

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly sunny.
 Tonight: Mostly cloudy.

HIGH: 37 LOW: 22



Tommy's perpetual plastic pain is their learning opportunity

Health Department's realistic unit simulates severe injuries to enhance life-saving skills

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Health Department has acquired the TOMManikin-GSW, also known as "Tommy," to help public safety agencies prepare for critical emergencies.

"Real-world incidents have shown a trained and prepared public can provide rapid interventions to save the injured prior to first responder arrival," said Christian Walker, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator. "Tommy will enhance these trainings to assist in overall community preparedness."

Tommy features a heavy steel frame and interchangeable body parts that replicate catastrophic wounds, such as amputations and burns. This durable build allows instructors to stage authentic trauma situations in diverse settings, ranging from standard classrooms to intense field simulations. By mimicking a reactive patient, the unit enables law enforcement and fire departments to practice Tactical Emergency Casualty Care under realistic conditions.

Purchased with grant fund-



Photo provided

We have not yet verified whether this deaf, dumb, and blind kid plays a mean pinball.

ing at the request of local fire departments, Tommy will be accessible to all Hamilton County public safety agen-

cies for high-severity injury training. Additionally, the unit will assist Health Department staff in teaching the "Stop the

Bleed" curriculum, improving residents' abilities to provide immediate care during catastrophic events.

We can let kindness rule

For as long as I can remember, I have been a routine person. My "wiring" coupled with life circumstances encourages that type of existence.

My younger son is a lot like me in that respect. Everything is nice and neatly planned out in a perfect world. Knowing what is coming next is a salve for my anxiety.

Living in current times, things feel unpredictable, chaotic, and terrifyingly uncertain.

As a highly empathetic and routine person, I feel even more uneasy. Often waking up at night with a pit in my stomach, thinking about the wellbeing of fellow humans.

Living life as part of a minority group, I know the sting of feeling unwanted and even hated. As one example, my mind flashes to a woman screaming at me for parking in an accessible parking space I was rightfully parked in. Hate radiated from her mouth as she tore into me with cruel words. She did not know my truth, but she hated me.

I know there are people in this world who think that the disabled are worthless or lesser than. I have read hateful comments and heard many ignorant, prejudiced remarks.

Knowing there were times, not all that long ago, when disabled people were hidden from society instills a fear in me that the times will swing back to that way of thinking.

That tone of cruelty is on full display these days in other examples.

My existence needs compassion to thrive. I need others who can attempt to understand that my needs may differ from their own, but they are just needs. Not extras.

Dehumanizing others based on how they were created is cruel. It is unacceptable. Its lasting effects are grossly underestimated.

See *Kindness . . .* Page 2

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
 Disability in the City

Merchants Bank: no jerks allowed

By **STU CLAMPITT**
news@readthereporter.com

In a world increasingly fueled by frustration and annoyance, one local bank with a national reach is promoting hometown Hoosier values both inside the business and in the community at large. Merchants Bank takes Hoosier values so seriously, neither employees nor customers are allowed to be consistently rude, hard to deal with, disrespectful, or, well, un-Hoosier.

The Reporter spoke with President and CEO Mike Dunlap about the culture at Merchants Bank and how it is helping the nice guys finish first.

"Our number one rule is you cannot be a jerk and work here," Dunlap told The Reporter. "We tell that to people when we interview them that we expect you to be a nice person and do your best. And if you're not going to do that, then you're not going to fit here. We really try to be careful about the people

we hire, then our people know that we're only bringing in people that we really feel will be a good fit."

That culture of Hoosier respect and hospitality extends to the customer base.

"We expect our customers to treat our people with respect," Dunlap said. "They're not allowed to treat our people inappropriately, or we would tell the customer to please go somewhere else. People see us doing that, and they say, 'Yes, this is a place I really like to work.'"

Merchants Bank has won best place to work awards from various state and national surveys for several years in a row.

Dunlap said employees feel like the company is looking out for them and they know they are safe, secure, trusted, and respected.

"That pays us back because we've created that culture, and that's really the key to our success. And we found that same thing when we work with IU," Dunlap said. "We had been working with

IU awhile, and they wanted us to sponsor their football field. We started talking about that awhile ago, and we agreed on a deal in August. We really did not know what this was going to turn into. But it's just been a great partnership where we were able to create a banking relationship. There was a real connection between our organizations, and it was a wonderful culture fit. We felt like both companies were really run with what I would call Hoosier values."

Agreeing to be the named sponsor of the Indiana University football field last August was a decision with serendipitous timing.

"We were proud to sponsor them, and then they go on to have this amazing season, perfect record national championship, giving us national exposure," Dunlap said. "It's just done wonders for our business, and we really helped them too. With the way they played, this really is a win-win relationship."

While Merchants Bank has a national presence in the banking world, all six of their brick-and-mortar locations are in Indiana. Two are in Carmel. One is in Indianapolis, right across the street from Carmel. The other three are in the Richmond area.

See *Merchants . . .* Page 2

Tipton invites Hoosier artists to take part in 'CREATES' initiative

Submitted

The Tipton Main Street Association (TMSA) announces an open call for artists and creatives to participate in the 2026 Tipton CREATES initiative, a dynamic arts and creative placemaking program designed to engage residents with both the arts and Downtown Tipton.



TMSA is seeking proposals for engaging art displays, live performances, interactive workshops, temporary installations, and other creative activities that invite public participation and help animate downtown spaces. The initiative encourages artists to think beyond traditional formats and propose experiences that foster connection, creativity, and a deeper sense of place.

Selected projects will take place in highly visible and arts-focused downtown locations, including the Campbell Family Foundation Stage and The Alley. Programming may align with existing downtown events or stand alone as unique experiences designed to draw residents and visitors into the heart of the community.

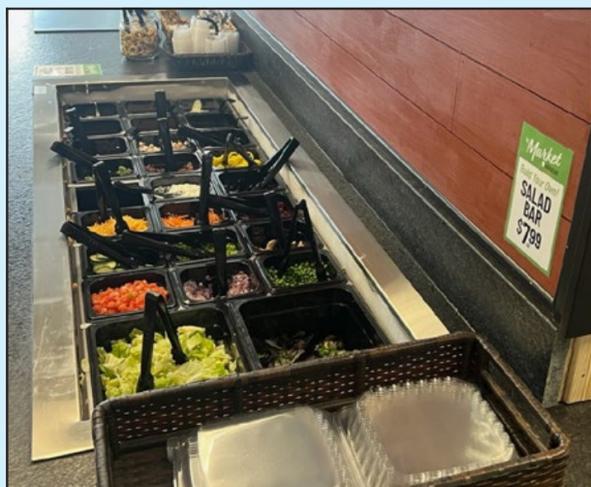
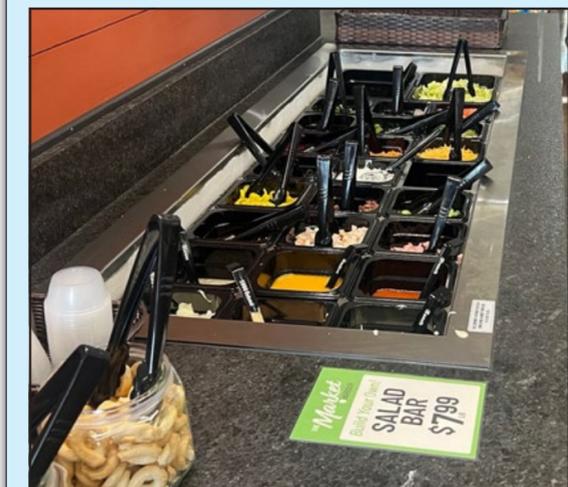
Tipton CREATES is a key component of TMSA's broader "Live, Work, Thrive" economic development strategy, which aims to leverage the arts as an economic development tool to increase foot traffic and support local businesses while promoting community connectedness.

"Tipton CREATES reflects our commitment to strengthening the cultural and economic vitality of Downtown Tipton and investing in its creative spaces," TMSA President Rob Cochrane III said. "By inviting artists to creatively engage our public spaces, the initiative complements the ongoing renaissance in downtown while creating experiences that bring people together and drive foot traffic to local businesses."

See *Tipton . . .* Page 2

Brett is bringing the salad bar back, baby!

A lightning fork, a cloud of ranch, and a hearty, "Hi-ho, Silverware!"



Reporter photos

Like so many of us in a post-COVID-19 world, Hamilton County entrepreneur Brett Morrow missed the ubiquitous presence of good salad bars in restaurants across the land. While he was able to ensure the presence of a salad bar when he brought back The Shack in Tipton, that is the only one location and hardly qualifies as "across the land." But lo, right now today you can go to the Harbour Market, 20825 Hague Road, Noblesville, to make the salad of your choice while you buy groceries. If you are a meaty salad person, throw in some ham, turkey, chicken, REAL bacon, or all of the above and make a meal of it. Coming March 1, you can do the same at the Cicero Market, 99 S. Peru St., Cicero. Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear. The Salad Bar Ranger rides again!

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

RSVP: pbpnoblesville@gmail.com

Green Avenue
 GRANTS & MORE

- Grant Research
- Proposal Writing
- Planning
- Other Fundraising

Your Road To Fundraising Success!
(317) 750-1204
www.greenavenue.info • amys@greenavenue.info

NOBLE BUSINESS ADVISORS
 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Wendy Stevens CPA, CGMA, MSA
 Certified Business Advisor

Phone | 317.281.9063 • Fax | 317.219.0510
wendy.stevens@wstevenscpa.com
 52 South 9th Street, Suite 3 • Noblesville, IN 46060
www.wstevenscpa.com

Pasto Italiano
 Worth fighting the road construction!
 Live Music Wednesdays & Fridays
 Open 7 days a week

317-804-2051
 Reservations Recommended

3150 E. SR 32
 Westfield

Explore, Play, and Connect with Hamilton County Parks!
 Beautiful trails, playgrounds, and special events.

myhamiltoncountyparks.com • 317-770-4400

Hamilton County Reporter

Like us on Facebook

✓ More News ✓ More Sports
 ... and more readers!

MERCHANTS

from Page 1

"We're not a branch-heavy bank," Dunlap said. "We take the money we save from having all those branches – all those costs – and we put that into the interest rate we pay on our money market accounts and certificates of deposit. The consumer can benefit from a higher rate than a traditional bank can pay because we don't have all those costs. But yet, we provide all the technology for them with online and mobile banking. You can do all your banking but still get a great rate. So we're a little different business model than traditional banks."

Merchants Bank, like many other companies with a heart for service, offers incentives for employees to volunteer time to communi-

ty projects. In this case, they do so through the MPACT program, with a primary focus on housing, health care, and education.

"MPACT stands for Merchants' employees Positively Advancing Communities Together," Dunlap said. "It is a way for our employees to dedicate their time and resources to causes that are important to them in all our local markets, not just central Indiana. But I can tell you, we had over 1,200 community service hours locally here, where our people will go out and they do things for the community. What we do to motivate them to do that is we'll give them up to two days off or two days of service. So if they go out and serve, we'll give them an

extra vacation day because we want to emphasize how important it is that we go out and positively affect our communities. If they did two days, they would get two vacation days."

Dunlap told The Reporter it all comes down to Hoosier values.

"We're really a family-owned business that has grown to a great size, and the number one reason that people like to work at Merchants is because of our culture," Dunlap said. "Our founders set forth a culture of trust, respect, teamwork, inclusion, customer service, and 'let's take great care of our employees, and then they'll take great care of us.' And that has really worked for us because there are oth-

er companies that don't look at it that way. We do everything we can to make sure our employees feel supported, trusted, respected, and they are very appreciative of that. So then they go out, and they really want to do well for the company. It just works really well for us."

It is a simple idea that has led to employee and customer loyalty.

"We don't have the turnover that other companies have," Dunlap said. "We just feel like you're at work with people for as long as you are, so we really need to build a place where people enjoy coming to work, and we do that."

You can learn more about Merchants Bank online at bankmerchants.com.

KINDNESS

from Page 1

Why some people feel superior to others, I will never understand. We all have hardships and strengths. Unique in our own ways.

Hate rots our souls. Kindness provides the nourishment our souls need to live in harmony with one another. Learning about lives that differ from our own is kindness in motion.

I have never known a life other than one where I am consistently aware of negative thoughts about my existence. Where barriers exist at every turn.

But some of my most horrible and hateful experiences have also generated some of the most beautiful and compassionate interactions. Often those two extremes happening within minutes of each other.

While what I have seen happening in our world, is horrific and sickening, I cannot help but notice something else. In many, including myself, I have noticed a growing compassion and a desire to unite and learn, in response to the increasing devastation among humanity.

Now is the time to sharpen our compassion skills. This is the time when we can make a difference in bettering the lives of others. There are countless ways we can promote inclusivity here in our time on earth. What way of service speaks to you?

Take action in your unique way using your strengths and expandable knowledge. Taking time to listen and learn about others lived experiences is critical to inclusivity.

It is in these unfamiliar times outside of our comfort zone and routine, where our character is refined. We should examine and recognize our unchecked biases.

When you come to the end of your life, will you be

able to look back on it and say that you are proud of the person you were and how you treated others? I hope I can. That is what I plan to continue working towards.

Until next time ...

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

TIPTON

from Page 1

Artists and creatives from across Indiana are encouraged to apply. Proposals should outline the concept, intended audience engagement, space requirements, and how the project connects to Downtown Tipton and its residents.

The full open call, including submission guidelines and proposal expectations, is available for viewing on the TMSA's Facebook page, [Facebook.com/TiptonMainStreet](https://www.facebook.com/TiptonMainStreet). Submissions must be received by 11:59 p.m. Friday, March 13. Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee, with selected participants being notified by 9 a.m. Friday, March 27. Selected participants will receive stipends and logistical support for implementation.

Tipton CREATES, which stands for Community Revitalization & Experiences through Art, Talent, & Engaging Spaces, was launched in late 2025 and is made possible through funding from the Campbell

Family Foundation, Tipton County Foundation, and TMSA's Legacy Sponsor, STAR Financial Bank.

For more information about Tipton CREATES and the work of the Tipton Main Street Association, visit [TiptonMainStreetAssociation.com](https://www.tiptonmainstreetassociation.com) or follow along on Facebook.

About Tipton Main Street

Founded in 2017, the Tipton Main Street Association is an Indiana Accredited Main Street organization dedicated to revitalizing and strengthening downtown Tipton as the heart of the community. Through collaborative partnerships, innovative projects, and a deep commitment to showcasing Tipton's heritage, TMSA fosters a vibrant and family-friendly downtown. TMSA strives to enhance quality of life, support local businesses, celebrate Tipton's cultural identity, and ensure that the city remains a place where people live, work, and thrive – today and for generations to come.

American Bank of Freedom

www.americanbankoffreedom.bank NMLS#409183

Save time and open your account online!

Certificate of Deposit Specials

<p>3 Months</p> <p>3.75% APY*</p>	<p>6 Months</p> <p>3.75% APY*</p>	<p>12 Months</p> <p>3.85% APY*</p>
--	--	---

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is current as of this issue and subject to change at any time. APY assumes that interest remains on deposit until maturity. Minimum deposit of \$1,000 to open this account with a maximum deposit of \$240,000 per account. Minimum balance requirement of \$1,000 to earn interest. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings. Accounts may be subject to other fees, contact your local branch to learn more.

APPLIES TO NEW DEPOSITS ONLY.
 American Bank of Freedom, Member FDIC.

Stop by or call your local branch today to learn more!
 14611 N. Gray Road
 Westfield, IN 46062
 (463) 622-2930

Member FDIC

Pizza & Punchlines really sticks the landing

On Saturday, Feb. 7, CrossRoads Church at Westfield hosted a great night of community fun at IMMI Conference Center, 18880 East St., Westfield. There was in fact both pizza from Greeks Pizzeria in Westfield and punchlines from comedians Marty Simpson, Kari Jones, and Shawn Reynolds. That's what we call truth in advertising! If you don't think clean comedy can be funny, we challenge you to attend Popcorn and Punchlines on Friday, May 29 so CrossRoads can prove you wrong.



Reporter photos (TOP LEFT) CrossRoads Church at Westfield's Lead Pastor Eric Lohe welcomed comedians Marty Simpson, Kari Jones, and Shawn Reynolds to the 10th annual Pizza & Punchlines. (ABOVE CENTER) In addition to being on the comedic acts, Simpson also served as the event M.C. (ABOVE RIGHT) One of the highlights of the evening included an opening act where young Hamilton County native Peter Fulton sang the Tony Bennett version of "Volare," along with some impressive Frank Sinatra covers. (FAR LEFT) Westfield's own Jim Ake helped serve the many pizzas to enthusiastic (and hungry) guests. (IMMEDIATE LEFT) Charlotte Doyle and Noelle Wiseman were the most enthusiastic and polite cookie girls any event could hope to find. As for the comedy, this show really stuck the landing (inside joke)!



MELT THE TRAIL

5K • WESTFIELD, INDIANA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
RACE BEGINS AT 10:30 A.M.

GRAND JUNCTION BREWING CO.
1189 E. 181st Street

Presented by The Farmers Bank

TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER, VISIT
WESTFIELDIN.GOV/MELTTHE TRAIL

Pack Precision wants YOU!



Photo provided

Hamilton Heights announces the launch of its new dance team, Pack Precision. The team was founded by junior Jenna Gascho. The first official members, pictured above from left to right, are: Kharma Costello, Jenna Gascho, Enzo Cerroni, Maddy Lustig, and Kella Shaffer. With experienced dancer and instructor Anne Camp as the head coach, Pack Precision is set to grow and shine. Coach Anne said she is excited to build up the team for next season – and that means she wants YOU! Callouts will be held on Feb. 13 at the middle school and March 3 at the high school. Pack Precision recently performed a fantastic showcase and can't wait to show you even more exciting performances to come.

Senate committee advances expanded Amber Alert criteria

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wistv.com

State lawmakers on Tuesday said they hope proposed new Amber Alert criteria will prevent future tragedies like that of Hailey Buzbee.

In the legislature's first action since the Fishers teenager's death, a Senate committee unanimously advanced a bill to which it added language to significantly expand who qualifies for an Amber Alert. Right now, Amber Alerts can only be issued for children under age 18 who authorities believe have been abducted and are in danger of serious bodily harm or death.

Investigators said Buzbee voluntarily left her family's home after she had communicated for more than a year with a man she had met through an online gaming platform.

An amendment to a bill addressing child sexual abuse material would add **Silver Alert criteria** to Amber Alerts. Silver Alerts can be issued in cases where a person's disappearance may be the result of a crime or occurred under circumstances which are inherently dangerous, but no such alert was issued

for Buzbee.

Bill author Rep. Wendy McNamara, R-Evansville, said police might have been able to act more quickly in Buzbee's case had the proposed rules been in place.

"It would give the Amber Alert the authority to investigate and look at high risk missing people," she said. "By moving [the Silver Alert criteria] under the Amber Alert, it gives law enforcement more tools to act."

Sen. Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, said he still wonders why no alert went out for Buzbee.

"We shouldn't have a situation like this, where we have to be in a situation like this, to actually have some discretion used and actually try to help a family," he said. "Somebody missed it here and we need to acknowledge that."

The original bill passed the House unanimously at the end of last month. It would have to go back to the House if it passes the Senate due to the Senate's addition of the Amber Alert language.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wistv.com/news/politics/amber-alert-criteria-expansion.

Water stakeholder input workshops to support development of statewide water plan

Submitted by
Indiana DNR

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host seven workshops across Indiana through February, April, and May to allow Hoosiers to provide input on the development of Indiana's statewide water inventory

and management plan under Governor Mike Braun's **Executive Order 25-63**.

Locally, the closest workshop will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 at The Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park, 6002 N. Post Road, Indianapolis. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

There will also be a virtual workshop held in May. This session is in the scheduling process. [Click here](#) to sign up to be notified when the information is available.

"Water is an essential resource for life and for the vitality of all Indiana communities, which is why it's

crucial that Indiana's ample water supply is available for Hoosiers in all corners of our state," Gov. Braun said. "Through a transparent water inventory and development of a management process, we'll make sure Indiana is well-positioned

See *Water* . . . Page 5

Thanks for reading!



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

Constituent Services



Help with Federal Agencies

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

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



US Flag Requests

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



Military Academy Nominations

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



US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

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

West District Office: (317) 848-0201

East District Office: (765) 639-0671

www.spartz.house.gov

Lions Day at the Indiana Statehouse



On Monday, Feb. 2, Noblesville Lions Julia Kozicki and Jeff Kozicki represented Lions District 25-D at Lions Day at the Statehouse. Lions from all over Indiana promoted their service and community engagement projects with state elected officials, including Noblesville State Representative Alaina Shonkwiler. (RIGHT) Indiana Lions Global Leadership Coordinator Julia Kozicki and District 29 Rep. Shonkwiler.

Quieter January real estate market for Hamilton County as available inventory continues to increase

WATER

from Page 4

The REPORTER

Central Indiana's residential real estate market was quiet to begin the new year. However, available inventory continued to increase and pending home sales were the same as this time last year. According to F.C. Tucker Company, part of the Howard Hanna family of companies:

- Available housing inventory increased 21.9 percent compared to January 2025.
- Pending home sales were the same as January 2025, with 2,298 homes leaving the market.
- Homes sold in a median of 51 days, spending 12 days longer on the market than this time last year.
- Compared to January 2025, the median home sale

price for the 16-county central Indiana region increased 2.3 percent to \$296,500.

Noblesville's and Hamilton County's residential real estate markets were both quieter to start the new year. However, available inventory continued to increase throughout the county, providing a greater selection for prospective buyers.

- In Noblesville in January:
 - Closed home sales decreased 11.9 percent.
 - The median home sale price increased 4.3 percent to \$427,500.
 - The median price per square foot decreased 1.8 percent to \$162.
 - Noblesville homes remained on the market nine days longer than this time last year, selling in 53 days.

In Hamilton County in January:

- Pending home sales decreased 5.8 percent.
- Compared to January 2025, the median home sale price increased 3.5 percent to \$459,750.
- Available housing inventory increased 37.7 percent compared to this time last year.
- Homes spent 18 days longer on the market than this time last year, selling in 47 days.

"Despite a cool residential real estate market in January in central Indiana, inventory continued to rise," said Jim Litten, F.C. Tucker Company Chairman of the Board and CEO. "With mortgage interest rates significantly lower than this time last year, we're optimistic that with spring approaching, the market will begin to heat up."

for resource needs now and for future generations."

At the workshops, attendees will be asked for input on developing a regional water planning framework, enhancing Indiana's water monitoring networks, and creating an online water

data and management platform. This planning effort builds upon the regional water studies led by the Indiana Finance Authority and by many local and regional partners, utilities, industry, municipalities, and other water users.

The perfect play for Valentine's Day ... what more can we say?

Main Street Productions' latest offering is *Almost, Maine*, by John Cariani from 2004, which happens to be one of my favorite shows I ever directed. When I first read it in 2011, I found it to be so charming a collection of stories, I knew I had to put it on stage.



KEN KLINGENMEIER
A Seat on the Aisle

Whereas I used six actors and actresses to people the nine vignettes in the play, MSP director Kathy Watson has endeavored to spread the parts out, using 17 performers. It works just fine that way, maybe better, and certainly puts the 'community' in community theatre.

Almost, Maine is a play about love – all shapes and strengths. Along the way, it shows us love that is sweet, or complicated, or star-crossed, or taboo, or disarming – with characters from all over the map of humankind. It is sometimes humorous and sometimes touching, and in a very clever way, playwright Cariani holds a mirror for us to see our own traits about loving. Each of Cariani's nine creations could stand alone, but the combination of the parts makes for a memorable evening of laughs and sighs.

MSP's edition of the show is brilliantly done. Well staged, well cast, well directed and performed. I enjoyed every vignette with wonderful memories and new appreciations. Director Watson has found the

essence in every piece and has formed the action to reveal the many wonders that are written into the script.

While I truly enjoyed all the vignettes, I had my favorites. In "Sad and Glad," Aaron Beal and Piper Williams (as Jimmy and Sandrine) show us the dynamic of someone who is left behind in a relationship and someone who has moved on successfully. Comic, yet poignant – the ex-couple is a good example of what many of us have gone through and the actors hit all the right levels here.

"This Hurts" is a clever portrayal of someone who cannot feel pain (Steve played by Austin Uebelhor) and someone who hasn't yet realized her pain (Marvalyn played by Hannah Partridge). There is a lot going on in this piece; again, the comedy/poignancy mix is conveyed just right.

Probably the most surprising and unusual vignette is "They Fell," where Randy (Aaron Beal) and Chad (Quinn Simonson) are two good buddies who find out the depth and importance of their friendship. Cariani is at his best here, using symbolism as truth, and the two actors make it look like nothing so much as a common happening. You'll have to see it!

Set and Light Design, both done by Bill Miller and Kristina Lawyer, work perfectly for the varied scenes. Really, all the efforts were

so good in this show – the cast, director, and everyone who helped put it together should be very proud of what they have wrought.

Bottom line: This is one of those shows that I can't say enough good things about. I love the script, and always have high hopes every time I see a production of it. Ms. Watson and her cast and crew have knocked this one out of the park. Plus – it's PERFECT for the upcoming Valentine's Day weekend. Go see it!

Almost, Maine continues at Basile Westfield Playhouse through Feb. 15. Information about the schedule and reservations can be found at BasileWestfieldPlayhouse.org.

Finally, I must note a significant change that has occurred at the Basile Westfield Playhouse. It really is a beautiful theatre – comfortable, with a large stage and modern lighting and sound equipment – but it has always had one flaw. It was difficult to hear the actors at all times. I would mention this problem in many reviews I wrote for the place.

That flawed condition is no more, so far as I can tell. By hanging four well-placed curtain baffles on light bars in the auditorium ceiling, the MSP crew headed by Bill Miller has flipped the switch on the problem. I could easily hear every word from every player on stage, which is as it should be.

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

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.

Main Street Productions, Inc. Presents
Almost, Maine
 by John Cariani

Directed by Kathy Watson
February 5th – 15th, 2026
Thursday, Friday, Saturday Shows at 7:30 pm,
Sunday Shows at 2:30 pm

Basile Westfield Playhouse
 220 North Union St., Westfield, IN - (317) 402-3341
 For reservations visit our website:
www.basilewestfieldplayhouse.org

WOW!
 CLEANING SERVICES
 317-384-9128
mylogoshop.com

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



(From left) Audrey Donaldson, Salil Gupta, and Leo Martinez with State Senator Scott Baldwin.

Three local students gain experience at Statehouse

Submitted by Office of State Sen. Scott Baldwin

Three local college students are serving as interns for the Indiana Senate Majority Caucus during the 2026 legislative session, said State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville).

Audrey Donaldson, a resident of Carmel, is the daughter of Andrew and Andrea Donaldson. Donaldson graduated from Bishop Chatard High School and is a junior at Indiana University Indianapolis studying psychology and human resources management.

Salil Gupta, a resident of Noblesville, is the son of Mona and Vineet Gupta. Gupta graduated from No-

blesville High School and is pursuing his dual MD-MBA degree at the Indiana University School of Medicine and Kelley School of Business.

Leo Martinez, a resident of Carmel, is the son of Francisco and Gladys Martinez. Martinez is a senior at Indiana University Indianapolis studying political science and philosophy.

"It's always exciting to have the opportunity to see my fellow community members working here at the Statehouse and gaining valuable professional experience," Baldwin said. "With 2026 being a short legislative session, these interns play a crucial role

in helping our days run smoothly. They are a great help to us serving all Hoosiers, and I look forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the future."

As legislative interns, Donaldson, Gupta, and Martinez track and analyze bill data, provide constituent services, staff Senate committee hearings and meetings, and conduct legislative policy research.

"I am very excited for this opportunity to assist the senators and legislative assistants of Indiana whose hard work is the cornerstone of our great state," Donaldson said.

"It is an honor to serve the district where I was born

and raised and the entire state of Indiana while studying medicine and business in school," Gupta said.

"I am happy to have the opportunity to play a small part in assisting these senators as they work hard to serve the Hoosiers they represent," Martinez said.

Senate Majority interns work through the duration of the legislative session, which is scheduled to conclude by the end of February. More information on Senate Republican internships, including eligibility requirements and applications for the 2027 program, can be found at IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/intern.

Indiana must act this year to protect minors from social media harms

In what feels like the blink of an eye, the digital landscape has shifted from a tool for connection to a sophisticated environment designed to capture and monetize children's attention.



GUEST COLUMNIST
PATRICIA LEVESQUE

of children's safety," he said when the lawsuit was filed.

In many cases, algorithms carefully designed to keep users addicted facilitated these interactions. That's

because these corporations only care about clicks and engagement, often at the direct expense of child safety. Research indicates that a significant percentage of minors are solicited by adult strangers shortly after creating accounts, yet platforms continue to utilize addictive feeds designed to bypass the impulse control of developing adolescent brains.

Furthermore, internal data show that these platforms exacerbate body dysmorphia, eating disorders, and self-harm, particularly among teenage girls. Policymakers have long respected parents' responsibility to oversee digital safety on a case-by-case basis for their own children; however, there is a vast power imbalance between individual families and a trillion-dollar industry. Strong state policy can help right the ship.

When platforms use sophisticated artificial intelligence to keep children scrolling, they undermine both parental authority and public health. Indiana lawmakers have a clear opportunity to rebalance this equation by strengthening age-verification and parental consent requirements and providing a clear standard of digital maturity similar to age-based protections we apply to other high-risk activities.

Indiana can be a leader in the national digital safety movement, and lawmakers should be motivated by the pressing need to address rising rates of youth depression and tech-exploitation. The Indiana House has the power to decide whether the state will prioritize the business models of Big Tech over the health and welfare of its youngest citizens. Restoring these protections is the only responsible path to ensure the digital world has the boundaries necessary to protect the next generation of Hoosiers.

Recent evidence, including disclosures from litigation against Facebook and Instagram parent company Meta, paints a disturbing picture of corporate negligence. Internal records suggest that platforms have operated under multi-strike policies for accounts linked to human trafficking and failed to wall-off users flagged for inappropriate interaction with children.

In 2023, New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez filed a lawsuit against Meta aimed at protecting children from sexual abuse, online solicitation, and human trafficking.

"I am committed to using every available tool to put an end to these horrific practices and I will hold companies – and their executives – accountable whenever they put profits ahead

of children's safety," he said when the lawsuit was filed.

When platforms use sophisticated artificial intelligence to keep children scrolling, they undermine both parental authority and public health. Indiana lawmakers have a clear opportunity to rebalance this equation by strengthening age-verification and parental consent requirements and providing a clear standard of digital maturity similar to age-based protections we apply to other high-risk activities.

Indiana can be a leader in the national digital safety movement, and lawmakers should be motivated by the pressing need to address rising rates of youth depression and tech-exploitation. The Indiana House has the power to decide whether the state will prioritize the business models of Big Tech over the health and welfare of its youngest citizens. Restoring these protections is the only responsible path to ensure the digital world has the boundaries necessary to protect the next generation of Hoosiers.

Recent evidence, including disclosures from litigation against Facebook and Instagram parent company Meta, paints a disturbing picture of corporate negligence. Internal records suggest that platforms have operated under multi-strike policies for accounts linked to human trafficking and failed to wall-off users flagged for inappropriate interaction with children.

In 2023, New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez filed a lawsuit against Meta aimed at protecting children from sexual abuse, online solicitation, and human trafficking.

"I am committed to using every available tool to put an end to these horrific practices and I will hold companies – and their executives – accountable whenever they put profits ahead

of children's safety," he said when the lawsuit was filed.

In many cases, algorithms carefully designed to keep users addicted facilitated these interactions. That's because these corporations only care about clicks and engagement, often at the direct expense of child safety. Research indicates that a significant percentage of minors are solicited by adult strangers shortly after creating accounts, yet platforms continue to utilize addictive feeds designed to bypass the impulse control of developing adolescent brains.

Furthermore, internal data show that these platforms exacerbate body dysmorphia, eating disorders, and self-harm, particularly among teenage girls. Policymakers have long respected parents' responsibility to oversee digital safety on a case-by-case basis for their own children; however, there is a vast power imbalance between individual families and a trillion-dollar industry. Strong state policy can help right the ship.

When platforms use sophisticated artificial intelligence to keep children scrolling, they undermine both parental authority and public health. Indiana lawmakers have a clear opportunity to rebalance this equation by strengthening age-verification and parental consent requirements and providing a clear standard of digital maturity similar to age-based protections we apply to other high-risk activities.

Indiana can be a leader in the national digital safety movement, and lawmakers should be motivated by the pressing need to address rising rates of youth depression and tech-exploitation. The Indiana House has the power to decide whether the state will prioritize the business models of Big Tech over the health and welfare of its youngest citizens. Restoring these protections is the only responsible path to ensure the digital world has the boundaries necessary to protect the next generation of Hoosiers.

Recent evidence, including disclosures from litigation against Facebook and Instagram parent company Meta, paints a disturbing picture of corporate negligence. Internal records suggest that platforms have operated under multi-strike policies for accounts linked to human trafficking and failed to wall-off users flagged for inappropriate interaction with children.

In 2023, New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez filed a lawsuit against Meta aimed at protecting children from sexual abuse, online solicitation, and human trafficking.

"I am committed to using every available tool to put an end to these horrific practices and I will hold companies – and their executives – accountable whenever they put profits ahead

Carmel High School graduate gains experience at Indiana Statehouse

Submitted by Office of State Sen. Kyle Walker

Samiha Zaman is serving as an intern for the Indiana Senate Majority Caucus during the 2026 legislative session, said State Sen. Kyle Walker (R-Lawrence).

Zaman, a resident of Carmel, is the daughter of Mandal Nuruzzaman and Fouzia Afreen. Zaman graduated from Carmel High School and is a junior at Indiana University Indianapolis studying political science and quantitative economics.

"Interns help in a variety of ways around the

Statehouse, and are especially helpful during session," Walker said. "I can't stress enough how great it is to see someone from our community take an interest in state government."

As a legislative intern, Zaman tracks and analyzes bill data, provides constituent services, staffs Senate committee hearings and meetings, and conducts legislative policy research.

"I am grateful for this internship and for the opportunity to play a part in the 2026 legislative session," Zaman said.

Senate Majority interns



work through the duration of the legislative session, which is scheduled to conclude by the end of February. More information on Senate Republican

internships, including eligibility requirements and applications for the 2027 program, can be found at IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/intern.

Wanda Lyons

(317) 345-3960

Lyons-Realty.com

LYONS REALTY

The Reporter: Accurate. Balanced. Local.

Chloe Tanner of Westfield makes Purdue NW dean's list

The REPORTER

Chloe Tanner, a Westfield High School graduate, made the Fall 2025 Dean's List at Purdue Northwest with

a 4.0 grade-point average.

As a student-athlete, Tanner is enrolled in the Honors College, majoring in nursing and playing softball.

Meeting Notices					
<p>The Noblesville Utilities Council Committee will meet on the following dates in 2026. Meetings will be held at 9 a.m. in the administration conference room at the Utility Office, 197 Washington St.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Feb. 26</td> <td style="width: 50%;">May 28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug. 27</td> <td>Nov. 12</td> </tr> </table> <p>A list of each appointed officer's name, their appointing authority, and term dates is available at noblesville.in.gov/447/Boards-Commissions.</p>	Feb. 26	May 28	Aug. 27	Nov. 12	<p>The Clay Township Board of Trustees will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026, at the John W. Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Ave., Carmel.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
Feb. 26	May 28				
Aug. 27	Nov. 12				

NOBLESVILLE, IN

Nickel Plate

HERITAGE RAILROAD

20 EST 17

ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY OF RAIL TRAVEL!

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

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

Valentine's Day Express
All aboard for Valentine's Day 2026! Climb aboard a historic train to experience a unique 90-minute ride through Hamilton County.

February 14

Totally Rad 80s Prom Gone Bad
Step back into 1989 for Totally Rad 80's Prom Gone Bad, an evening of neon lights, big hair, and a little murder aboard the vintage Nickel Plate Express.

February 21

Trivia on the Tracks

Fridays at 6 pm in February

2/13/26 - Gilmore Girls Galentine Trivia

2/20/26 - 1980s Trivia

February 13 & 20

ALL ABOARD! NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM

NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM



Photo provided by Kroger

The new fuel center at 14645 Hazel Dell Crossing, Noblesville, opens for business at 8 a.m. this morning.

Kroger opens new Noblesville Fuel Center

The REPORTER

Kroger will soon offer even more convenience to customers in Noblesville and an easier way for them to enjoy their Kroger Fuel Points. The grocer plans a grand opening celebration this morning, Feb. 11, for its newest fuel center in Hamilton County.

"We invested \$2.5 million dollars over four months to build this fuel center and we are thrilled with the results," Division Fuel Manager Shenevelyn Ross said. "We're giving Noblesville shoppers

what they've wanted for a long time – an easier way to save money on fuel and many convenience products whenever they're in the neighborhood."

The new fuel center at 14645 Hazel Dell Crossing formally opens at 8 a.m. Feb. 11. The center will continue to serve customers daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., offering unleaded, midgrade, premium, and diesel fuels.

The first 50 customers during the festivities will receive a Kroger handled bag with Kroger swag inside.

Regular customers love the ease of earning Kroger Fuel Points with their digital accounts or Shoppers Cards.

- Earn one Fuel Point on each dollar spent on most groceries. Special promotions may boost the available points.

- Earn 25 Fuel Points for qualifying prescriptions filled by Kroger. (See Kroger pharmacist for details.)

- Loyalty program members are eligible to receive a discount when not using Fuel Points. Simply scan your loyalty card or enter

your Alt-ID to receive a discount of 3 cents per gallon.

Kroger began selling gasoline at supermarket fuel centers in 1998. The company now operates 1,731 fuel centers across the USA as another feature of its one-stop-shopping strategy.

It's all a part of the plan, man

INDOT seeks public comment on 'Planning Public Involvement Plan'

The REPORTER

Last updated in 2023, the "Planning Public Involvement Plan" (PIIP) outlines strategies for public and stakeholder engagement in transportation planning and programming. It serves as INDOT's guidebook for conducting public involvement across numerous planning activities, including the STIP and LRTP, as well as modal, freight, corridor, and safety plans.

The 30-day public comment period began today, Feb. 11, and ends Friday, March 13.

Please [review the plan](#) and submit comments via the [public comment form](#), email to [Cat Seely at cseely@indot.in.gov](mailto:CatSeely@indot.in.gov), or by mail to:

Cat Seely, Technical Planning & Programming
IGCN 758-TE
100 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

This is a very Russian play, in case you like that sort of thing

Epilogue Players presents *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, a play I have never read nor seen, but certainly have heard of. Christopher Durang's Tony Award winning play came to us in 2012, played off-Broadway and on Broadway, before catching the eye of many theatre groups around the country.

Apparently, the script deals a lot with Chekhovian themes and names and settings. There is a hole in my theatre education with regard to the Russian playwright – for whatever the reason, my college profs did not take much notice of him in the curriculum. My loss, for sure.

Regardless, Mrs. K and I took our seats with an open mind.

David Johnson (a 2023 Mitty Award winner) takes the role of Vanya, a rather static male, who lives in his childhood home with his equally static adopted sister Sonia, played by Alice Penry. Their worldly movie-star sister Masha (Christine Kruze) comes to visit, along with her studly boyfriend, Spike, played by Logan Laflin. Well, there's the reason for the title.

Add in another 2023 Mitty winner, Susan Hill, as the sooth-saying cleaning lady, Cassandra, and last year's winner for Best Actress, Emily Reese Castro, as the bubbly young girl-next-door, Nina, and you have a completely won-



Photo courtesy Epilogue Players

Cassandra (Susan Hill, center) foretells some form of doom as the others listen.



COLUMNIST
KEN KLINGENMEIER
A Seat on the Aisle

derful cast for the task at hand.

Directors Michael and Marie Beason worked hard to decode much of Durang's writing, with what I would have to say is a partial success. This is a difficult piece to unwrap, I think.

Please note: I have no reason to call out any of the artistic efforts here. Everyone played their roles with alacrity and polish. I just think the piece itself is wanting – regardless of its award-winning status.

It's too long for what it offers, two and a half hours with many sections that seem to my mind to be extraneous. It's hung-up in Chekhov references – which some of us do not get. It repeats and repeats, as if for filling. And a certain long monologue by Vanya, very much like a sermon although well delivered by Mr. Johnson, is just too preachy for our senses.

There was one signifi-

cantly precious section which was delivered by Ms. Penry that had all the qualities of fine acting and writing that we like to look for – Sonia on a phone call with someone she had met during a rare outing the night before, being asked out for dinner. It hit home with emotion as she possibly turned her life around, with a change of attitude and a belief in herself. I found myself really pulling for her then.

Tech-wise, the set design by Andy and Mel Burnett works very well, and Rebecca Blandford's costume designs are on the mark.

Bottom line: I wish I had enjoyed this show more. All the right energies were in place and the cast was a well-oiled ensemble much of the time. I just did not have an appreciation for what Durang was trying to get across here. Other audience members seemed to enjoy it just fine, so the problem is probably with me.

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

Holding big pharma accountable, AG Rokita wins \$6.25M settlement following alleged conspiracy to inflate EpiPen prices

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Indiana will receive \$6.25 million as part of a settlement with global pharmaceutical companies over allegations that they conspired to increase the price of a prescription device called EpiPen by more than 600 percent on Hoosier consumers. The product is used to inject adrenaline into patients to combat severe allergic reactions.

"Some pharmaceutical companies have prioritized profits over patients," Attorney General Todd Rokita said. "But by demonstrating there are severe penalties for unlawful tactics to overcharge Hoosiers, we can deter this kind of conduct in the future."

In January of 2025, AG Rokita filed an antitrust lawsuit alleging that Viatris Inc., Pfizer Inc. and other companies conspired to increase prices in order to maximize the money made from EpiPen prescriptions and prevent other similar products from coming to market and being available to consumers. Viatris was formed

via a 2020 merger of Mylan and Upjohn, a Pfizer subsidiary.

The complaint alleged the companies, and their subsidiaries violated the Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act, the Indiana Antitrust Act, and the Medicaid False Claims Act by continually increasing the price of EpiPens and providing payments to pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to exclude competition.

The lawsuit also asserted the companies paid doctors to endorse their decision to launch a two-pack of the EpiPen and claim it is medically necessary – allowing the companies to cease selling individual EpiPens.

As part of the settlement, the companies deny any wrongdoing.

This action is part of AG Rokita's ongoing efforts to ease healthcare burdens for Hoosiers. Since taking office, he has secured a \$66.5 million settlement against Centene; a \$573 million multistate settlement



Rokita

against McKinsey & Company for its role in the opioid epidemic; nearly \$7 million in a Medicaid fraud settlement against Mallinckrodt; a \$39.1 million multistate settlement with Apotex over generic drug price-fixing; assisted in a multistate opioid settlement against the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma; and announced an 11th multistate opioid deal – bringing the total opioid funds secured for Indiana to \$1.1 billion.

At the end of last year, AG Rokita filed a lawsuit against Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly and Company over that company's alleged inflation of insulin prices. In 2024, AG Rokita sued drug manufacturers (Sanofi-Aventis and Novo Nordisk) and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (CaremarkPCS Health, Express Scripts, CVS Health Corp., and Optum RX) for allegedly inflating insulin prices. These lawsuits remain pending.

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.

LIFETIME LEGACY LAWYERS

Podcast

<https://lifetimelegacylawyers.com>

CLICK TO LISTEN

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
at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts
CARMEL, INDIANA

BENEFITING

Riley Children's Foundation

actors theatre

of Indiana

SCAN FOR TICKETS

Thank You to Our Sponsors:

Hamilton County Democrats boast record-breaking number of candidates in May primary

Submitted by Hamilton County Democratic Party

The Hamilton County Democratic Party announced Tuesday, Feb. 10 that 359 candidates have filed to run for public office in the 2026 election cycle, marking an unprecedented level of Democratic participation in a county that has struggled with enthusiasm in the primaries.

In a particularly striking demonstration of grassroots enthusiasm, 220 individuals filed to serve as delegates to the state convention – far exceeding the 162 available seats. This overwhelming response represents a dramatic shift for a coun-

ty where, just a few years ago, many residents had no Democratic candidates on their ballots.

“We’re finally seeing the fruits of our labor,” Hamilton County Democratic Party Chair Josh Lowry said. “For years, the Hamilton County Democratic Party has worked tirelessly to encourage citizens to be active participants in their own democracy. Our mission this primary season has been simple but essential: ensure that voters have a choice at the ballot box, which drives turnout and gives people the opportunity to be heard and represented in our government.”

The surge in candidate

HAMILTON

COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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

filings and delegate applications follows a months-long concerted effort by county party leadership to recruit citizens willing to step up and serve.

The increased participation addresses a critical gap in Indiana’s political landscape, where low voter turnout at both the state and county levels has long been a challenge. By fielding candidates across the county and energizing the base through robust delegate

recruitment, the Hamilton County Democratic Party is creating the infrastructure necessary for sustained civic engagement and competitive elections.

Hamilton County residents who’d like to be a part of creating a more representative government in the statehouse are encouraged to visit the county party website to stay informed, get involved, or join a city club near them. Go to hamcodemsin.org.

Lauren Cole announces candidacy for Indiana House District 37

Submitted

Lauren Cole has officially announced her candidacy for the Indiana House of Representatives, District 37, running as a Democrat to bring transparency, accountability, and opportunity back to everyday Hoosiers.

Cole, a Senior Coordinator in Medical Affairs at LabCorp Biopharma, is running to represent working families who feel left behind by a system that too often prioritizes special interests over the needs of local communities.

“I believe government should be a window, not a black box,” Cole said. “People deserve to know how decisions are made, where their tax dollars go, and how policies impact their daily lives. This campaign is about bringing the power back to the people where it belongs.”

Cole’s campaign is focused on strengthening public education, supporting working families, and increasing transparency in

state government. She has spoken out about the impact of underfunded public schools and believes Indiana can build a system where every child has access to a high-quality education without families being forced to choose between affordability and opportunity.

“As someone who works in healthcare and sees the real-world effects of policy decisions, I know how important it is to invest in our communities,” Cole said. “We can build a stronger Indiana by supporting our public schools, protecting workers, and making government more open and accountable.”

Cole is a first-time candidate who says her campaign is rooted in listening to voters and giving a voice to those who feel ignored by the political system.

“I’m not running to represent the powerful,” she said. “I’m running to represent the people who work hard every day and just want a fair shot.”

Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness endorses Dustin Dixon for Hamilton County Sheriff

Submitted

The campaign of Dustin Dixon, candidate for Hamilton County Sheriff, announced on Tuesday, Feb. 10 the endorsement of Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness.

“Public safety is the top priority for our citizens and for my administration,” Mayor Fadness said. “Dustin Dixon has the leadership, experience, and proven commitment to keep our community safe. He is the right choice for Sheriff, and I am proud to endorse him.”

Mayor Fadness’ endorsement adds to a growing list of respected leaders backing Dixon’s campaign, underscoring broad con-

fidence in his ability to lead the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office. Dixon has already earned the endorsement of Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen, who praised Dixon’s servant leadership and focus on keeping communities safe, as well as former Indiana State Police Superintendent and former Hamilton County Sheriff Doug Carter, one of the most trusted voices in Indiana law enforcement.

With strong grassroots support and backing from current and former leaders across Hamilton County and Indiana, the Dixon campaign continues to build momentum ahead of May’s Republican primary.

The Villages of Indiana to hold Diaper Day on March 12

Submitted

The Villages of Indiana

will host its annual Diaper Day on Thursday, March 12 with a goal of collecting more than 35,000 diapers for families across Indiana who cannot afford this essential necessity for their babies.

For many parents, diapers are an overwhelming monthly expense. Babies require up to 12 diaper changes per day, costing families an estimated \$80 to \$100 per month, and are not an item covered by assistance programs such as WIC or SNAP.

“Many of the families we assist, particularly through our Healthy Families program, struggle to buy diapers and are often forced to make an impossible decision between purchasing diapers or paying for groceries, gas, or other necessities,” said Shannon Schumacher, president and CEO of The Villages of Indiana. “While it may seem like a small gesture, having a steady supply of diapers significantly reduces stress and provides stability for parents who are already facing significant challenges.”

Diaper Day is a statewide diaper drive supporting families involved in foster care, The Villages’ Healthy Families program, and for children of individuals who have aged out of the system. In 2025, The Villages served more than 2,200 families through Healthy Families, nearly all with children still in diapers.

The Villages is encouraging community members, businesses, schools, churches, and organizations

to get involved by donating diapers or organizing diaper drives leading up to March 12.

Diapers can be purchased and delivered in multiple ways:

1. Purchase diapers through The Villages’ Amazon wish list.
2. Purchase diapers through another online retailer and have them shipped directly to: 3833 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208.
3. Drop off diapers at the nearest Villages’ office location (please call the office prior to drop off to schedule a delivery date/time):
 - Indianapolis – 3833 N. Meridian St.; phone: (317) 775-6500
 - Kokomo – 2723 Albright Road; phone: (765) 455-8545

For more information, visit villageskids.org/get-involved/diaperday.

About The Villages of Indiana

The Villages of Indiana is one of the state’s largest licensed and accredited nonprofit agencies dedicated to family and child services, supporting 11,000 children and families annually. With 15 offices across Indiana, the organization offers a range of services, including foster care licensing and placement, adoption, support for new and expectant parents through the Healthy Families program, assistance for kinship caregivers, and guidance for young adults who have aged out of foster care. The non-profit is the umbrella agency for Prevent Child Abuse Indiana.





THE O’CONNOR HOUSE
PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL

Celebration of Life

BORN TO CELEBRATE - 21 YEARS OF
THE O’CONNOR HOUSE!



FRIDAY, MARCH 6 | 5:30 PM
THE RITZ CHARLES
12156 N. MERIDIAN ST CARMEL, IN 46032

CELEBRATE 21 YEARS OF LIFE-CHANGING
IMPACT! COME SHARE IN A JOYFUL NIGHT OF FOOD, FELLOWSHIP,
AND FANTASTIC LIVE MUSIC FROM ENDLESS SUMMER BAND




SPONSORSHIPS AND REGISTRATION ARE
AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.THEOCONNORHOUSE.ORG
OR SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE

THANK YOU TO OUR
MEDIA SPONSOR!

ADLER

attorneys

136 SOUTH 9TH STREET
SUITE 400
NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060
317-773-1974

1010 WEST 8TH STREET
SUITE 5
ANDERSON, IN 46016
765-642-2080



CONTACT US

RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE
at the Historic Adler Building.
Contact Kim Watson at
317-773-1974 for details.



Thanks for reading!

Stephani Jean Scherer

November 5, 1944 – February 8, 2026



Stephani Jean Scherer, 81, Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at Harbour Manor Care Center in Noblesville. She was born on November 5, 1944, to Ted and Carol (Ausman) Neward in Long Beach, Calif.

Stephani was a first-grade teacher for many years. She enjoyed solving Sudoku and crosswords, working on jigsaw puzzles, and sewing. Stephani was a wonderful sketch artist and had recently started painting. And she was a BIG Harry Potter fan.

She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Roger Scherer; son, Scott Michael (Stacy) Hinojos; grandchildren, Miles, Henry, and Aron; brother, Lance (Donna) Neward; and sisters, Nancy (Paul) Jacobson and Allison (Chuck) McKay.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Tod Hinojos.

The Scherer family has entrusted Randall & Roberts Funeral Home with Stephani's care.

Memorial contributions may be made to Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 508, Greenwood, IN 46142 (ihelpveterans.org); or Catholic Associations or Catholic Associations (thecatholicassociation.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Kristin L. Grimes

July 13, 1952 – February 5, 2026



Kristin L. Grimes was born on July 13, 1952, in Indiana and left us on February 5, 2026. A compassionate soul and a lifelong resident of Cicero, Kristin was well known and loved within her community. Her loving nature, thoughtful approach to life, and loyal friendship have left an indelible mark on all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Kristin's professional life was spent serving others, first at Fred's Frozen Foods in Noblesville, and then as a dedicated secretary at Booker Realty in Cicero. She was known for her commitment and dedication, becoming a fixture of the businesses she worked in. In her personal life, Kristin was a devoted cat lover, with a particular affection for her cat, Molly. She also found solace and joy in her hobbies of knitting and crocheting, creating beautiful pieces that were a testament to her fine crafting skills. Despite her eventual status as a divorcee, Kristin's heart remained full of love, especially for her parents, Dakres Douglas and Harold Grimes, whom she deeply missed.

As we bid farewell to Kristin, we celebrate her life and the legacy she leaves behind. She was a beacon of warmth and kindness, a woman whose compassion was felt by all who met her. She was a testament to the power of love and loyalty, and her memory will continue to inspire and uplift those who were fortunate to have known her.

In remembrance of Kristin Grimes, you are invited to share your memories, stories, and photos on her memorial page. Each contribution will serve as a testament to her life and the impact she had on all of us. Services are under the direction of Hartley Funeral Homes – Cicero.

Condolences: hartleyfuneralhomes.com

Virgil Paul Fruth

October 16, 1940 – February 7, 2026



With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Virgil Paul Fruth, 85, affectionately known as Paul, on February 7, 2026. Virgil was born on October 16, 1940, in Noble, Ill., to Virgil and Madeline Fruth. He was a dedicated and talented individual, known for his witty humor and unwavering loyalty to his family and faith. Paul was a resident of Arcadia, where he created countless cherished memories with his loved ones and community.

Paul was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He was married to his loving wife, Sondra, on November 23, 1958, and their enduring partnership was a testament to their commitment and love for each other. Paul was a devoted father to his children, Virgil "Paul" (Denise) Fruth Jr., Teresa (Paul) Taylor, and Tammy Fruth. He was also a doting grandfather to Paul Fruth III, Joshua Fruth, Sarah (Justin) Kremer, and Taylor (Nate) Eversman, and a proud great-grandfather to nine beautiful great-grandchildren. Virgil was also a cherished uncle to several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Virgil and Nina Fruth, and his brother, Charles Fruth.

In his professional life, Paul was a respected maintenance worker at the Indiana Academy until his retirement. His dedication to his work was evident in his commitment to the Academy. In his leisure time, Paul was a man of many interests. He loved woodworking, fishing, bird watching, hiking, and reading. He also had a beautiful singing voice and often performed duets with Sondra during their evangelism. Paul was a member of Kokomo Seventh-day Adventist Church, where he served as a head elder and where he enjoyed preaching and filling in for the Pastor when needed. His dedication to his faith and family were the cornerstones of his life.

Visitation will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church, 24445 State Road 19, Cicero. A Memorial Service will follow at the same venue at 4:30 p.m.

Services are under the direction of Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Homes – Cicero.

Paul's life was marked by his love for his family, his dedication to his work and his community, and his unwavering faith. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

We invite all who knew Virgil to share their memories, stories, and photos on his memorial page. This tribute will serve as a place for his family and friends to come together and remember his remarkable life.

Condolences: hartleyfuneralhomes.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

EXPLORING CANAAN

from the tribe of Manasseh (a tribe of Joseph), Gaddi son of Susi;

from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel son of Gemalli;

from the tribe of Asher, Sethur son of Michael;

from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi son of Vophsi;

from the tribe of Gad, Geuel son of Maki.

These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.)

When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

Numbers 13:11-25 (NIV)

The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

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

Thanks for reading The Reporter!

Randall & Roberts Funeral Homes
 317-773-2584
 Our family has been serving Hamilton County since 1953

1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville
 1150 Logan Street, Noblesville
 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers

HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Contact Information

Email
 News@ReadTheReporter.com

Web Address
 ReadTheReporter.com

Publisher Stu Clampitt
 765-365-2316

Subscription Inquiries
 Subscribe@ReadTheReporter.com
 765-585-9519

Advertising & Public Notices
 Ads@ReadTheReporter.com
 765-365-2316

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

Mailing Address
 136 S. 9th St., Suite 12
 Noblesville, IN 46060

NEW LISTING!

7389 E 209TH STREET NOBLESVILLE

Fantastic waterfront condo on Morse Reservoir's secluded Waterscape side! 3BR/2BA, boat dock #104, fireplace, and deck offer year-round fun, relaxation, and scenic waterfront living with beaches and kayak storage.
Improved Price \$494,900

SOLD!

11405 Haverstick Road CARMEL

This immaculate ranch in Carmel boasts hardwood floors, crown molding, a stone fireplace, and a relaxing sunroom. It sits on .37 acres, a four-minute walk to Woodbrook Elementary. Spotless basement and garage.
Listed at \$409,900

SOLD!

19173 Fox Chase Drive NOBLESVILLE

Welcome to Prairie Crossing! Charming 3BR/2BA ranch features a convenient split floor plan, woodburning fireplace, and laminate floors. The kitchen has a walk-in pantry. Screened porch, deck, privacy fence, and a new roof.
Listed at \$289,900

SOLD!

1307 CLIFF VIEW DRIVE WESTFIELD

This 4BR/2.5BA home with a 3-car garage offers a covered front porch overlooking a pond. Flexible living spaces, a 2-story great room with fireplace, and a spacious kitchen. Primary bedroom features a spa-like bath.
Improved Price \$479,900

SOLD!

18826 LONG WALK LANE NOBLESVILLE

This fantastic 4BR/3BA, nearly 3,000 sq ft home in Woods at Prairie Crossing is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac. It offers a den, loft, and wooded views. It's freshly updated and ready for new owners.
Improved Price \$379,900

"SPEAK TO DEAK!"

The Deakyne Team REALTORS®
www.speaktodeak.com
 317.695.6032 JENNIFER | 317.439.3258 PEGGY

Jennifer
 Peggy

Talk to TUCKER REALTORS
 F.C. TUCKER COMPANY

NYSA

NOBLESVILLE YOUTH SPORTS ALLIANCE

ONE COMMUNITY • 6500+ KIDS • 17 PROGRAMS

www.noblesvillesports.com @noblesvillesports



REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

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

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

Boys Basketball



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

(ABOVE LEFT) Westfield's Luke Vandegriff scored 16 points for the Shamrocks during their Tuesday win over Hamilton Heights. (ABOVE RIGHT) Hamilton Heights' Will DeStefano (right) takes the ball inside while being guarded by Westfield's Brock Detamore.

Rocks beat Huskies for all-county win

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

WESTFIELD – A fast start helped the Westfield boys basketball team to a solid victory over a county opponent on Tuesday.

The Shamrocks beat Hamilton Heights 62-48 in a home game at CSI Gymnasium. Westfield ran out to an 11-0 lead to start the contest and weathered a Huskies comeback in the

second half with a series of fourth-quarter scoring runs.

“We couldn't really pull away, and credit Hamilton Heights,” said Rocks coach Shane Sumpter. “Those kids play hard, do a lot of good things.”

Sumpter said several players contributed to Westfield's win, and that was evident from the start. The Shamrocks' strong start led to a 17-6 lead after one quarter, with Drew Haffner

and Luke Vandegriff each scoring six points.

Vandegriff, the 6-10 junior, kept up the intensity in the second quarter, pouring in eight more points to help the Shamrocks lead 32-21 at halftime. Vandegriff made a pair of dunks during the first half.

“We thought we could take advantage inside and play with Luke a lot,” said Sumpter. “He certainly had a great game.”

The Huskies cut into Westfield's lead during the third quarter, getting within 35-29. Rees Knapp helped out with seven points in the period.

But Westfield went on a quick 7-0 run to go ahead 42-29. Logan Sumpter hit

his third 3-pointer of the game to start the run; he had already made a triple in both the first and second quarters.

Vandegriff finished the period with another dunk, giving the Shamrocks a 44-33 lead heading into the fourth quarter. Heights' Hayden Spicer began the fourth with two free throws, but another 7-0 spurt pushed the Rocks ahead 51-35 and their lead never dipped below double digits again.

Haffner scored six points of that run, with Bryce Bigsbee making a free throw for the seventh point. Haffner later scored a rebound basket to give Westfield a 54-38 lead; he finished the game with 25 points, scoring in each quarter.

Vandegriff totaled 16 points, while Logan Sumpter scored 11.

“Obviously Drew is our guy, but we got a lot of guys that we feel can score,” said Shane Sumpter. “Balance is key.”

Shane Sumpter noted that the Huskies used a triangle-two defense and were “chasing Brock [Detamore] and Drew. So, that just tells you what everybody thinks about those guys and what you're trying to do there. We were able to jump out to a lead and Drew was able to create his own shot tonight, especially early on.”

Knapp led the Huskies with 15 points, while Jack Kakasuleff scored 12

points. Heights saw a 10-game win streak come to an end with the loss, but coach Chad Ballenger was pleased with how his Class 3A Huskies competed against the 4A Shamrocks.

“I thought we did a good job,” said Ballenger. “When we play big schools like Westfield and Noblesville, and the pace is different because of the competition level they play at, it sometimes takes us a while to adjust to that.”

Westfield is 10-7 and began a five-game home-stand that will take the Rocks to the end of the regular season. Westfield hosts Harrison Friday. Heights is 10-8 and hosts Lebanon Saturday.

Joshua Herd
Photographer
joshuaherdphotography.com

Specializes in senior portraits, family portraits, events/sports

317-670-4645 • jhphotos@yahoo.com

Justin Sicking
PHOTO • VIDEO
SPORTS • SENIORS • PROFESSIONALS • PRODUCTS
317-560-6397
JustinSicking@justinsicking.com
www.justinsicking.com
@JSickingPhoto

HSE topples Indy Metro, wins third straight

By **RICHARD TORRES**
For The Reporter

The Class 4A Hamilton Southeastern Royals were hot from the start and never cooled off Tuesday night to defeat Class A Indianapolis Metropolitan, 94-66.

HSE improved to 10-9 overall behind a quartet of

double-digit scorers led by senior Landon Osswald's team-high 19 points.

The Royals opened their home contest with a 27-10 lead after the first quarter and surged ahead 43-29 by halftime. HSE shot 61 percent from the floor (44-for-72) and tallied 32 points off turnovers to build a 28-point advantage in a game they controlled wire-to-wire.

The victory extended HSE's winning streak to three straight and involved 12 different players providing at least two points apiece.

Sophomore Varschon Clark had 18 points, four rebounds, four assists and two steals. Osswald added two rebounds, four assists and two blocks.

Senior Jack Jacobs supplied 10 points, six rebounds, three assists and two steals. Senior Luke Weemer finished with 10 points, four rebounds, two assists, two steals and three blocks. Senior Maverick Young chipped in eight points, two rebounds, four assists and three steals.

The HSE bench poured in 29 points with both senior Kian Kelly and junior Alex Weber pacing the group with six points each.

The Dani Robinson difference

- What's the market value of my home?
- What is my process for buying a home?
- Who should I call for home repairs/remodeling?
- How do I learn about building a new home?
- Who should I call to refinance my home?
- Who should I call when I have someone who wants to buy my home?



Let's Talk
Tucker



Scan here to view Dani's current listings.

12131 E. 196TH STREET
NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060 | 6,935 Sq Ft. | \$2,675,000



20-acre luxury estate now available

Welcome to one of Hamilton County's most stunning properties! This elegant home features scenic views, a cozy sitting room, spacious family room, and grand dining room. The kitchen blends charm and

modern appliances. Bedrooms include custom fireplaces and leaded glass. A luxurious primary suite offers a spa-like ensuite.

Upstairs includes a home theater, game room, and kitchenette. Outdoors, enjoy a

courtyard with water feature, garages for 10+ cars, heated workshops, and equestrian facilities with 60'x100' riding arena as well as five fenced pastures for your endless outdoor riding enjoyment.

Talk To **Dani Robinson**
REALTOR/BROKER/SRES

317.407.6969
DaniR@talktotucker.com
DaniRobinsonHomes.com

Talk To **Tucker**
REALTORS

F.C. TUCKER COMPANY

Grissom's 37-point night leads GC past New Pal

The **REPORTER**

Guerin Catholic's boys picked up their seventh consecutive victory on Tuesday, beating New Palestine 72-61 at The Nest.

The Golden Eagles led 20-12 after one quarter, then extended that margin to 25-12 early in the second period for their largest lead of the night. The Dragons came back by halftime, cutting Guerin Catholic's lead to 31-26 by halftime.

The Golden Eagles held on to a 45-44 advantage af-

ter three periods, but turned it on in the fourth, pouring in 27 points to get the victory.

Jake Grissom had an outstanding night, scoring 37 points. Grissom and Alex Wall both collected six rebounds, with Andrew Reithman pulling five rebounds. Hayden Rogers added 12 points and dished out four assists.

Guerin Catholic improved to 15-5 with the win and plays Monday at Shortridge.

Boys Basketball

Blazers comeback falls short

The REPORTER

A furious University comeback came up just short Monday night at The U Center as the Trailblazers dropped a 74-73 decision to Indianapolis Washington.

University trailed by 13 points early in the fourth quarter before battling back. The Trailblazers had a chance to tie the game with 3.2 seconds when Josh Henderson was fouled on a rebound attempt. The junior made one of two foul shots before stealing the Washington inbound pass near halfcourt with 2.2 seconds. After a University timeout, Faisal Mohamud got a look at the basket but

his three pointer was off the back of the rim.

Henderson finished with 31 points and 13 rebounds, both career highs, and made 12 of 13 foul shots. Josh McGee had 17 points.

University trailed 58-45 with 6:22 left in the fourth quarter before a three-point play and a steal and layin by Henderson cut the lead to 58-50. After two Washington free throws Blake Gray hit a three pointer. Henderson scored again at the 3:55 mark to cut the lead to 61-55 before Mohamud's three pointer from the left corner made it 61-58.

The Continentals pushed the lead back to

70-61 with 1:37 left before University made a final push. Henderson made two foul shots and a three pointer from the left corner. After forcing a Washington turnover, McGee scored on a three-point play to cut the lead to 70-69. The Continentals Roosevelt Franklin, who scored 23 of his 28 points in the second half, made two free throws for a three-point lead.

University missed a pair of three pointers before Washington added a foul shot for a 73-69 with 22 seconds left. Henderson came back with a three-point play with 13.9 seconds left to cut the lead to one. Washington split a pair

of foul shots with 11.4 seconds left setting the stage for the final sequence.

The Trailblazers got off to a fast start, jumping out to a 20-8 lead with 30 seconds left in the first quarter. The Continentals used a four-point play and another basket with eight seconds left to cut the lead to 20-14. Washington scored the first seven points of the second quarter to take their first lead at 21-20. University led 31-30 at the break.

The contest went back and forth until the last two minutes of the third quarter with Washington starting a 10-0 run spanning the end of the quarter to take the 58-45 lead.

Blazers drop close game at Lebanon

The REPORTER

University lost for the third time in their past four games Tuesday night at Lebanon, falling 63-61 to the host Tigers in another game that came down to the final seconds.

The Trailblazers again played from behind most of the night, leading for less than four minutes of the game. University fell into a 26-16 hole with 2:44 left in the first half, before outscoring Lebanon 9-0 the rest of the second quarter to trail just 26-25 at halftime.

The teams traded the

lead early in the third quarter with University taking a 32-31 lead on Blake Gray's three pointer. Lebanon jumped out to a 37-32 advantage on a pair of second chance baskets and eventually led 41-35 before the Trailblazers battled back. Josh Henderson scored on a rebound basket and made a three pointer to take a one-point lead. University appeared to gain momentum at the end of the third quarter when Noah Cortez stole the ball and passed ahead to Gray who completed a three-point play with 4.5 seconds left in the quarter

for a 43-41 lead. Lebanon took the momentum right back draining a three pointer at the buzzer from the left wing for a 44-43 lead. University was never able to regain the lead.

A pair of Tigers free throws with 11.8 seconds left gave them a 62-57 lead. Cortez hit a three pointer from the left corner with 6.8 seconds left. Lebanon split two free throws to give University a last chance to tie the game, however the Tigers fouled Josh McGee with 2.5 seconds left before the Blazers could get a shot up. McGee's first free throw was good, but attempting to miss the second free throw, the ball did not hit the rim giving Lebanon possession. The Tigers threw the inbound pass downcourt and ran out the clock.

Henderson led University with 26 points. Gray and Faisal Mohamud each had 12 points.

University is now 12-6 on the season and will play again Friday at Indianapolis Shortridge in the Pioneer Academic Athletic Conference third-place game.

Lebanon is 9-9.

Diving

Carmel's Gibson triumphs at diving regional

The REPORTER

Carmel's Helena Gibson overcame tough competition to win the Homestead girls diving regional on Tuesday.

Gibson finished first at the event with a score of 451.75 points. She held off Noblesville's Eryn McMahon, who placed second with a score of 441.70 points.

The top eight divers at each of the four regionals across the state qualify for the IHSAA state finals. Diving begins at 9 a.m. Saturday with the preliminaries and

the semifinals, with the finals taking place that afternoon.

Carmel's Emily Linder will join Gibson and McMahon at state. She placed seventh with a score of 348.55 points.

Four other Hamilton County divers competed at the regional. Fishers' Francesca Robinson placed 10th (314.90) and her Tigers teammate Paige Wilson was 12th (305.65).

Hamilton Heights' Mazie Morrison finished 17th (203.50) and the Huskies' Camille Powell placed 19th (178.55).

Men's Basketball

Boom outlast Nets behind Toney's career night

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom (12-8), the NBA G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers, closed their four game road trip with a 121-117 victory over the Long Island Nets (12-9) on Tuesday night at Place Bell.

Au'Diese Toney delivered a spectacular performance, scoring a career high 30 points on 10 of 16 shooting while adding eight rebounds and three steals. M.J. Iraldi recorded his first career double double, finishing with 21 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists on 7 of 14 shooting. Jalen Slawson flirted with a triple-double, posting 15 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, while DaJuan Gordon added 22 points.

The Nets were led by Nate Williams, who tallied 25 points, eight rebounds and six assists on 8 of 16 shooting. Malachi Smith contributed 18 points and 11 assists, and Tyson Etienne provided 23 points, six rebounds, four assists and two steals.

The opening half was a back-and-forth battle defined by scoring runs. After falling behind 12-2 early in the first quarter, the Boom responded with a 20-6 run to take a six point lead before Long Island tied the game entering the second. Noblesville shot a blistering 70 percent from the field and 85.7 percent from three in the opening period, but the Nets capitalized on six Boom turnovers to stay within striking distance.

Long Island surged ahead by seven early in the second quarter, but the Boom answered again - this time with 11 straight points to retake control. Noblesville outscored the Nets 35-25 in the frame, building a 71-61 half-time lead. Au'Diese Toney led all scorers at the break with 17 points, including 13 in the second quarter on 6 of 9 shooting.

The Boom pushed the lead to as many as 15 points to open the third, but the Nets countered with a 25-8 run to move in front by two late in the period. Noblesville weathered the push and regained a 92-90 lead entering the fourth. In a tightly contested final frame, the game was tied 108-108 with 4:42 remaining. From there, the Boom executed down the stretch, powered by 10 fourth quarter points from M.J. Iraldi as the Boom delivered timely buckets in the closing minutes. Noblesville never surrendered the lead in the fourth quarter, with five Boom players finishing in double figures to secure the win.

The Boom return home to face the College Park Skyhawks on Thursday morning at The Arena at Innovation Mile in their final game before NBA All Star 2026. Tipoff is scheduled for 11 a.m. on NBAGLeague.com.

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

College Signing

Cash signs to play softball at Centre College

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corp.

Hamilton Heights High School senior Lily Cash has officially signed her national letter of intent to continue her academic and athletic career at Centre College in Danville, Ky. Centre College is a member of the Southern Athletic Association and an NCAA Division III institution. She is the daughter of Amanda and Jon Cash.

A standout student-athlete, Cash has excelled both in the classroom and on the field throughout her high school career. Her academic and athletic achievements include: 2025 Summa Cum Laude, Hoosier Conference All-Academic Team, Hoosier All-Conference Honorable Mention, and Impact Player of the Year - Softball; 2024 Top Ten Percent and Hoosier All-Conference, and Departmental Honors Award - Mathematics; and 2023 Top Ten Percent and Hoosier All-Conference.

Cash, who plans to major in pre-medicine with the goal of becoming a dermatology physician assistant, shared that Centre College has felt like home for as long as she can remember. With grandparents living in Danville, she grew up visiting the campus and was drawn to its strong academic reputation, small class sizes, and close-knit community.

"Centre College is my home," she said. "When I took a deeper look during my first unofficial visit in July 2024, I knew it was the school I wanted to attend. The strong academic foundation, the labs, the small classes, and the incredible resources made me excited about the future I could build there." Cash also

looks forward to the additional opportunities Centre offers, including study-abroad programs and community engagement.

The chance to continue playing softball for four more years was the perfect bonus for Cash.

"Coach Laura Villagrana made me feel confident in my decision to attend Centre, and I can't wait to see what the future holds with her as my coach," she said. "The facilities and support for student-athletes are amazing."

A dedicated softball player since age 7, Cash has developed her skills through years of travel softball, hitting instruction with Karl Willis, and pitching lessons with Coach Amy Harper. She credits her family and teammates for shaping her into the athlete and person she is today.

"My dad has been a major influence in my development," she said. "He has supported me through everything from driving me to practices, games, camps, and tournaments to catching for me for 10 years. He pushes me to be the best version of myself. I'm also grateful for my mom, who has always encouraged me through the highs and lows, and for every teammate I've had. They've been more than teammates - they've been my best friends."

Beyond athletics, Cash is involved in National Honor Society, serves as a Husky Sports Ambassador, competes with the Indiana Bombers travel softball organization, and runs her own small business, Lily's Pet Services, serving families in Cicero, Arcadia, and Noblesville. She also trains in weightlifting at Raymer



Photo provided by Jen Kauffman
Hamilton Heights' Lily Cash has signed a letter of intent to play softball for the Centre College Colonels in Danville, Ky. Cash is pictured with her parents Jon and Amanda Cash.

Strength in Indianapolis.

"Lily has made a tremendous impact to our softball program over the last four years," said Shelby Wills, Hamilton Heights High School Head Softball Coach. "She's an exceptionally skilled and knowledgeable pitcher, outfielder, and hitter with an unmatched desire to see herself and her teammates succeed. Her determination and unwavering commitment to grow on and off the field has made her into a fierce competitor and an exceptional leader. She is the type of individual any program would be lucky to have, and we wish her all the best at Centre College."

Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Director, added, "Lily has been a major contributor to the softball program since her freshman year. She is an outstanding pitcher, but she is also an outstanding hitter and capable of playing in multiple positions. Even

more important, Lily has been an outstanding role model in the classroom having earned multiple academic distinctions and honors. She is precisely what we want our athletes to model here at Hamilton Heights."

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Feb. 11

BOYS BASKETBALL

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

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

HC HAMILTON COUNTY TELEVISION
Web Television **HCTV1**
www.HamiltonCountyTV.com



On your Amazon Fire TV or Device
Search for Hamilton County TV



www.HCTV1.com



www.HCTV2.com
Be Sure to Subscribe and Click the Bell to receive notifications of new videos



On your Roku TV or Roku Device
Search for HCTV1

