photos by Joshua Herd

(ABOVE LEFT) Noblesville’s Justin Curry II returned to action after a knee injury at the Millers’ game with Hamilton Southeastern on Friday, Jan. 30. (ABOVE RIGHT) Hamilton Southeastern’s Varschon Clark scored eight points for the Royals.

utes. The 4A Royals (7-9, 2-3 HCC) turned the ball over five times in the frame and were held to two shot attempts. HSE tallied four of their seven points on 4 of 6 free-throw shooting.

The Millers, however, never let up.

Noblesville shot 52 percent from the field in the game and led by as many as 19 points in the first half with Walker, a Butler commit, posting a game-high 22 points, five assists and five

rebounds. “I think this is the most adversity I’ve faced in my four years. It’s not picture perfect, especially being a senior, but it’s just a matter of showing toughness,” Walker remarked on the team’s season struggles. “That’s what makes this squad so unique.”

The Millers opened the season 1-4 prior to winning five straight. In their past four games, the Millers went 1-3 with Curry sidelined, including a couple

of near misses against 4A Pike in double overtime and against both HCC foes Franklin Central and Zionsville.

At home for their third consecutive HCC matchup in seven days, the Millers relied on past lessons to sharpen their fortitude.

“We’ve had games where we’ve been in control, particularly the past two games, and we’ve got lackadaisical. We’ve blown that lead, but this is just a testament to that adversity,”

Walker said. “We knew they were coming in, losing two in a row. We were coming in, losing two in a row. We knew it was going to be a battle.”

Noblesville’s lead dropped to single digits in the second half, but team-wide consistency kept them ahead.

Senior Adam Fine had 12 points, five rebounds and buried 2 of 3 from behind the arc. Walker went 3-for-5 from deep, while senior Max Flanagan had eight points (2-for-5 from 3-point).

The Royals outscored the Millers through the final three quarters, but their early deficit eventually extended their losing streak to three.

Senior Luke Weemer had a team-high 21 points (2-for-4 from 3-point) with three rebounds and cut Noblesville’s advantage to 38-31 late in the third, but a Millers’ 10-3 run afterwards quelled any comeback hopes.

“That’s the thing we’ve struggled with, especial-

ly when we lose, is having inconsistent play for too long,” HSE coach Bobby Allen said. “We can’t always bounce back when those games are in this conference and against our schedule. You can’t have let downs that last that long where you can’t dig yourself out of a hole that deep.”

Senior Landon Osswald finished with six points, six assists and three rebounds. Senior Maverick Young had nine points and sophomore Varschon Clark added eight points.

Curry scored three points – off an and-1 in the second half.

“It was the same situation. He was back last week, and he got hurt in practice. It was early into practice and early into the game tonight,” Walker said. “We’ve been playing the past five games without him, so it was amazing just seeing him get back on the court. He was happy to get out there. Adversity. That’s what makes this group so unique.”

Huskies take care of Tipton

By **CRAIG ADKINS**
For The Reporter

The last 10 meetings in the rivalry between Tipton and Hamilton Heights have been split with each winning five.

The Huskies defended their home court Friday, Jan. 30 with a 62-44 win over the Blue Devils.

From the tipoff, Heights was in control and led 18-6 through the first eight minutes.

They doubled up the Blue Devils at halftime 35-

17 with a 17-11 second. The second half would be a 27-27 tie, but still wound up as an 18-point win for the Huskies.

The win was their seventh in a row in the first game of a back-to-back weekend.

Jackson Mikesell led Heights with a double-double, scoring 16 and grabbing 13 rebounds. Rees Knapp had 14 with seven boards and Jack Kakasuleff 13. Will DeStefano had eight points and dished out five assists.




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