

FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Around an inch of snow in the morning. Mostly cloudy with a milder afternoon.
Tonight: Mostly to partly cloudy. Another round of flurries possible in the evening, then clouds decrease.
HIGH: 35 **LOW:** 10



Gleaners shares local hunger facts with Carmel Rotarians

Hamilton County is fifth-highest food-insecure area in state

By **DUBBIE BUCKLER**
Rotary Club of Carmel

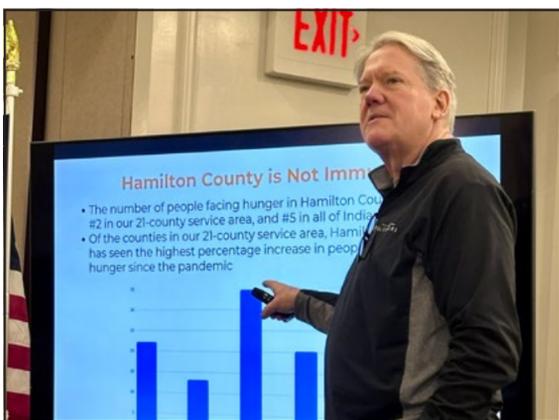
Fred Glass, President and CEO of **Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana**, recently shared startling facts at the Carmel Rotary Club about the rise of hunger within Hamilton County and the state.

Glass, former IU athletic director, speaking to Carmel Rotarians following IU's historic national football championship win, deftly turned attention from the Hoosiers' victory pride to the pride of Gleaners' mission to fight hunger across Indiana.

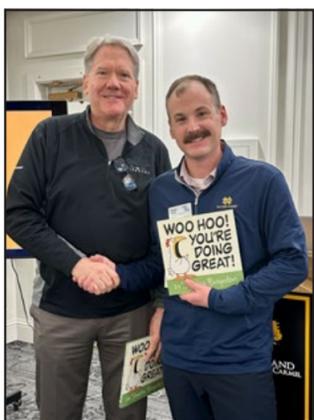
Glass shared surprising data about how food insecurity cuts across all different communities. In Indiana, for the first time ever, more than one million Hoosiers have been found to be food insecure.

Glass cited statistics about the growing challenges of food insecurity, noting that Hamilton County now has the second-highest percentage of people facing hunger in Gleaners' 21-county service area and ranks fifth in the entire state in number of people with food insecurity. Hamilton County has seen the highest percentage increase in people facing hunger in Gleaners' 21-county service area since the pandemic.

While some of the people Gleaners serves cannot work because they are elderly, disabled, or children, Glass reported that the vast majority who can work, do work. He said that according to the na-



(LEFT) Gleaners CEO Fred Glass shares local hunger facts. (RIGHT) Carmel Rotary Vice President Tyler Smith (right) presents Fred Glass with books to sign for distribution to Carmel grade schools.



Photos provided

tional organization Feeding America, food insecurity adds \$1.8 billion to health care costs in Indiana alone. He added that a Clemson University study found that just a 1 percent increase in food insecurity rate leads to a 12 percent increase in violent crime, and noted that food insecurity negatively impacts workforce productivity and business profitability.

Glass further noted that food-insecure children miss more school, are more likely to repeat a grade, and are less likely to graduate from high school than food-secure children. A Johns Hopkins study found food-insecure college students are 40 percent less likely to graduate.

Glass concluded his presentation by sharing that last year, Gleaners distributed more



Photo provided

(From left) Monica Frauhiger, Chaya Reich, President Doug Willard, Brad Osborne, Meg Osborne, and CarmelFest Chair Stanley Lebron.

than 54 million meals throughout its 21-county service area, an all-time record high, on an annual budget-need nearing \$100 million. He said that Gleaners strives to shorten food lines by feeding those in

line, and described innovative partnerships that help Gleaners deliver meaningful impact at scale, delivering millions of dollars of food annually.

See *Hunger* . . . Page 2

Copy/paste error causes Democrat delegate woes

The REPORTER

On Thursday, Feb. 5, the Hamilton County Election Board addressed a copy/paste error that could impact the number of Democrat state convention delegates from Hamilton County.

Late last year, the Indiana Democratic Party told the Hamilton County Election Board 162 delegates need to be selected from nine districts. The Hamilton County Democratic Party supplied the election board with a list of 144 delegate seats divided by township based on population. That is 18 fewer than the state party indicated Hamilton County should have.

"The state law lets the state party decide the delegates," Hamilton County Democratic Party Chair Josh Lowry told The Reporter. "They didn't tell the counties how many there are. They told the counties that we had 162. They also told the county election board and the secretary of state. We then, as the county [party], had to provide a breakdown by district. We get to decide the districts and how many go to each one, and we were looking at the 2024 map. When we sent the breakdown to the election administrator, we just accidentally sent the 2024 numbers, which was 18 delegates less than we actually have assigned. We then realized this and asked the election administrator to add them, and they said no."

Lowry's mistake was not noticed in a timely manner by either the Indiana Democratic Party, which was copied on the delegates list he submitted, or by the county election office.

The problem now is one of state law. Hamilton County Election Administrator Beth Sheller told The Reporter she did not think this would be a difficult error to correct until she looked at Indiana statute and contacted the Indiana Election Division for guidance.

See *Error* . . . Page 2



Lowry



Sheller

Hamilton Heights announces next group of Coffee Bean awardees

Submitted by **Hamilton Heights School Corp.**

Hamilton Heights High School recognizes the following students who were named as Coffee Bean Award recipients for the month of January. They include Kaden Cantlon, Rain Deering, Olivia Higgins, Mollie (MJ) Hooper, Victoria James, and Chuck Murdock.

The name and award, inspired by *The Coffee Bean*, a book written by Jon Gordon and Damon West, delivers a simple, yet powerful message on positive change. All students nominated receive a certi-

cate of recognition. At the end of the month, the names of the students who were nominated during the month are included in a drawing where the first five to seven names drawn are called down to the office to enjoy hot chocolate or coffee and a donut.

The monthly award objective is to encourage more acts of kindness, positivity, school spirit, and help foster a closer sense of community at the high school. Students and staff can nominate students. You can send a nomination by visiting the Student Services page at hs.hhschuskiies.org.



Photo provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation

(From left) Rain Deering, Olivia Higgins, MJ Hooper, and Chuck Murdock. Not pictured: Kaden Cantlon and Tori James.

Love you, stinky face!

It all started with a book.

One night at bedtime, we opened *I Love You, Stinky Face* – a sweet little story about a parent who loves their child no matter what they imagine becoming. A smelly skunk. A scary dinosaur. A swamp creature. With every page, my daughter's reactions grew bigger.

"Ewww!"
"Ughhh!"
"Gross, Mama!"

Her nose wrinkled. Her face twisted. Then came the giggles.

And after every dramatic reaction, I'd smile and say, "Love you, stinky face."

What began as a silly bedtime moment quickly turned into something much deeper.

Because love doesn't have to be loud to be real. It doesn't always show up in grand gestures or perfect moments. Most of the time, love lives quietly in the ordinary – in shared stories before sleep, in inside jokes only your family understands, and in routines that slowly build connection.

It reminded me that the love we're waiting for – the love we imagine as something big and magical – is usually already around us.

We just have to notice it. These days, life feels like a constant cycle of pick-ups and drop-offs. School runs. Activities. Practices. Quick snacks in the car. Conversations squeezed between red lights. We joke that we've become "Uber parents," shuttling our kids from one place to another in a blur of schedules and backpacks.

Yet somewhere in the middle of all that chaos, love keeps showing up.

See *Stinky Face* . . . Page 2



COLUMNIST

POOJA THAKKAR

Taste of Community

Julie Nix named Riverview Health CEO

The REPORTER

Riverview Health is pleased to announce the appointment of Julie Nix as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective April 1, 2026.

Nix joins Riverview Health from Little Rock, Ark., bringing more than 25 years of executive leadership experience in healthcare operations, strategic growth, and patient-centered innovation.

Nix most recently served as a senior healthcare executive in the Little Rock region, where she built a reputation for driving organizational transformation, strengthening clinical partnerships, and elevating quality-of-care initiatives. Her leadership has been recognized for aligning organizational culture with com-

munity needs and positioning health systems for long-term success.

"We are thrilled to welcome Julie Nix to Riverview Health," said Dr. William Kirsch, Vice-Chair of the Riverview Health Board of Trustees.

"Julie is a dynamic, forward-thinking leader with a strong record of improving patient experience, cultivating physician relationships, and guiding health organizations through periods of growth. Her vision and expertise will be invaluable as



Nix



Riverview Health continues to expand services."

Nix will succeed interim leadership and take on responsibility for overseeing all system operations, strategic planning, clinical and organizational performance, and community engagement efforts across Riverview Health's hospitals, physician network, and outpatient facilities.

"I am honored to join Riverview Health and excited to work alongside its exceptional physicians, nurses, and team

members," Nix said. "Riverview Health has a long-standing commitment to delivering high-quality, compassionate care. I look forward to building on that foundation and partnering with the community to ensure we continue meeting the evolving healthcare needs of Hamilton County and beyond."

Nix holds a Master of Health Administration and a bachelor's degree in business management. Throughout her career, she has championed initiatives focused on operational excellence, workforce development, and expanding access to care in growing communities.

For more information about Riverview Health, visit riverview.org.

HUNGER

from Page 1

He praised local citizens' service and engagement to help those in need.

Also at the meeting, Carmel Rotary Club President Doug Willard recognized key Rotary volunteers for their CarmelFest leadership. CarmelFest is the Rotary Club of Carmel's signature fundraising event to support its many community service programs. Noting the annual two-day 4th of July celebration takes a significant amount of time to plan, organize and execute, all done by volunteers, some of CarmelFest's key volunteers were recognized for their leadership, including CarmelFest Chair Stanley Lebron and committee members Monica Frauhiger, Chaya Reich, and Meg and Brad Osborne.

About Rotary Club of Carmel

The Rotary Club of Carmel, founded in 1972, regularly contributes to local community projects including the Merciful H.E.L.P. Center, Crooked Creek Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, Carmel Summer Lunch Program, Trinity Free Clinic, and many oth-

ers. Carmel Rotary's youth outreach includes Leadership Connection, a leadership skills development and scholarship program for Carmel area high school students; Interact, a Rotary-sponsored service club for youth ages 12 to 18; and the Youth Exchange Program, hosting high school students from abroad and sponsoring Carmel area outbound high school students to countries around the globe.

Carmel Rotary is proud to present and provide the leadership for CarmelFest, Carmel's annual 4th of July parade and celebration. Carmel Rotary is also involved in global service projects within the major focus areas of: Peace and conflict prevention/resolution; Disease prevention and treatment; Water and sanitation, Maternal and child health; Basic education and literacy, and Economic and community development. The long-standing primary goal of Rotary International is the eradication of polio from the face of the earth.

For more information, visit CarmelRotary.com.

ERROR

from Page 1

"The way that the bipartisan team at the Indian Election Division had interpreted the law, they said that whatever they [the county party] gave us is what had to be, because it was due to us by Dec. 31 of 2025. He [Chairman Lowry] submitted it Dec. 4. It's a party office. We go with what the party says."

It would take a great deal of time to correct the delegates list on the ballot this late into the filing process, but Sheller said she and her people would do so if the law allowed.

"We would have had to take out almost 200 candidates, which would take a day," Sheller said. "Then we would have to have the Indiana Election Division reprinted in those offices because they had changed. Then we'd have to put them back in, which would probably take us a week of work. And that would be doable. It would probably delay us getting our ballot ready, but that would be doable – and my office would do that, if it were not for the law. I feel like, with guidance from the Indiana Election Division, that we have to stick by that. That's what I told them in the election board meeting today."

The entire bipartisan Hamilton County Election Board, including the Democratic board member, agreed that this was not an error the county was legally allowed to fix.

"My suggestion was

Other election confusion

The REPORTER

In theory, both the offices of Secretary of State Diego Morales and the Hamilton County Election Administrator compile a daily list of everyone who has filed for office in the upcoming primary, check it for errors, then make those lists available to the public on their respective websites.

In practice, Hamilton County does a great job at that.

The state does not.

The Feb. 5 candidate list from Morales's office is ... interesting.

Fifteen candidates across the state are listed as having filed, but with no filing date. That field is blank for five Democrats and 10 Republicans.

Six candidates are listed as filed, but with dates in the future. Six candidates filed years ago: four in early 2025, one in 2020, and one in 2006.

One is listed as filing today, which was still seven hours in the future when this newspaper pulled the candidates list from the state website. One is listed as

having filed on Feb. 9, three days after filing ends at noon today. Another is listed with a filing date of Feb. 16. A fourth shows a filing date of Dec. 30, 2026 – 10 months and 24 days after filing ends.

As late-night infomercials in the '80s used to say, "But wait, there's more."

One Democratic candidate in Vincennes, Ind. will apparently file for office in just under 7,200 years. The candidate, who filed both for township trustee and precinct committeeman, has filing dates of Jan. 26, 9202. That will be 2,620,969 days after this is published.

None of the candidates with impossible filing dates are local and none are running for state or national offices. The Hamilton County Reporter will publish the final list of candidates on the Hamilton and Tipton County ballots in the May primary in our Tuesday, Feb. 10 edition.

This newspaper hopes Secretary of State Diego Morales, or his designee, has corrected the official candidate list by then.

maybe they will let you appoint those 18," Sheller said. "That would be fantastic if they would just let him appoint them. Since I've never encountered that situation, I don't know what they'll say. I don't know if there's anything that would prevent that or not. I hope not because I'd like to see them utilize all of their delegates."

Filing ends today, Feb. 6, at noon.

On Thursday afternoon, when asked what the solution will be, Lowry said,

"Honestly, I don't know. The law says once they're told the delegates, that's the number to be elected. We talked about this and I understand the election administrator's position. She's saying this is too time-consuming for us to do. I understand, but also, that's the law. So, frankly, at this time, I don't know. I'll be talking to the state party later today and hopefully we'll get it sorted out."

With contested Democrat races where candidates for the general election will be

decided at the state convention, rather than at the polls in the May primary, 18 Hamilton County delegates could have a huge impact on who appears on the November ballot.

Note: 90 minutes after our Thursday evening news deadline, Lowry gave The Reporter an official statement he composed after speaking with state party officials. While it was too late to get that statement in today's edition, it appears in full on our website at [this link](#).

Phi Beta Psi Fundraiser Euchre Night
Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 4 p.m.
 First Christian Church, 16377 Herriman Blvd., Noblesville

\$15.00 to play
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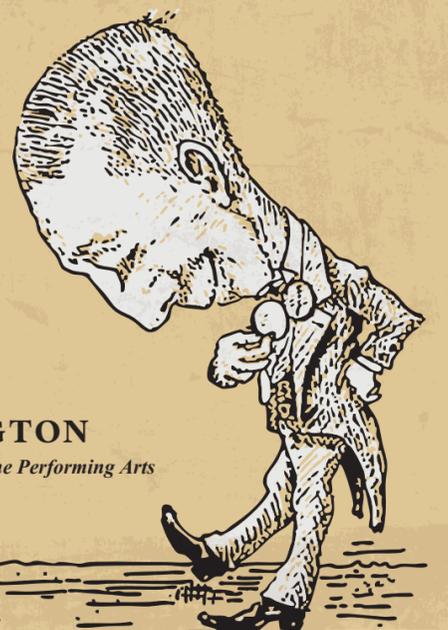
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AN EVENING WITH JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

You may know his name, but you don't know his story. Join us for An Evening with James Whitcomb Riley and hear how a simple country poet from Greenfield, Indiana became one of the best-selling authors of his time!

THURSDAY FEB. 19
7:30PM

THE TARKINGTON
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STINKY FACE

from Page 1

In the way my girls tell me stories about their day before I even ask.

In the way we laugh over spilled water bottles and forgotten homework.

In the way a simple "I love you, stinky face" can turn a tired evening into a moment of connection.

And it made me think about community – about how connection forms in the same quiet, everyday ways.

Just like families bond over bedtime stories, communities grow around shared tables, familiar recipes, and conversations that happen while passing food. We don't always remember the big events, but we

never forget how someone made us feel in small moments – the neighbor who brought soup when we were sick, the potluck dish that started a friendship, the story shared over chai or coffee.

In my work with Taste of Community, I've learned that the strongest relationships aren't built through perfection – they're built through presence. Through showing up with what we have. Through listening. Through creating spaces where people feel seen and valued.

Food, much like love, doesn't need to be fancy to be meaningful. A simple meal can hold memories. A shared snack can open conversations. A familiar flavor can bring comfort after a hard day.

Just like a children's book can hold a lifetime of lessons.

I used to think love needed to feel big to matter. Now I'm learning that the strongest love – in families and in communities – often looks small.

It looks like consistency.

It looks like care in everyday routines.



Photo provided by Pooja Thakkar

It looks like choosing connection over rush.

So if you ever find yourself waiting for life to slow down before you feel close – to your family, your neighbors, or your community – pause for a moment.

Notice the laughter in the backseat.

Appreciate the shared meals.

Lean into the ordinary

chaos.

Because chances are, the love and belonging you're hoping for is already there – in bedtime stories, car rides, familiar flavors, and a soft voice saying,

"Love you, stinky face."

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

Town of Atlanta
Now Hiring
Certified Water/Wastewater Operator
Full Time Position

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

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

Stay well, fit, alert & safe

"Intuition is always right in at least two important ways: It is always in response to something, it always has your best interest at heart ... Intuition is always in our best interest because it is an unconscious act with only one purpose, survival." – Gavin de Becker, *The Gift of Fear: Survival Signals That Protect Us from Violence*



SHARON McMAHON
Be Well

various agencies, including Los Angeles law enforcement, and is a widely regarded expert on security. Let's explore the importance of health and fitness in contributing to our personal safety.

Recent newsworthy events have caused me to reflect on the substance of a book I read about 20 years ago and how important being healthy, fit, sharp, and especially aware should be as part of every woman's inner dialogue. I passed that book along to my daughter and shared copies with other young women I know.

Can you pick up that large bag of groceries or other items while out shopping so that it is unnecessary for you to accept help from a stranger? If you need to pick up your pace while walking, are you able to do so? Additionally, often the younger and older women are targets of malfeasance in our society because they may be inadvertently present as weaker physically and attentiveness. A physically fit and strong woman may deter someone wishing to do harm.

car and approached as she reaches the car. De Becker says do not yell "Help!" as unfortunately in our society most people are programmed to look away not knowing if there is a weapon involved or if the incident is domestic in nature. The best alternative, he suggests, is to yell "Fire!" as we are all interested and concerned about the source of a fire and will look in that person's direction, thereby bringing attention to the potentially dangerous situation for the woman.

ago with a female detective I know and she agreed completely with de Becker's assessments.* I recommend that you read his book, perhaps discuss with law enforcement representatives and/or professional security personnel to reinforce or take into consideration de Becker's suggestions, and potentially share with those who can benefit.

Above all, stay well, stay fit, stay alert, stay safe.

**If you or someone you know is feeling threatened or in imminent danger contact law enforcement immediately.*

Sharon McMahon, CNWC

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

Another option that I have actually followed several times over the years is the one de Becker suggests if you know someone is watching you. Make certain that you look that person in the eye and they will know that you have seen them and can describe them. A woman with her head down, distracted, or appearing shy is a much easier target.

Regarding the two suggestions mentioned above: I actually discussed these specifically several years

Is Carmel's Arts & Design District No. 1 in the U.S.?

Submitted by City of Carmel

The Carmel Arts & Design District has been nominated by a panel of experts for USA Today's 10Best Arts Districts in the nation.

Carmel residents may have the best galleries, restaurants, boutiques, the most unique public art, and the most dedicated community, but it's time to prove that to the rest of the nation. Winning this title isn't just about the accolade; it's

about putting local artists and small businesses on the national map.

Over the next two weeks, the city will spotlight its premier district: the food, the people and, of course, the art that makes it special. Follow along on the Experience Carmel Facebook page and the Carmel Friday newsletter.

You can vote once per day through Monday, Feb. 16 at [this link](#). Every vote counts.

Adam Bauer of Westfield makes UM-Duluth Dean's List

The REPORTER

The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has announced its Dean's List for Fall Semester 2025. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade-point average of 3.50 or

higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

Among those students is Adam Bauer of Westfield, a junior who is pursuing a degree in chemical engineering.

Indiana Wind Symphony presents "Masquerade Ball"

A celebration of jazz, rhythm, culture & Carnival spirit

Submitted

The Indiana Wind Symphony (IWS) invites audiences to celebrate the vibrant spirit of Mardi Gras with its upcoming concert, Masquerade Ball, at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15 at the Payne & Mencias Palladium at the Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. Patrons are invited to dress in their Mardi Gras best for the performance.

Click here to purchase your tickets.

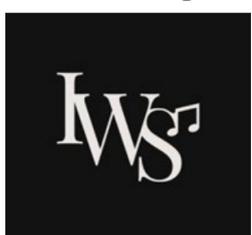
The concert will feature guest soloist and clarinetist Doreen Ketchens, acclaimed internationally for her passionate blend of gospel, blues, and jazz. Known as the "female Louis Armstrong," Ketchens' spirited performance style promises to be

the highlight of the evening.

Ketchens is famous for playing on the streets of New Orleans, and her band, Jazz New Orleans, has traveled the world performing their joyful, energetic, original, and soulful New Orleans jazz in 47 states and 24 countries. She has represented the United States by teaching and performing for dignitaries and royalty, including four U.S. presidents.

Ketchens' work can also be found in numerous radio and television shows, including *Treme*, *Drunk History*, music videos and movies, including *Out of Blue*, *Come On, Come On*, Tyler Perry's *Temptation*, and recently on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* and *CBS Sunday Morning*.

"We're thrilled to bring



Doreen and the joyous energy of Mardi Gras to Carmel," said Jay Gephart, music director and conductor of the IWS. "This concert celebrates musical diversity and cultural celebration. It's an opportunity for our community to come together through rhythm, melody, and shared experience."

This festive concert transports attendees to the

See Wind . . . Page 4

Everybody Loves Lasagna
 Kiwanis Club of Greater Sheridan Lasagna Dinner
 Featuring **HOMEMADE Desserts**
February 13 from 5-7 p.m.
 Sheridan High School, 24185 Hinesley Rd.

\$7 for children 3 to 12, adults \$12 for pre-sale \$15 the night of the dinner
 Tickets can be purchased from Kiwanis members or at the Farmers Bank in Sheridan. Money raised will go back into the community to support children's programs.



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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.

Supporting Indiana's working families & children

How we support children reflects the kind of society we want to be. In Indiana, that question is urgent. **Fifteen percent of Hoosier children** live in poverty, and **one in five** struggle

with hunger or inadequate nutrition – more than 285,000 kids statewide. These numbers show up in food banks, schools, and households where families are trying to keep up as the cost of living rises.

Many parents are doing everything right: working, budgeting carefully, and making sacrifices. Yet for too many families, wages still don't stretch far enough to cover basic needs. Policies that help close that gap deserve serious consideration.

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is one of the most direct ways the federal government supports working parents raising the next generation. Research shows it reduces child poverty and food insecurity and improves family well-being. When the credit was temporarily expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic, it helped **2 million children out of poverty** nationwide.

GUEST COLUMNIST



KAREN MOMPER

A bipartisan proposal recently introduced in the Senate by Senator Todd Young would strengthen the Child Tax Credit by allowing working parents to receive the full benefit start-

ing with their first dollar earned. Under current law, many low-income families receive only partial credit simply because their wages are too low. This proposal addresses that flaw while maintaining a clear connection to work.

For families, the Child Tax Credit helps pay for everyday essentials – groceries, clothing, school supplies, and household bills. That kind of practical support can make a meaningful difference, especially for families living paycheck to paycheck.

Senator Todd Young deserves recognition for advancing the Strong Start for Working Families Act. This bipartisan effort makes a common-sense fix to

strengthen the Child Tax Credit so that working parents can begin receiving the full credit starting with their very first dollar earned. Today, many low-income working families don't qualify for the full benefit simply because their wages are too low. This proposal corrects that gap while keeping work at the center of the equation.

Thoughtful, pro-family policies like the one Senator Young has proposed are exactly what Congress should be focused on. I hope his colleagues will join him in passing the Stronger Start for Working Families Act, which supports work and helps Hoosier families – and families across the country – meet their basic needs.

Karen Momper recently worked in a director role at the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC) after completing the Lugar Series for Excellence in Public Service. She is currently serving the community by donating her passion to a number of charitable causes.

Main Street Productions, Inc. Presents

Almost, Maine

by John Cariani

Directed by Kathy Watson

February 5th – 15th, 2026

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Sunday Shows at 2:30 pm



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www.basilewestfieldplayhouse.org



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WIND

heart of Carnival celebrations across the Americas, blending the sounds of New Orleans with the rich musical traditions of Rio de Janeiro and Barranquilla. The program highlights lively, rhythmically driven works that honor the heritage of

Mardi Gras and Carnival, creating an immersive musical experience for all ages.

About the Indiana Wind Symphony

Founded in 1997, the Indiana Wind Symphony is central Indiana's premier symphonic wind ensemble,

from Page 3

dedicated to performing compelling repertoire that spans classical masterpieces, contemporary works, and culturally inspired programs. Composed of passionate musicians, educators, and community members, IWS seeks to enrich lives through outstanding musical experiences and community engagement. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit IndianaWindSymphony.org.

Thanks for reading the
Hamilton County Reporter!

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www.americanbankoffreedom.bank



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A parent's reckoning with big tech

I am a parent of two young children in Hamilton County. Like many families here, I live with a quiet fear that has become part of daily life.



RAJA RAMASWAMY

with passwords. They show me the games they like. Even now, I can see how quickly their digital world grows beyond what I can fully see or control. What feels innocent today will not stay that way. Early access becomes early exposure long before children are able to recognize danger.

Hailey was a 17-year-old junior at Hamilton Southeastern High School in Fishers. Authorities have said she was contacted by an older adult online before her disappearance. That contact began in digital spaces designed for private and seamless interaction. These spaces allow adults and minors to connect anonymously and at scale.

Meta leads this digital landscape. Through Instagram and Facebook, it has aggressively targeted young users and teens,

embedding social validation, private messaging, and constant engagement into daily life. Gaming networks operated by Microsoft, Sony, Nintendo, and Epic Games extend that reach into social play. Discord normalizes private conversations beyond adult view. Google's YouTube shapes attention and behavior at scale. Roblox invites children into immersive worlds built around interaction and spending.

These companies engineered the environments where children gather, communicate, and place trust.

Big tech did not commit a crime. But these companies built a modern digital playground where engagement often outweighs safety by design. Algorithms reward time spent. Recommendation systems suggest connections. Private messaging removes barriers. Voice chat creates familiarity. These features carry particular risk for adolescents who are still develop-

ing judgment and impulse control.

When systems make it easy for adults to form hidden relationships with minors, harm becomes predictable.

Parents are left competing with trillion-dollar companies whose profits depend on keeping children engaged and reachable. Families are told to monitor devices and set limits. No parent can compete with always-on algorithms, cross-state reach, or digital trails that disappear faster than local police can respond. Parents are expected to protect children who are still learning what trust even means.

Public health teaches that predictable risk demands prevention. Seatbelts exist because vehicles

create foreseeable danger. The same principle applies to digital environments that expose children to adults at scale.

Online grooming now occurs in gaming lobbies, private messages, and voice channels. It crosses state lines and delays response. Parents carry the damage. Public systems struggle to keep up. Missing teens are often labeled as runaways in the early hours. Alert systems do not always reflect digital risk. Platforms point to reporting tools and terms of service as safeguards, even though these measures respond only after harm has already occurred.

Hailey's family and this community are responding with purpose. Pink ribbons have appeared across

Fishers. Thousands have signed a petition supporting Hailey's Law. The proposal calls for a Pink Alert when online grooming or suspicious digital contact is suspected. It also calls for annual education in Indiana schools on online predators, grooming tactics, and digital safety.

Her death demands that we confront the systems that shaped her vulnerability. Big tech did not kill Hailey, but it helped create an environment where tragedies like this became easier.

I write this as a concerned parent and I know I am not alone. Our children deserve better.

Raja Ramaswamy is an Indianapolis-based physician and the author of "YOU Are the New Prescription."

As parents, we tell ourselves that supervision and honest conversations are enough. I no longer believe honest conversations can compete with systems backed by billions of dollars and designed to capture attention.

The death of Hailey Buzbee made it clear that parenting today is nothing like parenting in the 1990s.

My children are 7 and 9. They still sit next to me on the couch. They ask for help

Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness proclaims February "Go Pink for Hailey Month"

Calls on the community to support & honor the Buzbee Family

Submitted by City of Fishers

A statement from Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness on honoring the life of Hailey Buzbee:

"Over the course of these difficult days, I have had the honor of getting to know the Buzbee family and learning about their wonderful daughter, Hailey. In coordination with the family, and in anticipation of Hailey's dad and the Fishers Police Department bringing her home, I am proclaiming February 'Go Pink for Hailey Month,' in her honor."

City of Fishers Proclamation Go Pink for Hailey Month

WHEREAS, Hailey Buzbee was a loving daughter, sister, and friend known to her loved ones as a bright, hardworking young woman who loved music, books, and spending time with her

family and, WHEREAS, Hailey filled each day with love, purpose, and joy and,

WHEREAS, the Buzbee Family is grateful for the community's support and requests that she be remembered for her passions and loving spirit and,

WHEREAS, the City of Fishers mourns alongside the Buzbee Family and desires to honor Hailey and her family by Going Pink for Hailey and,

WHEREAS, exterior lighting on City buildings, including City Hall, Fishers Community Center, State Road 37, and the Nickel Plate Trail, will change to pink, and pink ribbons will be placed along 116th Street and at all City properties and,

WHEREAS, the City welcomes the community to the Art Gallery at Fishers City Hall to view Hailey, a portrait of Hailey Buzbee by local artist and Fall



Photo provided

Creek Junior High art teacher Shelley Feeney, and share written condolences and messages of remembrance on the We Love Hailey canvas and,

WHEREAS, the Fishers Community Center welcomes the community to share written condolences and messages of remembrance on the We Love Hailey canvas as well as place memorial items or tributes for Hailey and her family.

Janus has a place for you at upcoming Create Connect Commit breakfast

The REPORTER

Janus Developmental Services' annual Create Connect Commit (CCC) Fundraising Breakfast is set for Tuesday, March 24 at 502 East Event Centre, 502 E. Carmel Drive, Carmel. The breakfast will take place from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

There are three sponsorship levels available. Please see the details listed below for more information. Sponsorship commitments for the CCC Breakfast can be made by contacting Jerry Jamison, Senior Director of Development, by email at jjamison@janus-inc.org or phone (317) 773-8781, ext. 100.

If you are unable to sponsor but would like to host a table or reserve a seat at the CCC Breakfast in March, please contact Jerry at the contact information above.

If you have any additional questions about sponsorships for this event, please reach out. Janus thanks you in advance for your support.

Gold Sponsor \$1,000

• Signage recognition at Create Connect & Commit Breakfast

• Name & logo on promotional materials

• Name & logo on Janus website

• Recognition on Janus social media



Silver Sponsor \$500

• Signage recognition at Create Connect & Commit Breakfast

• Name on Janus website

• Recognition on Janus social media

Bronze Sponsor \$250

• Signage recognition at Create Connect & Commit Breakfast

This year's Platinum Sponsors include George Kristo and the Indianapolis International Airport.

Table captains are still needed as well. There is no cost for hosting a table and it allows you to invite family, friends, and coworkers to learn more about Janus and hopefully get them involved as well. Each table has eight spots and can go up to 10 if needed. Janus will provide an electronic invitation and a help sheet on how to host a table, including timeline information to help you be successful.

For more information, contact Jerry Jamison, Senior Director of Development, by email at

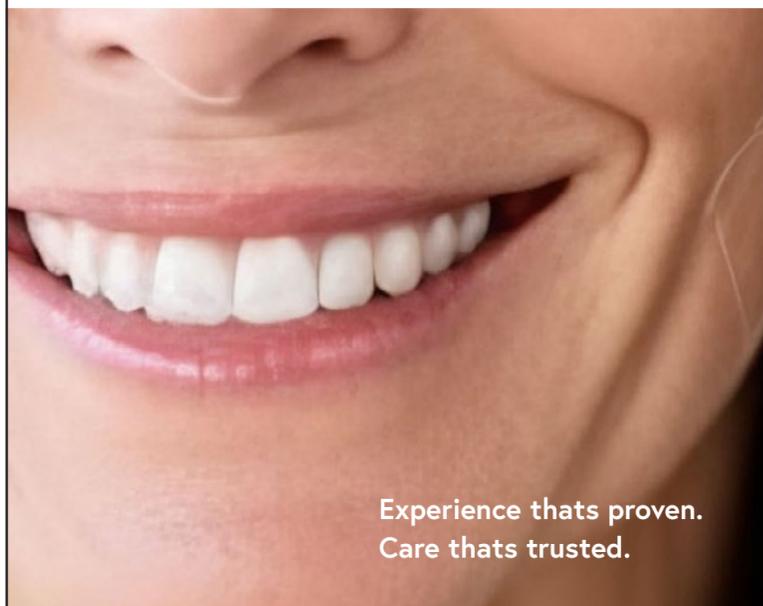
jjamison@janus-inc.org or phone (317) 773-8781, ext. 100.

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- Rachel G



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Hamilton County Reporter



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Thank you, Hamilton County!

When bad data tells the wrong story about hospital finances

A recent analysis by the Employers' Forum of Indiana claims there is "no uniform narrative of financial distress" among Indiana hospitals. The implication is that hospitals may be

overstating their challenges and that warnings about service cuts or closures deserve skepticism.

That conclusion may sound reassuring. Unfortunately, it is built on bad data and worse math.

The Employers' Forum analysis relies heavily on information funded by Arnold Ventures, a national organization with a well-known advocacy agenda aimed at limiting reimbursement and capping hospital prices. When advocacy-driven analyses are presented as neutral descriptions of hospital finances, policymakers and the public should pause

and examine what the numbers actually represent.

Consider Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, located in Gov. Mike Braun's hometown.

According to Memorial's audited financial statements for 2023, the hospital posted an operating margin of -2.9 percent. Hospitals and their auditors face civil and criminal penalties for misreporting financials, so these figures reflect reality. In plain terms, a negative operating margin means the hospital lost money doing what it exists to do: caring for patients. Its costs to staff beds, operate the emergency department, pay nurses and physicians, buy supplies, and maintain the facility exceeded patient-care revenue.

Yet the Sage Transparency website — drawing on the same NASHP data cited

by the Employers' Forum — reports that Memorial Jasper posted a 41 percent profit margin that same year.

Both numbers cannot be true in any meaningful sense. The difference is not efficiency or management. It is Sage Transparency's misleading accounting.

For a household, a positive operating margin means income covers monthly bills. For a business, it means revenue covers payroll, rent, utilities, and supplies.

If a family earns \$80,000 but spends \$82,000 on housing, food, childcare, and transportation, it is not financially healthy, even if its investments performed well. Investment gains do not pay grocery bills or keep the lights on.

Hospitals operate under the same logic. That's why hospitals, banks, and credit rating agencies all define operating margin as patient-care revenue minus the full cost of providing

that care. Investment income is kept separate because hospitals cannot reliably staff units or sustain services using stock market projections.

The Employers' Forum analysis combines numbers that were never meant to go together. It counts nearly all revenue — including hospital services, physician clinics, and investment income — but includes only a narrow subset of expenses based on what Medicare deems "allowable" hospital costs.

These Medicare cost reports were never designed to measure financial viability. Their purpose is to determine reimbursement for specific services, not whether a hospital can keep its doors open.

At Memorial Jasper, this approach excludes more than \$100 million in real 2023 expenses while still counting the associated

See Data . . . Page 7

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TIPTON COUNTY

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

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 5TH DISTRICT

Steven Avitabile Avit (D)
J.D. Ford (D)
Scott A. King (R)
Jackson Franklin (D)
Phil Goss (D)
Dylan McKenna (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
*Dennis L. Henderson (R)
Kirk D. Retherford (R)
Ken Ziegler (D)

COUNTY COUNCIL

District 1
Jeff Heard (R)
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
Dan DeLong (R)
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)
Jefferson Township (vote for 3)
Mark S. Boyer (R)
Forrest Frosty Featherstone (R)
Tim Stafford (R)
Liberty Township (vote for 3)
Terry L. Farris (R)
Layton C. Henderson (R)
Madison Township (vote for 3)
Taylor Fettig (R)
Mark E. Noble (D)
Terry Smith (R)
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
Mike Cline
Jason R. Henderson
Tracey Powell

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
Jefferson 1: Karen Dell
Prairie 1: Maureen A. Dougherty

GUEST COLUMNIST



SCOTT B. TITTLE

HAMILTON COUNTY

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

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)
Phil Goss (D)
Dylan McKenna (D)
*Victoria Spartz (R)

STATE SENATOR

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

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 25
Katherine V. Callahan (R)
Tammie Dixon-Tatum (D)
*Mike Gaskill (R)
Todd Shelton (D)
District 29
Mike Delph (R)
V. Roni Ford (R)

David W. Greene, Sr. (D)
Demetrice Hicks (D)
Kristina Moorhead (D)
John Ruckelshaus (R)

STATE SENATOR

District 31
Juanita Albright (R)
Andrew J. Dezelan (D)
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)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 32
*Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D)
District 37
Lauren Cole (R)
*Todd Huston (R)
Joel Levi (D)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 39
Lindsay Gramlich (D)
*Danny Lopez (R)
Billy Qian (R)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 88
*Chris Jeter (R)

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Superior Court No. 3
Chris Evans (R)
Amy B. Summerfield (R)
Superior Court No. 4
Chadwick Hill (R)
Angela Brown Swenson (R)
Trampas Alan Whalin (R)
Superior Court No. 5
*David K. Najjar
Superior Court No. 8
Danica L. Eyster
Emily L. Angel Shaw
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
Nathan Bullock (D)
*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)

ATLANTA TOWN COUNCIL

At-Large (vote for 2)
John Phifer (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)
Stephanie Hunt (D)
Jackson Township
*Robyn Cook (R)
Noblesville Township
*Theresa Caldwell (R)
Washington Township
Jeffery Bledsoe Jr. (D)
*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)
Gregory Daniels (D)
David Haboush (R)
Michael Needham (D)
Steven Litzelman Nisi (D)
Matthew J. Phelps (D)
Morgan B. Rinehart (R)
Delaware Township (vote for 3)
Bethann Buddenbaum (D)
Jennifer Dean Chaudhry (D)
*Rick Fain (R)
*Kim Logan (R)
*Marilyn A. Schenkel (R)
Patrick Schooley (D)
Fall Creek Township (vote for 3)
*Susan Davis (R)
Diane Eaton (R)
Lynne Goodin (R)
Alex J. Hunt (D)
Nicholas Edward Musselwhite (D)
Mulalo Rikhotso (D)
Joe Weingarten (D)
Jackson Township (vote for 3)
Kimberly Chance (R)
Elizabeth Fouch (R)
Andre Maue (R)
*Jeffery S. Roberts (R)
Eric Scherer (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)
*Danyele Easterhaus (R)
Tradara McLaurine (D)
*Erica Strahm (R)
Wayne Township (vote for 3)
Eric Cunningham (R)
*Maegan R. Fleck (R)
*Robert Dustin Hiday (R)
*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)

Beau Bayh announces support from multiple Indiana labor unions

Submitted

Adding momentum to his campaign for Secretary of State, Beau Bayh announced on Thursday, Feb. 5 that he earned the endorsement of the Central Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters, Indiana Laborers District Council, UA Local 440, Heat and Frost Insulators Local 18, and SMART Local 20.



Bayh

Bayh said he is proud to have the critical support of unions that represent hard-working Hoosiers across Indiana as he builds a winning coalition to clean up the Secretary of State's office.

"Beau Bayh is running a campaign centered around cleaning up corruption and protecting taxpayer money in our state government," said Jason Clark, Senior Political Director for the Central Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters. "This is a message that our members and all working Hoosiers can get behind, regardless of political party. We're proud to support him in this endeavor."

"Beau Bayh is a leader who will put working Hoosiers first and will bring common sense solutions to the challenges facing our state," added Brian Short of the Indiana Laborers District Council. "The Laborers District Council is proud to support his efforts to clean up the Secretary of State's office."

"I'm honored to receive the support from so many of our brothers and

sisters in organized labor, and I will always stand with the working people of our state for better wages, stronger benefits and safer working conditions," Bayh said. "Hoosiers deserve leaders who will safeguard their hard-earned tax dollars from wasteful spending, and that's exactly what I'll do as Secretary of State."

Bayh is building a strong coalition of bipartisan, working class Hoosiers that Democrats need to be successful in statewide elections. The support of labor unions has long been key to successful Democratic campaigns in Indiana, but in recent years, some have supported Republican candidates. For example, the Carpenters Union endorsed then-candidate Mike Braun for Governor in 2024 and endorsed a Republican candidate in this year's Ohio Governor's race.

About the labor unions

- Central Midwest Carpenters represents over 37,000 tradespeople in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio
- Indiana Laborers District Council represents 12,500 laborers and 11 local Laborers unions in Indiana
- UA Local 440 represents Plumbers, Pipefitters, and HVCAR Service Technicians in Central and Eastern Indiana
- Heat and Frost Insulators 18 represents Central and Western Indiana and parts of Illinois
- SMART Local 20 represents 4,800 Sheet Metal Workers throughout Indiana

Local business owners: don't overlook retirement plans

If you're a local business owner, you're juggling many priorities: growing revenue, managing expenses, supporting your team, and planning for your own future. What if one tool could help with all these goals?



COLUMNIST

COREY SYLVESTER
Cicero Edward Jones

A workplace retirement plan might be that solution and can, directly or indirectly, offer benefits that extend beyond simple savings.

Double the tax advantages

Starting a retirement plan can deliver immediate tax advantages. For the business, employer contributions are tax-deductible. And as a participant in your company plan, your pretax salary deferrals are excluded from income taxes; your investments within the plan are tax-deferred until distributed. Many plans now offer Roth options that allow tax-free withdrawals in retirement.

Local businesses may also qualify for federal tax credits that help offset startup costs, employee education expenses and plan administration fees. Additional credits may be available for auto-enrollment features and employer contributions made during the plan's first five years.

A competitive edge in hiring

In today's labor market, offering a retirement plan can differentiate your business from competitors and help improve employee retention.

Many plans also provide access to financial education tools and resources, helping your employees make informed decisions about saving, investing, and planning for retirement. This support can lead to greater employee satisfaction and productivity, contributing to a positive work environment for your business.

More flexible than state-sponsored options

If you live in a state requiring an employee retirement program, you might be considering a state-sponsored plan. While these programs can provide a starting point, they typically offer fewer investment

options, lower contribution limits and limited design flexibility.

Establishing your own workplace retirement plan lets you customize features for your business needs to control administrative costs, set contribution limits, and offer employees a wide range of investment options. This added control in plan design can lead to better outcomes for your business and your employees.

Reducing a hidden risk in your own retirement planning

Business owners often have as much as 80 percent of their net worth tied up in their businesses, according to the Exit Planning Institute. While that demonstrates commitment to success, it also creates significant financial risk to the owner.

Relying solely on a future business sale to fund your retirement can be precarious. Market shifts, timing challenges or limited buyer interest could derail those plans. By building personal assets through your employer-sponsored retirement plan, you can gain financial flexibility and reduce the risk of having your retirement lifestyle depend entirely on one event.

Getting started

With various retirement plan options available, determining which one fits your business best can feel overwhelming.

A qualified financial advisor can help you navigate these decisions, explaining the trade-offs between different plan types and identifying which option best suits your unique situation. They can also help you understand eligibility requirements and ensure the plan you choose aligns with your business goals and personal financial objectives.

Starting a workplace retirement plan represents an investment in your future, your employees, and the long-term success of your business.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

DATA

from Page 6

revenue. Excluded costs include physician compensation, clinic staff and overhead, anesthesia coverage, and other essential services. Any household or business would count those expenses when judging financial stability. The Employers' Forum does not.

It is the equivalent of claiming a household is thriving because it counted full income but ignored the mortgage and grocery bills.

Audited financial statements are not advocacy tools. They are independently reviewed documents used by lenders, bond markets, and regulators to assess risk.

When Memorial Jasper's audited statements show an operating loss, that is what banks consider when financing equipment and what hospital leaders weigh when deciding whether they can afford labor-intensive services like obstetrics or behavioral health. No serious lender would rely on calculations that omit tens of millions of dollars in real expenses.

Indiana's hospitals vary in financial strength, but dismissing warnings based on distorted calculations carries real consequences. It shifts attention away from chronic Medicaid underpayment, rising labor and

supply costs, and growing numbers of uninsured patients.

The results are not theoretical. They appear as closed units, reduced services, and longer drives for care – especially in rural communities.

Hoosiers know financial health cannot be measured by pretending major expenses do not exist. Hospitals should not be judged that way either.

If the Employers' Forum analysis were an accurate reflection of hospital finances, Gov. Mike Braun's hometown hospital would still be independent today. It is not.

Memorial Jasper's margins were not sustainable on their own, and its transition to Deaconess Health System reflects that reality. Deaconess thoughtfully stepped in to provide the resources and stability needed to ensure Dubois County residents continue to have a hospital serving their community.

That outcome deserves recognition, and it underscores the central point: honest math matters. When we misrepresent hospital finances, we don't strengthen health care. We put access to care at risk.

Scott B. Tittle serves as the president of the Indiana Hospital Association.

HAMILTON COUNTY

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

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

PRECINCT CMTE. – DEMOCRATS

- Clay 2: Cynthia Henry
- Clay 3: Courtney Jane Culver
- Clay 8: Babette Miller
- Clay 12: Jessica Irvine
- Clay 14: Alexandra E. Wilson
- Clay 23: Dawn Sparks
- Clay 24: Erin Retif
- 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 56: Darlene Mundy Dimmer
- Clay 57: Sarah Ogren
- Clay 65: Catherine Patterson
- Clay 68: Annette Gross
- Delaware 3: Nicholas Alan Myers
- Delaware 5: Amy Klodzen, Justin D. Switzer
- Delaware 6: Greg Goodnight
- 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 2: Lisa Olivero
- Fall Creek 10: Shelley Fabrizio
- Fall Creek 12: June Levey
- Fall Creek 15: Stephanie Hunt
- Fall Creek 16: Glen D. Kemery
- Fall Creek 19: Gregory A. Purvis
- Fall Creek 23: Mary Dankoski
- Fall Creek 24: Mani Subramaniam
- Fall Creek 25: Jasmine Jackson, Sarah Renfro
- Fall Creek 27: Robert Clamme
- Fall Creek 33: Deetta Steinmetz
- Fall Creek 41: Erin Randolph-Pupurs
- Fall Creek 47: Natasha Retz
- Jackson 6: Dorcia Bradley
- Noblesville 2: Jeffrey Nickloy
- Noblesville 9: Christopher Hartig
- Noblesville 16: Carson M. Piedmonte
- Noblesville 18: Daryl Cobranchi
- Noblesville 20: Sarah Elizabeth Fix
- Noblesville 27: Julia Ann Resler
- Noblesville 29: Brian S. Jonasen
- Noblesville 45: Jill T. Crehan
- Sheridan 1: Kirsten Root
- Sheridan 3: Cheryl L. Popiela
- Sheridan 4: Pam Williams
- Wayne 1: Mary Frischkorn-Meza
- Wayne 5: Amber McKibbin
- Wayne 7: James (Jim) Harter
- Westfield 1: Jamie Flemington
- Westfield 3: David M. Garcia
- Westfield 4: Shelly A. Brown
- Westfield 5: Axel J. Sundling
- Westfield 6: Kim Qian
- Westfield 8: Evelyn J. Davis
- Westfield 10: Amy Christmas
- Westfield 11: Margaret (Peggy) Furniss
- Westfield 12: Matt McNally
- Westfield 14: Andrew D. Kauffman
- Westfield 16: Xavier Lewis
- Westfield 18: Dwayne Lewis
- Westfield 19: Melissa Auciello-Brogan
- Westfield 24: Elizabeth H. Anderson
- Westfield 25: Bennie Britt
- Westfield 26: Rhonda Ann Cardwell
- Westfield 28: Philip E. Gidley
- Westfield 31: Charles Casey Miller-Brock
- 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
 - Robert J. Bonner
 - Ben Boyce
 - Andrea A. Burnett
 - Jamie Campbell
 - Martin J. Carey
 - Shelley M. Paulson Carey
 - William Clontz
 - Jason Cookson
 - Christopher Daniel
 - Cynthia Daniels
 - Gregory Daniels
 - Amber Davis
 - Deborah K. Dean
 - Gerald A. Denys
 - Janet Denys
 - Darlene Mundy Dimmer
 - Robert Draper
 - Sara Draper
 - Karen H. Elliott
 - Mindi Epstein
 - Pam Fischer
 - Lindsay Gramlich
 - James A. Grimes
 - Annette Gross
 - Peter Hanscom
 - Cynthia Henry
 - Sandra Hoy
 - Elisabeth Irvine
 - Jessica Irvine
 - Cynthia Johnson
 - Grace Johnston
 - Deborah Jonasson
 - Keith Jonasson
 - Anita Joshi
 - Mary F. Kinetz-Boyden
 - Elizabeth S. Kinn
 - Sarah Koch
 - Kirsten D. Kowalewski
 - Michele S. Lassaux-Harlan
 - Kathleen Gallagher Liddy
 - Rebekah Martin
 - Michael Francis (Mickey) Masterson
 - Lawrence McCormack
 - Babette Miller
 - Geraldine (Gene) Rodriguez Miller
 - Susan Mills
 - Allison Missler
 - Tom Missler
 - Marcia Molenda
 - Annalise Moore
 - Stacy Moore
 - Kristina Moorhead
 - Steven Litzelman Nisi
 - Sarah Ogren
 - Catherine Patterson
 - Deborah Pickett
 - Zach Phillips
 - Kristin K. Remble
 - Stephen K. Ring
 - Susan Kelly Ring
 - David Rosenthal
 - Edwin Russell
 - Beth Sprunger
 - Elizabeth Stippler
 - Beverly Thornburg
 - Ashlyn Twibell
 - Jean M. Upton
 - Joe H. Vaughn
 - Judith A. Weitzman
 - Alexandra E. Wilson
 - David Woll
- Delaware Township (vote for 20)
 - Nancy Arce
 - Ronald F. Crawford
 - Judy Delp
 - Michelle Eli
 - Amy Klodzen
 - Nicholas Alan Myers
 - Lasima O. Packett
 - Litsi Plonski
 - Ross Reinhardt
 - Diana W. Rigsbee
 - Jo Ann Sheffield
 - Bill Stuart
 - Alexander J. Waclawik
- Fall Creek Township (vote for 20)
 - Sarah Arbuckle
 - Patricia Trish Biggs
 - Samantha R. Chapman
 - Daniel R. Cooper
 - Nancy Kuehl Coughlin
 - Mary Coyle
 - Jeb Stuart Cox
 - Eric Crouse
 - Jane B. Crouse
 - Mary Dankoski
 - Christine Dean
 - Wanda Riesz Duchnowski
 - Danielle Estridge
 - Sonia Ivy Fuller
 - Janis Kaye Hinchcliff
 - Stephanie Hunt
 - Erin Lange
 - Tally Loper
 - Dylan Zachary Noble
 - Lisa Olivero
 - Gary Pupurs
 - Gregory A. Purvis
 - Erin Randolph-Pupurs
 - Mulalo Rikhotso
 - Amanda R. Slonaker
 - Deetta Steinmetz
 - Mani Subramaniam
 - Joe Weingarten
- Jackson Township (vote for 6)
 - Dorcia Bradley
 - John Bradley

Noblesville Township (vote for 20)

- Jennifer Bishop
- Kathleen A. Boyle
- Michelle Clarke
- Diane E. Evans
- Sarah Elizabeth Fix
- James Foote
- Angie K. Foreman
- Paula Jo Gilliam
- Lori C. Hand
- Christopher Hartig
- Micha J Huber
- Riley Issacs
- Brian S. Jonasen
- Sandra Kaufman Jonasen
- Coumba Kebe
- Debra Marcum
- Joseph Marcum
- Douglas May
- Jennifer Midkiff
- Mary Jo Moyer
- Jeffrey Nickloy
- Melissa S Nordhoff
- Christian Renner
- David S. Resler II
- 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
- Melissa Auciello-Brogan
- Cheryl L. Austin
- Nicholas Harrison Bayh
- Racheal Bleicher
- Bennie Britt
- Rhonda Ann Cardwell
- Amy Christmas
- Stacy Collins
- Emily M. Cook
- Mary Ellen Cooper
- Alyssa Crawford-Paree
- Gabriel Crawford-Paree
- Evelyn J. Davis
- Brandee L. Easterday
- Jamie Flemington
- Natalie K. Fonte
- David M. Garcia
- Philip E. Gidley
- Kathleen Hartman
- Robert (Bob) Hewitt
- James Hiatt
- Gabrial Hohneke
- Kirk King
- Karen Klutzke
- Jennifer Ann Koccolowski
- Xavier Lewis
- Alexis A. Lowry
- Mary P. Milewski
- Charles Casey Miller-Bock
- Naomi Penney
- Kim Qian
- 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
- Jeannette Champion
- Cymande Mandie Edwards
- Sherril Elder
- Mary Frischkorn-Meza
- Dylan R. Lechleidner
- Ellen Ogle

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
 - Danny Niederberger
 - Alexander T. Stencel
- Clay 2 (vote for 5)
 - Paul Arbouw
 - Robert W. Bowser III
 - Brad Craig
 - Thomas P. Dakich
 - Andrew Flittner
 - 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
 - Josh Koehler
 - Marueen Morgan
 - Roxy Morgan
 - Camille Svihlik
 - Charles Svihlik
 - Rich Taylor
- Clay 4 (vote for 5)
 - Rob Brown
 - Raju Chinthala
 - Robert Fulk
 - Sue Lille
 - Carl Mills
 - Michelle W. Murphy
 - Alexander Lawrence Spanenberg
 - Jerry Torr
- Delaware 1 (vote for 5)
 - Kumiko Brunson
 - Rick Fain
 - Paul G. Nix
 - Matthew S. Rollins
 - Gaven Schulz
 - Cynde Vits
- Delaware 2 (vote for 5)
 - Bric Walker Butler
 - David Giffel
 - Wayne Nicodemus
 - Jennie J. Nicol
- Fall Creek 1 (vote for 5)
 - Tiffanie Ditlevson
 - Diane Eaton
 - Dawn Lang
 - Angela Morris
 - Rachel Quade
- Fall Creek 2 (vote for 5)
 - Jackson Massillamany
 - 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
 - Theodore (Ted) Melvin
 - Chad A. Phifer
 - Jamie Rulon
 - Keith A. Troutman
 - Paula V. Trowbridge
 - Terrance L. Trowbridge
- Noblesville 1 (vote for 5)
 - Trini Beaver
 - Robert (Robby) Beecher
 - Kevin Custis
 - Randy Gerber
 - 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
 - Ashley Jasinski
 - Christopher Jensen
 - Amy Lindquist
 - Graham Louhead
 - Stu Rhodes
 - Beth Sheller
 - Emily Daniels Spaulding
 - Martin Strother
- Washington 1 (vote for 5)
 - Maria Ailor
 - William Dale
 - Ashton Eller
 - Timothy Enyart
 - Mike Neal
 - Kate Healey Snedeker
- Washington 2 (vote for 5)
 - Matt Dooley
 - Richard (Rich) J. Hardcastle Jr.
 - Carrie Gillis
 - Caleb Heme
- Washington 3 (vote for 5)
 - Jim Ake
 - Nick Barbknecht
 - Lisa Marie Everling Baumgartner
 - Ron Mangus
 - Nathan Nicholson

CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Digital edition to *News and Views* must be under 500 words. Print versions must be under 150 words.

Sheridan celebrates School Counselor Week

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

School Counselor Week is a time to recognize those who support students academically, socially, and emotionally every single day.

At Sheridan Community Schools, the school counselors play a vital role in helping SCS students. They provide care by helping them navigate challenges, set goals, and envision their future. The four outstanding counselors at SCS are passionate, dedicated, and committed to the care, support, and well-being of all SCS students.

"Thank you for all you do for the students of Sheridan!" Sheridan High School Principal Rick Davis said. "Their work truly makes a difference!"

Blake Moyer
Sheridan High School Counselor

This is Moyer's first year at SCS, after spending two years as a school counselor in Denver, Colo. She shared that she was drawn to school counseling because it allows her to support not just students but also families and teachers.

"Each day looks different and brings new challenges, which makes the work both meaningful and rewarding," Moyer said. "My favorite part of being a school counselor is building personal connections with students and supporting them as they work toward and achieve their dreams."

Outside of school, she



Photos provided by Sheridan Community Schools
(From left) Bethany Mineart, Jamie Galloway, Blake Moyer, and Amanda Williams.

enjoys working out, trying new restaurants, traveling, and spending time with two beloved cats, Pitch and Poké. She was recently married in October.

Bethany Mineart
Sheridan High School Counselor

Mineart is in her second year at SHS. When she came to SHS, she brought with her nearly two decades of experience as a high school counselor at Lebanon High School.

In college, she pursued psychology, but found that school counseling blended her aspirations perfectly.

"I love working with students, helping with day-to-day things, and supporting their future goals," Mineart said. "It is really fun to watch how they grow throughout high school."

She is married to her high school sweetheart and has two teenage children, along with multiple animals.

Jamie Galloway
Sheridan Middle School Counselor

Galloway has been with SCS for one year, starting in January 2025. She brings a powerful personal connection to her work as her own experiences as a student shaped her passion for ensuring all children feel supported and heard. Throughout middle and high school, she struggled with the social aspect of school, but her college academic advisor really took the time and initiative to get to know her.

"She gave me interest inventories and personality assessments to help me discover that a career in school counseling would be a great fit for me," Galloway said. "I now strive to be that ear I didn't have in middle school and that voice I didn't have in high school for all of my students."

She was a top-three finalist for the Indiana School



Counselor Association's 2024 High School Counselor of the Year and is excited to now serve at the middle school level. She is also a proud mom to two young sons and loves being part of the Sheridan community.

Amanda Williams
Sheridan Elementary School Counselor

Williams is in her second year at SCS and is deeply committed to supporting students in a safe, nurturing environment.

"Every day is different, and I can work with our students and staff in a variety of ways," Williams said. "My goal is to provide a safe, nurturing space where I can help support students who are struggling socially, emotionally, or behaviorally."

Williams is a proud Purdue basketball fan and mom to four – twin boys and two daughters, one of whom is attending Purdue to become a teacher.

Lawmakers say they'll remove controversial land use provision from data center bill

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Senate Republicans on Thursday told News 8 they will not move forward with a provision that could have allowed some farmland to be used for any purpose without public input.

The measure currently includes language that would permit any use on land that is zoned for agricultural use but has little farming capability. This would eliminate requirements for a public hearing, variance, special exception or even a discretionary zoning action. The Citizens Action Coalition's Kerwin Olson said that would have meant anything could be built on such land, from data centers to oil refineries.

"Certainly data (centers) are a concern, but so are other things that create radioactive and hazardous waste," he said. "Certainly, local communities should have a voice in those type of projects."

The bill narrowly passed the House on Monday, with 13 Republicans joining all Democrats in voting against it. Its Senate sponsor, Sen. Eric Koch, R-Bedford, said he will have that portion of the bill removed in committee after speaking with the legisla-

tion's original author, Rep. Kenneth Culp, R-Rensselaer, and with Senate Republicans including Senate President pro tempore Rod Bray, R-Martinsville.

"We're looking at different options, but clearly, that language will not be moving forward," said Koch. "The bill came over from the House and after that, we heard from a lot of the agricultural community and we discussed it among ourselves as members and decided that was not appropriate language to move right now."

Koch said the bill will retain a separate provision that would require data center operators to share 1 percent of the savings they incur from their sales tax exemption with local units of government. He said this will help offset any potential negative impacts or mitigate costs local communities face. Olson said the fact lawmakers are considering that requirement reflects the broader pushback data centers have received.

Since the Senate is making changes to the bill, it will have to go back to the House if it passes the full Senate.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/farmland-use-provision-dropped.

Thanks for reading!



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US Flag Requests

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



Military Academy Nominations

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



US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

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



West District Office: (317) 848-0201

East District Office: (765) 639-0671

www.spartz.house.gov

3D Printing Expo returns to Carmel Library

The REPORTER

The Carmel Clay Public Library (CCPL) will hold its annual 3D Printing Expo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.

Building on last year's turnout of more than 2,000 attendees, this year's event offers a full day of engaging activities for technology enthusiasts of all ages.

The expo will feature live demonstrations, hands-on activities, and opportunities for attendees to connect with 3D printing vendors and enthusiasts. IU Health's 3D Print Studio will showcase practical applications of the technology in modern healthcare, while artist Bryan Ballinger will highlight

how 3D printing enhances and expands his creative process.

"Our Digital Media Lab's 3D printers stay busy with innovative projects from patrons of all ages," Library IT Manager Peter Konshak said. "The expo is a great opportunity for people to experience the wide range of creative, practical, and artistic possibilities that 3D printing opens up."

Since the library's Digital Media Lab opened in 2016, 3D printing has been growing in popularity with all age ranges. In 2025, over 9,000 objects were printed on the library's 3D printers.

The 3D Printing Expo will take place at the Main



Photo provided

Library at 425 E. Main St. Registration is not required for any of the expo activities. More details about the events can be found at carmelclaylibrary.org/events.

The Carmel Clay Public Library provides a wide

range of resources and programs designed to educate, entertain, and enrich the community. With a commitment to fostering lifelong learning, the library offers services and events for all ages.

Applications open for new United Way of Central Indiana initiative to build community solutions

The REPORTER

United Way of Central Indiana is now accepting applications for Catalyst, a new nine-week design lab and live pitch event intended to help participants test and develop sustainable solutions to community challenges.

Catalyst is built for people who see a clear community problem. It could be an unmet need, a broken system, or a service that no longer fits today's reality. Fixing a problem takes time, tools, and support to figure out what works and then test and strengthen their ideas before launching them.

The initiative is for non-profit leaders, social entrepreneurs and mission-driven people in Central Indiana who work in or alongside human services nonprofits, agencies, or community organizations, or are independent leaders ready to build

something new.

Catalyst is the natural evolution of United Way's innovation initiatives, events, and funding. Catalyst begins with a clearly identified problem and then offers a support structure to bring solutions to life.

"Across our community, leaders in the human services sector are seeing new challenges and opportunities to reimagine how we support individuals and families," United Way CEO Fred Payne said. "They bring insights, creativity and a deep understanding of what's possible. Catalyst is intended to give passionate problem-solvers the space, expertise and support to design realistic, scalable solutions to the challenges they see every day."

From April 23 through June 18, participants will meet 8:30 a.m. to noon on Thursdays at United Way's Indianapolis headquarters for

coaching, support, and more.

United Way anticipates selecting up to 12 participants for the design lab. At the conclusion of the lab, up to five finalists will pitch at a live event June 25 at Salesforce Tower in Indianapolis for the chance to win a \$50,000 first-place prize, \$30,000 second-place prize, and \$20,000 third-place prize.

Those interested can

learn more and apply at uwci.org/catalyst. Applications close March 8.

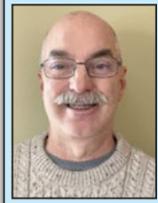
Interested applicants can register here to attend one of two information sessions. The in-person session will be Feb. 19 from 9 to 10 a.m. The virtual session will be Feb. 24 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Application and program questions can be sent to catalyst@uwci.org.

My expertise in bourbon lies in my love for it

"I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me." – Winston Churchill

COLUMNIST



JON SMYRNIS
Bourbon Psychosis

Why am I writing this little column? What makes me an "expert"? Well, honestly, nothing really. There are a lot of folks out there just like me, and probably more knowledgeable. I was asked by a friend to give it a try. And ... I have the temerity to actually do so.

There is a little more. I love the stuff! I love the history. I love the bottles. Who hasn't bought a bottle of bourbon simply because it looks snazzy? I love the advertising. I love the glassware – Glencairn please.

I love the smell. I love the Kentucky Chew. I love that first sip; the vanilla, the caramel, the oak, the burn. I love the cocktails: Manhattans, Old Fashioneds, Paper Planes, and Boulevardiers to name a few.

I love going to a fine dining establishment, cocktail bar, or speakeasy and having a great mixologist make me an unforgettable cocktail. And yes, I'm one of those who strives to get my hands on any bottle of bourbon I can find.

I suppose my journey began the same as bourbon's did. With Scotch! My dad was an old-school kind of guy. His favorite cocktail was Chivas and Soda. When I started imbibing, seeing that my dad was pretty cool, and not wanting to drink cheap beer or wine coolers, I went with Chivas and Soda as well. This piqued my interest in whiskey in general.

Many years later I went to a bourbon tasting at a local liquor store. There I had the opportunity to sample many nice bourbons. I was

hooked! Couple that experience with the fact that my wife and I are foodies who enjoy fine cocktails, and my lust for bourbon was off to the races. At that point I had a few dusty bottles of Scotch languishing on shelves. The joke amongst my friends was that I would buy a bottle and never drink it. But I had caught the bourbon bug ... let the buying and drinking begin!

One doesn't mean to be the "crazy bourbon person." It just kind of happens. You're at the liquor store staring wide-eyed at row upon row of impressive looking bottles with distinctively lofty names on them; Woodford Reserve, Old Fitzgerald, Jefferson's Reserve, Buffalo Trace ... you get the picture. Next thing you know you've bought a bottle, or two, or four.

My father owned a bar a long time ago. He used to say to me, "It's all made to sell, son." He's right. And I bought it! To the tune of about three hundred bottles and growing. Next thing you know, friends are giving you bottles for Christmas and birthdays. Or, just bringing you a bottle. "Hey, have you tried this?"

I wouldn't change a thing. I know that quite a few of you out there are nodding your heads in agreement. You know exactly what I'm talking about. No shame! Life is short. Enjoy the ride! It's much more fun with a glass of fine bourbon in your hand.

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

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What's happening at Tipton County Public Library?

For more information, go to TiptonCountyLibrary.org, call (765) 675-0212, or visit during regular hours.

Storybook Walk

The Tipton County Public Library invites families to enjoy a Storybook Walk throughout February. This self-guided indoor activity features pages from a children's book displayed around the Children's Department, creating an engaging reading experience as visitors follow the story from station to station.

Perfect for all ages, the Storybook Walk encourages physical movement and exploration of library spaces while promoting literacy and reading engagement. Families can complete the walk at their own pace during regular library hours throughout February, with no registration required.

After finishing the walk, participants can stop by the children's desk for a sticker or candy. For more information, visit tiptoncounty.librarycalendar.com/event/storybook-walk-6982 or contact the library at (765) 675-8761.

Resource Highlight: Scholastic Teachables

Looking for quality educational materials? Tipton County Public Library cardholders get free access to Scholastic Teachables, an online library packed with thousands of teacher-created resources for Pre-K through eighth grade.

Find printable worksheets, lesson plans, interactive mini-books, and hands-on activities covering Math, Reading, STEM, and more. It's perfect for teachers, homeschoolers, and parents.

Access it today at bitly.tiptonpl.org/teachable with your library card.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

MIRIAM AND AARON OPPOSE MOSES

When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam's skin was leprous—it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease, and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away."

So Moses cried out to the Lord, "Please, God, heal her!"

The Lord replied to Moses, "If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back." So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back.

After that, the people left Hazereth and encamped in the Desert of Paran.

Numbers 12:10-16 (NIV)

BFF Indy celebrates second anniversary

Highlights growing demand for in-person connection among women in central Indiana

Submitted

BFF Indy, a women-led community based in Indianapolis, celebrated its second anniversary last week with its annual Birthday Celebration, bringing together women from across central Indiana for a day focused on friendship, community, and supporting local businesses.

Founded by Noblesville resident FrancesMary Louhead, BFF Indy began as a small effort to make adult friendship feel less intimidating and has since grown into a community reaching more than 45,000 women through in-person events, social media, and local partnerships across the metro area.

The second annual BFF Indy Birthday Celebration reflected the organization's core mission: creating welcoming, pressure-free spaces where connection feels natural. Many attendees

arrived alone and left with new friendships, exchanged phone numbers, and discovered local businesses to support.

"In 2021, after moving to Indianapolis and working remotely without an established social circle, I realized how difficult it can be to make friends as an adult," Louhead said. "What started as casual gatherings quickly showed me how many women were craving the same kind of connection."

BFF Indy now hosts seven to 10 monthly events across the Indianapolis metro area and has partnered with more than 100 Indiana-based businesses, many of them women-owned. The birthday celebration alone featured over 15 local partners, highlighting BFF Indy's community-driven approach to supporting the local economy through authentic, relationship-based experiences.



Photo provided

As conversations around loneliness and social isolation continue nationwide, BFF Indy offers a local solution rooted in real-world connection. By bringing women together in physical spaces, the organization helps reduce isolation, strengthen neighborhood ties, and foster long-term relationships that extend beyond events.

"This birthday wasn't about a milestone," Louhead said. "It was about watching women choose connection in a city they call home. Seeing people

walk in alone and leave together is what BFF Indy is all about."

The celebration served as both a reflection of the community's growth and a sign of continued demand for intentional, in-person connection among adults in Indianapolis and beyond.

About BFF Indy

BFF Indy is a women-led community based in Indianapolis dedicated to helping women build genuine friendships and discover their city through thoughtfully curated events and local partnerships.

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Meeting Notices

The Cicero Stormwater Utility Board will meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026, at Cicero Town Hall, 70 N. Byron St.

The Sheridan Community Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, in the Board Room at Sheridan High School, 24185 Hinesley Road.

The Westfield Washington Schools Board of Trustees will hold a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, in the Community Room at the Westfield Washington Schools Administration Center, 19500 Tomlinson Road, Suite B.

The Westfield Washington Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, in Meeting Room 2A of the library, located at 17400 Westfield Blvd., Unit A.

The Carmel Fire Department Merit Board will meet in an executive session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(5) To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees.

A regular meeting will follow at 6:05 p.m. or immediately after the executive session (whichever is later) on the second floor of the Carmel Fire Department, 210 Veterans Way.

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.

Forestry educational opportunity available to teachers

The REPORTER

Indiana educators can now apply for the 2026 Natural Resources Teacher Institute (NRTI), which will be June 15 to 19 at the Forestry Training Center at Mor-

gan-Monroe State Forest.

Hosted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Forestry and Purdue University Forestry and Natural Resources Extension, this week-

long immersive professional development program will provide up to 18 educators with the knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology, research, and management in Indiana at no cost to them. Educational materials, meals, and housing are provided.

Participants must attend all days of the program and fully participate in all activities, which include exploring public and private forest sites, touring forest industry facilities, and engaging in hands-on educational activ-

ities that they can adapt for their classrooms.

All educators who attend will earn 30+ Professional Growth Points, as well as receive Project Learning Tree curriculum materials, a forestry tool kit, Indiana-specific field guides, and a stipend for developing and implementing a lesson plan.

Learn more at dnr.IN.gov/forestry/programs/education/nrti. To request an application, contact Forestry Education Specialist Lexi Eiler at leiler@dnr.IN.gov or (463) 253-8835.

The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

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

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

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

Girls Swimming Sectional Preliminaries

Hounds take care of business

Millers, Rocks also advance everyone to finals

By **RICHIE HALL**

sports@readthereporter.com

The first step to 40 was an uneventful one for the Carmel girls swim team.

That's a good thing, of course. The Greyhounds wanted, and got, an easy night as they hosted the Sectional 9 preliminaries at the Carmel Aquatic Center.

The Hounds qualified all 27 of their swims into the championship, or "A" Final, of Saturday's sectional finals. Carmel already had swims under the state cut time, including Molly Sweeney, who earned the No. 1 seed in the butterfly and breaststroke.

Ellie Clarke and Lucy Enoch went 1-2 in the individual medley, both under the state cut. Clarke took the top seed in the backstroke in a cut time.

Other state cuts came from Sophia Floyd, the top seed in the 100 freestyle and Sabrina Ledwith, who took the No. 1 seed in the 500 free. Carmel swept the top seed in all three relays, including cuts in the medley and 200 free relays.

"It feels good to come into this meet and just take care of the business you need to take care of," said Greyhounds coach Chris Plumb. "You can't win the meet tonight, but you can certainly lose it, and we took care of business."

Westfield advanced all 27 of its swim to the Saturday finals, with 20 in the "A" Heat and the other seven going to the consolation, or "B" Final. All three of the Shamrocks' relays finished second at the prelims, with Greta Smith and Nelani Hendrix both swimming in the medley and 400 free relays.

Nora Sperry competed in the medley and 200 free relays, with Delaney McCulloch and Gracie Alley competing in the 200 and 400 free relays.

"The girls did really well, especially our rookies in the meet," said Westfield coach Darrick Thomas. "A lot of our freshmen really had outstanding swims. Really stepped up."

Noblesville also sent all 27 swims to the finals, with 19 in the "A" Heat and the other eight in the "B" Heat.

Freshman Hayley Blackwell took the top seed for the 200 free, while Ava Middleton tied with Carmel's Story Hughes for the No. 1 seed in the 50 free. All three of the Millers' relays reached the "A" Final as well.

"All the girls swam great," said Noblesville coach Jess Preston. "I'm really proud of them. I feel like the hard work is paying off. Great team spirit from



(ABOVE LEFT) Carmel's Ellie Clarke earned the top seeds in the individual medley (pictured) and backstroke at the Carmel swim sectional prelims on Thursday. (ABOVE RIGHT) Noblesville's Kyra Blackwell finished fourth in the individual medley and qualified for the "A" Final. (BELOW LEFT) Westfield's Sophia Grimes talks with her coaches after swimming in the 100 freestyle. (BELOW RIGHT) Guerin Catholic's Ellie Gove warms up for the 100 freestyle.

Reporter photos by Richie Hall

start to finish."

Guerin Catholic qualified seven swims for the Saturday finals. The Golden Eagles' 200 and 400 relays both reached the "A" Heat, along with Kara Von Woerkom, who took the eighth seed in the 500 free.

Positions 1-8 qualify for championship ("A") heat, positions 9-16 qualify for consolation ("B") heat, positions 17 and 18 are alternates.

200 medley relay: 1. Carmel (Leah Debosch, Molly Sweeney, Ellie Clarke, Sophia Floyd) 1:45.90, 2. Westfield (Greta Smith, Makenzie Gater, Nora Sperry, Nalani Hendrix) 1:56.49, 4. Noblesville (Mallory Mehringer, Stella Cramer, Leilani Mark, Celia Springer) 2:00.75, 9. Guerin Catholic (Ellie Gove, Taylor Tragesser, Kara Van Woerkom, Chloe Tragesser) 2:09.73.

200 freestyle: 1. Hayley Blackwell (N) 1:54.16, 2. Haley Morris (C) 1:54.45, 3. Sabrina Ledwith (C) 1:54.63, 4. Madelyn Yonkus (C) 1:55.83, 5. Maya Preston (N) 1:57.26, 6. Adalyn Goettler (N) 1:57.45, 7. Katherine Cassidy (W) 1:58.82, 8. Delaney McCulloch (W) 1:59.35, 9. Smith (W) 2:01.49, 12. Van Woerkom (C) 2:07.43, 21. C. Tragesser (GC) 2:29.76, 26. Mary Farrell (GC) 2:46.79.

200 individual medley: 1. Clarke (C) 2:03.95, 2. Lucy Enoch (C) 2:06.61, 3. Debosch (C) 2:08.74, 4. Kyra Blackwell (N) 2:12.72, 5. Evelyn Wheat (W) 2:15.18, 6. Gracie Alley (W) 2:16.40, 7. Emily Wilhelm (N) 2:18.51, 9. Cramer (N) 2:20.34, 10. Gater (W) 2:24.61, 23. Evie Scott (GC) 3:12.79.

50 freestyle: T1. Ava Middleton (N); Story Hughes (C) 25.29, 4. Avery Aiello (C) 25.53, 5. Claire Cate (C) 25.85, 8. Caroline Sindelar (W) 26.26, 9. Mark (N) 26.47, 10. Christie Stuart (W) 26.59, 11. Sophia Grimes (W) 27.00, 12. Springer (N) 27.10, 20. Caroline Bradley (GC) 30.78, 22. Farrell (GC) 32.77.

100 butterfly: 1. Sweeney (C) 55.89, 2. Maria Daily (C) 58.53, 3. Wheat (W) 59.01, 4. Sperry (W) 59.31, 5. Isabelle Harger (C) 1:00.33, 6. Alley (W) 1:01.26, 7. Mehringer (N)



1:03.86, 8. Meredith Nickloy (N) 1:05.14, 10. Norah Mathes (N) 1:06.30, 15. T. Tragesser (GC) 1:19.21.

100 freestyle: 1. Floyd (C) 52.73, 2. Enoch (C) 53.44, 3. H. Blackwell (N) 54.14, 4. Macy Brown (W) 54.73, 5. Middleton (N) 54.85, 7. Natalie Powers (C) 56.03, 8. Hendrix (W) 56.68, 9. Mark (N) 58.06, 10. Grimes (W) 58.71, 19. Gove (GC) 1:05.71, 22. Amber Sawchuk (GC) 1:10.83, 24. Bradley (GC) 1:13.91.

500 freestyle: 1. Ledwith (C) 5:04.67, 2. Morris (C) 5:08.17, 3. Helaina Weller (C) 5:10.49, 4. McCulloch (W) 5:13.08, 5. Preston (N) 5:21.53, 6. Cassidy (W) 5:23.01, 7. Smith (W) 5:28.94, 8. Van Woerkom (GC) 5:44.59, 9. Cramer (N) 5:46.30, 12. Springer (N) 5:55.46, 21. C. Tragesser (GC) 6:50.47.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Carmel (Floyd, Enoch, Morris, Sweeney) 1:38.58, 2. Westfield (Sperry, Alley, Sindelar,

McCulloch) 1:44.29, 4. Noblesville (Wilhelm, Mark, K. Blackwell, H. Blackwell) 1:52.49, 8. Guerin Catholic (Farrell, Scott, Sawchuk, Bradley) 2:08.33.

100 backstroke: 1. Clarke (C) 55.62, 2. Debosch (C) 58.03, 3. Weller (C) 58.70, 4. Goettler (N) 1:01.50, 5. Brown (W) 1:01.69, 6. Mehringer (N) 1:03.12, 7. Audrey Brown (N) 1:05.27, 8. Sindelar (W) 1:06.32, 11. Ava DeCraene (W) 1:10.51, 16. Gove (GC) 1:17.35, 24. Sawchuk (GC) 1:31.38.

100 breaststroke: 1. Sweeney (C) 1:02.71, 2. Yonkus (C) 1:07.38, 3. Payton Clark (C) 1:07.52, 5. K. Blackwell (N) 1:09.09, 6. Sperry (W) 1:10.30, 7. Wilhelm (N) 1:11.71, 8. Hendrix (W) 1:12.09, 10. Rowen Foster (N) 1:12.80, 11. Stuart (W) 1:15.66, 17. T. Tragesser (GC) 1:23.12, 24. Scott (GC) 1:34.01.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Carmel (Yonkus, Morris,



Ledwith, Weller) 3:39.47, 2. Westfield (McCulloch, Smith, Alley, Hendrix) 3:50.55, 5. Noblesville (Goettler, Middleton, Cramer, Preston) 4:09.79, 8. Guerin Catholic (Gove, C. Tragesser, T. Tragesser, Van Woerkom) 4:20.33.

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Girls Swimming Sectional Preliminaries — Boys Basketball

Royals, Tigers send all swims to finals

The REPORTER

Hamilton Southeastern and Fishers dominated the girls swimming Sectional 8 prelims, which took place Thursday at the Royals' aquatic center.

Both Southeastern and the Tigers qualified all 27 of their swims into the "A" Final of Saturday's sectional finals. The Royals claimed eight top seeds, with Fishers taking the other three top seeds.

Southeastern picked up No. 1 seeds in all three relays. Naomi Haines also claimed top two seeds, in the 50 freestyle and backstroke events. Other HSE top seeds are Kinsey Bogaards in the individual medley, Mia Henderson in the 100 free and Lauren Ing in the breaststroke.

The Tigers' Emily Wolf earned top seeds in the 200 and 500 freestyles, with Audrey Wolf taking the No. 1 seed in the butterfly.

Hamilton Heights qualified 16 swims to the finals, with six making the "A" Heat and the other 10 going to the "B" Heat. Ayla Madara claimed the second seed in both the 200 and 500 freestyles.

Positions 1-8 qualify for championship ("A") heat, positions 9-16 qualify for consolation ("B") heat, positions 17 and 18 are alternates.

200 medley relay: 1. Hamilton Southeastern (Naomi

Haines, Lauren Ing, Ellason Miller, Payton Walker) 1:43.93, 2. Fishers (Isabelle Ortiz, Ruby Hines, Polina Sopova, Avery Hannon) 1:48.18, 7. Hamilton Heights (Adalynn Gould, Mackenzie Davis, Quinn Thompson, Rachel England) 2:15.63.

200 freestyle: 1. Emily Wolf (F) 1:51.32, 2. Ayla Madara (HH) 1:54.31, 3. Brooklyn Rager (F) 1:54.43, 4. Ashlyn Hayes (F) 1:54.58, 5. Mia Henderson (HSE) 1:54.64, 6. Lizzie Schmitt (HSE) 1:55.02, 7. Brooklyn Penn (HSE) 1:56.66, 8. Amira Leer (HH) 1:57.71, 14. Allie Bushey (HH) 2:16.21.

200 individual medley: 1. Kinsey Bogaards (HSE) 2:06.18, 2. Alexandra Nguyen (F) 2:07.57, 3. Ella Hare (F) 2:10.10, 4. Avery Hannon (F) 2:10.57, 5. Lacey Huston (HSE) 2:16.53, 6. Delaney Miller (HSE) 2:17.69, 13. Gould (HH) 2:42.43, 17. Hope Moore Santos (HH) 2:54.12, 22. Chloe Hoskins (HH) 3:11.52.

50 freestyle: 1. Haines (HSE) 23.72, 2. Audrey Wolf (F) 23.80, 4. Sarah Cooper (HSE) 24.29, 5. Walker (HSE) 24.32, 6. Larkin Lee (F) 24.57, 7. Sopova (F) 24.93, 15. Thompson (HH) 28.47, 16. Davis (HH) 28.86, 17. England (HH) 29.06.

100 butterfly: 1. A. Wolf (F) 54.64, 2. E. Miller (HSE) 56.41, 4. Elise Eubank (F) 58.37, 5. Walker (HSE) 58.47, 6. Huston (HSE) 58.50, 7. Alexandra Adams (F) 59.19.

100 freestyle: 1. Henderson (HSE) 53.19, 2. Hayes (F) 53.44, 3. Hare (F) 53.64, 4. Lee (F) 53.74, 5. Ella Chester-

field (HSE) 54.61, 6. Emerson Bunch (HSE) 54.73, 9. Audrey Cain (HH) 58.49, 13. Anna Monnin (HH) 1:03.61, 17. England (HH) 1:05.92.

500 freestyle: 1. E. Wolf (F) 4:58.93, 2. Madara (HH) 5:05.61, 3. Rager (F) 5:06.17, 4. Lillian Cain (F) 5:07.67, 5. Schmitt (HSE) 5:09.21, 6. Penn (HSE) 5:11.58, 7. Leer (HH) 5:14.48, 8. Molly Hultgren (HSE) 5:29.95, 10. Bushey (HH) 6:06.65.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Southeastern (E. Miller, Henderson, Walker, Cooper) 1:36.87, 2. Fishers (E. Wolf, Sopova, Lee, Frankie Ramey) 1:37.40, 4. Heights (Leer, Thompson, A. Cain, Madara) 1:48.15.

100 backstroke: 1. Haines (HSE) 45.20, 2. Bogaards (HSE) 57.49, 3. Ortiz (F) 58.24, 4. Hannon (F) 58.32, 5. Sophie Blue (F) 58.41, 6. Hayden Bunch (HSE) 59.69, 11. A. Cain (HH) 1:09.98, 14. Gould (HH) 1:14.00, 19. Emma Nichols (HH) 1:18.39.

100 breaststroke: 1. Ing (HSE) 1:04.38, 2. Nguyen (F) 1:05.47, 3. Hines (F) 1:06.41, 4. Cooper (HSE) 1:06.49, 5. Sopova (F) 1:07.03, 6. D. Miller (HSE) 1:07.17, 10. Davis (HH) 1:21.37, 17. Moore Santos (HH) 1:26.88, 23. Hoskins (HH) 1:40.33.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Southeastern (E. Miller, Henderson, Bogaards, Haines) 3:33.43, 2. Fishers (Ramey, Rager, L. Cain, Hayes) 3:41.63, 4. Heights (Madara, Thompson, Leer, A. Cain) 3:58.92.



Photo by Becky Meek / BeckyMeekPhotography.com
Carmel's Aidan Dickerson goes up to the basket during the Greyhounds' game with Lawrence North on Thursday.

Hounds bounce back, sail past LN

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

Carmel scored a bounce-back victory on Thursday, taking care of Lawrence North 60-43 on Bill Shepherd Court at the Eric Clark Activity Center.

The Greyhounds outscored the Wildcats in all four quarters, beginning with a 19-13 lead after the

first period. The second quarter was close, but Carmel led 33-26 at halftime. The Greyhounds' defense took over in the second half, keeping LN in single digits during both the third and fourth quarters; Carmel outscored the Wildcats 27-17 in that half.

Evan Harrell scored 18 points for the Hounds, with Julian Vogt hitting four

3-pointers while adding 16 points. Ben Bremer hit three triples on his way to 10 points.

Harrell collected nine rebounds, with Cash Daniels and Aiden Dickerson both pulling five. Daniels and Bremer both handed out four assists.

Carmel is 12-3 and plays a make-up game Tuesday at Brownsburg.

Blazers' Calili earns top seed in breaststroke at Lafayette Jeff

The REPORTER

University's Noa Calili earned the top seed in the

breaststroke event at the Lafayette Jefferson girls swim sectional prelims on

Thursday.

Calili finished with a time of 1 minute, 6.94 seconds in the breaststroke. It was her second "A" Final of the evening, as Calili also placed fifth in the 50 freestyle with a time of 25.40 seconds.

Nia Williams (17th, 28.11 seconds) and Samantha Purdie (31st, 35.97 seconds) also swam in the 50 free. Purdie competed in the 100 free as well, placing 28th (1:18.51). Madison Encinia finished 19th in both the 100 free (1:06.73) and the backstroke (1:20.86).

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Hawks overcome Herron for fifth straight win

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

Sheridan overcame a slow start to win at Herron 79-65 on Thursday for the Blackhawks' fifth straight win.

The Class 3A Achaeans led 2A Sheridan 23-18 after a high-scoring first quarter. The Hawks came right back, pouring in 24 points during the second period

to lead 42-39. Sheridan cruised through the second half, totaling 37 points to Herron's 26.

Devon Hamilton led the Blackhawks with 23 points, the first of four Sheridan players in double digits. Trey Page nailed three 3-pointers on his way to 20 points, while Chance Spencer and Jax Peerman both scored 12 points.

Brock Hagan led the rebounds with seven, while Spencer and Hamilton both collected five. The Blackhawks had 21 assists on 28 made baskets; Page dished out six, followed by four each from Spencer, Peerman and Desh Donathan. Hamilton had three assists.

The Blackhawks are 13-2 and play Saturday afternoon at Alexandria.

Millers fall to Marauders

By CRAIG ADKINS

For The Reporter

The Noblesville boys basketball team hit the road to Fortville for the 26th game in the series with Mount Vernon. The Marauders had a slight edge 13-12 in the first 25 games.

The Millers had won three straight against Mount Vernon. The host Marauders snapped that streak, taking down Noblesville last night,

54-35. The game started out close with the Marauders leading 13-11 through the first quarter.

Mount Vernon opened it up in the second with a 17-3 burst to lead at halftime, 30-14.

The Millers outscored Mount Vernon 24-21 in the second half, but it wouldn't be enough to overcome and come back, falling for the fourth time in their last five

games. They were without Valparaiso recruit Justin Curry, who is out for the season with an ACL injury.

Butler commit Baron Walker led the Millers with 10 and four rebounds. Luke Fogg chipped in with seven, along with Adam Fine scoring five and Max Flanagan had four.

Noblesville (8-9) plays at home Saturday against Center Grove (7-9) at 2:30 p.m.

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Boys Basketball

Tigers edge out Rocks in overtime

The REPORTER

The Fishers boys basketball team received another tough test on Thursday, edging out Westfield 74-72 in an overtime Hoosier Crossroads Conference game at The Jungle.

Fishers jumped out to a 20-7 lead after one quarter. Cooper Zachary scored eight points, including two 3-pointers, while Kai McGrew scored six.

The next two quarters

were close. The Tigers led 37-25 at halftime; McGrew poured in 11 points. Brock Detamore scored eight points for Westfield, making two 3s of his own.

Fishers held a 52-41 lead after three periods, but the Rocks scored 23 points in the fourth to tie the game up, 64-64 at the end of regulation. Drew Haffner scored 14 points in the second half, including three triples, while Wyatt Freehauf also

added 14 points.

The Tigers outscored Westfield 10-8 in the extra period. Zachary had eight points, consisting of two 3s and a pair of foul shots.

McGrew finished with 21 points, one of four Fishers played reaching double digits. Zachary scored 18, making four 3s, Levi Walker had 14 points and Ethan Hillsman added 13 points.

Haffner and Detamore both scored 23 points, with

Detamore draining five triples and Haffner making four. Freehauf scored 18 points.

The Tigers remain unbeaten at 19-0 and clinched a share of the HCC championship, as they are 7-0 in the league. Fishers' next game is Friday, Feb. 13 at Center Grove.

Westfield is 1-4 in the conference and 9-7 overall. The Rocks host Hamilton Heights on Tuesday.

Royals surge past Franklin Central

By RICHARD TORRES
For The Reporter

The Hamilton Southeastern Royals have never lost more than three games straight this season, and that trend didn't end on Thursday night.

Down early 15-14 at Hoosier Crossroads Conference rival Franklin Central, the Royals won the rebound battle, 32-25, to surge ahead and towards a 56-54 victory.

The Royals (9-9, 3-3 HCC) tallied 11 second-chance points compared to the Flashes' (7-10, 1-4 HCC) zero, and the HSE bench mob provided nine crucial points to halt the program's losing streak.

HSE built its largest lead of the night, 34-25, by halftime, after a 20-point second quarter, which proved enough to fend off Franklin Central's 29-point second half.

Both teams traded 3-point blows, finishing 7-for-19 each, but rebounding on both ends of the court helped bolster HSE's scoring opportunities.

Sophomore Varschon Clark and senior Luke Weemer both had a game-high 14 points and five and four rebounds, respectively. Clark shot 6 of 10 from the floor, while Weemer went 5 of 12 and 2-for-5 from beyond the arc.

Senior Maverick Young finished with nine points. Seniors Landon Osswald and Jack Jacobs added five points and six rebounds apiece.

Seniors Kian Kelly and Kallen Hoeft and freshman KJ Buckley combined for nine points.

**Read it here.
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The Reporter**

Men's Basketball

Boom remains hot, tops Magic for seventh straight win

Three players eclipse 20 points in 129-117 win

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom (11-6), the NBA G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers, extended its winning streak to seven games after defeating the Osceola Magic (13-4), 129-117, for the second time this season Wednesday night at Silver Spurs Arena.

Two-way guard Ethan Thompson erupted for his second straight 30-point performance, leading the Boom with a stat line of 31 points, 10 rebounds, and eight assists, shooting 6-of-15 from the field and a perfect 11-of-11 from the free-throw line. Cameron Hildreth posted a career-high 25 points, while Gabe McGlothlin added 25 points, two assists, and two steals.

Javonte Smart paced the Magic with a game-high 35 points on 13-of-21 shooting, including seven made three-pointers, along with four assists and three rebounds. Lester Quinones contributed 28 points and

five rebounds, Alex Morales scored 19 points, and William Baker recorded a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

After both teams struggled to find a rhythm early, combining to shoot 5-of-19 from the field and 0-of-6 from three-point range, things began to pick up as Osceola used an 11-0 run to take a 13-point lead late in the opening period. The Boom responded with timely baskets down the stretch, including a three-pointer in the final seconds, to trim the deficit to three points heading into the second quarter. In a back-and-forth second quarter, the Boom's hot shooting helped them build a five-point lead, before a last-second three-pointer from the Magic cut the margin. Noblesville shot 55 percent from the field and 44.4 percent from beyond the arc in the first half to take a 66-64 lead into the break.

Defensive intensity picked up in the third quar-

ter, with the game tied at 73-73 with 6:17 remaining. The Boom then scored 13 consecutive points, igniting a 23-6 run to seize a 17-point advantage, their largest lead of the night, powered by Ethan Thompson's 13-point quarter. Osceola responded with a five-point burst to pull within 12 points (96-84) heading into the fourth. Gabe McGlothlin helped Noblesville weather a late Magic push, scoring 13 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter on 5-of-7 shooting, including 3-of-3 from three-point range, as the Boom secured their seventh consecutive victory.

The two teams will meet once again Friday to close out the season series at Silver Spurs Arena. Coverage will be available on NBAGLeague.com, with tipoff scheduled for 7 p.m.

Tickets and team updates are available at NoblesvilleBoom.com, and fans can stream every game live at NBAGLeague.com.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 6

GIRLS BASKETBALL SECTIONALS

Sectional 8 at Carmel

Carmel vs. Zionsville, 6 p.m.

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

Sectional 42 at Park Tudor

Monrovia vs. Riverside-Park Tudor, 6 p.m.

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

Saturday, Feb. 7

BOYS BASKETBALL

Sheridan at Alexandria, 1:30 p.m.

Center Grove at Noblesville, 2:30 p.m.

Heritage Christian at University, 2:30 p.m.

Winchester at Hamilton Heights, 2:30 p.m.

Guerin Catholic at Culver Academies, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING REGIONALS

Carmel, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Sheridan, Westfield at North Montgomery, 9 a.m.

Guerin Catholic, Hamilton Heights, Noblesville at Pendleton Heights, 9 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL SECTIONALS

Sectional 8 at Carmel

Championship, 7 p.m.

Sectional 42 at Park Tudor

Championship, 7 p.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING SECTIONAL FINALS

Diving prelims, 9 a.m.

Swimming and diving finals, 1 p.m.

Guerin Catholic, Noblesville, Westfield at Carmel

Fishers, Hamilton Heights at Hamilton Southeastern

University at Lafayette Jefferson

Tuesday, Feb. 10

BOYS BASKETBALL

Carmel at Brownsburg, 7:30 p.m.

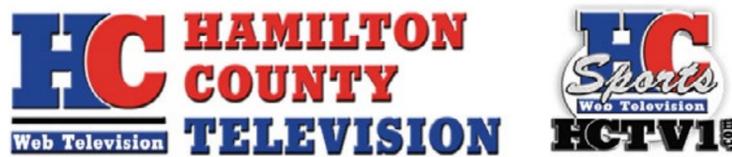
Hamilton Heights at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.

Indpls. Metropolitan at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.

New Palestine at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.

University at Lebanon, 7:30 p.m.

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



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February 21

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Fridays at 6 pm in February

2/13/26 - Gilmore Girls Valentine Trivia

2/20/26 - 1980s Trivia

February 13 & 20

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