

THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 2026

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



**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Today: Morning clouds give way to some sunshine.  
 Tonight: Mostly clear.



HIGH: 41 LOW: 24

# Winning Lions love sight, soup & super trivia topics



Photo provided by Lisa Dick, Noblesville Lion Club

On Thursday, Feb. 5, the Noblesville Lions Club held their second Trivia Night at Bier Brewery. Teams were challenged to answer 10 questions per round on a variety of topics, including geography, soup, Superman, cereal mascots, Super Mario, winter Olympics, super music, and Super Bowl ads. After 10 rounds, the final was an all-or-nothing challenge where teams could wager up to 10 points on their knowledge of winter Olympic medals and past Super Bowls. The winning team won a trophy, gift cards to Bier Brewery, and tickets to the Lions' June 5 Grillin' on the Square event. (From left) Winners included Jamie Authier, Matt Authier, Sarah Haines, Shawn Curtis, Monica Jordan, and Kyle Jordan; and Lions trivia M.C. Josh Kozicki. All proceeds from the event will be used to purchase a vision screening camera for KidSight. The Lions would like to thank Bier Brewery and all the teams who joined for this fun fundraiser.

## Local author shares his fascinating DEA experience

*"When an Agent Retires"  
 With his debt tendered and gun surrendered,  
 Hands once steady and true may tremble a little now when out of view.*

*For all the times his nerves were frayed,  
 All for the love of the game he played.*

*With glory days long gone, shadows whisper "it's time to move on."*

*Now as he begins to ponder and dwell,  
 soon he knows all that's left*

*Are stories to tell, when an agent retires.  
 - Howard Oberst, DEA Special Agent, retired*



COLUMNIST

AMY SHANKLAND  
 Perfectly Imperfect

I was delighted last December to hear from a local reader, Howard Oberst, asking if I'd be interested in interviewing him about his new book. *Looking Back - A Small-Town Cop Becomes a DEA Special Agent* is available online through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Target.

When Howard initially dropped off the book for me to read, I admit I wasn't sure what I'd think about it. It's not my typical genre. However, I quickly became engrossed in his story, and my knowledge of and admiration for Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents grew by leaps and bounds.

Soon, Howard's stories drew me in. Agents like him sacrifice so much to keep us safe from the dangers that drugs pull people into.

Howard's awards show his dedication. They include:

1. DEA Exceptional Performance Award, 2002 and 2004
2. DEA Excellence of Performances, 1995 and 2000
3. US Department of Justice Award, 2000
4. United States Attorney's Award, 1996
5. U.S. Customs Appreciation Award, 1993
6. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Award, 2003

His career with the DEA took him to 15 states and seven countries. After reading about his adventures, which actually include some comical situations, I was ready to ask him questions.

### 1. Why did you write this book?

I started out just writing it for my descendants, but people told me, "You really should publish this." My grandfather was

See Local Author . . . Page 2

## Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre announces local auditions for remainder of 2026 Season

Casting roles in "Ring of Fire," "CATS," "Holiday Inn" & more

### The REPORTER

Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre announces upcoming adult auditions for productions in the remainder of its 2026 Season. These are for ages 19 and older, and includes both Equity and non-Equity performers.

This audition will seek to fill roles in *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Ring of Fire*, *CATS*, *Holiday Inn*, and *A Christmas Carol*.

**Auditions are by appointment only.** They will take place Monday, Feb. 23 (Equity Principal Auditions) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with dance callbacks from 6 to 8 p.m., and Tuesday, Feb. 24 (Equity Chorus Call), from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with dance callbacks at 2 p.m. Those with an audition appointment should report to the lobby of Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, 9301 Michigan Road, Indianapolis, to sign in.

The theatre is seeking actors who are racially, ethnically, and physically diverse, including all

gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities. To secure an audition or for more information, visit [BeefAndBoards.com](http://BeefAndBoards.com).

*The Play That Goes Wrong* performances are July 16 through Aug. 23, 2026. Rehearsals begin June 29, 2026.

*Ring of Fire* is on stage Aug. 27 through Oct. 4, 2026. Rehearsals start Aug. 13, 2026.

*CATS* runs from Oct. 8 through Nov. 22, 2026. Rehearsals begin Sept. 24, 2026.

*Holiday Inn* performances take place from Nov. 27 through Jan. 3, 2027. Rehearsals begin Nov. 12, 2026.

*A Christmas Carol* takes place from Dec. 4 to 22, 2025, with rehearsals starting on Nov. 27, 2026.

Those auditioning should prepare two contrasting vocal selections - one up tempo and one ballad - and music in the correct key. A one-minute monologue may be requested. Auditioners should also bring



Photo provided

Rehearsals for *Ring of Fire* start on Aug. 13, 2026.

an updated picture and resume, as well as dance clothes and their entire vocal book for a potential dance callback at 6 p.m.

Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre is an Equity Dinner Theatre. Everyone cast in shows receives negotiated payment. Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre is an Equal Opportu-

nity Employer. Check [BeefAndBoards.com](http://BeefAndBoards.com) or Beef & Boards' social media for updates. No phone calls, please.

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

## Cool Creek Elementary approved as name for elementary school returning to Westfield Intermediate building

### Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

On Tuesday evening, Feb. 10, the Westfield Washington Schools (WWS) Board of School Trustees approved Cool Creek Elementary School as the official name of the elementary school returning to the building currently known as Westfield Intermediate School.

The name Midland Crossing Elementary was also officially approved at the Board's Feb. 10 meeting by a unanimous vote.

As part of district rebalancing for the 2026-2027 school year, the Westfield Intermediate School building will be thoughtfully transitioned back into an elementary school, serving students and families in a space that originally opened as an elementary school in 1962.

The naming process began with an open invitation to Westfield Elementary families to participate in a collaborative workshop alongside school and district administrators. This



**WESTFIELD WASHINGTON SCHOOLS**

workshop served as a first and important step in the process, providing families the opportunity to learn about the building's history, review past student naming work, and consider naming patterns across WWS. Through thoughtful discussion and a couple of rounds of voting, participants identified four new finalist name options.

This process led to four new names as finalists: Cool Creek Elementary, Founders Rock Elementary, Lantern Station Elementary, and Union Meadows Elementary.

"I am incredibly grateful to the families who engaged in our naming process," Cool Creek Elementary School Andy Hilton said. "Their thoughtful engage-

ment helped shape this important decision, and it reflects the strong partnership we value between our school and families. As we open this new chapter together, I look forward to continuing to work alongside our community to establish this new school and new chapter for Westfield."

In alignment with School Board and district policy G450, which requires inviting input from the broader community before naming a school building, WWS then gathered feedback through an advisory poll sent to WWS staff, alumni, and others. The purpose of the poll was to gather perspectives and better understand the overall sentiment of the community; it was not a binding vote and did not, on its own,

determine the final school name.

A total of 916 respondents participated in the advisory poll. The overall rankings from the advisory poll were as follows:

- Cool Creek Elementary School - 31.4 percent
- Union Meadows Elementary School - 25.8 percent
- Westfield Elementary School - 22.0 percent
- Founders Rock Elementary School - 11.2 percent
- Lantern Station Elementary School - 9.8 percent

WWS extends its sincere thanks to the families of the newly named Cool Creek Elementary School who partnered with the district throughout the naming process, as well as to the many community members who took time to participate in the advisory poll.

Community members who would like to stay connected to WWS are invited to subscribe to the bi-weekly [Shamrock Blast email newsletter](#) for district-wide news.

## Young highlights importance of local news during hearing

### Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Todd Young

U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.), a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, discussed the importance of local news to American communities during a committee hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 10.



Young

The hearing focused on the Federal Communications Commission's current broadcast media ownership rules in light of today's evolving media landscape.

"If members of my community don't have access to their local news, it can be an impediment to useful information and the decisions they make, the actions they take," Sen. Young said. "Our sense of community can be undermined. But, I actually think what's most at stake is our democracy. If I don't know what's happening in the local planning meeting, if I don't know what's happening in the school board, if I don't where monies are being invested locally as it relates to road projects, it's hard for me to cast inform votes at the ballot box, it's hard for me to meaningfully engage in democracy at the local level."

Click here to watch the full video of Young's remarks.

## Hailey Buzbee's celebration of life

### The REPORTER

The family of Hailey Buzbee invites the public to join a celebration of life at 6 p.m. today, Feb. 12 at ITOWN Church, 12491 E. 136th St., Fishers. Doors will open at 5 p.m.

People are encouraged to wear pink, Hailey's favorite color.

Hailey's father, Beau Buzbee, welcomes all to "gather to honor and celebrate our beautiful Hailey and the extraordinary love she brought into this world."

Hailey's Celebration of Life will be livestreamed at [this link](#).

You can read Hailey's obituary at [this link](#).



Hailey Buzbee  
2008 — 2026

## LOCAL AUTHOR

from Page 1

in World War II, and I bet he had some great stories, which I never got to hear and are now lost to time. That was the first thing that got me on track to write this.

Three years and a lot of rewriting later ...

I don't consider myself an author, I just wrote what I lived. My wife spent a lot of hours editing it.

**2. What were your reasons for applying to become a DEA agent?**

I grew up believing that federal agents were the ultimate in law enforcement. The only agency that was hiring at the time was the DEA—I knew about the FBI but I hadn't heard much about the DEA. I talked to some of the older deputies and they told me they were the undercover narcs.

**3. Other than your dramatic plane ride where the aircraft plunged quickly — readers will be on the edge of their seats reading this scene — did you fear for your life at times? When and where?**

Oh my, yes! I did some crazy stuff as you read in the story, but in the plane ... I had no control. All the other times I felt like I had some control. With the mentality you develop, you sort of gain an immortal sense. "It's not gonna happen to me."

**4. You say your DEA experience was "the best**

**times of my life" (quoting from the Bryan Adams song). Why do you say that?**

It was like never having to grow up — a lifetime of cops and robbers. It was so much fun. The guys I worked with were funny. The camaraderie, you can't compare it to anything. I lived for it. It was what I wanted to do. I didn't want to miss out on anything. But it was difficult for the family.

I've been married over 50 years to my wife Luanne. The success of our marriage through those times ... it's all her ... I retired because of my grandchildren. I drive them places, I go to all their games. I've transitioned from the sometimes-absent father to the doting grandfather.

**5. Do you have any events coming up where we can hear you speak/purchase your book?**

I signed up for the Hamilton East Public Library Book Fair schedule for Sunday April 19 at the county fairgrounds.

**6. Do you plan to write other books? As readers will learn, your career involves more than your DEA experience.**

Maybe! My wife says, "never again." She spent so much time fixing my grammar.

I ended up working with Anti-Terrorism Assistance,

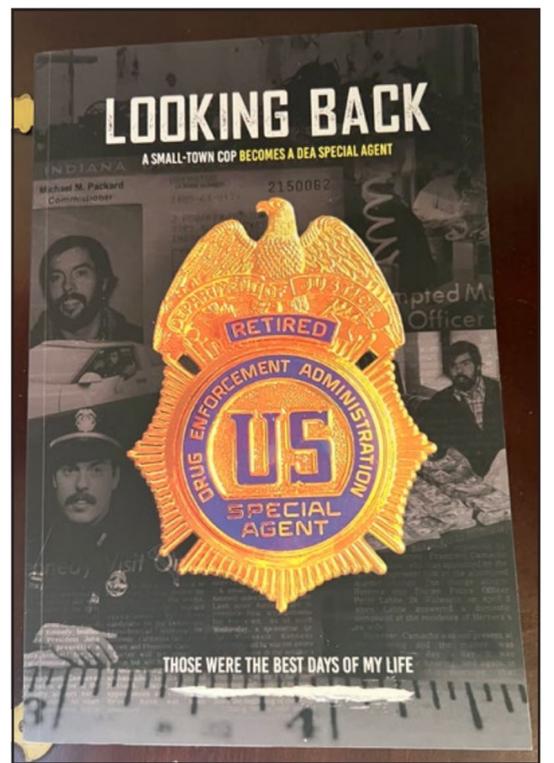


Photo provided

a section of the State Department. I'm still doing that. I'm slated to go back to Pakistan this summer and teach a class there. There are just a ton of stories of traveling all over the world, working with foreign governments.

Finally, Howard added, "I hope the book came across as an education of how people get tangled up in drugs ... I didn't want to beat anyone over the head with it." But I've learned so

much and seen so much I felt I should pass it on.

Readers, I hope you'll visit Howard in April or purchase his book online. It's a remarkable, harrowing, often humorous, unforgettable story.

Amy Shankland is an empty-nester, writer, and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John and two dogs. You can reach her via email at [amys@greenavenue.info](mailto:amys@greenavenue.info).

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# Meta breaks ground on new \$10B data center campus at LEAP in Lebanon

Submitted by Boone County EDC

The State of Indiana, the City of Lebanon, and the Boone County Economic Development Corporation announced Wednesday, Feb. 11 that Meta has officially broken ground on a new data center near Lebanon.

The new Meta data center represents a significant investment in Boone County and marks a major milestone in advancing the region's leadership in technology and innovation and driving economic growth across Indiana.

"Indiana has the business-first environment and the central location needed to support the global infrastructure of tomorrow's economy," Governor Mike Braun said. "Meta's significant investment in Indiana is a testament to our workforce and to our communities that will power its growth and its future here in Lebanon."

Once completed, the Lebanon Data Center will represent an investment of more than \$10 billion in the region. At the peak of construction, the project is expected to support more than 4,000 construction jobs, and once operational, the campus will support approximately 300 jobs. Beyond job creation, Meta's investments will also contribute to local and state tax bases, and support area schools and non-profits through its annual grant programs. Information on construction and job opportunities is available [online](#).

"At Meta, we're building the infrastructure that will power the next generation of AI technology, and Lebanon is now at the heart of that effort. This is one of our largest investments to date, and it marks an important milestone in our AI ambitions," said Rachel Peterson, vice president of data centers at Meta. "We've been proud to call Indiana home since 2024,



Rendering provided

The new data center will be located on the north side of State Road 32 just west of Lebanon. Roundabouts will be added at the entrances to the complex.

and this project deepens that commitment, creating local jobs, supporting the community, and partnering with state and local leaders to drive real impact across the region."

Located at the LEAP Innovation and Research District, Meta, which owns technologies like Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, plans to invest approximately \$45 million dollars in public road improvements that will support continued economic development in the City of Lebanon, Boone County, and surrounding regions.

Meta will be paying for the full costs for energy used by the data center, so consumers aren't paying the costs. Meta is also donating \$1 million per year, over the next 20 years, to the Boone REMC Community Fund to provide direct energy cost assistance to families in need. In addition, the company has backed over 400 megawatts of new energy projects in Indiana as part of its goal to match energy use with 100 percent clean and renewable energy, and the data center buildings will achieve LEED gold certification once operational – a standard for energy, water, and environmental stewardship.

Meta officials have said the company will pay the full cost of water and waste-

water service required to support the data center site, including investments of over \$75 million in public water infrastructure projects. Meta is committed to efficient water management and has set a goal to be water positive in 2030, meaning they will restore more water than they consume in the local watershed. As part of this commitment, Meta has also partnered with Arable to provide advanced irrigation solutions to independent farmers in the Upper Wabash River Basin. This project will restore 200 million gallons of water every year, over the next 10 years, while saving energy and reducing costs for growers.

"We are proud to welcome Meta to Lebanon's LEAP Research and Innovation District," Lebanon Mayor Matt Gentry said. "By choosing Lebanon, Meta is not only investing in our community but is also strengthening the critical digital infrastructure that powers the modern world. In today's economy, data centers serve as the essential backbone for national security, innovation, and global competitiveness. These facilities are launchpads for the next generation of American innovation, securing our digital sovereignty and enabling the breakthroughs in artificial intelligence that will define

our future. This partnership positions Lebanon as a key player in a vital national industry while also providing a stable, long-term tax base that allows us to invest in our city's future while keeping the local tax burden low for our residents."

HAMILTON COUNTY

## Interfaith SUMMIT



### Interfaith Summit seeks to build understanding & collaboration

**The REPORTER**

The Hamilton County Interfaith Summit will take place at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, in Hall B at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville.

Today, Feb. 12, is the final day to register for this free event. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

Hosted by Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County, the Summit will focus on practical ways people can respond together to real needs facing Hamilton County families and neighborhoods. Please plan to attend for a morning of insight, conversation, and purpose-driven engagement. This year's partners in-

clude H.A.N.D., Aspire, Good Samaritan Network, Heart of Indiana United Way, and Carmel Fire Department.

This year's Event Sponsor is Gaylor Electric.

**Schedule**

- 8:10 a.m.:** Arrival/Check-in
- 8:30 a.m.:** Session #1 – Housing Stability and Affordability
- 9:30 a.m.:** Session #2 – Mental Health Access and Awareness
- 10:30 a.m.:** Session #3 – COAD Disaster / Volunteer Centers
- 11:30 a.m.:** Mingle & Hot Meal
- 12:15 p.m.:** Session #4 – Dealing with Extreme Temperatures

# 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.



# MELT THE TRAIL

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# Study shows Hamilton County's tourism industry delivered record economic impact

## Momentum continues with marquee events & new attractions

### The REPORTER

A newly released 2024 economic impact study provided by the **Indiana Destination Development Corporation** and conducted by Rockport Analytics shows the tourism industry's role as a driver of economic vitality in Hamilton County. Continuing a trend of tourism growth, visitor spending exceeded \$1.2 billion toward Hamilton County businesses and net economic impact totaled \$733 million.

This sustained momentum has been fueled by a 20 percent surge in hotel rooms over the past three years, driven by a steady dose of regional marquee events and experiences that attract leisure visitation year-round.

Hamilton County Tourism, Inc. (HCT) plays a pivotal role in the county's tourism economic growth through strategic marketing and promotion, product development and event support that drives economic activity across the destination.

"It's incredible to witness the growth and evolution of Hamilton County's tourism economy and the positive impact it has had on the region," Hamilton County Tourism, Inc. President & Chief Executive Officer Karen Radcliff said. "Tourism directly supports local businesses and promotes a robust job market. It also contributes to improved

quality of life for residents."

Building off the successes of 2024, the organization's **2025 Year in Review** shows that the tourism industry in Hamilton County is not slowing down.

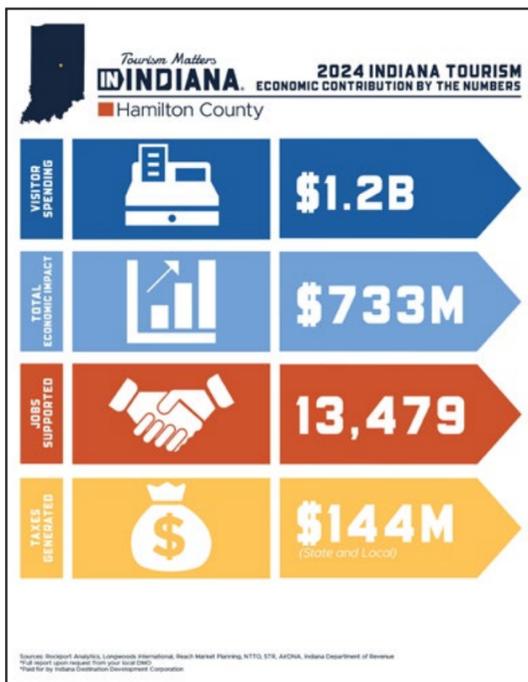
### Strategic marketing & promotion

In early 2025, when hotel occupancy and future bookings were lagging by double digits over the previous year, the HCT team worked alongside partners to create packages that drove results. Using data and research tools, HCT ran incentive campaigns for meeting planners during projected lulls in hotel occupancy, which successfully resulted in 20,580 room nights booked throughout the year.

The organization also launched the **HamCo Hubway** last September, elevating Hamilton County's trail system through a reimagined trail guide and layered marketing tactics both locally and regionally. During the two-month campaign, the team distributed 19,000 maps and generated 4.3 million digital impressions.

### Major event support

In 2025, Hamilton County Tourism affiliate Hamilton County Sports Authority supported 47 sporting events that generated more than \$70 million in economic activity. Key events included LIV Golf Indianapolis and World Aquatics, among others,



Graphic provided by Hamilton County Tourism

showcasing the county's capacity to host world-class competitions that drive significant economic benefit to local businesses and the broader community.

### Commitment to community

The organization's community-focused programs also showed strong growth, including support for a county-wide closed captioning initiative to support the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. Sustainability was another core focus and included projects such as a tree planting effort at Drop-light Grand Park Sports

Campus and a new pollinator garden at Ruoff Music Center.

### Looking ahead to 2026

Hamilton County will host returning international events, including LIV Golf Indianapolis and the World Fitness Project. HCT will also support new attractions coming to the destination, such as Conner Prairie's reimagined Museum Experience Center and Skylake Adventure Park.

To learn more about Hamilton County Tourism's strategic plans and future initiatives, go to [HamiltonCountyTourism.com](http://HamiltonCountyTourism.com).

# Two Carmel students make UND dean's list

### The REPORTER

More than 1,900 University of North Dakota (UND) students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the 2025 fall semester Dean's List.

Among those students are Jesse Shepson and Kyla Straw, both of Carmel.

The UND Dean's List comprises students whose

grade point average are in the top 15 percent of the enrollment in each of the University's degree granting Colleges and Schools. A student must have completed no fewer than 12 semester hours of academic work for the semester, of which eight or more hours must be graded work rather than "satisfactory/unsatisfactory."

# U.S. Postal Service to hold job fair in Indianapolis

By GREGG MONTGOMERY  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

The U.S. Postal Service will host a job fair in Indianapolis to fill several open positions in the city and surrounding areas.

The event will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 21 at the U.S. Postal Service Conference Center, 8765 Guion Road. That's at the northwest of the intersection of West 86th Street and Michigan Road on the northwest side of Indianapolis.

A news release issued Monday said rural carrier associate positions start at \$21.89 an hour, and include a benefits package of both medical and dental coverage. Other positions: assistant rural carrier, \$21.89 an hour; city carrier, \$26.28 an hour; city carrier assistance clerk, \$21.44 an hour; postal support employee mail processing clerk, \$21.44 an

hour; postal support employee and service/distribution associate, \$21.44 an hour; and auto technician, \$33 an hour.

People can apply [online](#) or at the fair. The Postal Service will provide computers at the conference center to apply for jobs, and staff will be available to help people.

The release did not say how many positions are available.

Angela Brown is the job fair coordinator and workforce planning specialist for the Indiana District U.S. Postal Service. In her role with local services, Brown manages workforce planning and coordinates hiring events to address staffing needs within the Indiana District.

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/politics/u-s-postal-service-to-hold-job-fair-in-indianapolis](http://wishtv.com/news/politics/u-s-postal-service-to-hold-job-fair-in-indianapolis).*



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

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East District Office: (765) 639-0671

[www.spartz.house.gov](http://www.spartz.house.gov)

# County Coroner's Office seeks public assistance in identifying Fox Hollow murder victim

**Submitted by Hamilton County Coroner's Office**

The Hamilton County Coroner's Office is requesting the public's assistance in identifying a victim connected to the Fox Hollow murders investigation.

Human remains recovered from the Fox Hollow site have yielded a DNA profile that does not match any entries in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). An extensive forensic genetic genealogy investigation, reaching as far back as the 1700s, has successfully identified the victim's deceased father. However, investigators have been unable to determine the identity of the victim's mother, preventing positive identification of the victim.

The identified father is

Jerome Clarence "Jerry" Harvey. Harvey was described as 6-foot-5. Harvey worked in construction and lived in Indianapolis for the majority of his life. He may have operated a furniture store in Fort Wayne in the early 1970s. He was known to frequent New Albany, Ind., and may have attended high school in Indianapolis during the early 1960s.

Public records indicate Harvey was married four different times. Genetic evidence indicates Harvey's previous wives may not be the mother of the unknown victim.

Based on the available evidence, investigators be-



Harvey

lieve the victim was a male child fathered by Jerome Clarence "Jerry" Harvey.

Dr. Susan Walsh, an expert in forensic genetics and DNA phenotyping from Indiana University, analyzed the DNA profile that was generated from the remain of the unknown victim and provided prediction estimates based on current genetic knowledge of the physical characteristics of the unidentified victim. According to Dr. Walsh, the victim was a male with very pale to pale skin, brown to dark brown auburn hair, with hazel brown eyes.

Hamilton County Coroner Jeff Jellison is asking

anyone who may have information about a male child connected to Jerry Harvey, particularly information regarding the child's mother, to come forward.

"Even seemingly small details may be critical to identifying the victim and bringing resolution to this case," Jellison said.

Anyone with relevant information is encouraged to contact the Hamilton County Coroner's Office at (317) 770-4415.

## Noblesville Parks & Recreation seeking food and beverage vendors for 4th of July Fireworks Festival

**The REPORTER**

The Noblesville Parks & Recreation Department is now accepting applications from food and beverage vendors for the 2026 4th of July Fireworks Festival.

Each year on July 4, Noblesville transforms into a vibrant celebration of patriotism and community spirit. The festivities begin with the annual parade through the historic downtown square and continue with the Fireworks Festival at Forest Park, featuring live entertainment, family-friendly activities, and a spectacular fireworks finale.

The department is currently seeking:

- Food trucks
- Food vendors
- Beverage vendors

"This event continues to grow each year and serves as a signature moment for our community," Recreation Manager Parker Irwin said. "We're proud to create a celebration that brings residents together, and our food and beverage partners are a critical part of the festival experience."

Vendor space is limited, and early application is encouraged. All interested food and beverage vendors must [apply online](#).

## United Way literacy grants now available for Hamilton County child care providers, schools & nonprofits

**Submitted**

United Way of Central Indiana is inviting Hamilton County child care providers, schools, and community organizations to apply for grants designed to help them start or expand literacy initiatives.

Applications are now open through March 9 for United Way's Literacy Fund, which provides grants of \$10,000 to \$25,000 to support literacy projects and efforts for children within the birth to age 8 range that improve language development, early literacy skills, reading, and writing.

Now in its second year, the Literacy Fund is open to licensed nonprofit child care centers, licensed family



child care homes, registered ministries, licensed out-of-school time providers, Title I elementary schools and nonprofits located in United Way's seven-county service area: Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Marion, Morgan, and Putnam counties.

Interested applicants must attend one of two virtual information sessions:

- Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 3 to 4 p.m. [Register here.](#)
- Monday, Feb. 23 from

1 to 2 p.m. [Register here.](#)

Applications will be provided following the info session. Application questions can be sent to Cody Hauptert, United Way's early care and learning director, at [cody.hauptert@uwci.org](mailto:cody.hauptert@uwci.org).

Last year, more than \$500,000 was awarded to 33 child care providers, schools, and community organizations across central Indiana, including two in Hamilton County.

## Carmel High School Planetarium to present "The Little Star That Could"

**Submitted**

The Carmel High School Planetarium Club invites you to see "The Little Star That Could."

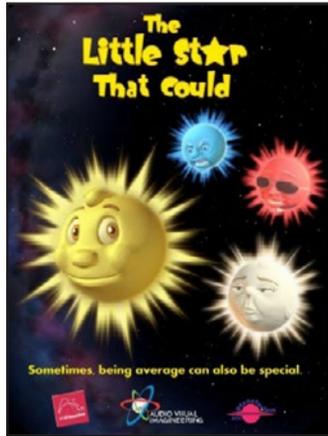
The presentation will take place at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 in the Carmel High School Planetarium. [Click here](#) for tickets.

"The Little Star That Could" is a story about Little Star, an average yellow star in search for planets of his own to protect and warm. Along the way, he meets other stars, learns what makes each star special, and discovers that stars combine to form star clusters and galaxies. Eventually, Little Star finds his planets. Each planet is introduced to the audience with basic information about our Solar System.

Attendees will also tour the night sky in the planetarium. This presentation is suitable for audiences of ages 4 and above. This show will run for 45 minutes.

Enter through the main entrance of the school on Main Street, walk past the Dale Graham Auditorium, and turn right. Doors will open 15 minutes before show time. *No one will be admitted after the program begins. Children aged 12 years and younger should be accompanied by an adult.*

[Click here](#) to learn more



Graphic provided

or call Planetarium Director Keith Turner at (317) 846-7721 ext. 7446, or email [wkturner@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:wkturner@ccs.k12.in.us). You can also follow along on X at [@CCSPlanetarium](https://twitter.com/CCSPlanetarium).

## Illinois Man convicted in Burger King armed robbery that sparked multi-county vehicle chase

**Submitted**

A federal jury has convicted Cameron Love, 28, Rockford, Ill., of interference with commerce by robbery, brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, and unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Evidence presented at trial showed that on Jan. 16, 2025, Love robbed the Burger King located at 7620 N. Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis. Armed with a 9mm Smith & Wesson handgun, Love entered the restaurant and paced in front of the counter. When an employee approached to assist him, Love drew the firearm from his coat pocket, pointed it at her, and demanded she open the register. The employee fled to the kitchen. Love then vaulted over the counter, pointing the gun at

additional employees and customers, threatening to kill anyone who resisted, and demanding money. He stole \$459 and fled in a Chevy Cruze driven by Michael Scott.

The employee immediately called 911. IMPD officers attempted a traffic stop on the Cruze near 86th Street and Keystone Avenue, but the vehicle fled, initiating a high-speed pursuit across multiple counties. Dash-camera footage captured Love throwing both the stolen cash and the handgun out of the vehicle during the chase. The pursuit ended in Carmel. Four days later, IMPD officers recovered the loaded firearm – frozen in ice and protruding from the snow – near a bike path on 106th Street.

Love is prohibited from possessing firearms due to

prior felony convictions for aggravated robbery and armed robbery in Illinois.

U.S. District Court Judge James P. Hanlon presided over the trial and will sentence Love at a later date. Love's co-defendant, Michael Scott, was sentenced in October 2025 to four years in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release after pleading guilty to acting as an accessory after the fact.

The FBI and IMPD investigated this case. U.S. Attorney Wheeler thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Pamela Domash and Brendan J. Sullivan, who are prosecuting this case, with the assistance of Paralegal Specialist, Shané Penney, Systems Manager Kathy Wells, Victim Witness Specialist Stephanie Lloyd and Victim Witness Contractor, Maurine Bwambok.

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# Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre sets new standard

Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre (GHDT) presents a world premiere: *The Pageant* – a crossover/mixed-arts offering that stretches the skill set of the company's dancers and pleases the audience.



**KEN KLINGENMEIER**  
*A Seat on the Aisle*

provides wry sidebar remarks and expressions, he involves himself with the contestants as any emcee might on a pageant stage. He is perhaps engaged more as an actor than as a dancer.



Photo by Can Toksoy

Harper Lynn Beavers (Josie Moody) at the center of the Evening Gown competition.

GHDT's programs are always full of story-telling and relatable emotions, but *The Pageant* takes these elements another step upward.

With his dance troupe, Mr. Hancock has created a piece that combines the dancers' impressive skills for movement with additional spoken-word thespianic endeavors. For example: Thomas Mason is cast here as the pageant's emcee. He dances – but he also announces, he

Likewise, the dancers playing the crown-seeking hopefuls are present outside of dance expression. They all have dance solos, but the characterizations go beyond that – they play conflict and caring akin to a musical comedy genre. Also they show other skills – some sing, some act out Shakespeare, some do martial arts, some do gardening demonstrations – always in character and in the framework of a beauty pageant. They have even included

improvisation in the show as each contestant is interviewed with a question they actually have never heard before. And no one really knows who the winner is until the end. It is different every show.

In other words, *The Pageant* is unlike anything I have ever seen GHDT offer before. It is a very clever and fun departure and it works. Oh, as expected, there are

many extraordinary dances, but we are treated far beyond that. And as expected, costuming by Mr. Hancock is an amazing eye-ful and music choices are grand.

**Bottom line:** This very unique program is presented at The Florence, 329 Gradle Drive, Carmel, a smaller venue which makes the performances even more impactful as the performers seem within arm's length at times. Have I made the point that this is like nothing else we have seen from GHDT before? I hope you go see it and experience it for yourself.

Performances run through Feb. 22. Times vary depending on date. Tickets for *The Pageant* can be purchased by calling (800) 515-2171 or online at [GregoryHancockDanceTheatre.org](http://GregoryHancockDanceTheatre.org).

Read more great play reviews from *A Seat on the Aisle* at [asota.wordpress.com](http://asota.wordpress.com).

# Poor investment in Medicare Advantage won't solve the affordability crisis

By DWIGHT "D" HALL  
Guest Columnist

I was disappointed to see the Trump Administration's proposed 2027 Medicare Advantage funding update come in far below what seniors were led to expect. At a time when the President has rightly emphasized affordability and stability for older Americans, this proposal moves in the opposite direction.

More than 35 million Americans – including hundreds of thousands of seniors here in Indiana – choose Medicare Advantage because it offers predictable costs, coordinated care, and benefits that help people stay healthy and independent. These plans often cost less than traditional Medicare while providing protections seniors count on, such as out-of-pocket limits, care coordination, telehealth, and transportation to medical appointments.

Affordability isn't just about low premiums and out of pocket costs; it's about certainty. Seniors need confidence that their coverage will remain reliable from year to year, not subject to policy shifts that raise costs or reduce benefits. Stable funding allows Medicare Advantage plans to invest in preventive care,

manage chronic conditions, and deliver value for both beneficiaries and taxpayers.

Unfortunately, recent policy changes and ongoing uncertainty in Washington have already put pressure on the program. A flat funding proposal, like the administration's 2027 advance notice, effectively functions as a cut when it fails to keep pace with rising medical costs. The impact won't be felt by insurers – it will be felt by seniors through higher out-of-pocket costs, fewer plan options, and reductions in benefits many rely on.

President Trump previously recognized the importance of protecting Medicare Advantage during budget negotiations last year. That same principle should apply today. Millions of seniors depend on this program to manage health care costs and maintain access to care.

Senator Jim Banks has long been a strong advocate for Indiana seniors. We are counting on him to urge the administration to make a stronger investment in Medicare Advantage – one that prioritizes stability, affordability, and access, and ensures seniors can continue to live healthier, more secure lives.

Dwight "D" Hall is a Medicare Advantage beneficiary.

# Indiana Connections Academy Opens enrollment for 2026-2027 school year as demand for flexible learning grows

The REPORTER

Indiana Connections Academy, a tuition-free full-time public virtual school, is now enrolling students in grades K-12 for the 2026-27 school year. Founded in 2010, the school offers an established online education program that serves students statewide.

Indiana Connections Academy provides a high-quality educational experience that keeps students motivated and engaged with a strong circle of support and a deep sense of belonging. The school's team of supportive and experienced educators, specially trained in online instruction, establish meaningful connections with students helping them achieve their full potential and reach their goals.



Indiana Connection Academy's College and Career Readiness program for middle and high school students integrates traditional academic subjects with industry-leading, career-focused options like IT, business, health sciences and marketing. This program equips students with durable skills like leadership, critical thinking, and teamwork. Students can participate in career exploration and industry networking opportunities to build confidence, make connections, and find direction to prepare for their future.

a strong degree of intrinsic motivation and critical thinking while enrolled at Indiana Connections Academy.

Throughout the year, students can participate in a variety of in-person activities designed to foster community and build meaningful relationships. These include field trips, student government, National Honor Society, prom, an in-person graduation ceremony, Back to School Connections Week, Fall Fest, STEAM Day, Winter Formal and Spring Student Showcase. Indiana Connections Academy also provides extensive electives such as foreign languages, digital technology and career and technical education; as well as honors and AP courses. Additionally, students can join an array of online clubs, covering interests like robotics, gaming, poetry, and art.

"Our mission at Indiana Connections Academy is to support the academic success of all our students by empowering them to engage in critical thinking through a standards-based, forward-thinking educational experience," said Kelly Simone, executive director of Indiana Connections Academy. "By offering personalized guidance and a focus on career readiness, we help students build well-rounded education plans that help prepare them for graduation and beyond."

Enrollment for Indiana Connections Academy's 2026-27 school year is now underway for students in grades K-12. Interested families are encouraged to attend an online information session to learn more, ask questions, and discover if virtual school is the right fit for their student. For more information about Indiana Connections Academy or to begin the enrollment process, call 1-833-591-0251 or visit [IndianaConnectionsAcademy.com](http://IndianaConnectionsAcademy.com).

For more than 15 years, Indiana Connections Academy has served thousands of students with a variety of needs. Students complete rigorous schoolwork with virtual instruction and support from state-certified teachers. Students develop

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### Meeting Notice

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Board will meet in an executive session at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(2)(B) Discussion of Pending Litigation; and IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(2)(D) Purchase or Lease of Real Estate. A regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m. at Osprey Pointe Pavilion at Morse Park & Beach, 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville.

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](mailto:PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com).

Send Meeting Notices to:  
[News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com)

## Sen. Banks launches TruckSafe Tipline to report unlawful trucking networks & illegal drivers

Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Jim Banks

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, Senator Jim Banks (R-Ind.) launched the TruckSafe Tipline for truckers and those who work in the trucking industry to share concerns about carriers employing or contracting with drivers who are not legally in the United States, who are not authorized to drive a truck, or who cannot meet required English-language safety standards.



Banks

The TruckSafe Tipline can be found [here](#).

Reports submitted to the TruckSafe Tipline will be reviewed and shared with the U.S. Department of Transportation and its Office of Inspector General to help protect roadway safety and ensure a fair, lawful trucking industry.

“Indiana is the Crossroads of America and Hoosiers are getting killed because drivers who shouldn’t be here in the first place are behind the wheel,” Sen. Banks said. “If you’re driving a truck on our roads, you need to be legal, you need to be able to read traffic signs, and you need to follow the law. The TruckSafe Tipline gives people on the ground a way to speak up when they see carriers cutting corners and putting lives at risk.”

### Background

Last week, a Kyrgyzstani national who crossed the southern border illegally in December 2023 and was let into the U.S. by the Biden administration by using the CBP One cell phone app killed four Indiana men after swerving into oncoming traffic on State Road 67 in Jay County. The victims of the accident include a

50-year-old father, his two sons, ages 19 and 25, and one other person.

Over the weekend, Department of Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said AJ Partners, the carrier that employed the illegal alien involved in the Jay County crash, and a number of other companies are under investigation by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Duffy said, “These interconnected carriers have all the markings of FRAUD and are accused of being CHAMELEON CARRIERS. This is when companies swap names and DOT numbers to avoid enforcement.”

This was not the first fatal accident caused by an illegal truck driver on Indiana’s roads. In November 2025, a Georgian national who entered the country illegally during the Biden Administration in 2022 and was granted a commercial driver’s license by New York State caused a crash that killed Indiana National Guardsman Terry Frye. When the authorities tried to communicate with the foreign driver at the scene, they discovered that the driver could not speak English and required a translator, according to the Boone County Sheriff’s Office.

In October 2025, an illegal alien from Serbia and Montenegro driving a semi-truck on U.S. Highway 20 in Portage, Indiana caused a multi-car accident that killed a 54-year-old. Despite being in the United States illegally since 2011, the driver owned two trucking companies that received over \$36,000 in COVID-19 relief funding.



Photo provided

## Vicious Biscuit offers omelet for Lenten season

Submitted

Vicious Biscuit is setting the brunch table for Lent season with a warm, comforting new limited-time dish. Now through April 5, guests can enjoy the all-new Charleston Omelet, available for a limited time at all Vicious Biscuit locations.

The Charleston Omelet is brunch comfort done the Vicious Biscuit way. Made with cage-free brown eggs, it’s folded over house-made pimento cheese and blackened shrimp, then finished with Lowcountry gravy and fresh chives.

“Every bite delivers the kind of rich, comforting Southern flavor Charleston, S.C., is known for,” said George McLaughlin,

Co-Founder and CEO of Vicious Biscuit. “This is the kind of omelet you order when you want to sit back, slow down, and really enjoy brunch. It’s warm, welcoming, and meant to be shared with good company – just like in the Lowcountry.”

The Charleston Omelet is available in-store or through the Vicious Biscuit Rewards app. Learn more at [viciousbiscuit.com](#).

**ACCURATE  
BALANCED  
LOCAL NEWS**

# I’m With Her folk trio to perform June 25 in Carmel

The REPORTER

Fresh from two wins at last week’s Grammy Awards, folk supergroup I’m With Her is coming in June to Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

Known for their instrumental skills and rich vocal harmonies, the trio features acclaimed singer-songwriters Sarah Jarosz, Aoife O’Donovan of the Americana band Crooked Still, and Sara Watkins, co-founder of progressive bluegrass band Nickel Creek.

The performance is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25, at the Payne & Mencias Palladium, 1 Carter Green, Carmel. Tickets starting at \$36 go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 13 at [TheCenterPresents.org](#), by phone at (317) 843-3800, or in person at the Payne &

Mencias Palladium’s Fifth Third Bank Box Office.

The members of I’m With Her first discovered their chemistry during an impromptu collaboration at the 2014 Telluride Bluegrass Festival. The band won wide praise for its 2018 debut album *See You Around* and later won a Grammy for Best American Roots Song with the standalone single “Call My Name.” At this year’s 68th Annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 1, they claimed the titles of Best Folk Album for their sophomore release, *Wild and Clear and Blue*, and Best American Roots Song for the opening track, “Ancient Light.” The three members have 39 Grammy nominations among them.

*Wild and Clear and Blue* also won Album of the Year



Photo provided  
You can see the Grammy-winning trio I’m With Her live in Carmel on June 25. [Click here for tickets.](#)

at the 2026 International Folk Music Awards, where I’m With Her tied for Artist of the Year. In April, the group will release its first live album, *Sing Me Alive*.

The concert is part of the Printing Partners Encore Series and the 2025-2026 Center Presents Season sponsored by Allied Solutions.

# Don’t miss these two performances at the Center

The REPORTER

There’s still time to get tickets for these events and more coming up at Carmel’s Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to [TheCenterPresents.org](#).

**Printing Partners  
Encore Series  
An Intimate Evening  
with JJ Grey & Mofro  
Sunday, Feb 22  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Payne & Mencias  
Palladium**

From his early days playing cover songs behind chicken wire at a west side Jacksonville juke joint to playing sold-out shows at some of the largest venues and music festivals in the world, JJ Grey has always delivered his soul-honest truths.

Since his first album, *Blackwater*, back in 2001, Grey has been releasing deeply moving, masterfully written, funkified rock and front porch Southern soul music. With his 10th album



Photo provided

See the Peking Acrobats at the Payne & Mencias Palladium on Feb. 26.

*Olustee*, released last year, Grey is back, singing his personal stories with universal themes of redemption, rebirth, hard luck, and inner peace.

Grey’s songs are steeped in the mythical Southern stories of his ancestral Florida home and filled with people from his own life. His message is simple and strong – respect the natural world and always try to live in the moment. And never forget the importance of

having a good time.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

**Family Series  
The Peking Acrobats  
Thursday, Feb. 26  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Payne & Mencias  
Palladium**

The Peking Acrobats return for their 35th North American Tour, bringing their program of sensational Chinese acrobatics, balancing feats, comedy, pageantry, and much more.

In this spectacular show

for all ages, the grace and precision of the acrobats demonstrate the triumph of years of dedicated training and discipline. From the dangerous climbing chair stack high above the audience, to the gravity-defying contortionists and tumblers, to the spectacular Bicycle Pagoda with multiple performers riding atop a single bicyclist – all this and more comprises a marvelous and exciting entertainment event.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

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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

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**Sherry Rose Price**

May 6, 1938 – February 4, 2026

Sherry Rose Price, 87, Sheridan, passed away on Wednesday evening, February 4, 2026, at Wellbrooke of Westfield. Born May 6, 1938, in Hamilton County, she was the daughter of William H. and Clara Mae (Cox) Hoover.

She was a 1957 graduate of Sheridan High School and a member of the Sheridan First Christian Church.

There was nothing more important in Sherry's life than her family. She was the glue that held everything together, and the oil that kept it running on all cylinders. Most importantly, she was exactly what you needed her to be at any given moment.

Sherry took her role as mom very seriously. When the kids were growing up, mornings were filled with the sounds of country music on the radio, the smell of a hearty breakfast – and the knowledge that, unless your morning chores got done, breakfast would remain just a smell. She instilled a strong work ethic in her children. Though it may not have been appreciated at that moment, work ethic became a cornerstone of every one of them as they grew older. In the summers, school gave way to mowing lawns (push mowing; no riders on this crew). Keeping the kids busy was just one of her many life lessons. As the summer grew hotter, that usually meant the addition of hiring on with a detasseling crew, and the teaching of another of Sherry's life lessons, roll up your sleeves and take care of business. When there weren't enough hours in the day to work in the fields and mow yards, Sherry would handle the mowing so that everything that needed done, was done. This lesson was best taught through example.

In October of 1973, the family purchased Boyer Heating and Air Conditioning in Sheridan, where Charles had been working for 19 years, and Price Heating was born. While he (and eventually the boys) did the leg work, Sherry slid into the management position and never looked back. Though she could be a task master, Sherry knew that the crew ran on their stomachs, so she always made sure that she kept their bellies filled with her excellent home cooking. After six years of managing the shop, she was "promoted" to managing the family's other business in town, McDonald's Hardware, which she and Charles owned until 2000. One of the conditions of her relocation was that she still had to cook for everybody over at the shop.

As much as she loved her children, becoming a grandma was the role Sherry was born to play. This gave her a new opportunity to share the things she loved with a whole new set of people. She loved celebrating Halloween: she'd don her witch costume, pass out treats (and some tricks), and finish the evening by feeding and entertaining grandkids. She loved hosting family Easter egg hunts and game



nights (Uno, Aggravation, and spoons were favorites), and she delighted in finding the perfect (and most embarrassing) gag gifts for Christmas.

Her garden was her pride and joy; it was the source of the ingredients that made her wonderful meals. She learned canning and preserving during her youth, and she passed the tradition and knowledge down to her own family. She loved to cook but loved it even more when she got to share that time in the kitchen with her family. Everyone knew that the door was always open and there was always a place for you at the table.

She was also a fantastic seamstress. She could make wedding and prom dresses and liked to see how long she could make a pair of pants last. Sewing was just one outlet for her creative talents. She also had a flare for drawing and painting.

Most important was her love for her husband Charles. High school sweethearts turned lifelong partners, she and Charles did everything together. They both loved to square dance and later migrated toward taking up country line dancing. Sheridan Athletics also held a special part within the family, and together, they made every effort to be as supportive as they could. One of their favorite things to do was to hop in the truck (or on the motorcycle, when they were younger) and go for a ride, just the two of them.

Sherry is survived by her two sons, Randy L. Price (Debbie) of Sheridan, and Jerry A. Price of Sheridan; two daughters, Ramona K. Moore (Daniel) of Borden, Ind., and Elizabeth A. "Liz" Walden of Sheridan; 10 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren (with one on the way); brother, Rex Hoover (Frances); two sisters, Winona Moss of Kokomo, and Wilanna McClay of Westfield; two sisters-in-law, Judy Jessup (Bill) of Zionsville, and Linda Williams (Jesse) of Sheridan; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William H. and Clara Mae (Cox) Hoover; father and mother-in-law, Charles Price Sr. and Geneva Price; brother, John Hoover; sister, Phyllis Quick and her husband Martin; brothers-in-law, William Moss, Jr., Paul McClay, and Kenneth "Tuffy" Keesling; sister-in-law, Nancy Carole Keesling; and by her husband, Charles A. Price, Jr. on September 18, 2023. She and Charles were married on Christmas Eve, 1955.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan, with visitation from 11 a.m. until the time of service. Burial will follow at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan. Reverend Mike Sribljan will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Sheridan First Christian Church.

Condolences: [kerchevalfuneralhome.com](http://kerchevalfuneralhome.com)

**Donald Harvey Coverdale Jr.**

December 12, 1958 – February 6, 2026

Donald Harvey Coverdale Jr., 67, Cicero, passed away on February 6, 2026, at his home. He was born on December 12, 1958, to Donald Harvey and Betty (Kingery) Coverdale in Noblesville.



Harvey worked for Crownland Cemetery, Kirby's Feeding Concepts, and a landscaping business. He enjoyed racing and working on race cars.

He is survived by his sons, Donald A. (Mistie) Coverdale and Travis (Brittany) Coverdale; step-children, Chip and Annie DiGiacomo; grandchildren, Jordan, Alexis, and Dylan Coverdale; ex-wives, Rebecca Hollyfield and Cindy Burger; and his precious fur babies, Peanut and Bella.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Betty JoAnn Coverdale.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 14, 2026, at United Pentecostal Church Noblesville, 1516 Morton St., Noblesville, with Pastor Brent Jenkins officiating. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to the time of service at the church. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville. Condolences: [randallobrothers.com](http://randallobrothers.com)

**Beverly Jean English**

August 26, 1937 – February 6, 2026

Beverly Jean English, 88, Sheridan, passed away Friday morning, February 6, 2026, at Carmel Health and Living. Born August 26, 1937, in Port Huron, Mich., she was the daughter of Lt. Col. Edmond J. and Mable E. (Hawkins) Padgett.



As the daughter of an Army officer, she called many places home depending on where her father was stationed, but her "real" home was always on her grandparents' farm southwest of Sheridan where she would eventually live out her life.

Jean was a 1955 graduate of Fort Knox High School. After graduation, she took art classes at Herron School of Art in Indianapolis where her natural talent for drawing and painting developed into a lifelong passion. She became known for her portrait and landscape artwork. She attended the Penrod Art Fair several years in a row. She also taught art lessons in Sheridan for several years.

Jean met the love of her life at Elliott's Pharmacy in Sheridan. Tom asked her out on a date; that led to 60 years of marriage. Tom and Jean had many adventures together, including travels to many states and long drives to explore unknown places in Indiana, but mostly they enjoyed each other's company and would sit down every night for a talk and a glass of wine.

The family would like to thank the nurses and caregivers (specifically Rachel, Elizabeth, Tammy, and Vania), who helped take care of Jean during the last several months of her life. Your compassion meant so much to us.

Jean is survived by her daughters, Carrie Elizabeth Sutton (Joel) of Sheridan, and Emily Anne Snell (Steven) of Lebanon; eight grandchildren, Addison, Evan, Eli, Thomas, Claire, Tracy, Landon, and Chandler; and brother-in-law, John D. "Tim" English (Anita) of Fishers.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lt. Col. Edmond J. and Mable E. (Hawkins) Padgett; mother and father-in-law, Tony and Mary Kathryn English; and by her husband, Thomas C. "Tom" English on September 1, 2023. She and Tom were married on May 5, 1963.

Jean will be laid to rest during a private ceremony at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Sheridan Public Library.

Condolences: [kerchevalfuneralhome.com](http://kerchevalfuneralhome.com)

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

Submit obituaries under 500 words online at [ReadTheReporter.com/obitform](http://ReadTheReporter.com/obitform).

**TODAY'S BIBLE READING****REPORT ON THE EXPLORATION**

*They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."*

Numbers 13:26-29 (NIV)

**Thanks for reading!**

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# REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

Sports Editor Richie Hall | Sports@ReadTheReporter.com | Twitter @Richie\_Hall

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

## Gymnastics



Photo provided

(LEFT) The Noblesville gymnastics team placed second at the Rushville Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 7. The Millers scored 102.70 points. (CENTER) Valorey Bittles placed fourth on the balance beam with Noblesville's highest score of the meet (9.075), in addition to winning the vault. (RIGHT) Emmerson Leckrone finished 10th on the vault.

## Miller gymnasts take second at Rushville

### The REPORTER

The Noblesville gymnastics team had a strong showing at the Rushville Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 7.

The Millers placed second out of six teams, finish-

ing with a score of 102.70. Noblesville also had two individual event champions.

Valorey Bittles won the vault, scoring 9.05. Hailey Nobbe was first in the un-

even bars, earning a score of 8.55. Bittles had Noblesville's highest score of the meet in the balance beam, scoring 9.075 to place fourth in that event.

Here are the Millers' scores and places from the

tournament.

**All-around:** 2. Hailey Nobbe 35.075, 3. Valorey Bittles 34.975, 9. Emmerson Leckrone 32.65, Vera Deichman 31.775, Lilly Martin 24.35.

**Vault:** 1. Bittles 9.05, 7.

Nobbe 8.70, 10. Leckrone 8.625, Deichman 8.225, Sterling Southard 8.15, Martin 7.50.

**Uneven bars:** 1. Nobbe 8.55, 3. Bittles 8.125, 10. Leckrone 7.35, Deichman 7.35, Martin 3.85.

**Balance beam:** 4. Bittles

9.075, Nobbe 9.00, 10. Leckrone 8.025, Deichman 7.925, Southard 7.20, Martin 6.525.

**Floor exercise:** 3. Nobbe 8.825, 5. Bittles 8.725, 10. Leckrone 8.65, Deichman 8.275, Southard 7.025, Martin 6.475.

## Girls State Swimming Preview

# Greyhounds ready to make drive for 40

### The REPORTER

Carmel's road to 40 has reached its destination: the IU Natatorium.

The Greyhounds are going for their 40th consecutive girls swimming state championship this weekend. The prelims take place Friday evening, with the top 16 in each event advancing to Saturday afternoon's finals.

Carmel once again has a solid amount of depth as the Greyhounds try to complete a fourth decade of dominance. Carmel qualified 23 swimmers for the state meet, including all three relays. Each of those relays is seeded in the top eight, with the potential to move up.

The Hounds have one state champion returning from last year. Sophomore Ellie Clarke won the backstroke last season, elevating herself from an 11th seed in the prelims to win the gold at state last year as a freshman. Clarke is the top seed in the backstroke this season, and her seed time of 52.65 seconds is over a second and a half faster than her winning time last year.

Senior Molly Sweeney is seeded second in the breaststroke and third in the butterfly; she was part of Carmel's medley and 200 free relay championships last year. Sabrina Ledwith is seeded fourth in the 500 free and 12th in the 200 free.

Senior Helena Gibson will be a factor in the diving competition after winning the Homestead regional on



Reporter photos by Julie Brown

(ABOVE LEFT) Carmel's Ellie Clarke is the top seed in the backstroke event at this weekend's IHSAA girls swimming state meet. Clarke will go into the Friday state prelims as the defending state champion in that event. (ABOVE RIGHT) Noblesville freshman Hayley Blackwell qualified for state in the 100 and 200 freestyle races.

Tuesday. Gibson placed third at state last season, the highest finish for a Greyhound diver at state since Susan Weigel was third at the 1981 meet – Carmel's first-ever state championship in girls swimming that pre-dates the streak.

The Greyhounds will have some freshmen at state, including Haley Morris, who is seeded fifth in the 200 and 500 freestyles. Madelyn Yonkus and Helayna Weller will swim at state as well. Sophomore Leah Debosch is seeded fifth in the individual medley and backstroke.

### Look out for Tigers

One team to look out for at the Natatorium is Fishers, who qualified 21 swimmers to state and holds top seeds in

three events.

Junior Emily Wolf is the defending state champion in the 500 free and won the sectional this year in 4 minutes, 44.75 seconds. Wolf and freshman Ashlyn Hayes are seeded 1-2 in the 200 free, while Fishers' 400 free relay team is seeded No. 1 in that event.

Fishers also has several solid freshmen, including Audrey Wolf, Brooklyn Rager, Lillian Cain and Isabelle Ortiz, all of whom are swimming at state for the first time.

Hamilton Southeastern qualified 15 swimmers for the state meet. The Royals are seeded second in the medley relay, with the 200 free

See *Swim* . . . Page 10

### Hamilton County state qualifiers

**200 medley relay:** 2. Hamilton Southeastern 1:42.33, 3. Carmel 1:42.35, 12. Fishers 1:47.78.  
**200 freestyle:** 1. Emily Wolf (F) 1:46.51, 2. Ashlyn Hayes (F) 1:48.78, 5. Haley Morris (C) 1:50.75, 11. Brooklyn Rager (F) 1:52.18, 12. Sabrina Ledwith (C) 1:52.42, 13. Madelyn Yonkus (C) 1:52.53, 14. Ayla Madara (Hamilton Heights) 1:52.56, 15. Hayley Blackwell (Noblesville) 1:52.60, 16. Maya Preston (N) 1:52.77, 18. Mia Henderson (HSE) 1:52.97.  
**200 individual medley:** 2. Ellie Clarke (C) 1:59.08, 5. Leah Debosch (C) 2:01.73, 8. Lucy Enoch (C) 2:03.46, 12. Kinsey Bogaards (HSE) 2:03.97, 14. Avery Hannon (F) 2:06.27, 16. Alexandra Nguyen (F) 2:07.20, 19. Ella Hare (F) 2:07.67.  
**50 freestyle:** 8. Naomi Haines (HSE) 23.58, 20. Audrey Wolf (F) 24.12, 22. Payton Walker (HSE) 24.34, 28. Story Hughes (C) 24.79.  
**One-meter diving:** 3. Helena Gibson (C) 451.75, 4. Eryn McMahon (N) 441.70, 25. Emily Linder (C) 348.55.  
**100 butterfly:** 3. Molly Sweeney (C) 53.92, 6. A. Wolf (F) 54.39, 13. Ellason Miller (HSE) 55.68, 23. Evelyn Wheat (Westfield) 57.34, 24. Maria Daily (C) 57.65.  
**100 freestyle:** 6. Hayes (F) 51.21, 9. Sophia Floyd (C) 51.45, 13. Enoch (C) 52.33, 14. H. Blackwell (N) 52.41, 17. Henderson (HSE) 52.45, 23. Ella Hare (F) 52.99.  
**500 freestyle:** 1. E. Wolf (F) 4:44.75, 4. Ledwith (C) 4:58.73, 5. Morris (C) 4:59.19, 7. Madara (HH) 5:00.71, 8. Helayna Weller (C) 5:03.30, 10. Rager (F) 5:04.04, 12. Isabella Schmitt (HSE) 5:04.92, 13. Lillian Cain (F) 5:06.55, 14. Preston (N) 5:06.80, 19. Brooklyn Penn (HSE) 5:12.02, 21. Amira Leer (HH) 5:12.76, 22. Delaney McCulloch (W) 5:13.25.  
**200 freestyle relay:** 2. Fishers 1:34.55, 3. Hamilton Southeastern 1:35.28, 5. Carmel 1:35.59, 16. Noblesville 1:39.08.  
**100 backstroke:** 1. Clarke (C) 52.65, 5. Debosch (C) 55.70, 6. Haines (HSE) 55.97, 13. Bogaards (HSE) 57.15, 15. Hannon (F) 57.81, 16. Weller (C) 58.01, 19. Sophie Blue (F) 58.13, 22. Isabelle Ortiz (F) 58.46.  
**100 breaststroke:** 2. Sweeney (C) 1:00.63, 5. Lauren Ing (HSE) 1:03.85, 8. Nguyen (F) 1:04.72, 14. Payton Clark (C) 1:05.47, 15. Yonkus (C) 1:05.56, 21. Sarah Cooper (HSE) 1:06.34, 22. Polina Sopova (F) 1:06.42, 23. Noa Caili (University) 1:06.56.  
**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Fishers 3:24.16, 5. Hamilton Southeastern 3:28.33, 7. Carmel 3:30.27, 12. Noblesville 3:35.81, 21. Westfield 3:41.77.

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Boys Basketball

Royals win fourth straight, reach 80 points again

By RICHARD TORRES  
For The Reporter

For the second time in two days, the Hamilton Southeastern Royals scored more than 80 points.

For the second straight game, the Class 4A Royals won big. This time at Muncie Central, 85-51, on Wednesday to win their fourth consecutive.

The Royals' current streak began on Jan. 31 against 4A Pendleton Heights, 76-72, reached new heights Tuesday against Class A Indianapolis Metro, 94-66, with a season-high point total and continues to roll towards their Sectional 8 preview with 4A Carmel on Friday.

Senior Luke Weemer led the Royals (11-9) inside Muncie Central Fieldhouse

with a game-high 18 points and seven rebounds.

He was joined by senior Landon Osswald with 16 points and sophomore Varschon Clark with 10 to give HSE three players in double figures.

HSE led 19-14 after the first quarter before building a 53-26 advantage by halftime behind a 34-point second frame.

The Royals tallied 23 points off turnovers and shot 61 percent from the floor, including 7 of 14 from 3-point range.

Weemer went 6-for-10 from the field and 5-for-5 from the free-throw line, while Osswald was 5-for-6 and a flawless 6-for-6 from the foul line.

Senior Maverick Young had 9 points on 3-for-5 shooting from deep.

Motorsports

Take 5 Oil Change named presenting sponsor of Pennzoil 250

Submitted by IMS

Take 5 Oil Change, a leading provider of fast, friendly and simple car maintenance, has been named the presenting sponsor of the NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series Pennzoil 250 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The Pennzoil 250 presented by Take 5 Oil Change will take place Saturday, July 25 as part of Brickyard Weekend, which also includes the NASCAR Cup Series Brickyard 400 presented by PPG on Sunday, July 26 and additional practice and qualifying Friday, July 24.

"The Saturday of Brickyard Weekend provides fans with a lot of racing in a single day at IMS,"

IMS President J. Douglas Boles said. "From qualifying for both the O'Reilly Auto Parts Series and Cup Series and then the Pennzoil 250 presented by Take 5 Oil Change, it's an action-packed day. The addition of Take 5 Oil Change, a brand that delivers high-quality service in a short amount of time, is a perfect partner for this exciting day of on-track activity."

"Racing is about eliminating wasted seconds, and so are we," said Doug Zarkin, chief marketing officer of Take 5 Oil Change. "Partnering with IMS during Brickyard Weekend puts us in the heart of a culture that values speed, trust and performance - exactly



Graphic provided by IMS

how our customers experience Take 5 every time they stay in their cars and drive out ready for what's next."

At Take 5 Oil Change, customers stay comfortably in their cars while technicians complete a high-quality oil change in approximately 10 minutes. Every service includes free tire pressure checks, fluid top-offs and complimentary

bottled water. This simple, customer-first model has helped Take 5 Oil Change build loyalty and fuel strong growth across nearly 1,300 locations nationwide.

Visit [IMS.com](http://IMS.com) for ticket information for Brickyard Weekend on July 24 to 26.

For additional information about Take 5 Oil Change, visit [take5.com](http://take5.com).

Hounds overwhelm Brownsburg

The REPORTER

Carmel's boys got an overwhelming victory at Brownsburg on Tuesday, beating the Bulldogs 69-36.

The Greyhounds outscored Brownsburg in each of the four quarters, leading 16-9 after one period and 33-18 at halftime. Carmel put up another 17 points in the third quarter for a 50-26 lead, then finished strong with 19 points in the fourth period.

Evan Harrell scored 22 points and collected nine

rebounds. Julian Vogt was right behind with 21 points; Vogt was perfect from beyond the arc, making all five of his 3-point attempts. Cash Daniels scored nine points, collected nine rebounds and dished out seven assists. Delacy Fant added eight points and Jamichael Fountain scored seven.

The Greyhounds are 13-3 and play an all-county game Friday at Hamilton Southeastern before hosting Avon Saturday.

Indianapolis 500 veteran Krueger dies at 74

Submitted by IMS

Phil Krueger, a veteran of two Indianapolis 500 starts, died Feb. 9 in Indianapolis. He was 74.

Krueger, a native of Milwaukee, competed in "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" in 1986 and 1988. His best finish was eighth in 1988, completing 196 laps in the No. 97 CNC Systems Sales March-Cosworth fielded by R. Kent Baker Racing. He also qualified a "500" career-best 15th that year.

The performance in 1988 also earned talented mechanic and fabricator Krueger the Clint Brawner Mechanical Excellence Award for his work tuning the 2-year-old car into a solid qualifying spot and top-10 finish and guiding an all-new crew for the team.

Krueger was a regular competitor in May at Indianapolis Motor Speedway throughout the 1980s, turning laps every year from 1981-89 with small, low-budget teams with older equipment. He failed to qualify from 1983-85 and in 1989, and he didn't at-

tempt to qualify in his first attempt at the race in 1981 or in 1982 and 1987 due to crashes in practice.

His Month of May in 1987 symbolized his hard luck and perseverance at the Speedway. Krueger started the month as the chief mechanic for the Raynor Motorsports entry for Dennis Firestone. Krueger climbed into the team's backup car as a driver after Firestone crashed and suffered a broken foot in the team's primary car.

Krueger clipped the wall between Turns 1 and 2 in practice, damaging the rear suspension. He led repairs to the car and attempted to qualify on Bump Day. His opening lap of 203.920 mph was on pace to make the field, but he crashed in Turn 1 on his second lap and didn't qualify. Still, Krueger earned the Jigger Award that year for his determination amid hard luck during May.

A model of perseverance and courage, Krueger suffered multiple fractures in the No. 89 Joe Hunt Magneto Eagle-Chevrolet - a



Photo provided by IMS

7-year-old car that he rebuilt during the previous off-season - in the 1981 crash at Indy and was seriously injured in crashes during CART races in 1984 and 1989 at Michigan Speedway but returned to race each time.

That determination also was displayed by Krueger as he climbed to the elite level of North American open-wheel racing. He started his career in endurance karts in his teens. In 1977, with a \$200 budget in his pocket, he began competing in the USAC Mini-Indy Series.

Krueger then competed in Super Vee and Formula Ford while also learning how to build and fabricate Indy cars when not racing. His driving and mechani-

cal skill helped him climb to CART in 1981, and he made 23 career INDYCAR SERIES starts between 1981-91. His best finish was fifth in the 1988 Michigan 500 among his seven career top-12 finishes.

After his driving career, Krueger worked as an engine builder, mechanic and crew chief. He also was a licensed airframe and powerplant mechanic whose passion for aviation included maintaining his cherished 1941 Luscombe and building a World War I-S.E.5a biplane from Royal Aircraft blueprints.

Krueger also volunteered for many military causes, including working with the USO at Camp Atterbury in Indiana.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 13

BOYS BASKETBALL

Carmel at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.

Carroll at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

Fishers at Center Grove, 7:30 p.m.

Harrison at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.

Noblesville at Brownsburg, 7:30 p.m.

Pioneer Conference third-place game

University at Shortridge, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING

State prelims, 6 p.m. at IU Natatorium

Saturday, Feb. 14

BOYS BASKETBALL

Avon at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

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

Maconaquah at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING SEMI-STATE

At New Castle, 9 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL REGIONAL

At Frankfort

Hamilton Southeastern vs. McCutcheon, 4 p.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING

State diving prelims, 9 a.m. at IU Natatorium

State swimming and diving finals, 1 p.m. at IU Natatorium

Please email schedule changes or corrections to [sports@readthereporter.com](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).

SWIM

relay seeded third and the 400 free relay seeded fifth.

Junior Lauren Ing is Southeastern's highest individual seed, at fifth in the breaststroke. Senior Naomi

Haines is seeded sixth in the backstroke and eighth in the 50 free.

Noblesville has six swimmers at state. Freshman Hayley Blackwell and Maya Preston both qualified in the 200 free and have the potential to score points. Blackwell is also swimming the 100 free, with Preston competing in the 500 free. Senior Eryn McMahon is seeded fourth in diving.

Westfield has three swimmers, including sopho-

mores Evelyn Wheat in the butterfly and Delaney McCulloch in the 500 free. Hamilton Heights sophomore Ayla Madara will swim in the 200 and 500 freestyles, with junior Amira Leer competing in the 500 free. University sophomore Noa Calili qualified in the breaststroke.

As for out-of-county schools, Fort Wayne Carroll has 14 swimmers at state, but also has five top seeds. Juniors Kate Fetters and

from Page 9

Maris Williams are seeded 1-2 in both the 50 and 100 freestyles, while Jordan Glassley is the first seed in the individual medley and butterfly. The Chargers also are the No. 1 seed in the 200 free relay.

Zionsville qualified 17 swimmers for state. The Eagles have three top-six seeds in the 500 free, with Ava Metzger the second seed. Zionsville's 200 and 400 free relays are both seeded fourth.

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