

FRIDAY, FEB. 13, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Sunny!
 Tonight: Mostly clear.



HIGH: 45 LOW: 29

Sheridan students shine at ISSMA Solo & Ensemble

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

Sheridan's band and choir students showed their pride at the ISSMA District Solo & Ensemble competition at Westfield High School the past two weekends. Students represented Sheridan Middle and High School with excellence and outstanding showmanship.

At the instrumental district competition, Sheridan Middle School band students earned multiple top honors.

Gold Ratings were awarded to the brass quartet (Callie Callahan, Victoria Shinault, Jaidyn Gidman, Cameron Tomlin), the percussion ensemble (Waylon Hoffman, Mia Seats, Phin O'Neal), the clarinet quartet (Lyndi Brogan, Morgan Ciambella, Marilynn Heinzman, Makenzie Smith), and soloists Olivia Kinney (flute), Avery Garrett (tenor saxophone), and Mia Seats (snare drum).

The saxophone ensemble (Lyndi Brogan, Morgan Ciambella, Kyla Rose, Avery Garrett) earned a Silver Rating.

Similarly, the Sheridan High School band students also performed exceptionally well.

Gold Ratings were earned by the flute trio (Addison Houde, Chloe Wright, Kaiden Steen), the mixed woodwind quartet (Chloe Wright, Addison Houde, Vivian Olivas, Elyzabeth Powers), and the saxophone trio (Lillian Dunn, Devyn Pewarski, Ava



The musicianship and vocal talents of numerous Sheridan students were on full display at the ISSMA District Solo & Ensemble Contest. (TOP) The Middle School Large Ensemble with their medals. (ABOVE LEFT) The Middle School Ensemble with their medals. (ABOVE RIGHT) Members of the Chamber Choir.

Photos provided by Sheridan Community Schools

McLean).

Gold medals were also awarded to soloists Elyzabeth Powers (clarinet and saxophone), Madeline Sterling (clarinet), and Devyn Pewarski (saxophone).

Silver Ratings were earned by Giovanni Barras (tenor saxophone) and Ava McLean

(baritone saxophone). Devyn Pewarski's Group I solo, and the saxophone trio of Lillian Dunn, Devyn Pewarski, and Ava McLean will advance to the State Solo & Ensemble competition on Feb. 28.

At the choral district competition, Sheridan choir students also had an incredible

day. Sixty-one middle and high school students competed. The high school choir earned 17 gold medals and four silver medals, with multiple soloists and ensembles advancing.

Group I state qualifiers include vocal soloists Jasmine

See Shine . . . Page 2

February: where history, heart & home meet in Noblesville

February has always felt like a month of reflection – a time when history invites us to pause, remember, and understand how the past quietly shapes the present.

Growing up in India, history was never just dates in a textbook. It lived in stories shared by grandparents, in old streets filled with generations of footsteps, and in traditions that connected us to those who came before us. Loving history gave me roots long before I knew I would one day plant myself in Indiana.

That love has now become my bridge – connecting where I began in India to where I proudly belong in Hamilton County.

This month, that connection felt especially meaningful when I attended a program at the Hamilton East Public Library called "Blast from the Past: Noblesville in 1960s." Through photographs, video clippings, and storytelling, the program brought Noblesville and Hamilton County's past vividly to life, revealing how the community looked, worked, and gathered during a decade of growth and change.

So many moments offered clues into the culture of that time and its strong connection to today. The courthouse and jail, Riverview Hospital, the downtown square, and the sheriff's department weren't just structures – they were pillars of everyday life then and remain community anchors now. Watching their evolution made it clear how thoughtfully this town has grown while preserving its identity.

See History . . . Page 3

Emmert arrested, charged in relation to 1992 murder case

By MELEA VanOSTRAND
 WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A former Hamilton County town employee is facing charges for the 1992 killing of Tony Bledsoe, according to Indiana State Police.

For more than 30 years, Tony Bledsoe's family waited for answers. It's a case that dates back to 1992. Investigators believe they now have everyone who was involved in Bledsoe's murder.

Indiana State Police arrested 55-year-old Steven Andrew Emmert, known as Andy Emmert, of Atlanta, for his alleged role in the 1992 murder of Bledsoe.

Emmert is a former utility superintendent and building commissioner in Atlanta. "It's a huge step in this investigation," said Sgt. John Perrine, public information officer for the Indiana State Police Indianapolis District.

Bledsoe was 24 years old when his wife reported him missing from Arcadia in March 1992. The case went cold for decades as a missing person. Weeks after Bledsoe went missing, investigators found remains in a ravine near U.S. 40 in Putnam County.

Perrine says an Indiana State Police officer who was assigned to the Putnam County case started suspecting similarities in the two cases.

"Because of his independent knowledge of that case, he started to think that things matched up," Perrine said. "He started to connect the dots. In 2019, he was able to use DNA analysis to identify the remains of Tony Bledsoe as the remains that were found in Putnam County in 1992."

Court documents revealed Bledsoe had been stabbed six times, and his head and feet had been dismembered. Thomas Anderson Jr., of Arcadia, was arrested last year and charged with Bledsoe's murder.

"He pleaded guilty [Feb. 11]," Hamilton County Prosecutor Joshua Kocher said. "It's still set out for sentencing and the plea has not been accepted, but pursuant to terms of that plea agreement, there is cooperation in any other case that comes out of the death of Tony Bledsoe."

See Arrest . . . Page 3

Bryan Glover of Roberts Settlement shares history with Westfield Rotarians

Submitted

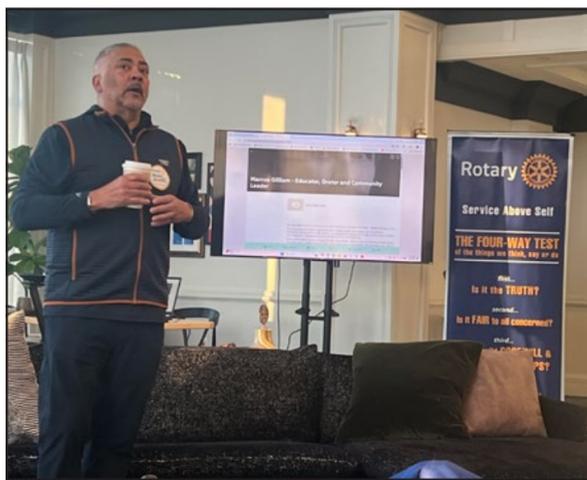
The Westfield Rotary Club recently welcomed Bryan Glover, Vice President of the Board of Trustees of Roberts Settlement, as he shared the history of one of Indiana's earliest Black pioneer communities.

Glover, himself a direct descendant of a Roberts Settlement founder, explained that the settlement began in the 1830s when free people of color, originally from North Carolina, migrated to Indiana due to restrictive slave codes and economic pressures. With help from Quaker neighbors, the Roberts family first settled in Rush County before establishing the Roberts Settlement in Hamilton County.

The settlement, located along 276th Street just east on U.S. 31, once spanned 1,700 acres and supported about 300 residents. The community was largely Wesleyan Methodist, and many descendants became teachers and preachers.

Glover highlighted the Roberts Settlement Legacy Walk, dedicated in 2024. It is an interactive, self-guided experience with four exhibit stations, QR codes, a storytelling app (including a child-friendly animated version), and ongoing efforts to make it fully accessible.

He encouraged everyone to visit the site to experience this important local history firsthand. You can learn more at RobertsSettlement.org.



Glover, a descendent of a Roberts Settlement founder, serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors.

Photo provided

Women Leadership Series to discuss leadership through courage, collaboration & collective action

The REPORTER

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and Carmel Clay Public Library (CCPL) will again collaborate to present Women in Leadership from 1 to 3 p.m. March 7 at the library. The theme of this year's panel will be Leadership through Courage, Collaboration and Collective Action.

The CSO hosts this annual Women in Leadership event to provide an opportunity to discuss inspirational and honest advice for women working in leadership positions. Panelists share their experiences and engage in discussions with a multi-generational audience.

Tickets are available through CCPL. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Go to carmelclaylibrary.org/event/15812385 to register.



Cutler



Darden



Wood

Guest panelists will include Sally Cutler, Akilah Darden and Deborah Wood, who will discuss the lessons they learned, what leadership approaches worked best for them, and other issues they deal with as women in business.

Sally Cutler has a varied background in communications, customer service, event planning, and historical preservation. She has worked in non-profit and higher education mar-

keting for Alpha Chi Omega women's fraternity and Butler University, her alma mater. She has also had the opportunity to create and implement communications strategies, plan a variety of events, and serve as a liaison with internal and external stakeholders. She served as interim chief executive officer for Alpha Chi Omega during their CEO search and later returned to the staff for three years as historian and Archivist.

Cutler has authored history book installments for Alpha Chi Omega, as well as the Village of WestClay's history book, created for the neighborhood's 25th anniversary in 2025. At the Village of WestClay Owners Association, she focuses on providing outstanding service to Village residents and businesses, overall communications planning and execution, as well as ensuring a robust schedule of neighborhood-wide events.

Cutler says she is proud to continue to empower women of all ages as a volunteer member of the Sister Outreach Team for Alpha Chi Omega. She lives in the Village of WestClay with her husband, Jay, and their Wheaten Terrier, Kingston.

See Leaders . . . Page 3

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



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SHINE

from Page 1

Pettit-Godbey, Devyn Pewarski, Kennedy Ritchie, Norah Stites, and Scarlett Wittbrod; Chamber Choir; and Sheridan's first-ever state-qualifying barbershop quartet (Vivian Olivas, Devyn Pewarski, Kennedy Ritchie, Gavin Sutton). Middle school choir students earned 18 gold medals and two silver medals across solos and ensembles, demonstrating tremendous preparation and poise.

"It can be very nerve-wracking to perform in front of a judge, especially doing a solo or small ensemble," said Libby Doublestein, Director of Choirs and Assistant Director of Bands. "I'm so proud of all these students for preparing and performing!"

Sheridan Community Schools is incredibly proud of the hard work, dedication, and musical talents that all of these students demonstrate. Congratulations to all of the talented Blackhawks.



Photos provided by Sheridan Community Schools
 (TOP LEFT) Jacob and Landon Glunt with Mrs. Doublestein. (TOP RIGHT) The High School Trio. (CENTER LEFT) Makenzie Smith, Morgan Ciambella, Lyndi Brogan, and Marilynn Heinzman. (CENTER RIGHT) Norah and Frances Stites show off their medals. (ABOVE LEFT) The senior girl vocalists. (ABOVE RIGHT) The Chamber Choir performs.

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HISTORY

What stood out most was the spirit of togetherness. Civic groups like Kiwanis and Rotary, along with church communities and women's clubs, were central to social life, service, and gatherings. It was heartwarming to realize that even decades later, these same traditions of involvement continue to bring people together across Hamilton County.

Local businesses added even more richness to the story – Kenley's Super Market where neighbors met while shopping, Wainwright Title Company, Blann Hardware, Zeckel's Clothing, and Coaltrin Funeral Home, which even had its own distinctive ambulances. And learning that Firestone was once the largest employer in town offered insight into how industry shaped family life and the local economy.

The most touching moments came from the audience itself. As images appeared on the screen, hands kept rising as people shared connections – a relative who worked at a landmark, memories of riding bikes around the square, or stories passed down through generations. History wasn't distant. It was deeply personal.

I was especially moved when I met Jane Walters, who shared how her father, William Hummel, moved from Marion County to Hamilton County when 136th Street was still dirt roads and Interstate 69 had

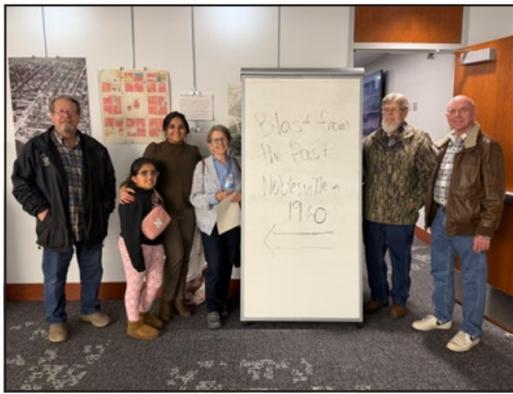


Photo provided

only two lanes. Jane completed most of her schooling on 56th Street and finished high school in Noblesville. Listening to her stories felt like stepping into a living chapter of this community's journey.

Experiences like these remind us that a city isn't measured by its age, but by how deeply it is loved by the people who call it home.

Much gratitude goes to the Noblesville Discovery Center team and to local historians Jessica Layman and David Heighway, whose passion and storytelling have made the many unique chapters of our local history accessible, engaging, and meaningful for all of us. Their work doesn't just preserve the past – it builds connection in the present.

As someone who moved here from Rajkot, Gujarat – a place known for strong hospitality and community bonds – seeing that same spirit alive in Noblesville fills my heart. It reminds me

why Indiana has become home.

History teaches us empathy. Nostalgia connects us. And community gives us belonging.

So I encourage you – follow the Discovery Center programs, attend these wonderful history talks, and invite your neighbors along. You might discover local gems, uncover shared memories, and feel the beautiful gestures of community come alive.

February may celebrate history, but it also celebrates love – love for where we've been, where we are, and the people who make a place feel like home.

And for me, loving history has become the path that connects my past in India to my present in Indiana – turning a new place into home, one story at a time.

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

from Page 1

LEADERS

Akilah Darden is a seasoned construction management professional with over \$2 billion in commercial construction projects delivered. She's built more than structures; she's built a reputation for exceeding expectations. From driving excellence in leading commercial projects, she has just recently helped the procurement of a \$4 billion hospital campus while excelling in building with and for the community. She also works to provide intentional opportunities for diverse vendors and workforces to break barriers in a historically underrepresented field, Darden brings innovation, vision, and impact to every endeavor to include training with her Construction Management Masterclass.

A multi-award-winning leader, Darden has been honored with prestigious accolades including the inaugural Indiana 250, American Institute of Architecture Indiana Walter S. Blackburn Award Winner, National Association of Women Business Owners Trailblazer Award Winner, Champion of Diversity Award Winner from the *Indianapolis Recorder* Magazine, Women & Hi Tech Leading Light 'You Inspire Us' Award Winner, Minority Business Enterprise of the Year by City of Indianapolis, Techpoint MIRA Award Winner for Community Impact, Techpoint MIRA Award Nominee: Rising Entrepreneur, *Indianapolis Business Journal* Women of Influ-

ence, Center for Leadership Development Achievement in Business & Industry Award Recipient.

Each award reflects her dedication to excellence, leadership, and creating opportunities for others to thrive.

Darden is also the proud author with her four kids of the internationally and nationally award-winning book, *My Mom is a Construction Manager*, inspiring the next generation of leaders to pursue careers in construction and beyond. Additionally, as the creator of the award-winning Construction Management Masterclass, she is empowering professionals with the tools to lead with confidence and competence in a dynamic industry.

Through her work, Darden remains committed to intentionally building equitable opportunities, fostering innovation, and empowering others to achieve their full potential in every space she touches.

Deborah Wood's legacy began in 1994 when she started Deborah Wood & Associates. That fledgling company grew into a family of healthcare agencies and for more than three decades they stood apart with authentic values and an aspiration to deliver excellence to customers, employees, and community. Fueled by their collective imaginations and passions, Wood's family of professionals led the healthcare industry in their respective disciplines of medical

education and communications with real impact and influence on what matters most – patient outcomes. The journey was personally and professionally rewarding and fun.

2024 launched the Next-Gen of Wood's company when she retired and the organization joined the Real Chemistry Family. The legacy continues in the powerful marriage of these two award winning agencies.

In her retirement, Wood remains active in her church and community and is enjoying lots of time with her family. After leading a company with strong values all these years referred to as the H4S (Honorable, Humble, Healthy, Hungry and Smart), of course she would identify and name her retirement values. They are the F5 standing for Faith, Family, Friends, Fitness and Fun.

from Page 1

ARREST

According to court documents, Anderson said that he and Emmert, who were roommates at the time, in 1990 stole a car in Wisconsin and brought it to the town of Atlanta in northern Hamilton County. They stripped the stereo from the car.

Emmert traded the stereo to Bledsoe in exchange for auto parts. Bledsoe later felt "he got ripped off in the deal because the stereo was stolen," and a grudge ensued between Bledsoe and Emmert. Later, Anderson and Bledsoe went to confront Emmert.

Police say that's when Emmert shot and stabbed Bledsoe. Anderson admit-

ted to hitting Bledsoe with a baseball bat and helping Emmert dump Bledsoe's body.

Investigators say this case serves as a reminder that they're continuing to bring justice to victims, no matter how much time has passed.

"This is a big deal," Perrine said. "This day, this moment, for this community, and for this family, this is something they've waited for a very long time."

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/crime-watch-8/arrest-made-in-1992-hamilton-county-murder-case.

from Page 1

Everybody Loves Lasagna

Kiwanis Club of Greater Sheridan Lasagna Dinner

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February 13 from 5-7 p.m.

Sheridan High School, 24185 Hinesley Rd.

\$7 for children 3 to 12, adults \$12 for pre-sale \$15 the night of the dinner

Tickets can be purchased from Kiwanis members or at the Farmers Bank in Sheridan. Money raised will go back into the community to support children's programs.

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Photos provided by Red Cross

Red Cross opens Blood & Platelet Donation Center in Noblesville

Submitted

Residents of Noblesville and surrounding communities have a new opportunity to donate blood and platelets locally.

The American Red Cross has opened its first Blood and Platelet Donation Center in the Greater Indianapolis area. The **Noblesville facility** is also the area's first Red Cross site dedicated to platelet donations. The donation center is located at 14765 Hazel Dell Crossing, Ste. 700.

Donors can visit redcrossblood.org and enter their ZIP code to schedule a blood donation appointment.



Photo provided by Red Cross

(From left) Natalie Tudor (Board Member, American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis Chapter); Chris Jensen (Mayor of Noblesville); Julie Brady (Regional Donor Services Executive, American Red Cross); Deborah Wozniak (Blood Services, American Red Cross); Terry Stigdon (CEO, American Red Cross Indiana Region); Brad Woodward (Board Chair, American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis Chapter); Bob DuBois (President & CEO, Noblesville Chamber of Commerce); and Ivory Salmon (Board Member, American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis Chapter).

Carmel Christkindlmarkt names new Chief Executive Officer

The REPORTER

The Carmel Christkindlmarkt leadership and board of directors have chosen a new Chief Executive Officer for the nonprofit organization.

After reviewing a large pool of candidates, Jason Adamowicz has been selected for the role. He comes to the Market from his current role as Chief Operating Officer at the YMCA in Muncie, a position he has held since 2017.

Adamowicz brings a wealth of experience in the nonprofit sector, as well as proven success working with governments, managing community and cultural partnerships, and securing

grant and sponsor funding. Additionally, he has been continually recognized for his transformational leadership, guiding organizations through strategic realignments, and coordinating mission-driven community programs.

"It's an honor to join the Carmel Christkindlmarkt and be part of this beloved community tradition," Adamowicz said. "The annual Market has become the heart of our local holiday season. I look forward to working with staff, partners,



Adamowicz

and the community to uphold the highest bar for guest experience while advancing our mission."

Julia Davis, acting CEO for the Carmel Christkindlmarkt, said she and the staff are thrilled with the selection and are excited to see the Market grow under Adamowicz's leadership. "We are grateful for the opportunity to have Jason join our team," Davis said. "He's energetic and passionate, and we're confident that he will successfully lead the Carmel Christkindlmarkt

into the next phase of its growth as a nonprofit cultural attraction."

The board is also excited to welcome Adamowicz to the team.

"A long-time Carmel resident, Jason distinguished himself among scores of strong candidates by virtue of his unique skills, experiences, and engaging manner," said Bill Stephan, Carmel Christkindlmarkt Board Chair. "The board enthusiastically welcomes Jason and looks forward to working with him and our superb leadership team."

Adamowicz will start his position as CEO on Feb. 23.

Finding your flavor sweet spot

"There is no bad whiskey. There are only some whiskeys that aren't as good as others." – Raymond Chandler

I get where Mr. Chandler is going with the above quote. Yet, I somewhat disagree. There are some really bad whiskeys out there. I'm not really going to approach this column as a Bourbon "review." Those are a dime a dozen.

Having said that, I'm also not going to write anything negative about any whiskey or brand. It's not in good taste. And ... taste is highly subjective. There are literally hundreds of different types of Bourbons out there, not to mention ryes, "regular" whiskeys, Scotches, Irish Whiskeys, Japanese Whiskeys, and on and on. They're all different, and to each his/her own. Though this column is based on "My Bourbon Psychosis," I will end up writing about these other whiskeys as well. Man cannot live on bourbon alone.

Back to taste.

The whiskey market is not unlike the wine or craft beer market. Every different type of whiskey has a different flavor profile and offers a different experience. For instance, right now Jim Beam is the top selling bourbon in the entire world – not a fan. Not being negative, I just don't like its flavor profile. That's not Beam's fault. Obviously, they're doing something right.

It just speaks to my point that everyone is different and every bourbon is different. Those of you out there who are Bourbon pros know what I mean. Those who are novices, you'll learn. What do I not appreciate about Beam? Well, my personal preference is for whiskeys with a sweet palate and high-proof burn. To me, Beam, like many oth-



COLUMNIST
JON SMYRNIS
Bourbon Psychosis

ers, has a strong tannic oak (bitter) flavor – just not my thing.

However! Beam makes dozens of whiskeys under their tutelage. The Bookers series is quite nice. It has a nice balance between the tannic and sweet with the sweet on the winning side. Their Signature Craft Series from about 10 to 15 years ago was quite outstanding. Especially their "Rolled Oat" offering. One can actually taste the oats in the nicely balanced bourbon. No longer available, you might find it online or at a liquor store at a premium. I found my one and only remaining bottle at a small drug/liquor store in Madison, Ind. It was tucked back in the corner where two shelves intersected one another and it was unseen, except by me. Ah, the thrill of finding a unicorn!

This is no lie, it had about an eighth of an inch of dust all over it. I blew the dust off and snagged it up immediately. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Knob Creek Rye – an outstanding mixer that makes a perfect Old Fashioned. Gee, I guess I do like Beam!

How does one know what you like? Well, you've gotta try it. If you have an interest in a particular bourbon, go somewhere that has it and have a shot of it. Better yet, go to a liquor store that has tastings or bottle samplings and give it a try for free there. By all means, do NOT buy an expensive bottle of bourbon without giving it a try first. Been there, done that, and recently too.

I knew better – darned psychosis.

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



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Major changes coming to Range Line Road in Carmel

Submitted by City of Carmel

A portion of Range Line Road is targeted for enhancements beginning this spring that include a new multi-use path, on-street parking, and environmental features designed to improve safety and accessibility.

The work on Range Line Road between Executive Drive and City Center Drive is anticipated to begin in April with removal of the aging planter boxes. Construction will then be underway after July 4, in order to minimize disruption during holiday events. Project completion is estimated before the opening of the Christkindlmarkt in November.

Mayor Sue Finkam said the current pathway along this portion of Range Line Road is under-utilized, prompting the city to consider adjustments.

“Feedback from residents and riders over the years has guided this design, balancing the needs of cyclists with overall safety and accessibility,” Mayor Finkam said. “We continue to consult our resident cyclists on the project and their input means this will ultimately be a more accessible and more enjoyable street for everyone.”

Councilor Teresa Ayers (District 1) touted the project’s emphasis on safety – for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.



Rendering provided by City of Carmel

The new lane for use by both pedestrians and cyclists will be physically separated from vehicle traffic.

“The upgrades align with the city’s commitment to safer, more accessible streets for everyone, encouraging active transportation and vibrant public spaces,” Ayers said.

Range Line Road upgrades include:

- **Safety-Focused Design:** the existing on-street green bike lane will be replaced with a 10-foot wide single-surface, multi-use path, physically separated from traffic, enhancing safety for cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers.

- **Enhanced Multi-Use Experience:** The new path accommodates both cyclists and pedestrians, providing more space and comfort for all users of the street.

- **Improved Parking Options:** 17 free, on-street parking spots will be added, supporting local businesses and residents while protecting users on the multi-use path.

- **Maintenance Savings and Infrastructure Improvement:** Removing the planters will significantly reduce ongoing costs associated with maintenance, which includes annual replanting and ongoing watering. Removal also addresses the normal deterioration of the planters and improves visibility.

Environmental Benefits: the project will feature rain gardens, improved stormwater management and water quality along the corridor.

The mayor noted that, rather than invest significant funds for replacement and maintenance for a design that has legitimate safety concerns, the decision to fully redesign the passage is a more cost-efficient and safe solution.

“In the interest of safety, we are choosing, literally, a new path forward,” she said.



Finkam



Ayers

Rokita: Indiana House delivers gold standard immigration enforcement

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Attorney General Todd Rokita issued the following statement on Thursday, Feb. 12 regarding the Indiana House’s passage of the FAIRNESS Act.

Congratulations to the Indiana House on passing the strongest immigration enforcement legislation our state has ever had.

Senate Bill 76 came to them in rough shape from the Senate, but thanks to the leadership of State Reps. J.D. Prescott, Chris Jeter, Garrett Bascom, and Michelle Davis, the House did a great job revising the bill to ensure it includes all critical provisions of the FAIRNESS Act.

They strengthened our anti-sanctuary laws with

real enforcement teeth – including giving my office authority over detainer compliance, imposing penalties on employers hiring illegal aliens, and enhancing the State’s ability to detect illegal aliens’ use of Medicaid.

This current version is the gold standard, as President Trump’s Border Czar Tom Hoeman has called it. And now, as the bill returns to the Senate, it must remain intact – no weakening amendments, no compromises. The Senate needs to concur as soon as possible so this critical measure can reach Governor Braun’s desk quickly and be signed into law.

Hoosiers are counting on the General Assembly to put them first by getting this across the finish line.



Rokita

Phi Beta Psi to host Euchre Night Fundraiser in Noblesville

The REPORTER

The Theta Alpha Upsilon chapter of Phi Beta Psi Sorority will hold a Euchre Night Fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 21, at First Christian Church of Noblesville, 16377 Herriman Blvd.

Play will begin promptly at 4 p.m., and participants are asked to arrive by 3:45 p.m. The event is open to the public, and the cost to play is \$15 per person. Players should also bring \$1 bills to pay when they are euchred.

To guarantee a seat, attendees are encouraged to RSVP by emailing bbpno-

blesville@gmail.com with the subject line “EUCHRE RSVP.” The email should include the participant’s name, cell phone number, and the number of players. RSVPs are requested but not required.

Food will be available during the event for a good-will donation.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit Phi Beta Psi’s Benevolence Fund and cancer research. Organizers invite community members to attend for an evening of friendly competition, food, and fellowship in support of a worthy cause.

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1911 Pittsburgh is calling at IRT

By ADAM CROWE
A Seat on the Aisle

Indiana Repertory Theatre is fighting the mid-winter blues with an excellent production of August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. The play was the third to be written and the second one in the chronology in Wilson's American Century Cycle.

As the director Timothy Douglas points out, August Wilson did not initially set out to write 10 complete plays to trace the African American experience through the 20th Century. But by the time he'd finished the third play (*Joe Turner*), he knew where his work was leading. The Century Cycle centers on life in Pittsburgh, and the best-known pieces include *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *Fences*.

Joe Turner introduces us to the boarding house owned and operated by Seth and Bertha Holly. A staple of cities and towns in the 19th and early 20th Centuries, boardinghouses often served as home for travelers and new residents alike.

The Hollys host a variety of guests and we meet them all as the first act spins the multiple storylines that the audience will follow throughout the play. The year is 1911 and many of these characters are people who can remember the lives lived by black slaves in the prior century. Many are still haunted by those memories. Wilson carefully introduces themes of displacement, abandonment, and the search for self.

The cast is beautifully real, led by Keith Randolph Smith and Stephanie Berry as the Hollys. Residents include DeShawn Harold Mitchell as Bynum Walker, and Jaque Jean-Mary as Jeremy Furlow. Act One also introduces us to Herald and Zonia Loomis, (Shane Taylor and Kerah Lily Jackson) a father and daughter in search of Martha, their wife and mother.

When the play premiered, some critics complained that not much happens over the play's 150-minute run-time. We spend that time learning of lives lived and what that costs have been. It occurs to me that one could say the



Photo by Zach Rosing

Peter Bisgaier as Rutherford Selig with Shane Taylor as Herald Loomis.

same of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. Multiple stories follow the daily lives of people in a very specific place and time. Like that play, *Joe Turner* mines the important and trivial parts of living making up the human experience. And like Wilder's play, Wilson's poetry and symbolism reach into the audience's heart and soul.

The set by Tony Cisek is amazing, and lighting by Jason Lynch is more than appropriately moody. Kara Harmon's costumes and Christopher Darbasie's sound design add

beautiful depth.

Bottom Line: If you are familiar with Wilson's Cycle, you'll know you want to hear these stories. If not, do yourself the favor of spending time in 1911 Pittsburgh. Director Douglas and his exceptional cast are telling tales well worth your time.

Joe Turner's Come and Gone runs through Feb. 22 at The Indiana Repertory Theatre in downtown Indianapolis. Tickets are available at irtlive.com.

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

Let's get to the heart of the matter

"I've been tryin' to get down to the Heart of the Matter / But my will gets weak and my thoughts seem to scatter."
— Don Henley

Let's open with the "heart of the matter" and take a look at those scary statistics.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 44 percent of women in the United States have some form of heart disease, which is responsible for more deaths annually than all cancers combined. Sobering statistics, and ones we have been hearing about for several years now. But do we really pay attention?

I am inspired this month to write a two-part column on the topic. This time we will talk about how your eating habits can make a big difference in your lifestyle changes to protect your heart.

Let's begin with breakfast, of course. Plant-based food items are the go-to for this meal. When you eat lots

COLUMNIST



SHARON MCMAHON
Be Well

of fruits and vegetables, overall your risk of heart disease is lower. Eating a variety of fruits and veggies, about four to five servings per day is recommended.¹ A favorite of mine is oatmeal with fresh or frozen blueberries or raspberries and walnuts — which are rich in omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin E which helps reduce inflammation, a risk factor for heart disease.

Staying hydrated is essential for the heart to pump more easily; when you don't drink enough water your heart has to work harder. Using a non-plastic refillable bottle is a preferred choice as some data suggests that microplastics can leach from containers into the water. A 2024 study of 257 people, published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, showed that those who had microplastics in the blood vessels near their necks were 4.5 times more likely to suffer a

heart attack or stroke.

In order to find a reasonable, "can do" weight for your body type focus on a reasonable eating plan. The drive-thru menu, for the most part, is not your friend. A nourishing lunch will help stabilize energy levels and curb cravings. A fast food option may fill you up with unwanted calories as well as a deficit of the nutrients your body needs. A mid-day snack of apple, peanut butter, or hummus is a great pick-me-up as well.

Adding vegetables to every meal you plan is a great way to meet your daily requirements. You can munch on some raw veggies with your lunch, such as carrots or celery, and I have a suggestion for dinner time that I often use. Heat your oven to 275 degrees. Place a baking sheet in the oven to heat while you cut up some veggies — broccoli, Brussels sprouts, carrots, bell peppers, etc. — whatever you like best. When your pan is thoroughly heated, toss on the veggies (coat with olive oil if you like) and return to oven. The veggies will crisp

up and have a crunchy texture that most people will enjoy. I know I do!

Don't forget the protein sources. Add chicken, fish, lentils, or other proteins for a balanced meal. (Most adults do not get enough protein in their diet; consider adding a protein powder occasionally to your smoothies, although do not make this your sole protein source. Protein powders can differ greatly, so do your research.)

Be your own Valentine this February and research statistics, your own family health history, and incorporate any dietary changes into your life which can make a difference in "the heart of the matter."

¹K. Rexrode, MD, MPH, chief of Division of Women's Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston

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

Westfield Chamber announces next Coffee Connections

Submitted by Westfield Chamber of Commerce

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce's October Coffee Connections is set for 8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Westfield Washington Public Library, 17400 Westfield Blvd.

Nolan Barr, Westfield Chamber Chairman of the Board and Senior Manager of Business Excellence at

Abbott, will be the speaker at this month's Coffee Connections.

As Westfield continues rapid growth and transformation, goals alone aren't enough — the community and businesses need strong practical ways leaders can build alignment, create



Barr

predictable execution, and foster continuous improvement.

Attendees will leave with simple, actionable tools they can apply immediately to strengthen their organizations amid Westfield's exciting momentum.

Come start your day with the Chamber and discover the power of connections. [Click here](#) to register.

Thanks for reading, Hamilton County!

HOPE has Valentine's gift ideas that keep on giving

The REPORTER

HOPE Family Care Center in Cicero will hold its annual Bingo event at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 16 at the Tipton County Event Center, 1200 S. Main St., Tipton.

Are you looking for a unique, one-of-a-kind Valentine's Day gift that also gives back to your community?

HOPE has Table Sponsorships now selling the event. Simply [click here](#)

and name your table in honor of or in memory of someone special. Event organizers will make sure the sponsorship is noted on the table and in the program.

You can also sponsor HOPE for a Day in honor of or in memory of your loved one. For more information, please [click here](#).

Thank you for supporting HOPE Family Care Center. You can learn more at HopeFamilyCare.org.

Northern GOP invites you to first meeting of 2026

The REPORTER

The first meeting of the year for the Northern Hamilton County GOP Club will be Monday, Feb. 23 at Red Bridge Park, 697 Jackson St., Cicero.

The featured speakers will be candidates for Jackson Township Board and Cicero Town Council, but you will also have an opportunity to meet other Hamilton County Republican candidates and office holders.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to emily.pearson317@gmail.com by Friday, Feb. 20. The cost of the dinner is \$10 for guests and free for sponsors and members.

The Club's goals are:

1. To make it easier for

Republican men and women in Northern Hamilton County to meet and speak with Republicans holding and running for office.

2. Address concerns happening in the northern part of Hamilton County (Cicero, Sheridan, Arcadia and Atlanta), but all Republicans in Hamilton County are welcome to attend.

3. Share information to help Precinct committee people staff their polls and connect them with poll workers.

4. Inform people of upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities.

*Emily Pearson, President
Dustin Dixon, Vice President
Adrienne Rogers, Treasurer
Heather Souder, Secretary*

Overnight lane restrictions scheduled on I-465 & U.S. 31/ Meridian Street interchange

The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) announces multiple overnight lane restrictions for Interstate 465 and the I-465/U.S. 31/Meridian Street interchange. Crews will add pavement markings and install barrier wall to facilitate ongoing construction.

Work will occur from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting on Friday, February 13 and then again on Monday, February 16 through Friday, February 20. Drivers will need to slow down and follow signage in the construction zone.

Weather permitting, pavement marking will occur overnight Friday, Feb. 13; Monday, Feb. 16; and Tuesday, Feb. 17 with the following closures:

• Two left lanes closed on northbound Meridian Street between 96th Street to 103rd Street

• Two alternating lane closures on southbound U.S. 31 / Meridian Street between 111th Street and 96th Street

• Two alternating lane closures on the I-465 westbound exit ramp to southbound Meridian Street

Barrier wall installation is expected to occur nightly from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Monday, Feb. 16 and concluding the morning of Friday, Feb. 20.

Monday, Feb. 16

• One lane closed on I-465 eastbound from mile marker 29.5 to mile marker 32.0 (west of the Ditch Road overpass to east of the College Avenue overpass)

Tuesday, Feb. 17

• One lane closed on I-465 westbound from mile marker 32.0 to mile marker 29.5

Wednesday, Feb. 18

• One lane closed on northbound Meridian Street from 96th Street to 103rd Street

• One lane closed on southbound U.S. 31 / Meridian Street between 111th Street and 96th Street

• One lane closed on the I-465 westbound exit ramp to Meridian Street southbound

Thursday, Feb. 19

• One lane closed on northbound Meridian Street from 96th Street to 103rd Street

The southbound U.S. 31 ramp to 106th Street remains closed and is expected to reopen by spring 2026. Motorists are advised to use an alternative route.

For a more in-depth look at the Level Up 31 project, visit LevelUp31.com. Sign up for Level Up 31 updates via email or text at alerts.indot.in.gov to get the latest information delivered straight to your device.

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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

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Stop sign changes at 186th & Eagletown

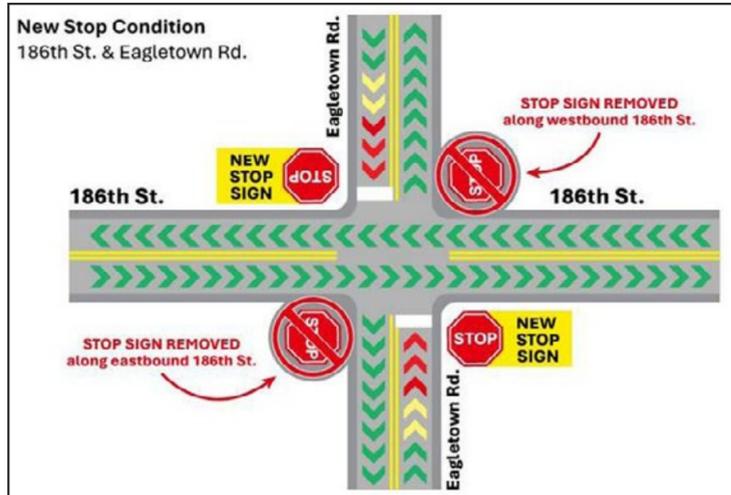


Photo provided

Beginning on or after Tuesday, Feb. 17, the stop condition at the intersection of 186th Street and Eagletown Road will be modified. Stop signs will be installed on Eagletown Road, while the stop signs on 186th Street will be removed. Drivers should use extreme caution when traveling through the area as motorists adjust to the new traffic pattern.



Photo by Moon Coin Productions Inc.

Take It to the Limit with Eagles tribute group

The REPORTER

Looking for the perfect Valentine's gift or an unforgettable date night? Treat your sweetheart to an evening of live music with premier Eagles tribute Take It to the Limit, soaring into Carmel on Sunday, March 15.

Take It to the Limit: The Music & Legacy of the Eagles will perform at 7:30

p.m. Sunday, March 15 at The Tarkington at the Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

Experience the music that defined a generation – from "Desperado," "Take It Easy" and "Heartache Tonight" to "Hotel California," "Lyn' Eyes," "New Kid in Town," and so many more. Hear timeless Eagles clas-

sics performed 100 percent live, with rich harmonies and musicianship that instantly take you back. Make it a night to remember.

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

Follow the band on Facebook and Instagram @EaglesTributeShow and online at [EaglesTributeShow.com](#).

Overnight ramp closures planned for bridge demolition

82nd Street closure scheduled overnight Thursday

The REPORTER

Demolition is scheduled on the former bridge from southbound Interstate 69 to southbound I-465 over Binford Boulevard. Crews opened the new ramp and bridge last month. Overnight ramp closures are expected over the next two weeks to allow crews to safely demolish the bridge.

Drivers can expect the following closures and restrictions from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. each night:

Monday, Feb. 16; Friday, Feb. 20; Monday, Feb. 23; Tuesday, Feb. 24

- Ramp from eastbound I-465 to southbound Binford Boulevard closed
- Ramp from southbound I-69 to southbound Binford Boulevard closed

Tuesday, Feb. 17; Thursday, Feb. 19; Saturday, Feb. 21

- Ramp from eastbound

I-465 to southbound Binford Boulevard closed

- Ramp from southbound I-69 to southbound Binford Boulevard closed
- No access to northbound I-69 from northbound Binford Boulevard at 75th Street

Wednesday, Feb. 18

- No access to northbound I-69 from northbound Binford Boulevard at 75th Street

82nd Street closure
Both directions of 82nd Street are scheduled to close under I-69 from 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20 to 6 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21. Crews are shifting drivers to the outside lanes of 82nd Street in order to build the foundation for the final I-69 bridge over 82nd Street.

Plan ahead
Drivers are encouraged

to plan alternate routes and allow extra travel time. Actual dates and anticipated work may be adjusted if inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances occur.

Indiana Safe Zones

The Safe Zones speed control program remains active in the Clear Path construction zone. This program uses automated systems to monitor speeds in specified work zones.

The goal of the program is to keep workers, drivers, and their passengers safe by reducing excessive speeding in work zones. It's important to slow down in construction zones and drive without distractions. Learn more about Safe Zones at [SafeZonesIN.com](#).

For schedule updates, follow the project at [ClearPath465.com](#).



Photo courtesy Kristina Logan, WYAP

WYAP raises \$44K at first Masquerade Ball

The REPORTER

Thank you to all sponsors, donors, volunteers, and attendees for a wonderful and successful inaugural Masquerade Ball. Thanks to your generosity, the Westfield Youth Assistance Program raised over \$44,000 at this brand-new event.

Thanks to all the amazing supporters, WYAP can

continue to provide:

- Attendance Supports & Behavioral Plans
- Adult Mentors for Youth
- Educational Tutoring Resources
- Family/Youth Coordination of Services, like: Camp & Recreational Opportunities, Counseling & Mental Health Resources

es, Medical & Dental, and Food, Clothing, and Financial Assistance

Were you unable to attend but still want to donate to support Westfield youth? You can donate now at [this link](#).

Want to relive the fun? [Click here](#) to check out photos from the Masquerade Ball.

Sen. Banks' legislation securing fair federal funding for Indiana hospitals becomes law

Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Jim Banks

Last week, Senator Jim Banks' (R-Ind.) bill, the Save Our Safety-Net Hospitals Act of 2025, was passed in the Senate and enacted into law.

This bill ensures that Indiana hospitals get their fair share of Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding. Hospitals that treat very high percent-

ages of Medicaid and low-income Medicare patients receive these federal payments to help cover their costs, but a 2021 recalculation shortchanged Indiana and several other states.

County hospitals, rural hospitals, and urban hospitals in low-income areas have



Banks

been hit hardest, costing Indiana more than \$140 million annually. This bill would restore the pre-2021 Medicaid DSH payment formula and distribute federal funding, which is already appropriated, more fairly.

See Fair . . . Page 8

Town of Atlanta

Now Hiring

Certified Water/Wastewater Operator

Full Time Position

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

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

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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!

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FEB. 19
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Fish Fry extravaganza!

Knights of Columbus to hold six fish fry dinners during Lent at St. Elizabeth Seton in Carmel

Submitted

It's one of the biggest crowd-pleasing fish fry events in Carmel and it happens every year during Lent.

This year's Knights of Columbus (Council 12387) Fish Fry will kick off Friday, Feb. 20, and run for the next five Fridays (Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, and 27). The Knights will serve thousands of pounds of delicious fish to thousands of hungry visitors.

The "All You Can Eat" style of Fish Fry dinners is available from 5 to 7:30 p.m. each of those Fridays during Lent, and the event is open to the public. In addition to traditional sit-down dinners inside the Church, the Knights also offer curbside pick-up for those in a hurry.

St. Elizabeth Seton is located at the intersection of 106th Street and Haverstick Road in Carmel.

Cost for the all-you-can-eat fried Pollock dinner is \$14, and includes French fries, applesauce, coleslaw, a cookie, and iced tea or lemonade. Baked salmon with a flavorful marinade is available for \$17, and New England Style Crab Cakes are \$18. Both meals include green beans, applesauce, coleslaw, a cookie, and iced tea or lemonade. The menu also includes a shrimp cocktail appetizer for \$6, cup of clam chowder for \$4, and a slice of cheesecake with strawberry sauce for \$4.

A children's macaroni and cheese meal and individual cheese pizza with drink (\$5 each) and a Kid's



Fish meal is available for \$6 each for kids 12 and under.

"We feel honored and blessed to offer these delicious dinners not only to our parishioners, but to visitors who come for a great meal and fellowship," said Larry Schulz, publicity chairman for the event. "In fact, a good percentage of the people who attend our fish dinners are from outside of the parish."

All of the money raised by the Knights of Columbus go toward charitable programs including local food pantries, Gibault Home for troubled youths, seminarian activities, Pro-

Life activities, Rosaries for soldiers, and a variety of other community projects.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Fish Fry dates: Feb. 20 and 27, and March 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Doors open in the Church Social Hall at 5 p.m. and service continues until 7:30 p.m. Take-out and drive-up service is also available.

Join the Knights of Columbus at St. Elizabeth Seton and enjoy some Hoosier hospitality at the parish during one or more of the six Lenten Fish Fry dinners. You'll be glad you came!

Former assistant U.S. attorney shares tips with parents to prevent online crimes

By CAT SANDOVAL
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Hamilton Southeastern High School, where Hailey Buzbee attended, hosted an online safety presentation on Wednesday night.

Buzbee was reported missing on Jan. 5, sparking a search that garnered national attention. Police later discovered her remains in Perry County, Ohio, prompting an outpouring of support from friends, coworkers, and the community.

Tiffany Preston, a former assistant U.S. attorney with 17 years of experience with internet crimes against children, used the cases she'd worked on to provide parents with helpful approaches.

"I think the community is obviously experiencing grief, anger, and a lot of fear," Preston said, "and when that happens we can take what we know about Hailey's case and we can use that to empower the

community and give them the information they need so this never happens again to a kid in this school or any school."

Unfortunately, Preston said, predators use psychological tactics to get to kids, and they get them within minutes. Predators can target children and teens the most between the hours of 3 and 5 p.m., when school is out and when parents are at still at work. She said victims can be anyone including a good student and someone from a two-parent home.

"But again, it's important to realize, especially when it comes to victims of financial sextortion, they go through kids sometimes within minutes of threatening them, and it's causing self-harm, particularly with young athletes," Preston said. "I'm trying to get that message across because this happens to boys, too,

See *Tips* . . . Page 9

Auctioneer Zack Burgess marks 30-year anniversary

Touts elite CAI rank & specialized firearms division for Indiana estates

Submitted

This Saturday, Feb. 14, Zack Burgess celebrates 30 years as a licensed Indiana auctioneer, a milestone that finds him at the pinnacle of the profession.

As the founder of Knightstown-based Burgess Auctions LLC, Burgess is one of the few professionals in the Indianapolis "Doughnut" to combine three decades of experience with the elite Certified Auctioneers Institute (CAI) designation and a fully licensed Federal Firearms (FFL) Division.

The inclusion of a dedicated firearms division has made Burgess a critical partner for estate attorneys and executors in Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Madison, Marion, Rush, and Shelby Counties.

"Firearms are often the most legally complex portion of an estate," Burgess said. "By maintaining our FFL license and a dedicated firearms facility in Carthage, we provide a 'Safe



Burgess

Harbor' for executors. We handle the 4473 transfers, NICS background checks, and professional appraisals that protect the estate from liability while maximizing the return for heirs."

Burgess, a second-generation auctioneer, has seen the industry transition from simple farm sales to high-stakes digital auctions.

"On my 30th anniversary, I'm most proud that we've kept our rural roots while offering the same level of sophistication you'd find in a national firm," Burgess said.

About Burgess Auctions LLC
Licensed since 1996, Burgess Auctions LLC is a full-service firm specializing in real estate, luxury estates, and the legal liquidation of firearms. Based in Knightstown, the business serves the seven-county region surrounding Indianapolis. Visit burgessauctions.com for more information.

Three state representatives endorse Hicks for State Senate

Submitted

Indiana House Democratic Floor Leader Cherish Pryor (D-Indianapolis), State Representative Robin Shackleford (D-Indianapolis), and State Representative Renee Pack (D-Indianapolis) are all endorsing Pike Township Board President Demetrice Hicks in the Democratic Primary for State Senate District 29.

Hicks is running to replace State Senator J.D. Ford (D-Indianapolis), who is running for Congress.

State Senate District 29 includes parts of Boone, Hamilton, and Marion counties.

"I have worked with Demetrice on numerous projects to improve the lives of Hoosiers and am always amazed at the work, time, and effort he puts into public service," Rep. Pryor said. "I have witnessed first-hand his dedication to serve as a precinct committeeman, caucus leader, and elected official in the district. We share a commitment to putting Hoosiers above personal gain, and I am proud to endorse him in this race."

Hicks, 33, is currently the youngest elected official in Marion County to hold a township legislative seat. Hicks is also the youngest Black official in Marion County.

"A portion of Senate District 29 overlaps with my House District, and I look forward to reaching across the Statehouse to work with Demetrice in the Senate chamber," Rep. Pack said. "Demetrice is a fierce advocate for children and foster youth, priorities too often overlooked at the Statehouse. He consistently operates in the best interest of the community and is unafraid to stand firm for his constituents. He has a strong history of negotiating complex issues to find solutions that serve constituents. We need more lawmakers

like Demetrice – leaders who are willing to listen and lead based on the will of the people through thoughtful negotiation."

Hicks is also endorsed by Rep. Shackleford, who is the Ranking Democrat on the Public Health, Insurance and the Courts and Criminal Committees.

"Demetrice's tireless dedication to public service sets a powerful example, showcasing the impact one person can make," Rep. Shackleford said. "He is smart, dedicated, and empathetic. Indiana would be lucky to have him in the State Senate. That's why I'm choosing to publicly endorse Demetrice Hicks for SD 29."

Hicks was elected to the Pike Township Board in 2024 and currently serves as President.

"I'm incredibly grateful to have the support of these three sitting state representatives as I seek to have a greater impact for the district," Hicks said. "Having leaders in both the House and Senate working together is essential to delivering real results for our communities and for all Hoosiers."

In the past, the Indianapolis resident has served as a Pike Township Precinct Committeeman and was the two-term elected President of the Indianapolis Indiana Democrat African American Caucus (IDAAC Indy).

Hicks works full-time as a Director of Clinical Operations and oversees millions in government funding for crisis intervention services. He has also served as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for abused and neglected children to help represent children's voices in court.

Demetrice Hicks is a Democrat who currently serves as President of the Pike Township Board (Marion County). You can learn more about Hicks by visiting wishsite.com.

Register now for Westfield Young Professionals Leadership Summit

The REPORTER

Join the Westfield Young Professionals Council (WYPC) for a one-of-a-kind professional and personal development experience starting at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 25 at the IMMI Conference Center, 18880 N. East St., Westfield.

The conference is open to anyone who lives or works in Hamilton County and is looking to sharpen their skills, network, and grow personally and professionally. The all-inclusive cost of \$60 per person includes leadership training, lunch, snacks, service project with Student Impact, and a ticket to the post-conference networking happy hour. Registration is available at [this link](http://thislink.com).

This year's keynote speaker will be Danyele Easterhaus of Danyele Easterhaus Consulting.

Breakout session topics will include:

- **Building a Championship Culture** – Amber Cox, COO of Indiana Fever
- **Building Without a Playbook: How to lead, decide, and grow when there is no clear roadmap** – Kara Riggle, President & Co-owner of 92c Partners
- **Beyond the Scoreboard: Sports, Leadership, & Community Impact** – Gabe Amick, Senior Sports Development Man-



ager of Hamilton County Sports Authority

• **Civility: The Strongest Stance You Can Take** – Jeff Worrell, Founder of Carmel Civility Found-

ation

If you have questions, please send an email to info@westfieldchamber-indy.com.

Attention business owners & supervisors

WYPC fully recognizes that key staff members taking a day off from the office is a big ask. That's why speakers and presenters have been carefully selected who will help those

staff members grow and come back to your company re-energized and ready to meet the moment.

About Westfield Young Professionals

The new Westfield Young Professionals Council is a networking group for young professionals under 40 in Westfield, but it is more than that. WYPC offers a space for people to grow their careers, for those new to Hamilton County and Indianapolis to make lasting friendships, and for young professionals to grow themselves personally. Through this opportunity, young professionals will become invested members of the community, looking for ways to give back to Westfield and each other.

Wanda Lyons

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LYONS REALTY

FAIR

from Page 7

"A recalculation in a federal funding formula shortchanged Indiana hospitals that serve rural and low-income urban areas," Sen. Banks said. "This bill corrects that and delivers the support they were intended to receive."

Key provisions of the bill include:

- Restore the Medicaid DSH payment formula that existed before the FY 2021 appropriations act recalculated it.

- Allow states to compute DSH payments including low-income "dual eligible" Medicaid and Medicare patients.

- Boost payments to Indiana hospitals by roughly \$140 million annually and benefit several other states.

- Allow states to spend unspent DSH payments from earlier years, without any new appropriations.

[Click here](#) to read the full text of the bill.

Patricia (Pat) Fisher (Watkins)

June 5, 1941 – February 9, 2026



Patricia (Pat) Fisher (Watkins), 84, of Fishers, was a beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt, and grandmother, who passed away peacefully on February 9, 2026. A gentle soul with a sincere heart, she spent her life giving more than she ever asked for in return. Her kindness was steady, her presence comforting, and her love unwavering.

Born on June 5, 1941, in Charlotte, N.C., Pat met the love of her life James (Jim) Fisher while attending a rival college, and their passion for teaching and engineering grew into a beautiful marriage of 57 years. She was a woman defined by compassion, humility, and a deep devotion to the family and friends she cherished. Pat was an excellent cook of precious family recipes, an avid reader, and crocheter whose hands were rarely still – creating blankets, gifts, and keepsakes that wrapped others in the same warmth she carried in her spirit. Her peculiar sense of humor, always unexpected and delightfully offbeat, brought laughter to even the most ordinary days.

Pat loved deeply and without hesitation – her family, her friends, and, quite uniquely, her frogs. Whether they were figurines, garden visitors, or little green symbols tucked into her home, they never failed to make her smile.

As a mother, Pat offered guidance without judgment and support without condition. As a grandmother, she brought joy, comfort, and a sense of belonging that made every visit feel like coming home. She had a gift for making others feel seen and valued—whether through a thoughtful word, a quiet act of generosity, or simply by listening with her whole heart.

She is preceded in death by her mother (Ethel Watkins) and father (Charlie Watkins); devoted husband Jim, who passed away in October 2020.

Survivors include her loving daughter, Amanda Bahling (Jeff); her adored grandchildren, Dominick DeCollo and Micaela Bahling; sister, Bettie Martin; nephew, Troy Martin (Lori); beloved grandniece, Keegan Martin, and grandnephew, Jackson Martin.

Though Pat will be deeply missed, her legacy of love, sincerity, creativity, and humor will continue to live on in the hearts of those she leaves behind.

A service honoring Pat will take place at 11:30 a.m. Monday, February 16, 2026, at Bussell Family Funerals, 1621 E. Greyhound Pass, Carmel. Burial will follow in Summit Lawn cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to honor her memory by extending a simple act of kindness to someone in need – just as she did throughout her life.

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

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

REPORT ON THE EXPLORATION

Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Numbers 13:30-33 (NIV)

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The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

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

Meeting Notices

The Hamilton Heights School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, in the Board Room at the Hamilton Heights Student Activity Center, 420 W. North St., Arcadia.

The Jackson Township Fire Department Merit Commission will meet to elect its officers at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026, at the Trustee's Office, 506 W. Main St., Arcadia.

The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026, in the Board Room at the Noblesville Schools Educational Services Center, 18025 River Road.

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REPORTER SPORTS FRIDAY

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

Guerin Catholic, Brebeuf Jesuit to join Hoosier Heritage Conference

Golden Eagles, Braves will become full members in 2027-28

The REPORTER

The Hoosier Heritage Conference is proud to announce the addition of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School and Guerin Catholic High School. Their full participation in the HHC begins in 2027-28, forming an eight-team conference with Greenfield-Central, Lebanon, Mt. Vernon, New Palestine, Pendleton Heights and Yorktown.

The addition of Brebeuf Jesuit and Guerin Catholic reinforces the HHC's commitment to fostering competitive and academic excellence, while emphasizing sportsmanship. Both schools already compete against multiple HHC teams in several sports.

Guerin Catholic and Brebeuf Jesuit were founding members of the Circle City Conference since it began in 2016.

In a statement, Guerin Catholic Athletic Director Ryan Davis said: "We will remain in the CCC for the 26-27 school year with intention to join the HHC fully in 27-28. While it was difficult to leave the CCC given our shared Catholic missions, we look forward to the tremendous opportunities that the HHC presents for our student-athletes and teams."

Brebeuf Jesuit and Guerin Catholic both have a history of athletic success and a commitment to academics. They also have a similar enrollment to existing HHC schools. Brebeuf Jesuit has won 22 IHSAA state championships across 10 different sports, most recently the 2024 boys tennis title. Guerin Catholic has eight IHSAA state titles in four sports, including this year's boys soccer state championship.

Founding members Greenfield-Central, Mt. Vernon, New Palestine and Pendleton Heights formed the HHC in 1993 with Hamilton Southeastern and Rushville. Southeastern left in 1997 to join the Olympic Conference, then became a founding member of the Hoosier Crossroads Conference in 2000.

Yorktown joined the Hoosier Heritage Conference as a full member in 1999. As one of the premier academic and athletic conferences in Indiana, the HHC is poised for continued success. The addition of Brebeuf Jesuit and Guerin Catholic add to an already-great league and expand the membership to eight schools.

"We are grateful for the



Mike Navarro / File photo

Guerin Catholic will become a member of the Hoosier Heritage Conference beginning in the 2027-28 school year. The Golden Eagles will bring a history that includes eight state championships, including the 2025 Class 2A state soccer title.

opportunity to join the Hoosier Heritage Conference and for the many benefits this partnership will provide for our students, programs, and broader community. "We look forward to building strong relationships and working closely with fellow member schools in the years ahead," Guerin Catholic principal Christine Williams said. "We are excited to enter a new chapter for Brebeuf

Jesuit athletics by joining the Hoosier Heritage Conference. The conference's values around sportsmanship and the role of athletics in a well-rounded education are a great match for Brebeuf, and our students will benefit from the new opportunities that the conference will provide. We are especially looking forward to developing relationships among our schools and

learning from one another," Brebeuf Jesuit principal Greg VanSlambrook said.

With the addition of Brebeuf Jesuit, Guerin Catholic and Lebanon in 2027, the HHC's eight members will have a combined 58 IHSAA state championships in 13 different sports.

About the HHC

Since its founding in 1993, the Hoosier Heritage Conference has built a repu-

tation for competitive excellence, strong academics, a commitment to developing the whole student, sportsmanship, integrity, and mutual respect. The HHC sponsors championships in 20 varsity sports (10 boys and 10 girls), as well as three academic competitions, and recognizes students and athletes who excel in the classroom and on the athletic fields.

Boys Wrestling

Fifty county wrestlers set for semi-state

Top four in each class qualify for state

The REPORTER

On Saturday morning, 50 Hamilton County wrestlers will enter the New Castle Fieldhouse with one goal in mind: win two matches.

That's what they need to do to qualify for the state finals. Those wrestlers will join others from across central Indiana at the New Castle semi-state, which begins at 9 a.m. in the country's largest high school gym.

Each of the 14 weight classes has 16 wrestlers. The top four qualify for the IHSAA state finals, which take place Feb. 20 and 21 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

There will be four opening-round matches that feature two county wrestlers. Fishers' Seth Lamb and Noblesville's Blake Weimer will compete at 120 pounds,

then Noblesville's Brody Weimer and Hamilton Southeastern's Cale Beattie will face off at 126 pounds.

Two 150-pound first-round matches are all-county bouts. Noblesville's Luke Chastain takes on Westfield's Graydon Staley, while Fishers' James Schwartz will wrestle Hamilton Heights' Simon Kuhn.

Fourteen Millers in the draw

If you've noticed the name Noblesville quite a bit, there's a good reason. The Millers qualified all 14 of their wrestlers from the regional to the semi-state, the only program to achieve such a feat. Cathedral, who edged out Noblesville for the Elwood regional team trophy, is next with 12 wrestlers, while New Palestine qualified 11 and Roncalli



Photo by Cael Maddox



Photo by Mike Navarro

(LEFT) Hamilton Southeastern's A.W. VanKirk is one of eight Royals wrestlers competing at the New Castle semi-state. (RIGHT) Hamilton Heights' Simon Kuhn comes into the New Castle semi-state with a 37-2 record.

advanced nine.

Among county schools, Hamilton Southeastern sent eight wrestlers to New Cas-

tle from the North Montgomery regional, along with Zionsville, the team champion there. Westfield, Fish-

ers and Carmel all qualified seven for semi-state.

Guerin Catholic qualified four to semi-state,

while Hamilton Heights advanced three.

See *Wrestle . . .* Page 11

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Let's Talk

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Girls Basketball

Orme stepping up for Royals

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

When Hamilton Southeastern's girls basketball team won Sectional 8 last year, Abby Orme was a sophomore and came off the bench.

This year, Orme is a junior and in the starting lineup. She is an integral part of a Royals team that defended its Sectional 8 title and will play McCutcheon Saturday for the Frankfort regional championship.

"Last year, I was getting limited minutes and we had a stacked roster," said Orme. The 2025 HSE team featured Miss Basketball Maya Makalusky, along with then-juniors Kennedy Holman, Kayla Stidham and Antonette Green, all of whom are committed to play in college.

"This year, I think it feels even greater because we know we've had younger players step up," said Orme. Among those players are sophomores Piper Brinley and Eevey Tolliver, both of whom have helped out Southeastern during the course of the season.

Orme is averaging 5.0 points, 2.9 rebounds and 2.0 assists for the Royals. She's had three double-digit scoring games this season, the highest a

13-point effort in Southeastern's Dec. 29 win over Valparaiso.

Orme is quick to credit her teammates with her success.

"They always were lifting me up and they're always telling me to keep shooting," said Orme. "I struggled at the beginning of the year to keep shooting after a miss, but they always pick me back up."

In addition to her participation on the Royals' team, Orme gets a chance to be a part of another basketball team: she is a ball girl with the Noblesville Boom.

"It's a cool experience," said Orme. "I get to watch basketball games every Sunday."

Orme said being a ball girl helps with her basketball IQ, since she gets to watch high-level basketball up close. Orme is also able to work her Boom duties around her Southeastern practice schedule.

"I normally don't work during the weeks because of practice, but I work on Saturdays and Sundays," said Orme. "Days when I practice until 5, I'll come in late if it's a 7 p.m. game."

Some of the HSE junior varsity players have been at Boom games, so they get to see Orme and her teammate Cameron Catlin in action.



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Hamilton Southeastern junior Abby Orme helped the Royals to a defense of their Sectional 8 championship last week. Orme also serves as a ball girl for the Noblesville Boom in addition to playing for Southeastern, which goes for a regional championship on Saturday.

"It's kind of embarrassing because I'm in my khakis and they're watching me get the water and stuff," said Orme. "They mess with me." But she enjoys the experience and working with her teammate Catlin — "it's fun," she said.

The Royals made it all the way to the final four last season, falling in the semi-state championship game to Warsaw. Orme believes the team is capable

of another such run.

"We've known it since the beginning of the season that it's going to be a big change with losing a bunch of seniors, but it's nothing that we haven't set our minds to," said Orme. "And I think we've been working hard all season and we have players who, we all go 100 percent every game and I think that's what is going to help us beat other teams throughout the tournament."

Royals take on Mavericks for regional title

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

The Hamilton Southeastern and McCutcheon girls basketball teams will face off Saturday for the Frankfort regional, to be played at the historic Case Arena. Game time is 4 p.m.

This regional battle will be between two teams with several similarities. A veteran coach, a superstar with a solid supporting cast, and a winning tradition. The Royals defended their sectional title on Saturday, Feb. 7 at Carmel, while the Mavericks claimed their third in a row that same night in their home gym.

McCutcheon is coached by Jeff Knoy, who is in his 21st season with the team. Knoy holds a record 319-189, with seven sectional titles and two regionals to his credit.

The Mavericks won their own sectional with a tough semifinal victory over Lafayette Jefferson 59-54, then cruised past Harrison 82-37 in the championship game. McCutcheon will be playing Southeastern for the first time since 2021; the two were regular opponents back when the Mavs played in the Hoosier Crossroads Conference, as well as the old Olympic Conference.

McCutcheon is 21-5 overall. The team's superstar is junior Lillie Graves, a four-star recruit who has received several offers from colleges ranging across the country. Indiana and Purdue have made offers, along with Florida, Rutgers and Virginia Tech.

Graves averages 17.1 points per game and leads the Mavericks in all categories: rebounds (6.7), assists (5.7), steals (3.4) and blocks (0.8). She is one of three McCutcheon players that scores in double digits.

The other two are also juniors. Keara Lipscomb-Alen averages 14.6 points and 3.2 assists per game, while Ameria Gibson scores 10.2 points per game and collects 6.0 rebounds per contest. Senior Trinity Wilburn makes 3.1 steals per game.

Southeastern is 20-4 and won three games to retain its Sectional 8 crown. The Royals beat Westfield 60-46 in the first round, Noblesville 45-32 in the semifinals and Carmel 50-34 in the championship game.

Senior Kennedy Holman, committed to Florida and a Miss Basketball candidate, is the Royals' superstar. She leads the way with 18.1 points, 7.0 rebounds, 2.9 assists, 2.6 steals and 1.3 blocks per game.

Kayla Stidham, a senior committed to Bowling Green, is also a superstar for HSE. Stidham averages 15.2 points and 6.7 rebounds. Senior Antonette Green, an Earham recruit, is also an important player for the Royals. Green is capable of scoring, pouring in 12 points during Southeastern's win over Noblesville.

Brian Satterfield is 103-50 as the Royals' girls coach. This comes after a 20-year run as Southeastern's boys basketball coach, where he totaled 322 wins and three sectional titles.

Special Olympics Indiana Polar Plunge returns to Wolfie's Grill at Geist Feb. 21

The REPORTER

Special Olympics Indiana's 2026 Polar Plunge season continues Saturday, Feb. 21, at Wolfie's Grill at Geist, 11699 Fall Creek Road, Indianapolis, inviting area residents to Be Bold and Get Cold for a great cause.

Now in its 27th year, the Polar Plunge is a bucket-list fundraising event that challenges individuals and teams to brave icy waters in support of more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities across Indiana.

The 2026 Polar Plunge season runs through March 7, featuring 20 events statewide. Last year, more than 3,000 Plungers raised \$1 million to support Special Olympics Indiana pro-

grams.

The Geist event begins at 9 a.m. with registration. A costume contest and Opening Ceremony lead into the main event at 11 a.m. The day includes awards for the top fundraiser, followed by a post-event celebration at Wolfie's.

As Special Olympics Indiana's signature fundraising series, participants must raise a minimum of \$125 to plunge. Those who meet the minimum earn a commemorative Polar Plunge T-shirt, while higher fundraising levels unlock additional incentive prizes.

The Polar Plunge season also features the Super Plunger program, honoring the bravest participants with the biggest hearts. Individuals who raise \$4,000 or

Local Polar Plunge Locations	
Feb. 21	Wolfie's Grill at Geist
March 5	Eagle Creek Beach (ILEA Plunge)
March 6	Eagle Creek Beach (Cool School Plunge)
March 7	Eagle Creek Beach (Community Plunge)

more receive VIP treatment at the season-ending plunge at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis.

All funds raised through Polar Plunge events help ensure children and adults with intellectual disabilities can participate in Special Olympics Indiana's sports, health, education and leadership programs at no cost. Since its inception, the Polar Plunge has raised more than \$13 million statewide.

Featured partners of the 2026 Polar Plunge series include Coca-Cola Consolidated and the Law En-

forcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics Indiana. Additional top sponsors include Duke Energy, Steel Dynamics, Taft, Everwise, Fine Promotions, Chilly Goat, Precision Control Systems, Kineticco, Brew Broadcasting, the Indiana Knights of Columbus and Social Platforms. Individual events are also supported by local businesses and community organizations.

Visit PolarPlungeIN.org to learn more about the 2026 Polar Plunge events, register and donate to participants.

WRESTLE

Two local wrestlers are unbeaten. Westfield's Connor Maddox is 26-0 at 106 pounds, while Noblesville's Aidan Kincaide is 30-0 at 165. Meanwhile, Kuhn is 37-2, as is Fishers 215-pounder Julian Burgett.

Here is a complete list of Hamilton County qualifiers. Live scoring will be available at [this link](http://thislink).

106: Nolan Culp, Hamilton Southeastern (25-4); Connor Maddox, Westfield (26-0); Rafe Liechty, Guerin Catholic (18-3); Henry Antrobus, Noblesville (26-10).

113: Eli Kincaide, Noblesville (26-12); William Lakes, Hamilton Southeastern (28-11); Brayden Head, Westfield (28-8).

120: Seth Lamb, Fishers (34-6); Blake Weimer, Noblesville (19-19); Aiden Driscoll, Westfield (30-12); Carlo Federici, Carmel (24-11).

126: Kolter Galloway, Hamilton Heights (24-5); Gabe Liechty, Guerin Catholic (23-3); Brody Weimer, Noblesville (34-4); Cale Beattie, Hamilton Southeastern (30-14).

132: Zach Nekolite, Noblesville (17-4); Will Hruskoci, Fishers (29-10); Joseph

Dunasky, Guerin Catholic (16-13); Kase Powell, Hamilton Heights (28-9); Trevor Hum-burg, Westfield (23-13).

138: Justus Suddarth, Noblesville (28-12); Parker Culp, Hamilton Southeastern (34-9); Alic Washburn, Westfield (25-12).

144: Isaac Suddart, Noblesville (19-9); Tyler Elliott, Carmel (25-7); Max Inman, Hamilton Southeastern (20-10).

150: Luke Chastain, Noblesville (28-12); Graydon Staley, Westfield (25-11); James Schwartz, Fishers (15-19); Simon Kuhn, Hamilton Heights (37-2); Jaxen Timmons, Carmel (18-11).

157: Kyle Howard, Noblesville (17-17); Ezekiel Kramer,

Fishers (22-18); Dylan Lane, Hamilton Southeastern (25-4).

165: Aidan Kincaide, Noblesville (30-0); Austin Yunker, Carmel (14-7); Cohen Davis, Hamilton Southeastern (28-6).

175: Eli Isen, Carmel (15-8); Evan Nicholls, Noblesville (16-4).

190: Camden Funk, Fishers (32-8); Yan Tioua, Noblesville (22-8); Gavin Adkins, Carmel (18-14); Jack Hubbard, Guerin Catholic (16-4); Jon Stryker, Westfield (25-11).

215: Julian Burgett, Fishers (37-2); Cale Metzler, Noblesville (27-13); Will Massey, Carmel (16-10).

285: Ryan Dungee, Fishers (25-11); Jackson Apple, Noblesville (16-10); A.W. VanKirk, Hamilton Southeastern (31-8).

from Page 10

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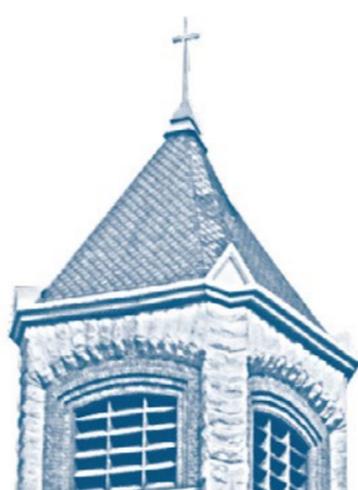
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Carmel girls swimming sectional



Reporter photos by Julie Brown

(TOP LEFT) Guerin Catholic's Kara Von Woerkom finished eighth in the 500 free at the Carmel sectional Saturday, Feb. 7. (TOP RIGHT) Westfield's Makenzie Gater placed 11th in the individual medley. (ABOVE LEFT) Carmel's Leah Debosch swam on the Greyhounds' winning medley and 200 freestyle relay teams. Debosch also finished second in the individual medley and backstroke. (ABOVE CENTER) Noblesville's Maya Preston placed fourth in the 500 free and fifth in the 200 free. (ABOVE RIGHT) Carmel's Story Hughes won the 50 freestyle.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Men's Basketball

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

Tuesday, Feb. 17

BOYS BASKETBALL

University at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.

Western Boone at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 19

BOYS BASKETBALL

University at KIPP Legacy School, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING SECTIONAL PRELIMS

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

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

Friday, Feb. 20

BOYS BASKETBALL

Avon at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.

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

Carmel at Warren Central, 7:30 p.m.

Fishers at Zionsville, 7:30 p.m.

Franklin Central at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.

Hamilton Heights at Hoosier Conference placement game, 7:30 p.m.

North Montgomery at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21

BOYS BASKETBALL

New Haven at Noblesville, 3 p.m.

Carmel at Providence, 7:30 p.m.

Hamilton Heights at Jay County, 7:30 p.m.

North Central at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

BOYS BASKETBALL

Crispus Attucks at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

Guerin Catholic at University, 7:30 p.m.

Hamilton Southeastern at Lawrence North, 7:30 p.m.

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

Noblesville at Muncie Central, 7:30 p.m.

North Central at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.

Hamilton Heights at Rushville, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 26

BOYS BASKETBALL

Indiana Math & Science at University, 7:30 p.m.

Traders Point Christian at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

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



Photos by Mike Navarro

(LEFT) Cameron Hildreth's career-high 34 points propelled the Noblesville Boom to a 130-129 win over the College Park Skyhawks on Thursday. (RIGHT) The Boom's Jalen Slawson was perfect at the free-throw line, making all 11 of his attempts.

Hildreth propels Boom to win over Skyhawks in thriller, 130-129

Pours in career-high 34; Slawson perfect at the line

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom (13-8), the NBA G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers, outlasted the College Park Skyhawks (5-17) in a down-to-the-wire finish, earning a 130-129 victory on Thursday afternoon at The Arena at Innovation Mile.

Cameron Hildreth led the way with a career-high 34 points on 10-of-17 shooting, adding four rebounds, four assists and three steals. Jalen Slawson followed with another all-around performance, totaling 29 points, seven rebounds and six assists, while going a perfect 11-for-11 at the free-throw line, setting a new personal high for made free throws. Au'Diese Toney contributed 19 points and five rebounds.

Former Pacers two-way guard RayJ Dennis delivered a monster performance in his return to Indiana, posting a career-high 47 points and 11 assists on 16-of-24 shooting, including 5-of-7 from three. Basheer Jihad added 23 points, six rebounds and four assists, while Caleb Houston finished with 18 points, eight rebounds and five assists for College Park.

The Boom held a narrow 61-60 halftime lead after a gritty opening 24 minutes. Noblesville overcame an early five-point deficit in



Photo by Mike Navarro

Students from Noble Crossing Elementary School cheered on the Boom during their win.

the first quarter, responding with an 8-0 run sparked by RJ Felton, eventually closing the period on a 14-5 burst to take a seven-point advantage. The Skyhawks answered in the second, cutting the lead to one behind an 8-0 run and outscoring the Boom 34-28 in the frame, but never reclaiming the lead. RayJ Dennis led all scorers at the break afished with 23 points, eight rebounds and five assists for College Park.

The third quarter featured six lead changes, but Noblesville ultimately created separation behind a

16-point explosion from Cameron Hildreth, marking the highest-scoring third quarter by a Boom player this regular season. That surge pushed the Boom to a 99-92 lead heading into the final frame. In the fourth quarter, the Skyhawks refused to go away, surging ahead by four with 6:12 remaining, but the Boom countered behind the relentless play of Slawson. Holding a one-point lead inside the final two minutes, Slawson knocked down five straight free throws to extend the advantage to four. The Skyhawks answered with three free throws of

their own, setting up a final possession with a chance to win at the buzzer. Dennis rose for a tightly contested 18-footer, but his shot fell short as time expired, sealing the Boom's 130-129 victory.

The Boom returns to action after the 2026 NBA All-Star break on Thursday against the Cleveland Charge at The Arena at Innovation Mile. Coverage will stream live on ESPN+, tipping off at 7 p.m.

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