

TUESDAY, FEB. 17, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly to mostly cloudy.
 Tonight: Mostly cloudy.
 Scattered showers late.

HIGH: 57 LOW: 51



That's 40 in Carmel!

Girls Swim Team achieves record that will stand the test of time



Reporter photo by Julie Brown

They've done it! This past Saturday, Feb. 14, the Carmel Girls Swim Team secured its 40th consecutive state title. The Reporter recognizes this win for the true achievement it is, so we will publish a Special Edition next week, Tuesday, Feb. 24 to mark the occasion. It will include numerous full-color photos and results from this year's state meet, as well as special recognition of the previous state-winning teams. If you're reading this and you're not subscribed to Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper, you have until this Friday, Feb. 20 to sign up to get your copy delivered directly to your inbox or your mailbox. Just go to ReadTheReporter.com/subscribe and choose how'd you like to read The Reporter. (ABOVE) Carmel's Ellie Clarke smiles after winning the individual medley at the state meet. It was one of three event wins for Clarke at the IU Natatorium this year. Read the great coverage of this year's girls state swim meet from Richie Hall on Pages 9 and 10 in today's edition.

Who-siers?

While I sit here writing this, I am also watching the Super Bowl. I know what you're thinking ... "What a party animal!" As a 40-something, going to a Super Bowl party is an absolute "no thank you." I'm more of a make some snackies, turn the game on and try not to fall asleep before I get the 127th-na-cho-in-my-belly kind of guy nowadays.



COLUMNIST

TIM RATHZ
 Forty-something in Fishers

I am also beginning to realize that this is a really boring game. It doesn't help that I have no dog in the fight this year, other than an age-old hatred for the Patriots. But even with that, all the players and coaches I couldn't stand from back in the Colts rivalry days are now gone. So, I have no reason to care about this game other than the fact that it's the Super Bowl.

I can't help but think maybe the reason I can't get into the game this year is because my Super Bowl already happened on Jan. 19, when two college teams met to play in Miami, Fla. Nothing could happen today between the Seahawks and Patriots (two teams I don't give a rip about) that could even come close to topping what my IU Hoosiers did just a few short weeks ago. It's an excitement high that I just haven't come down from yet.

If I could go back in time to Bloomington, to a football game, find me in the tailgate lot and not at the actual game, and tell my late teen-something or early 20-something self that IU was going to win it all, my young self probably would have replied ...

Young self: "Why did it take so long to get another basketball championship?"

Me: "Well, actually it was the football team. They went 16-0."

Young self: "The football team. The INDIANA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM. That's who won the national championship?"

Me: "Yes."

Young self: "So, let me get this straight. You mastered time travel, just to come back

See *Who-siers* . . . Page 2

Arrowood appointed to Hamilton County Community Foundation Board

The REPORTER

Dr. Derek Arrowood, Superintendent of Hamilton Heights School Corporation, has been appointed to the Hamilton County Community Foundation (HCCF) Board of Directors. He is one of four new members appointed this year to the 22-person board.

HCCF plays a vital role in strengthening communities across Hamilton County by in-

vesting in local non-profits, supporting youth and education initiatives, and advancing long-term strategies that improve quality of life for residents.

Dr. Arrowood's selection reflects his deep commitment to public education and his leadership in fostering strong commu-



Arrowood

nity partnerships. His experience and perspective will support HCCF's ongoing efforts to expand opportunities for families, students, and organizations throughout the county.

"I'm honored to serve on the Hamilton County Community Foundation Board and to support

an organization that does so much to strengthen our communities," Dr. Arrowood said. "The Foundation's commitment to expanding opportunities for youth, families, and local nonprofits aligns closely with the work we value in our schools. I look forward to contributing to a team that is deeply invested in improving the quality of life for everyone in Hamilton County."

Hamilton County Tourism launches digital passport to showcase local restaurants

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Tourism has launched a new digital passport experience that transforms dining out into a rewarding adventure. The **Around the Table Digital Passport** runs from Feb. 16 to March 13, connecting diners with locally owned establishments across Hamilton County.

The *Around the Table* campaign first launched in 2024 with a series of videos and blog posts to showcase how local restaurants, cafes, and bakeries create community around food. The addition of the digital passport now encourages people to get out and explore different eateries throughout the county.

Participants check in at participating locations by entering a unique restaurant code provided by staff at each venue. Those who visit four different places on the passport will earn a limited-edition *Around the Table - Hamilton County, Indiana Cookbook*, featuring more than 25 recipes from local chefs and restaurateurs. Cookbooks are limited to the first 100 guests who complete four check-ins.

"*Around the Table* has been a meaningful way to celebrate the elevated, diverse and growing culinary scene we have throughout Hamilton County," said Ashley Ledford, director of marketing and pro-



Photo by Cameron Sprinkle / Hamilton County Tourism
Noblesville's bar ellis is one of the participating restaurants in this year's Around the Table.

motions for Hamilton County Tourism. "This digital passport experience makes it even easier for people to discover new dining options while earning a

fun prize that brings a piece of Hamilton County's culinary story into people's own kitchens."

See *Passport* . . . Page 2

Plans for ICE office in Carmel spark fear & uncertainty

By **JADIN REEVES**
 WISH-TV | wistv.com

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is getting a new presence in Hamilton County.

The Carmel City Council has confirmed ICE's plans to establish an office in Carmel.

News 8 spoke with community members about their concerns. Many told News 8 they

are trying to understand what an ICE office will actually mean for their community and their safety.

"People are terrified right now," Stuart Mora said. "Even people with legal status are terrified right now because of the racial profiling we are seeing across the country."



Mora

Mora works first-hand helping immigrants in the community as a community organizer. He previously worked in immigration and criminal defense law, and worked as a volunteer to help locals with immigration issues.

"When we talk about immigrants being detained and

deported, sometimes we forget that those immigrants have U.S. citizen spouses, siblings and children, ones that are traumatized and have suffered greatly," he said. "This is a state that values family. What ICE and the Department of Homeland Security are doing is separating families and traumatizing children. It should stop."

See *ICE* . . . Page 2

MASTER GARDENERS HAMILTON COUNTY

Master Gardeners invite you to seminar on trees & shrubs

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association invites you to a two-part seminar all about trees and shrubs in your landscape. The two parts will take place on March 21 and 28.

These seminars are open to the public. Register for Part I alone (\$65) or for both sessions (\$75). Part II is available only with Part I registration. Part I includes continental breakfast and boxed lunch. Preregistration and prepayment are required.

For more information and to register, visit hcmga.org.

Seminar Part I

Part I will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 21 at the IMMI Conference Center, 18880 East St., Westfield.

Speaker topics include:

- Shrubs and Hedges
- Creating a Woodland Garden
- Trees in Your Project/Garden: An Asset or a Liability?
- The Landscape Below Ground: Architecture of Woody Plant Roots & How it Impacts Your Landscape
- Understanding the Ecological Benefits of Your Trees & Shrubs

Seminar Part II

Part II will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on March 28 at the Cool Creek Park Nature Center, 2000 E. 151st St., Carmel.

The seminar will include one hour of indoor class time, plus a trip outdoors for:

- Tree ID Walk
- Learn how to plant a tree or shrub
- Proper invasive species removal techniques
- Hands-on pruning instruction

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

\$15.00 to play
 RSVP: pfbpnoblesville@gmail.com

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ACCURATE. BALANCED.
You're reading
THE REPORTER

WHO-SIERS

from Page 1

to play a prank on me? Cause there's no way IU football won a championship."

Me: "They did actually. And yes, I couldn't think of a better way to use time travel."

Young self: "Whatever, old guy. I'm going back to the tailgate."

Ok, so he didn't believe me. That's alright because I know that he'll have the chance to experience that game all for himself in 20-something years. He'll get to see Mikail Kamara block that punt and Isaiah Jones recovering it in the endzone for a touchdown. He'll see Fernando Mendoza's Avengers-like, superhero quarterback draw that sent him soaring into the endzone for what seemed to be an impossible touchdown. He'll see Jamari

Sharpe's game clinching interception, reminiscent of the Marlin Jackson pick against the Patriots that sent the Colts to Super Bowl XLI. Then he'll see Coach Cignetti smile for the first time in decades.

It was quite a ride, and I can't wait to see the movie. I'm hoping for Chris Pratt to play an elated 40-something in Fishers, jumping up and down in his kitchen with his family, celebrating a championship he never saw coming.

The moral of the story is ... if you ever master time travel, maybe think of something better to do with that technology than go talk to a skinny punk in the grass lot of Memorial Stadium.

Tim Rathz can be reached at 40somethinginfishers@gmail.com. Follow on Facebook or Instagram.



Photo provided
Our columnist had a great time with his son cheering on the IU Hoosiers!

ICE

from Page 1

News 8 received a statement from ICE:

ICE will not confirm office locations as our officers are facing a coordinated campaign of violence against them including an 8,000% increase in death threats against them and a 1,300% increase in assaults against them.

Is it really news that when a federal agency hires more personnel that they need more space? Thanks to the Big Beautiful Bill, we

have an additional 12,000 ICE officers and agents on the ground across the country. That's a 120% increase in our workforce.

William Lamar works in construction and says he works with immigrants daily. He says a lot of his good friends are worried for what the future holds.

"If they commit a crime,



Snyder

that's one thing," Lamar said. "But if they are honest, hardworking American citizens just like me, I am an American Citizen. If they are going to work just like me, I don't have nothing against them ... Half of this city right now is being built by Hispanics. I go to these sites with these guys and they are good-hearted,

hardworking citizens, just working hard to provide for their families."

Carmel City Council President Matthew Synder confirmed the ICE office was coming to the city, but he could not say when it is opening or why. He also said, "Nothing the city can do at any level."

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wistv.com/news/plans-for-ice-office-in-carmel-spark-fear-and-uncertainty.

PASSPORT

from Page 1

Participating restaurants include:

- bar ellis (Noblesville)
- Big Hoffa's Smokehouse BBQ (Westfield)
- Bru Burger Bar (Carmel & Noblesville)
- Charleston's Restaurant (Carmel)
- Convivio Italian Artisan Cuisine (Carmel)
- Crafters Pizza and Draft-house (Carmel/Westfield)
- divvy (Carmel)

- Eggshell Bistro (Carmel)
- Epic Coffee (Carmel)
- Fork + Ale House (Carmel)
- Goodness Gracious Kitchen & Cupboard (Carmel)
- Just Love Coffee Cafe (Carmel)
- Livery (Noblesville)
- Parlor Doughnuts (Fishers)
- Peterson's (Fishers)
- RIZE (Carmel & Fishers)

- Rosie's Place (Carmel & Noblesville)
- Salt (Carmel & Geist)
- Stone Creek Dining Company (Noblesville)
- The Cake Bake Shop (Carmel)
- Twenty Two Juice Bar (Fishers)
- Twisters Soda Bar (Noblesville)
- Urban Apples Cidery (Westfield)

- Urban Vines Winery & Brewery (Westfield)
- West Fork Whiskey Co. (Westfield)
- Woodys Library Restaurant (Carmel)
- Yafa Golden Coffee (Noblesville)

The *Around the Table Passport* is free to participate in. For more information and to sign up, go to VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Table.

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Three HSE School Board members decline payments for meetings

Pascoe, Lang & Albright pledge that money to Angel Fund

Submitted

Editor's note: Three of the seven members of the Hamilton Southeastern Schools Board of Trustees – Tiffany Pascoe, Dawn Lang, and Dr. Juanita Albright – have announced their intention not to take money for board meetings and committee meetings. Instead, they will donate those funds to the "Angel Fund" to help pay for lunches for students whose families cannot otherwise afford to pay.



Pascoe



Lang



Albright

Statement from Tiffany Pascoe Board President

"In this time of financial distress for our district, I feel a strong moral obligation to stand in solidarity with our staff, students, and community. As a member of the Board of Trustees, I receive a per diem of \$112 per board meeting and \$62 per committee meeting. Last year, those per diems totaled around \$5,000.

"While this compensation is intended to support the work we do, I believe this is a moment that calls for shared sacrifice and tangible support for those most impacted. Therefore, I will be donating my board and committee per diems this year to the Angel Fund to support students in need

of school lunches. "To put this into perspective, one \$112 board meeting per diem equals 37 high school meals or 40 elementary meals. A \$62 committee meeting per diem equals 20 high school meals or 22 elementary meals. Last year, I personally donated \$1,000 dollars, which equated to around 330 high school meals or 357 elementary meals for students.

"If per diem earnings again total around \$5,000 this year, that would provide roughly 1,652 high school meals or 1,786 elementary meals for students in our district.

"At a time when our district and many families are facing hardship, I believe we must do what we can, where we can. Supporting student nutrition is a direct investment in their ability to learn, grow, and succeed. I am committed as a Board Member to sacrifice for the greater good of our district."

Statement from Dawn Lang Board Vice President

"If I would have anything specific to say – As a member of the Hamilton Southeastern Schools Board, I never intended to make money in this elected role. Starting this January, I'll be donating my board meeting and committee meeting compensation to our district Angel Fund to help cover unpaid school meals for students.

"This isn't about recognition; it's about making sure students have what they need to learn. I'm grateful to everyone who supports students and families in our district, and I invite others who are able to join me in supporting the Angel Fund in whatever way they can."

Statement from Dr. Juanita Albright Board Member

"At our last meeting, a motion was made that members of this board decline

compensation for our meetings for 2026. That motion did not pass. While I respect the right of each board member to make their own decision, I also believe leadership sometimes requires us to act individually when we cannot act collectively.

"For that reason, I am choosing to give up my compensation for board and committee meetings and will donate those funds to cover unpaid student lunch balances in our district.

"No student should feel embarrassment or anxiety because of an unpaid meal. School should be a place to focus on learning and growth and not financial stress.

"My decision is not about criticism or division. It is about personal responsibility and modeling the kind of servant leadership I believe in. If I have the ability to help in a tangible way, I want to do my part

"I am making this decision public so that our community is made aware of this need. There is currently a <\$375,000 lunch balance that needs to be covered. If anyone would be interested in contributing to this cause please reach out to our central office. You can contribute generally to the fund or to a specific school or even grade level."

IU Health's Mobile Lung Unit coming to Fishers & Noblesville

The REPORTER

The IU Health Mobile Lung Unit is traveling across Indiana, offering low-dose CT scans to individuals at high risk for lung cancer.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States, claiming more lives each year than breast, prostate, and colon cancers combined. Yet, what many people don't realize is that lung cancer is often preventable, and highly treatable, when detected early. Unfortunately, most cases are diagnosed at an advanced stage when treatment options are limited and survival rates are low.

IU Health's mission is to promote early detection, which can significantly improve treatment outcomes and save lives. This initiative is not only about providing access to care; it's about giving Hoosiers a fighting chance.

Watch [this short video](#) to see how easy lung screening on the mobile really is.

Details

Low-Dose CT Lung Screenings for eligible individuals ages 50 to 77 who are current or former smokers of 20 years. (Former smokers who have quit in the past 15 years may also be eligible.)

The screening is covered by most insurance plans, in-

cluding Medicare and Medicaid. IU Health will cover the cost for those without insurance.

Locations

- Thursday, Feb. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fishers Health Department, 11400 Johnson Farm Way

- Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fishers Fire Department, 22 Municipal Drive

- Thursday, Feb. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fishers Fire Department, 22 Municipal Drive

- Tuesday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hamilton County Health Department, 18030 Foundation Drive, Noblesville

Why it matters

Early screening saves lives. Early-stage lung cancer often has no symptoms, which means people at risk may feel healthy while the disease silently progresses. A low-dose CT (LDCT) scan is a quick, painless screening tool that can detect lung cancer before symptoms appear. Studies show that LDCT screening can reduce lung cancer deaths by up to 20 percent among high-risk individuals.

That's not just a statistic, it is lives saved, families kept whole, and futures preserved.

Learn more at iuhealth.org/mobile-lung-screening.

Sweetgreen opens at The Farm in Zionsville

Submitted

Sweetgreen, the mission-driven restaurant brand connecting more people to real food, will open its sixth Indiana restaurant at The Farm in Zionsville on Feb. 24. To celebrate, the brand is bringing the community together for grand opening week activations featuring local partners and new neighbors.



Photo courtesy Sweetgreen

"Indiana has welcomed Sweetgreen in such a meaningful way, and we're thrilled to continue growing in the state with our sixth location," Sweetgreen Chief Operating Officer Jason Cochran said. "We're excited to become part of the Zionsville community and join the incredible mix of brands at The Farm that are expanding fresh, quality fast-casual dining options for guests in the area."

Sweetgreen offers a full menu of chef-crafted salads, warm bowls, protein plates, and sides. Zionsville guests can enjoy Sweetgreen fan favorites, including the Harvest Bowl, Crispy Rice Bowl, and Miso Glazed Salmon. Plus, guests at the new location can rejoice in the **return of feta** – the most requested ingredient is back by popular demand,

now part of Sweetgreen's core menu. It joins the new Winter Harvest Bowl, a bold seasonal twist on a beloved menu item, available in select markets.

The brand invites the community to celebrate the opening of its new restaurant with a week of events, activations, and pop-ups with community partners. Doors will officially open at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, with grand opening festivities, fun giveaways, and surprises all week long (experiences and gifts available while supplies last). Reservations are now available for the soft opening Tasting Days events on Feb. 20 and 21. Limited time slots are available, and guests can reserve their spot via [Eventbrite](#).

Sweetgreen is proud to extend its mission of connecting people to real food by giving back to the local

community. For every meal purchased on opening day at the new Zionsville location, Sweetgreen will donate a meal to **Second Helpings**, helping to provide nourishing meals and combat food insecurity in central Indiana.

Located at 11555 Sylo Crossing, Zionsville, Sweetgreen Zionsville is a 2,529 square-foot restaurant that seats 68 guests. It will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Guests can order in-restaurant, **online**, or through the Sweetgreen app, which also provides access to SG Rewards. The free loyalty program lets members earn 10 points per eligible dollar spent, unlocking perks, exclusive deals, and free favorites.

For more information on Sweetgreen Zionsville or pick-up and delivery options, visit sweetgreen.com.

AN EVENING WITH
JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

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



THURSDAY
FEB. 19
7:30PM

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at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts
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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

ALL ABOARD! NICKELPLATEEXPRESS.COM

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Summer Stock Stage's Encore Program presents *Guys & Dolls Sr.*

Classic musical comedy featuring a cast entirely 60 & up!

Submitted

On Friday, Feb. 27 and Saturday, Feb. 28, Summer Stock Stage's Encore program for seniors will present *Guys & Dolls Sr.*: a condensed 60-minute version of the beloved musical comedy.

Starting last September, 34 participants aged 60 and up have attended weekly rehearsals for music, staging, and choreography. Performances will take place at Shelton Auditorium on the campus of Butler University, 1000 W. 42nd St., Indianapolis. Tickets are available now at summerstockstage.com.

"Summer Stock Stage believes that theater inspires and connects people of all ages," Managing Director Mike Berg Raunick said. "Research shows that singing, dancing, and learning new skills create fresh neural pathways, keeping minds sharp and spirits thriving. With our Encore program, we celebrate that it's never too late to learn, grow, and shine. This new initiative invites seniors and emerging older artists to step into the spotlight, build community, and experience the joy of live performance together."

In addition to Berg Raunick, the creative team for *Guys & Dolls Sr.* includes Director Emily Ristine Holloway, Choreographer Lily White, Costume Designer Allison Jones, Properties



Designer Cindy Hancock, Lighting Designer Michael Moffatt, Sound Designer Zach Rosing, Intimacy Director Claire Wilcher, Set Construction Lead Rick Powis, Technical Coordinator Spencer Elliott, and Production Manager Kelli Thomas.

"Many of our cast members, whose ages are 60 to 93, haven't had theatre experience or haven't participated since high school," Ristine Holloway said. "They have been driving in from all over – Indianapolis, Carmel, Greenwood, Lebanon – to join this free program. The most common sentiment that drew them to join was that it was always something they had wanted to do so they couldn't pass up the opportunity. We are thrilled to see how much theatre brings people together."

Set in Damon Runyon's



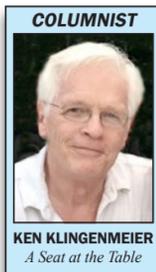
Photos provided
This version of *Guys & Dolls* probably has at least one cast member who saw it in the theater when Marlon Brando sang "Luck Be a Lady."

mythical New York City, *Guys and Dolls Sr.* is an oddball romantic comedy. Gambler Nathan Detroit tries to find the cash to set up the biggest craps game in town while the authorities breathe down his neck; meanwhile, his girlfriend and nightclub performer, Adelaide, laments that they've been engaged for 14

years. Nathan turns to fellow gambler, Sky Master-son, for the dough, and Sky ends up chasing the straight-laced missionary, Sarah Brown, as a result. *Guys and Dolls Sr.* takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City, but eventually everyone ends up right where they belong – all in 60 minutes!

Happy Hour at Drake's

Drake's Keystone, located at 3740 E. 82nd St., Indianapolis, offers Happy Hour (HH) Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. with a second HH round from 9 to 11 p.m. You can check-out the menu here: drakescomeplay.com/whats-happening/happy-hour.



COLUMNIST
KEN KLINGEMEIER
A Seat at the Table

Mrs. K and I had never been to this restaurant. It's sort of tucked away in the back area of the retail center on the north side of 82nd, east of the White River crossing. Plenty of friends have told us about the place though, so on our quest to visit more of the Northside HH locations, it came up on our list recently.

Drake's is a casual, comfortably styled establishment with a great friendly vibe. It has a bar area in the front and a dining room in the rear area. We picked the bar for our HH visit and took a seat at one of the six-top tables along a series of garage door type windows that are likely opened in the nicer weather. As it was, plenty of sunshine came into the room.

Our server Kourtney came by soon to take our drink orders – House Chardonnay (\$4 for a six-ounce pour) for Mrs. K and a 16-ounce Drake's All-American Lager (\$3) for me. Other beverages are available including a \$2 Busch Lite, \$5 Tito's or Jack Daniels, or a \$6 'Pixy Stix' Martini. Great prices, I think!

From the HH menu we perused the limited selections. Only five things are offered and we chose the \$10 Southwest Egg Rolls and the \$2 apiece Mini Cheeseburgers – we ordered two of those. Kourtney told us she loved the egg rolls and suggested that the Honey-Mustard sauce made them just right – so we added that.

As we waited, we looked

around; there was only a few people at tables and at the bar, except for a group of 13 – I'm guessing they were workmates – having a good time with drinks and food. Above the bar, seven or eight TVs were showing sports programming, and the background music was soft enough to not be any hindrance to conversation.

The restaurant manager, Amber Jones, stopped by to say hello. She shared about some of her experiences with the company, and her preference for the weather down south, where she had worked previously to coming to the Indy location. We had a nice chat with her while we waited for our food.

When it came, it was a good surprise. The egg rolls are offered in a generous order of six large servings. The menu description is "Homemade ancho chile spiced chicken, corn and black bean salad, & shredded pepper jack cheese hand-rolled in a crispy egg roll; served w/ ancho chile ranch." Dipped in the ranch or the honey-mustard, these flash-fried egg rolls were a crispy tasty treat. They really were terrific.

The Mini Cheeseburgers were like sliders – nice-sized, beefy, and delicious. We had one apiece and with the hardy egg rolls, we really had plenty to eat. After a second round of drinks, our total came to just over \$30, plus a tip. Drake's has been our thirfiest HH visit yet.

This turned out to be a very comfortable stop, with good eats and an attentive staff. We hope to make it back for dinner sometime.

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

New this week at Sheridan Public Library

Submitted

Here are some of the new items that can be found at the Sheridan Public Library.

Fiction

- Bourne Revenge – Brian Freeman
- Dead in the Water – John Maars
- Dreaming of Mistletoe – Dianna Houx

- Dying for Danish – Leighann Dobbs
- Friend of the Family – Dean Koontz
- Heart the Lover – Lily King
- If the Shoe Fits – Julie Murphy
- Loving You Always – Kennedy Ryan
- Mate – Ali Hazelwood

- Method – Matthew Quirk
- Murder Money & Marzipan – Leighann Dobbs
- My Husband's Wife – Alice Feeney
- Pendergast – Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child
- Robert Ludlum's Bourne Revenge – Brian Freeman
- Woman Down – Col-

- leen Hoover
- Non-Fiction**
- Your Roots Don't Define You – Chris Appleton
- Children's**
- Book of Loves – Cynthia Rylant
- Family of Readers – Rob Sanders

See *Library* . . . Page 5



MELT THE TRAIL

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Report: Indiana's hospital systems lowered prices in 2024

State-commissioned study confirms consistent progress in reducing health care costs for Hoosiers

Submitted by Indiana Hospital Association

A new state commissioned analysis shows Indiana's five largest nonprofit hospital systems reduced their commercial prices by nearly 7 percentage points on average in 2024 compared to the year before, marking one of the most significant year over year improvements to date in the effort to make health care more affordable for Hoosiers.

According to the report, each system's prices as a percentage of full Medicare declined from 2023 to 2024, demonstrating broad, system-wide progress across the state.

In fact, the commercial prices of Ascension St. Vincent, Community Health Network, Franciscan Health, IU Health, and Parkview Health averaged 252 percent of Medicare in 2024, a full 33 percentage points below the state benchmark set by the Indiana General Assembly.

The findings come from a November 2025 report issued by the Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI) and conducted by Milliman. The study was required under House Enrolled Act 1004 (2023), which directed IDOI to independently evaluate hospital commercial prices and compare them to a benchmark of 285 percent of Medicare established by the Indiana General Assembly. The goal was to provide lawmakers and the public with a transparent, data driven assessment of hospital pricing based on actual amounts allowed by insurers.

Meanwhile, several national rankings – including independent analyses by Wallethub, Forbes, and the Kaiser Family Foundation – have also shown steady declines in health care costs and lower prices among Indiana hospitals compared to other states.

"Indiana hospitals are listening and responding to the needs of Hoosier patients," said Scott B. Tittle, president of the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA). "One study after another shows the consistent progress hospitals are making to move prices in the right direction. With robust data from credible sources, our legislators can make informed policy decisions

that improve affordability without jeopardizing access to care in the communities they serve."

With hospital prices declining, Tittle emphasized that insurance companies must now pass these savings along to employers and families – particularly as health insurance premiums continue to rise and strain household budgets.

"Our hospitals are doing their part," Tittle said. "It's time for insurers to do theirs, and we look forward to the General Assembly helping to guarantee those savings are passed on to Hoosiers."

Hospitals remain committed to affordability despite financial strain

While achieving positive gains on affordability, a recent analysis by Kaufman Hall shows Indiana hospitals continue to face significant financial challenges, operating with razor thin margins – as low as 1.9 percent in 2025 through August, compared to the national median of 2.6 percent.

These pressures stem from historically low reimbursement rates from Medicare and Medicaid, rising labor and supply costs driven by inflation and tariffs, and increasing payment delays and denials from commercial insurers.

Tittle also noted that Indiana's physician reimbursement rates – set by commercial insurers – are among the lowest in the country, requiring hospitals to subsidize physician practices at significant levels to ensure Hoosiers can access essential services. Because physician and facility rates operate within a shared financial ecosystem, it is critical that total hospital pricing reflects both sides of the care delivery model, Tittle said.

Despite these challenges, Indiana's nonprofit hospital systems continue to prioritize affordability and transparency.

"The data is clear: Indiana hospitals are lowering prices while navigating some of the most difficult financial conditions in recent history," Tittle said. "Our hospitals remain committed to delivering high quality, accessible, and affordable care for every Hoosier."



Tittle

HSE Schools announces attendees for national conference, superintendent to serve as keynote

Submitted

Last fall, Hamilton Southeastern Schools (HSE) shared the news that with the support of National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) training, HSE achieved a record 96 percent IREAD pass rate in early literacy. This important investment continues to drive strong teacher performance, student retention, and gains across all grade levels.



Mapes

Attending the NIET national conference is an important part of that partnership. This year, 26 HSE educators have the opportunity to attend the conference in the spring. This continues the three-year plan to provide this professional development opportunity to instructional leaders from all HSE elementary and intermediate schools.

This year's attendees include key educators in the schools like the dis-

trict teacher of the year and HSE's own NIET fellow, an incredible honor for the district and one who attends the conference at no cost to HSE.

HSE is especially proud of Superintendent Patrick Mapes, who has been selected as this year's Strand Keynote Speaker for the conference. His award-winning career in education includes more than 35 years leading school districts like HSE and Perry Township Schools. Having one of HSE's own on the national stage is a tremendous opportunity to share the Schools' story with districts from across the country.

This focused investment helps retain great teachers, maintain stability, and attract families who value results and ensure HSE's future stability, supporting enrollment and funding in the student-count system. It is



This year's attendees from HSE Schools

- Danielle Fetters Thompson, Administration
- Will Hurst, Administration
- Erin Mohr, Administration
- Matt Kegley, Administration
- Jason Urban, Administration
- Trice Black, Deer Creek Elementary
- Melissa Bock, Deer Creek Elementary
- Danielle Chastain, Deer Creek Elementary
- Alex Anderson, Fall Creek Intermediate
- Kim Day, Fall Creek Intermediate
- Tim Hull, Fall Creek Intermediate
- Michael Teal, Fall Creek Intermediate
- Jennifer Dickerson, Geist Elementary
- Lynn Laffey, Geist Elementary
- Therisa Seymour, Geist Elementary
- Tina Johnson, Lantern Road Elementary
- John Sponzel, Lantern Road Elementary
- Danielle Thompson, Lantern Road Elementary
- Michelle Bunnell, Sand Creek Intermediate
- Sara Cherry, Sand Creek Intermediate
- Brice Willey, Sand Creek Intermediate
- Megan Busch, Southeastern Elementary
- Michelle Faulkner, Southeastern Elementary
- Trae Heeter, Southeastern Elementary
- Nicole Kaminski, Southeastern Elementary
- Rachael Powell, Southeastern Elementary

careful, responsible stewardship that honors every educator, maximizes every dollar, and delivers lasting excellence for the community.

LIBRARY

from Page 4

- Happy Birthday, Wonderful You – Ms. Rachel
- I Spy With My Little Eye ... Bible Stories - Rubie Crowe
- I Think I Saw the Easter Bunny – Adam Wallace
- It's Not Easy Being a Leprechaun – Marilyn Sadler
- Itsy Bitsy Spider – Emily Emerson (Illustrator)
- Maze of Bones (39 Clues Graphic Novel) – Ethan Young
- Rumble, Rumble, Dinosaur – Katrina Charman
- Waffle Lot of Love – Ben Clanton
- You and Me, Baby –

- Aisha Saeed
- Inspirational Fiction**
- Anyone But You – Rachel Hauck
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- His Unexpected Baby Blessing – Julie Brookman
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Letter to the Editor

The Crossroads of the Sky: Indiana's strategy for drone leadership & national security

Dear Editor:

Indiana's legacy is defined by building what matters. From advanced manufacturing to motorsport to aerospace to defense innovation, the Hoosier State has earned a reputation for doing serious work that supports both economic growth and national security.

Today, that tradition is squarely focused on the rapidly expanding world of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, also known as UAS or drones. Senator Todd Young is the central figure in positioning Indiana to not just lead, but to win, through his leadership that unified the entire Indiana Congressional Delegation in a bipartisan effort that just brought an FAA-designated UAS Test Site to Indiana.

Drones are a focal point of the Department of War's modernization efforts as well as one of the defining national security concerns of this era, and Indiana is uniquely positioned to bring industry and government together to address drone-related threats. Drones also offer boundless opportunities to positively impact society, forever changing numerous lives for the better. Indiana can provide a diverse and deeply capable testing environment to accelerate innovation across all avenues, including safety, defense, and security.

Drones are already transforming agriculture, emergency response, logistics, infrastructure inspection, and national defense. For over a decade, Indiana has hosted UAS and C-UAS testing at Camp Atterbury and has

been home to drone industry pioneers such as Hamilton County's Beck's Hybrids, AUVSI Indiana Chapter, Arrive AI, and Pierce Aerospace. Naming Indiana as a UAS Test Site is in line with the state's deliberate and purposeful investments in drone technology.

The Federal Aviation Administration's designation makes it possible to further accelerate this work. The FAA's willingness to partner with states like Indiana demonstrates a practical, forward-looking approach to regulation — one that enables innovation while maintaining safety and accountability.

Senator Young has consistently focused on making Indiana a hub for drone research and deployment, including through regular, personal connections and stakeholder engagement. On the Senate Commerce Committee, he has elevated the state's capabilities at the federal level and helped align Indiana's academic, military, and industrial assets behind a common goal. When Indiana pursued designation as a national drone test site, he rallied the entire Indiana congressional delegation to speak with one voice in support. That level of coordination does not happen by accident.

Indiana's case is compelling because it is built on real capacity. Purdue University is a national leader in aviation and autonomous systems research and operates the only university-owned airport in the country. Camp Atterbury has demonstrated advanced counter-drone capabili-

ties, including stopping a large drone swarm in a controlled test environment. The Muscatatuck Urban Training Center and Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane provide additional real-world testing and evaluation environments and billions of dollars in cumulative infrastructure that few states can match.

Just as important is how state leadership has organized this work. Governor Mike Braun's creation of the Indiana Initiative for Drone Dominance Task Force brought structure and coordination to an already strong ecosystem. Senator Young's public support for that effort sent a clear signal that Indiana is serious about competing and winning in this space. Rather than siloed projects, the state is building an integrated system that connects universities, industry partners, military installations, and workforce development.

With strong state leadership, a unified congressional delegation, and a federal administration committed to American technological leadership, Indiana is demonstrating how to advance emerging technologies responsibly and strategically. Senator Todd Young's leadership reflects that approach, and with newfound support from the White House and the FAA, Indiana is helping ensure that the "Crossroads of America" is ready to take to the skies.

Aaron Pierce
CEO & Co-Founder,
Pierce Aerospace
Fishers

Comptroller Nieshalla & Gov. Braun highlight Indiana's leadership on national debt reform

Submitted by Office of Comptroller Elise Nieshalla

On Monday, Feb. 16, State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla joined Governor Mike Braun, legislative leaders, and Jonathan Williams, President and Chief Economist for the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) to underscore Indiana's leadership in building a growing movement from the states calling for federal action on the national debt crisis.

Comptroller Nieshalla expressed gratitude to Governor Braun and Indiana's legislators.

"Your commitment to fiscal discipline has positioned us to lead in this national effort from the states," Nieshalla said. "Indiana has demonstrated that disciplined budgeting, low debt, healthy reserves and transparent management provides a solid fiscal foundation for growth. But the federal government's \$38 trillion debt threatens the economic future of every Hoosier and American."

In serving as the Chair of the National Debt Crisis Task Force of State Financial Officers Foundation, Comptroller Nieshalla made members of Indiana's General Assembly aware last year of United States **Senate Resolution 600**, introduced by then-Senator Mike Braun in 2024, as an opportunity to pass a similar resolution and join in calling out the national debt as a national security threat. In the U.S. Senate, the resolution not only passed in a bipartisan fashion — it passed unanimously.

Two Indiana Senators, Dar-yl Schmitt (R-Jasper) and Brett Clark (R-Avon), then took on the mission to get a national debt crisis resolution passed in the Indiana Senate and authored **Senate Resolution 51**. They quickly gained leadership's support, including Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville), resulting in an overwhelming, bipartisan, voice vote passage from the floor.

See Debt . . . Page 7



Nieshalla



Braun

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to News@ReadTheReporter.com. Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.



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Making sure former foster kids get care packages when pursuing college degrees

The REPORTER

As the college year continues on, Foster Success is once again bringing the community together to support young people with lived experience in foster care.

Last Friday, Feb. 13, volunteers from Radiological Care Services and the Tom and Julie Wood College of Osteopathic Medicine of Marian University joined Foster Success to assemble care packages for Indiana college students in the **Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program**.

For many college students, care packages from home are a familiar comfort. However, many ETV participants do not have that built-in support system. Foster Success helps bridge that gap by providing care packages filled with snacks, school supplies, and practical essentials. The new care packages being boxed up will include a puzzle cube,

snacks, and an encouragement card.

Foster Success provides the items included in each package, while volunteers contribute their time and energy to ensure every student receives encouragement as they continue through the semester.

“We are so grateful for these two groups taking time out of their day to ensure that students who have been in foster care know they have a whole community back home that supports them and wants them to succeed,” said Foster Success Chief Development and Communications Officer Travis Tester. “We couldn’t do this work without volunteers and supporters who go the extra mile.”

About Foster Success

Headquartered in Indiana and located at 550 N. Meridian St., Suite 100, Indianapolis, Foster Success is a national nonprofit that hears, supports, and empowers teens and young adults transitioning out of



Photos provided by Foster Success

These volunteers ensure Foster Success can help college students who are part of the ETV program.

foster care on their journey to self-sufficiency. Founded in 2012 in Indiana, Fos-

ter Success provides support through programs and resources that allow young

adults to be educated, housed, financially stable, employed, and connected

to a support system by their 26th birthday. Learn more at fostersuccess.org.

DEBT

from Page 6

This session, the Indiana House is advancing **House Resolution 28** on the national debt, authored by State Rep. Timothy O’Brien (R-Evansville), further strengthening the state’s leadership role in this growing national effort.

Once the Indiana Senate passed the resolution last year, Comptroller Nieshalla reached out to Williams and State Sen. Linda Rogers (R-Granger), State Chair of ALEC and Sen. Jim Buck (R-Kokomo), former National Chair of ALEC, to ask if they would consider making Indiana SR 51 a model resolution to grow the call for national solvency from the states. As a result, ALEC approved a national debt **model resolution** and multiple states’ legislatures are now preparing to pass their own resolution.

“The purpose of these resolutions is to build a ground swell of support from the states for President Trump and Congress to restore our country’s fiscal solvency – to lead head-on into tackling the massive \$38 trillion debt problem and to enact a plan for achieving long-term fiscal stability,” Nieshalla said.

Governor Braun praised the Comptroller’s leadership and reaffirmed the state’s commitment to responsible fiscal stewardship.

“Indiana has shown that balanced budgets and responsible spending are not only possible — they are essential,” Gov. Braun said. “I appreciate Comptroller Nieshalla’s leadership in elevating this issue nationally. Indiana is proud to stand at the forefront of a growing coalition calling for meaningful federal reform.”

Nieshalla also commended the resolutions’ authors and co-authors for championing this effort.

“Senator Schmitt, Senator Clark, Representative O’Brien and the many coauthors who joined them have shown tremendous leadership,” Nieshalla said. “Their work reflects the seriousness with which Indiana approaches fiscal responsibility and the urgency of addressing the national debt.”

Schmitt, author of SR 51, said Indiana’s message to Washington is clear.

“Our nation’s debt is a burden on future generations, and our federal government must start taking it seriously,” Schmitt said. “States must do more to hold the fed-

eral government accountable and work with our elected representatives to find ways to reduce our debt.”

Clark, second author of SR 51, emphasized the bipartisan support behind the effort.

“The rising national debt is a growing issue that impacts everyone, and we can protect America’s economic future by addressing the issue,” Clark said. “I am glad to see Indiana leading the charge by enacting fiscally responsible policies and calling on the federal government to take action.”

O’Brien, author of HR 28, highlighted the urgency of federal action.

“The national debt has ballooned to a point that is unsustainable and puts our country’s security at risk,” O’Brien said. “Indiana has been living within its means, passing balanced budgets, and prioritizing fiscal responsibility for nearly two decades. This resolution urges leaders in Washington, D.C., to do the same.”

Treasurer of State Daniel Elliott, a member of the National Debt Crisis Task Force added, “For too long, the federal government has been spending way too much money and incurring unconscionable debt for future generations. I’m proud to stand with Comptroller Nieshalla, Governor Braun and others and show the federal government and other states that good governance and sound fiscal policy are not mutually exclusive.”

Jonathan Williams (ALEC) emphasized the broader national stakes.

“Driven by chronic overspending, the national debt is more than an accounting problem — it is a direct threat to our national security, economic future, and the standard of living for all Americans,” Williams said. “Fiscally disciplined states that balance their budgets and restrain spending demonstrate that better choices are possible. Lasting relief will require the same commonsense fiscal responsibility, paired with pro-growth economic policy.”

Comptroller Nieshalla concluded the event remarking that, “In this 250th year of our independence, we, the states, need to resolve to support the re-securing of America’s financial independence as the necessary foundation to perpetuate our freedom and stability as a country.”

United Fidelity Bank to present Love Letters from Paris: Music from the Heart by the Carmel Symphony Orchestra

The REPORTER

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) has announced the support of United Fidelity Bank for CSO’s concert, Love Letters from Paris: Music from the Heart, taking place at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Payne & Mencias Palladium at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts.

The concert, led by Conductor **Kelly Corcoran**, continues those Valentine feelings with romantic renditions of Mozart’s “Paris” Symphony, *The Lovers* by Jean Sibelius, and Mozart’s Concerto for Flute and Harp, featuring much-beloved soloists from the CSO, principal flutist Tamara Thweatt and principal harpist Melanie Mashner.

Full Repertoire

- Jean Sibelius – Rakastava, op.14, “The Lover”
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Symphony No. 31, K. 297, “Paris”
- Edward Elgar – Salut d’amour, op. 12, “Love’s Greeting”

• Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Concerto for Flute and Harp, K. 299 featuring soloists Tamara Thweatt, flute and Melanie Mashner, harp

“We are long-time supporters of the Carmel Symphony Orchestra because we understand the importance of providing high quality cultural opportunities in our community,” said Julie Eckert, Community Executive for United Fidelity Bank in Carmel. “Sharing classical masterworks with all ages is vital to inspiring this and future generations. United Fidelity believes in supporting the arts to continue to make Carmel a place where people can thrive.”

“We are thankful to partner with Julie and United Fidelity Bank, which has been instrumental in investing in



Corcoran



Thweatt



Mashner



Eckert

our community and helping it and its businesses grow,” CSO Board Chair Nancy Sutton said. “They are wonderful partners in our quest to entertain, educate and engage audiences through the enjoyment of classical music.”

Join United Fidelity Bank and the CSO at Love Letters from Paris: Music from the Heart at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21. To select your seats, call the Fifth Third Bank Box Office at (317) 843-3800 or [click here](#). You can purchase a three-concert discount package at [this link](#).

About United Fidelity Bank

Since 1914, United Fidelity Bank has been dedicated to building long-term relationships with its customers. The bank’s mission is to be the premier community banking institution providing financial services for the market, by surpassing customers’ expectations, and fulfilling community needs in a manner that enhances value. [Click here](#) to learn more.

About the CSO

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is a Resident Company of the Allied Solutions Center for the

Performing Arts in Carmel. The 65-member orchestra of professional musicians performs at the Payne & Mencias Palladium, a 1,500-seat concert hall at the Center. Incorporated as a non-profit in 1976, the CSO performs concerts featuring an eclectic repertoire of some of the world’s greatest symphonic music. The CSO is committed to enhancing our community’s quality of life through creative, artistically excellent performances and educational experiences for diverse audiences of all ages. Visit CarmelSymphony.org to learn more.

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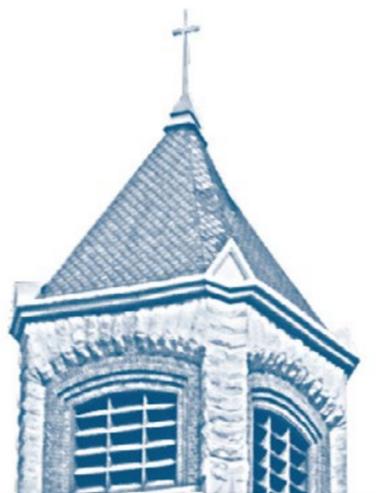
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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE PEOPLE REBEL

That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

Numbers 14:1-9 (NIV)

Meeting Notices

The Carmel Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a combined Hearing Officer meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

The Carmel Redevelopment Commission will meet in an executive session at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026. The purpose of the Executive Session is to discuss pending litigation in accordance with IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2) (B); and/or to discuss the purchase or lease of real property in accordance with IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2) (D); and/or to receive information about and interview prospective employees in accordance with IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(5).

A regular meeting will follow at 4 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

The Carmel Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Hearing Officer meeting at 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

The regular meeting of the Board has been canceled.

The Hamilton Heights School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet in an executive session at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, pursuant to I.C.5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(11) To train school board members with an outside consultant about the performance of the role of the members as public officials.

The Westfield Plat Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, has been canceled due to no business items for consideration.

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

Bruce Leon Crail

July 28, 1956 – February 9, 2026

It is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of our brother Bruce Leon Crail on February 9, 2026. Bruce was born on July 28, 1956, to Ermal Leander Crail and Mary Alice (Grimes) Crail.



Bruce had an infectious laugh, smile, and a heart of gold always ready to lend a hand or share a story. He never knew a stranger and enjoyed riding his Harley with his buddies. He leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and unforgettable memories.

Bruce served in the U.S. Army for 20 years. He then worked at Firestone and finally with his best friend and brother at Crail Plumbing.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, James Crail.

Bruce is survived by sons, Clint and Cody Crail, both of Louisiana; brother, Alvin (Linda) Crail; sisters, Fran (Greg) Johnson and Maura (Dallas) Griffin; several nieces and nephews; and his beloved dog, Petey.

A private family graveside service will be held at Crown Hill Cemetery, with a Celebration of Life being held at a later date.

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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.

— NOBLESVILLE —

Public Auction Notice
Harbour Storage
20236 Hauge Rd.
Noblesville, IN 46062

Auction to be held on Tuesday February 24th, at 10am. This is for one storage unit. Lessee James Horn unit O294. The personal property stored in and outside of this space will be sold to satisfy the owner's lien in accordance with IC 26-3-8-11. This sale will be located at 20236 Hauge Rd. Noblesville, IN 46062.
2/17/26, 2/23/26
R7506

Col. Marjorie "Charlene" Merrill

June 27, 1935 – February 8, 2026

Col. Marjorie "Charlene" Merrill, a devoted nurse, proud veteran, and faithful servant of God, passed away on Sunday, February 8, 2026, in San Bernardino, Calif., surrounded by her loving family. She was a longtime resident of San Bernardino and was originally from Sheridan.

Charlene was born to Charles and Louise (Kremmer) Merrill, who preceded her in death. She was a 1953 graduate of Sheridan High School. She continued her education at Ball State University and Anderson University, where she earned her degree in nursing – beginning a lifelong calling to care for others.

Col. Merrill proudly served her country for 30 years in the United States Air Force. Stationed at Norton Air Force Base, she was one of the few women serving on base at that time, paving the way for those who would follow. During the Vietnam War, she served on reserve duty along the East Coast, compassionately caring for sick and injured soldiers returning home. Toward the end of her distinguished career, she served as a nurse on air evacuation flights, providing critical care to wounded service members in transit.

During the Gulf War, Col. Merrill achieved a historic milestone, becoming the first female full-bird colonel in the reserves, commanding a squadron of 300. Her leadership, dedication, and strength left a lasting impact on all who served alongside her.

Beyond her military service, Charlene was deeply devoted to her church and steadfast in her faith. She lived her beliefs daily through service, kindness, and unwavering love for her family and community.

She is survived by her nephews: Mike Merrill of Cole Camp, Mo.; David Merrill of Warsaw, Mo.; Scott (Teresa) Merrill of Westfield; and niece-in-law Cheryl Merrill of Sheridan. She is also survived by her great-nephews Joshua (Brittany) Merrill and Brock Merrill; and great-nieces Erin (Travis) Macy, Lindsey (Ryan) Martin, Ashley (Arley) Myers, Tia (David) Guzman, and Makayla Merrill.

Charlene is lovingly remembered by her California family: Julie & Dale Dunlap, Kevin & Christina Warren, Evangeline (Scott) Iler, Charles (Annette) Pagaduan, Elizabeth (Dragan) Milanovich, Nelson "Jack" (Kathleen) Pagaduan, and Florence Pagaduan (Brandon Wood)

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Louise Merrill; her brother, Montie Merrill; her sister-in-law, Dorothy Merrill; and her nephew, Gary Merrill.

Visitation will be held at Bobbitt Memorial Chapel, 1299 E. Highland Ave., San Bernardino, from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 25, 2026. A funeral service will be held at Highland First Church of God at 10 a.m. Thursday, February 26, 2026. Graveside services with military honors will follow at Riverside National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Norton Air Force Base Museum, honoring Charlene's deep connection to the base where she faithfully served.

Col. Marjorie "Charlene" Merrill's legacy of courage, compassion, and faith will live on in the countless lives she touched.

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Contact Information

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Publisher Stu Clampitt
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Sports Editor Richie Hall
Sports@ReadTheReporter.com
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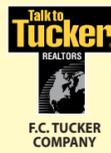


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REPORTER SPORTS TUESDAY

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

Girls Swimming State Championship

“The best year yet”

Carmel’s streak reaches 40

Hounds win five events, Gibson takes second in diving

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

INDIANAPOLIS – As they prove year after year, decade after decade, the Carmel girls swim team is up to whatever challenge comes its way.

The Greyhounds were challenged this past weekend at the IU Natatorium as the state swimming finals were expected to be close. But Carmel came through again, winning five events and using its trademark depth to claim its 40th consecutive state championship on Saturday, Feb. 14.

The Hounds scored 326.5 team points, comfortably ahead of the two squads that tied for runner-up, Fishers and Fort Wayne Carroll. They both scored 227 team points.

“It feels amazing,” said Carmel senior Molly Sweeney, a state champion in four events. “And I honestly think this is the best year yet, because the competition has been closer. Winning doesn’t feel as special when you win by like, 10 seconds, but since some of the relays were close, the individual wins were close, it was much more rewarding.”

Sweeney was involved with three of the Greyhounds’ five event victories. Carmel began the meet with a win in the medley relay; Sweeney joined Leah Debosch, Ellie Clarke and Sophia Floyd to finish the race in a time of 1 minute, 40.90 seconds.

Clarke claimed an individual event win several minutes later, with Clarke taking the individual medley crown. The sophomore edged out defending state champion Jordyn Glassley of Carroll by 0.12 seconds, clocking in at 1:57.73.

Clarke trailed Glassley and Zionsville’s Haley Hunter going into the last leg, the freestyle portion of the IM.

“My coach told me before the race that it was going to come down to freestyle,” said Clarke. “I just feel like I had the best freestyle and I knew that I could catch them if I was with them.”

Sweeney was the first winner after the diving break, taking the butterfly race in 52.78 seconds. Carmel then picked up 43 points from the 500 freestyle, where Haley Morris, Sabrina Ledwith and Helayna Weller finished 3-4-7.

The Hounds won the final two individual events to clinch the team championship. Clarke defended her backstroke title in a time of 53.08 seconds, with Debosch placing third. Sweeney won the breaststroke in 59.24 seconds, giving her a third state title in that event. She also won the breaststroke as a freshman and sophomore.

“Our team swam really well as a whole,” said Clarke. “I think everyone really stepped up when they needed to, and we got a lot of important races. Personally, I swam all right, but I think this is a meet where place is more important than time.”

Carmel finished the meet with 14 “A” Final finishes, the most of any team. Carmel’s two freestyle relays both placed highly, with the 400 free relay taking third and the 200 free relay finishing fourth.

Greyhounds coach Chris Plumb, who coached his 20th Carmel girls team to victory, said his team did “a great job to put themselves in position” to claim another



Reporter photos by Julie Brown

(ABOVE) The Carmel girls swim team extended their national record state championship streak to 40 on Saturday, Feb. 14. The Greyhounds won state again, scoring 326.5 team points and placing first in five events. (BELOW LEFT) Carmel’s Molly Sweeney won three events, including individual victories in the butterfly and breaststroke. (BELOW RIGHT) Helena Gibson finished second in diving, the best result ever for Carmel in that event. Read more coverage and see more photos on Page 10.



state title. The Hounds had six swims reach the “B” Final as well, scoring even more team points.

“The meet’s won on Friday night and they did an awesome job, and they

even did better today,” said Plumb. “It was just a great weekend, but a tribute to their responding to the challenge of the other teams.”

The Greyhounds made some history in diving, too.

Helena Gibson finished second in that event, the best-ever finish for a Carmel diver at state. Gibson, an Air Force Academy recruit, scored 488.85 points over her 11 dives.

“It has been crazy,” said Gibson, who placed third last year. “I never thought that I would be where I am in diving. Seeing the improvement every year just makes me so happy.”

Results from the 2026 Girls Swimming State Championship

Team scores (top five and all county): 1. Carmel 326.5, T2. Fishers 227; Fort Wayne Carroll 227, 4. Zionsville 201, 5. Penn 157, 6. Hamilton Southeastern 141, 18. Noblesville 27, T31. Hamilton Heights 9; T39. University 3.

200 medley relay

“A” Final: 1. Carmel (Leah Debosch, Molly Sweeney, Ellie Clarke, Sophia Floyd) 1:40.90, 3. Hamilton Southeastern (Naomi Haines, Lauren Ing, Ellason Miller, Payton Walker) 1:42.48, 6. Fishers (Avery Hannon, Polina Sopova, Audrey Wolf, Ella Hare) 1:44.99.

200 freestyle

“A” Final: 1. Emily Wolf (F) 1:45.84, 4. Ashlyn Hayes (F) 1:48.70, T5. Haley Morris (C) 1:50.63.

“B” Final: 10. Madelyn Yonkus (C) 1:52.03, 11. Brooklyn Rager (F) 1:52.53, 13. Sabrina Ledwith (C) 1:52.80, 16. Mia Henderson (HSE) 1:54.34.

Prelims: 17. Ayla Madara (HH) 1:53.96, 18. Hayley Blackwell (N) 1:54.30, 21. Maya Preston (N) 1:55.23.

200 individual medley

“A” Final: 1. Clarke (C) 1:57.73, 5. Debosch (C) 2:02.25, 8. Lucy Enoch (C) 2:03.74.

“B” Final: 11. Kinsey Bogaards (HSE) 2:05.83, 12. Alexandra Nguyen (F) 2:06.38, 16. Hannon (F) 2:08.56.

Prelims: 18. Hare (F) 2:07.83.

50 freestyle

“A” Final: 1. Maris Williams (FWC) 22.86, 8. A. Wolf (F) 24.02.

“B” Final: 10. Haines (HSE) 23.53.

Prelims: 18. Walker (HSE) 24.03, 30. Story Hughes (C) 24.93.

One-meter diving

Finals: 1. Adelyn Flessner (North Central) 529.30, 2. Helena Gibson (C) 488.85, 3. Eryn McMahon (N) 450.25.

Prelims: 28. Emily Linder (C) 154.30.

100 butterfly

“A” Final: 1. Sweeney (C) 52.78, 8. A. Wolf (F) 55.34.

“B” Final: 14. Miller (HSE) 56.44.

Prelims: T23. Maria Daily (C) 57.84, 27. Evelyn Wheat (Westfield) 58.26.

100 freestyle

“A” Final: 1. Kate Fetters (FWC) 49.52, 5. Hayes (F) 50.87.

“B” Final: 10. Floyd (C) 52.42, 12. Enoch (C) 52.77, 13. Henderson (HSE) 52.91, 14. H. Blackwell (N) 53.05.

Prelims: 22. Hare (F) 53.00.

500 freestyle

“A” Final: 1. E. Wolf (F) 4:43.25, 3. Morris (C) 4:57.99, 4. Ledwith (C) 4:58.21, 7. Helayna Weller (C) 5:02.24, 8. Rager (F) 5:04.72.

“B” Final: 9. Madara (HH) 5:01.81, 11. Izzy Schmitt (HSE) 5:05.07, 12. Lillian Cain (F) 5:06.92, 15. Maya Preston (N) 5:10.04, 16. Brooklyn Penn (HSE) 5:13.60.

Prelims: 18. Amira Leer (HH) 5:12.87, 20. Delaney McCulloch (W) 5:14.34.

200 freestyle relay

“A” Final: 1. Fort Wayne Carroll 1:32.63, 3. Fishers (Hayes, Hare, E. Wolf, Larkin Lee) 1:34.42, 4. Carmel (Floyd, Debosch, Enoch, Sweeney) 1:34.51, 6. Southeastern (Miller, Henderson, Walker, Sarah Cooper) 1:35.82.

Prelims: 20. Noblesville (H. Blackwell, Ava Middleton, K. Blackwell, Preston) 1:40.05.

100 backstroke

“A” Final: 1. Clarke (C) 53.08, 3. Debosch (C) 55.19, 4. Haines (HSE) 55.38.

“B” Final: 14. Hannon (F) 57.84, 15. Weller (C) 58.38.

Prelims: 17. Sophie Blue (F) 57.60, 18. Bogaards (HSE) 57.70, T19. Isabelle Ortiz (F) 57.79.

100 breaststroke

“A” Final: 1. Sweeney (C)

59.24, 5. Ing (HSE) 1:03.88, 6. Nguyen (F) 1:04.20.

“B” Final: 12. Payton Clark (C) 1:05.54, 14. Noa Calli (U) 1:05.87.

Prelims: 17. Yonkus (C) 1:06.17, 18. Sopova (F) 1:06.22, 21. Cooper (HSE) 1:06.87.

400 freestyle relay

“A” Final: 1. Fort Wayne Carroll 3:21.30, 2. Fishers (Hayes, A.

Wolf, Hannon, E. Wolf) 3:21.67, 3. Carmel (Clarke, Floyd, Morris, Enoch) 3:25.24, 6. Southeastern (Miller, Henderson, Bogaards, Haines) 3:27.34.

“B” Final: 14. Noblesville (H. Blackwell, Middleton, Adalyn Goetler, Preston) 3:38.41.

Prelims: 26. Westfield (Wheat, Macy Brown, Nalani Hendrix, Katherine Cassidy) 3:43.17.

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Girls Swimming State Championship

Tigers tie for runner-up trophy

Emily Wolf sweeps 200, 500 freestyles; HSE takes sixth as a team

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

INDIANAPOLIS — They will have to share it this year, but the Fishers girls swimming team is back on the podium.

The Tigers finished the IHSAA state meet tied for second with Fort Wayne Carroll on Saturday, Feb. 14. Both teams scored 227 points. The Chargers were runners-up last year, while Fishers took second four years in a row from 2020 to 2023.

Tigers coach Joe Keller pointed out that half of the swimmers that made it to state this year were freshmen, and “they earned their tiger stripes this weekend.”

“We always talk about a culture of excellence,” said Keller. “If you come in every day, we do that every day, do it when it matters the most in a meet like this, and that’s how success happens.”

Fishers’ upperclassmen also stepped up, of course. The leader of the day was junior Emily Wolf, who won state championships in both the 200 and 500 freestyles.

Wolf won the 200 race in 1 minute, 45.84 seconds, then later came back to claim the 500 free in 4:43.25.

“I was really happy with the way I swam,” said Wolf. “I’d be lying if I said I didn’t want more. I think it’s a good thing to be happy with what you did and what you accomplished and be happy with what you did for your team. But I’ve had my eye on those records for some



The Fishers swim team tied for runner-up at the IHSAA state meet on Saturday, Feb. 14. The Tigers scored 227 points, sharing second place with Fort Wayne Carroll.

Reporter photo by Julie Brown

time, so I think next year I’ll be ready for more.”

The Tigers picked up 11 “A” Final medals at state, with five more swimmers competing in the “B” Final. Fishers’ 400 free relay team of Ashlyn Hayes, Audrey Wolf, Avery Hannon and Emily Wolf placed second, clocking in at 3:25.24. Hayes and Audrey Wolf are freshmen, while Hannon is

a senior. * * * Hamilton Southeastern placed sixth as a team, scoring 141 points.

The Royals were boosted by placing all three of their relays in the “A” Final. The medley relay team helped Southeastern get off to a strong start: Naomi Haines, Lauren Ing, Ellason Miller, Payton Walker

finished the race in 1:42.48, placing the Royals third.

Haines also placed fourth in the backstroke, while Ing was fifth in the breaststroke.

Noblesville scored 27 points to finish in 18th place. Senior Eryn McMahon led the way with a third-place result in diving; she totaled 450.25 points.

“I think this is the best

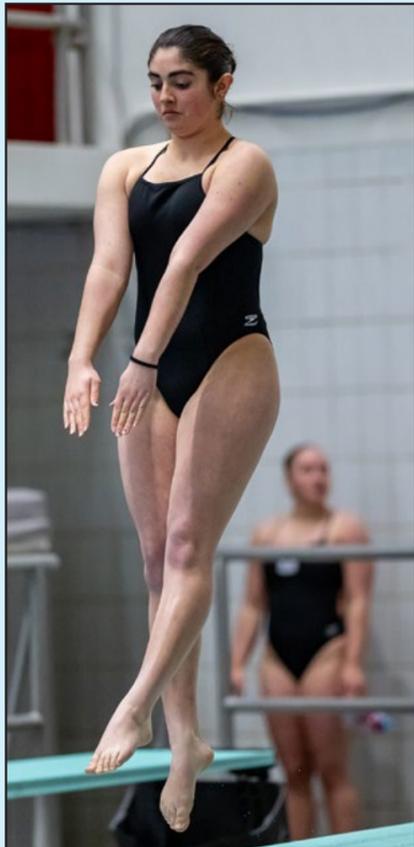
I’ve performed all season,” said McMahon, a Ball State recruit. She knew that it was her last high school meet, so “I just need to focus on having fun and just taking it one dive at a time.”

And McMahon did have fun. “It was fun seeing all the girls, especially diving with my teammates from club and all of the juniors and sophomores,” she said.

Hamilton Heights’ Ayla Madara placed ninth in the 500 free, scoring nine points for the Huskies team. Madara finished the race in 5:01.81.

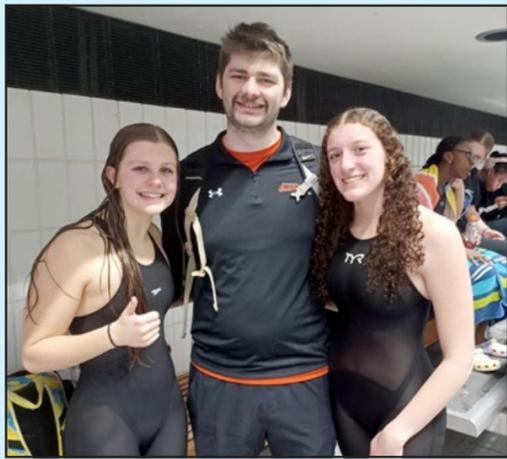
University scored its first-ever points at a girls state swim meet: Noa Calili took 14th in the breaststroke, finishing in 1:05.87. Calili called the experience “Just crazy. Very exciting.”

Snapshots from the state championship



Reporter photos by Julie Brown

(ABOVE LEFT) Noblesville’s Eryn McMahon placed third in diving. (ABOVE RIGHT) The Fishers swim team tied for runner-up at the IHSAA state meet on Saturday, Feb. 14. The Tigers scored 227 points, sharing second place with Fort Wayne Carroll. (BELOW LEFT) University’s Noa Calili placed 14th in the breaststroke. (BELOW RIGHT) Hamilton Southeastern’s Lauren Ing helped the Royals to a third-place finish in the medley relay.



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

(ABOVE) Hamilton Heights’ Ayla Madara (left) and Amira Leer (right) represented the Huskies at state; they are pictured with their coach Brett Riley.



Boys Wrestling

County wrestlers punch tickets to state finals

By **RICHARD TORRES**
For The Reporter

NEW CASTLE — When the dust finally settled inside New Castle Fieldhouse this past weekend, a total of 11 Hamilton County wrestlers were left standing with one more guaranteed week remaining in their seasons.

Hamilton Southeastern advanced the most competitors with four state qualifiers overall after the conclusion of the New Castle Semi-State held on Saturday, Feb. 14.

Fishers had three wrestlers punch their tickets to the IHSAA state finals, which will begin this Friday inside Gainbridge Fieldhouse in downtown Indianapolis.

Noblesville and Westfield had two state-qualifiers each and an individual semi-state champion for each program.

Westfield sophomore Connor Maddox (30-0) won the 106-pound semi-state title to uphold his No. 1 state ranking, according to IndianaMat.

Noblesville junior Aidan Kincaide (34-0), who is ranked third in the state, locked down the 165-pound semi-state championship to keep his unbeaten season alive.

For Maddox, his berth marks a second straight after placing fourth at 106 during state as a freshman. This year, he is ranked sixth in the nation by FloWrestling.

"I just made sure that I really put in the work this offseason," Maddox said. "I wanted to go out on a good note, not just win, but dominate and really just kind of take over a bit."

Maddox never let up through his four semi-state matches, winning three by pin and the championship final by technical fall (17-1) in 2 minutes, 15 seconds against Southmont sophomore Lukas Scott (36-2), who was ranked third in the state.

Maddox's first pin was the fastest of the tournament at 23 seconds.

Shamrock teammate Aiden Driscoll (32-14), a sophomore, will join Maddox during the two-day state finals after placing fourth at 120. The top four semi-state finishers in each weight class advanced to Indianapolis.

All four HSE state qualifiers placed fourth in their respective weight classes. Freshman Nolan Culp (27-6) moves on at 106. Senior Parker Culp (36-11) pushed through at 138. Junior Cohen Davis (30-8) qualified at 165, and



(TOP LEFT) Noblesville's Aidan Kincaide breezed to victory in the 165-pound division at the Saturday, Feb. 14 New Castle semi-state. Kincaide is 34-0 for the season. **(TOP RIGHT)** Fishers' Seth Lamb placed third at 120 pounds, advancing to the state finals. **(ABOVE)** Westfield's Connor Maddox easily won the 106-pound division, improving to 30-0 for the season. **(BELOW)** Westfield's Aiden Driscoll finished fourth at 120 pounds, qualifying for the state finals.

Photos by Manford Photography

sophomore AW VanKirk (33-10) survived a tough 285 bracket.

Fishers had two wrestlers place third with junior Seth Lamb (37-7) at 120 and senior Julian Burgett (40-3) at 215. Lamb defeated Driscoll by decision, 16-11, in the consolation finals.

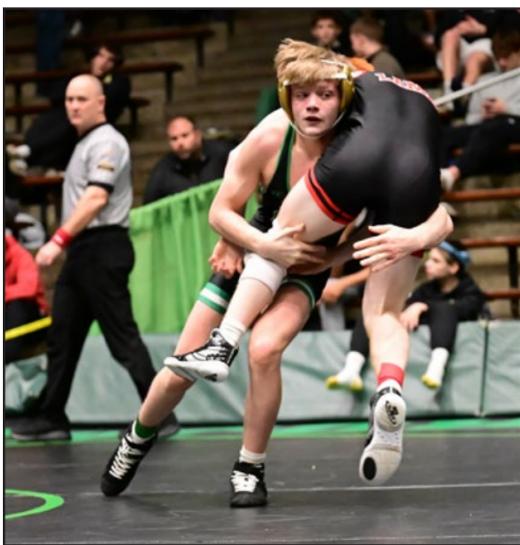
Burgett is ranked second in the state and narrowly lost by decision, 4-2, in the semifinal round at New Castle against eventual champion fourth-ranked Seer Godwise (17-2) of Perry Meridian.

Senior Camden Funk (34-10) was fourth at 190 for the Tigers.

The Millers' first state qualifier was freshman Brody Weimer (37-5) at 126. Weimer opened the day with a 15-0 (2:26) technical fall in the first round and followed up with a 17-8 major decision during his quarterfinal, round-to-go match.

After a loss in the semifinals, Weimer bounced back to take third after he upset sixth-ranked Brady Volz (37-2) of Eastern Hancock by fall during the consolation round in 4:06. Weimer is ranked 16th in the state.

Kincaide, who missed last season due to a back injury, won by pin in all four of his matches. His first unfolded in 59 seconds. His second required 34 seconds. In the finals, he pinned senior James Grimme (32-10) of Indianapolis Cathedral in



Hamilton County State Qualifiers

106 Pounds
(Soph.) Connor Maddox (30-0), Westfield
(Fr.) Nolan Culp (27-6), Hamilton Southeastern

120 Pounds
(Jr.) Seth Lamb (37-7), Fishers
(Soph.) Aiden Driscoll (32-14), Westfield

126 Pounds
(Fr.) Brody Weimer (37-5), Noblesville

138 Pounds
(Sr.) Parker Culp (36-11), Hamilton Southeastern

165 Pounds
(Jr.) Aidan Kincaide (34-0), Noblesville
(Jr.) Cohen Davis (30-8), Hamilton Southeastern

190 Pounds
(Sr.) Camden Funk (34-10), Fishers

215 Pounds
(Sr.) Julian Burgett (40-3), Fishers

285 Pounds
(Soph.) A.W. VanKirk (33-10), Hamilton Southeastern

35 seconds.

"It was a bad injury, but we're back at it and looking for a state title," Kincaide said. "Just trying to get on and off the mat as

soon as possible, just trying to be dominant."

As a freshman, Kincaide placed fourth at 157 when the state finals were held in Evansville.

Girls Basketball

Royals fall to Mavericks at regional

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Southeastern girls basketball team's season came to an end on Saturday, Feb. 14, as the Royals fell to McCutcheon 53-36 in the Frankfort regional championship.

The Mavericks outscored Southeastern in each quarter, leading 14-7 after the first period. McCutcheon held a 22-13 halftime advantage and led 33-22 after three periods, then had a 20-point fourth quarter to finish the game.

Kayla Stidham scored 13 points for the Royals. Kennedy Holman put together a double-double of 16 rebounds and 11 points. Both are headed to Division I college programs: Holman is a Florida commit, while Stidham is a Bowling Green State recruit.

Southeastern finished its season 20-5, its sixth 20-win season in the past eight years and also defended its Sectional 8 championship in addition to another Hoosier Crossroads Conference title.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

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.

BOYS WRESTLING

State finals first round, 3 p.m. at Gainbridge Fieldhouse

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.

BOYS WRESTLING

State finals at Gainbridge Fieldhouse
Quarterfinals and semifinals, 9 a.m.
Placement matches, 4:30 p.m.
Championship matches, 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.

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Boys Basketball

Blackhawks clinch unbeaten HHC crown

The REPORTER

Sheridan's boys had to come way back in their final Hoosier Heartland Conference game of the season on Friday, Feb. 13, but the Blackhawks got it done.

As a result, Sheridan is now an unbeaten conference champion. The Blackhawks erased a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter and beat Carroll 58-57 at Larry Hobbs Hall to win their first HHC championship since the 2011-12 season.

The Cougars led 17-7 after the first quarter; Desh Donathan scored all of Sheridan's points in that period. The Blackhawks cut that advantage to 27-23 by halftime before Carroll surged again in the third quarter, outscoring the Hawks 17-11 for a 44-34 lead.

But the fourth quarter belonged to Sheridan, which poured in 24 points. Trey Page scored 12 of them, including the game-winning basket with two seconds left.

Page finished with 18 points for the game. Chance

Spencer added 12 points. Donathan scored 11 points and pulled five rebounds. Devon Hamilton contributed nine points and two blocked shots. Jax Peerman dished out six assists.

Sheridan kept the momentum going the next night, cruising past Maconaquah 83-44 in another home game. The Blackhawks outscored the Braves in each of the four quarters, starting with a 23-14 lead after the first period. A 27-point second quarter gave Sheridan a 50-23 lead and the Blackhawks sailed through the second half.

Page and Peerman both scored 18 points, followed by Hamilton with 15 points. Hamilton and Spencer each collected seven rebounds.

Page handed out five assists, while Spencer made four assists. Brayden Whisman pulled five rebounds and John Crowder had four rebounds.

Sheridan is 15-3 and finished conference play 8-0. The Blackhawks are home tonight, playing Western Boone.



Photo by Dwight Casler

Sheridan's Trey Page cuts down the net after the Blackhawks clinched an undefeated Hoosier Heartland Conference title on Friday, Feb. 13. The Blackhawks came back to beat Carroll 58-57.

Blazers beat Shortridge in PAAC third-place game

The REPORTER

University snapped a two-game losing streak Friday, Feb. 13 with a 77-61 road win over Shortridge in the Pioneer Academic Athletic Conference third-place game.

Junior Joshua Henderson's 21-point, 11-rebound effort led a balanced University attack. Seniors Faisal Mohamud (15), Josh McGee (13) and Blake Gray (12) also reached double figures.

The Trailblazers led 19-15 after a tight first quarter. Gray led University with nine points in the quarter making three of University's four three pointers in the period. Noah Cortez' three pointer with 52 sec-

onds left broke a 15-15 tie and put the Blazers on top for good.

Shortridge cut the lead to 21-19 with 5:27 left in the quarter with an offensive rebound bucket, giving the Blue Devils 12 second chance points in the first 11 minutes. University coach Justin Blanding called timeout and the Trailblazers responded and stretched their lead to 32-25 at halftime. A 8-2 closing run was punctuated by a Cooper Cammack lay in with one second left off a Cortez assist.

University jumped out to a 38-29 lead early in the third quarter when Mohamud scored at the rim after a pass ahead by Gray. The play started with one of

Henderson's three blocked shots. Shortridge scored the next five points but the Trailblazers took control of the game by outscoring the Blue Devils 14-4 the rest of the quarter. Mohamud's three pointer from the left corner started the spurt. Henderson scored University's last 11 points of the quarter to put his team ahead 52-38 after three quarters. Henderson scored on a fast break, a three pointer from the corner, two free throws off an offensive rebound, a foul shot and a three-point play.

The Trailblazers maintained a double-digit lead throughout the fourth quarter, making seven of eight free throws. McGee had

nine points and Henderson seven as University comfortably closed out the win.

Seven different Trailblazers made three pointers in the game. Gray hit four triples with Mohamud and Henderson adding two each. McGee, Cortez, DJ Willis and Peter Morales each had one.

Mohamud made five of seven field goal attempts and handed out five assists. Cammack had eight rebounds and McGee pulled down seven. Cortez had four assists and Jaxen Bennett blocked three shots.

University improved to 13-6 on the season. The Trailblazers return to action Tuesday at Westfield in an all-county contest.

Royals beat Carmel for fifth straight win

By RICHARD TORRES For The Reporter

Nothing was going to stop the Hamilton Southeastern Royals from winning a fifth straight game on Friday the 13th.

Not bad luck, a slow start or a 36-19 halftime deficit at home against state-ranked Class 4A Carmel (14-4).

Instead, the 4A Royals

(12-9) rallied, tied the game at 52-52 by the end of regulation and pulled off the comeback to win 67-61 in overtime.

The victory extended a winning streak HSE launched on Jan. 31 and marked its third consecutive win against rival Carmel in as many years.

HSE outscored the Greyhounds 33-20 in the second

half with both teams exchanging leads three times and tying five more throughout the night.

A game-high 27 points by sophomore Varschon Clark (9 of 16 shooting with five rebounds and five assists) fueled HSE's 17-point come-from-behind performance.

Seniors Luke Weemer and Landon Osswald both finished with 12 points apiece

and five and three rebounds, respectively.

The Royals tallied 15 points off 17 Carmel turnovers but lost the rebound (33-24) and 3-point shooting battles (33 points to 18). However, a 15-point bonus quarter sealed the victory.

Carmel junior Cash Daniels led the Hounds with 23 points, six rebounds and six assists.

Fishers starts weekend with Center Grove win

By RICHARD TORRES For The Reporter

The Center Grove Trojans recognized 2019 Indiana Mr. Basketball recipient Trayce Jackson-Davis on Friday the 13th, but the top-ranked Fishers Tigers

weren't starstruck.

Instead, the unbeaten Class 4A Tigers paid homage to the current Toronto Raptor and then proceeded to extend their winning streak to 20 consecutive with a 50-44 victory.

Fishers trailed 13-11 af-

ter the first quarter before pulling ahead 22-20 by halftime. A 28-point second half kept the Tigers in front.

Both senior Kai McGrew (12 points) and junior Levi Walker (10 points) led the Tigers as double-digit scorers, while senior Jean-Claude

L'Homme (nine points) and senior Ethan Hillsman (nine points) nearly joined them.

Junior Cooper Zachary followed with six points (all in the fourth quarter). Freshman Tristan Breland and senior Torey Breland each contributed two points.

Tigers finish weekend with victory over Penn

By RICHARD TORRES For The Reporter

After two consecutive narrow victories, the top-ranked Class 4A Fishers Tigers rediscovered their scoring rhythm inside the Jungle's friendly confines on Saturday, Feb. 14, with a 74-54 win against 4A Penn.

The Tigers had four players finish in double figures

led by senior Kai McGrew's team-high 18 points to upend the state-ranked Kingsmen on Valentine's Day.

Unbeaten Fishers jumped out to a strong 17-10 lead after the first quarter and upped the margin 33-20 by halftime to win its 21st consecutive game.

Both teams rolled to 20-point third quarters, but 21-point final frame sealed

Fishers' back-to-back weekend sweep with a kiss.

Senior Ethan Hillsman had 17 points for the Tigers. Junior Cooper Zachary followed with 13 points, and senior Jean-Claude L'Homme added 10 points.

Junior Levi Walker had seven points. Freshmen Tristan Breland and Max Hopkins chipped in six and two points, respectively.

Sophomore Caleb Coolman posted a game-high 26 points for Penn. Senior Lucas Obermeyer had 14 points.

Fishers heads to Zionsville on Friday to conclude its HCC schedule. The Tigers have clinched a share of the HCC title for a third straight year and for a fifth time in six seasons. They've won 24 consecutive HCC games.

Millers fall to Bulldogs on the road

By CRAIG ADKINS For The Reporter

On Friday, Feb. 13, the Miller boys basketball team traveled to Brownsburg in a Hoosier Crossroads Conference clash.

Noblesville led by two at halftime, but couldn't handle the Bulldogs' second half pushing, falling on the road, 51-38.

The two went back-and-forth in the first and played to an 11-11 tie.

The same occurred in the second, but the Millers had a slight 12-10 edge to

head into the locker room with a 23-21 advantage.

Brownsburg woke up at halftime, outscoring Noblesville 30-15 in the second half to come away with the 13-point conference win.

Adam Fine led with a team-high 12 points and grabbed four rebounds. Baron Walker scored 11 and also had four boards.

Noblesville (9-10) continues HCC play on Friday at home against Avon. On Saturday, the New Haven Bulldogs come to The Mill for an afternoon game at 2:30 p.m.

Hounds sail past Orioles

The REPORTER

Carmel's boys took care of business on Saturday, Feb. 14, steadily building a lead to beat Avon 63-36 on Bill Shepherd Court at the Eric Clark Activity Center.

The Greyhounds outscored the Orioles in each quarter, leading 14-7 after the first period. Carmel extended its lead to 30-15 by halftime, then took further

control with a 16-7 third quarter for a 46-22 advantage.

Cash Daniel led Carmel's offense with 15 points and eight assists. Evan Harrell added 14 points and pulled six rebounds, while Ben Bremer hit three 3-pointers for nine points.

The Greyhounds are 14-4 and play Friday at Warren Central.

Huskies hold off Lebanon

By CRAIG ADKINS For The Reporter

After having their 10-game winning streak snapped at Westfield on Tuesday, Feb. 10, Hamilton Heights played at home Saturday, Feb. 14 and got back on the winning track.

The Huskies were able to overcome a slight deficit early on for the one-possession win over Lebanon, 51-48.

The Tigers jumped out to a 17-11 first period lead. But, Huskies got back into it with a 14-9 second to trail just 26-25.

Heights was able to

score two more in both the third and fourth to come back enough to beat Lebanon for a three-point win.

Jack Kakasuleff led the Huskies with 13 points, making six of his 12 field goals. Jackson Mikesell joined in double-figures with 10 and seven rebounds. Will DeStefano (seven boards) and Caleb Sullivan both added nine points and Rees Knapp six to help pace Heights.

Hamilton Heights (11-8) visits Lafayette Central Catholic on Friday in the fifth-place game in the Hoosier Conference playoffs.

Rocks overwhelm Harrison

The REPORTER

Westfield's boys scored a big victory on Friday, Feb. 13, taking care of Harrison 67-26 at CSI Gymnasium.

The Raiders led 15-13 after the first quarter, but the Shamrocks dominated the game after that. Westfield outscored Harrison 19-8 in the second period for a 32-23 lead. Drew Haffner hit four 3-pointers in the second half on his way to 14 points, while Graham Wilson nailed a pair of triples in the second quarter.

The Rocks shut out the

Raiders in the third quarter, pouring in 23 points to lead 55-23. Haffner threw in two more 3s and added 10 points in the third. Westfield closed out the fourth quarter by outscoring Harrison 12-3.

Haffner hit one more triple in the fourth, giving him seven for the game. He finished with 27 points. Luke Vandegriff scored 10 points, while Brock Detamore added nine points, including two 3s.

Westfield is 12-7 and hosts University tonight in an all-county game.

IBCA boys basketball poll – Week of Feb. 15

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Fishers (22)	440	21-0
2	Silver Creek	404	23-1
3	Crown Point	391	17-1
4	Pike	373	18-3
5	Plainfield	352	19-2
6	Lawrence North	308	17-3
7	Mt. Vernon	307	19-3
8	Carmel	299	14-4
9	Cathedral	280	17-3
10	Northridge	219	18-1
11	Terre Haute North	207	17-3
12	South Bend St. Joseph	189	16-4
13	New Albany	173	14-5
14	South Bend Riley	127	16-4
15	Ben Davis	108	12-6
16	Penn	94	15-5
17	Chesterton	88	16-4
18	Northview	82	16-4
19	Princeton	21	17-3
20	Fort Wayne South Side	16	17-2

First place votes are in parentheses.

Other schools receiving votes, with records

Barr-Reeve (18-1), Blackhawk Christian (13-7), Brebeuf Jesuit (12-6), Brownsburg (12-8), Centerville (17-2), Columbia City (17-3), Crispus Attucks (12-5), Hamilton Southeastern (12-9), Hauser (19-2), Homestead (15-5), Kouts (18-0), Lawrence Central (9-10), Liberty Christian (14-6), New Haven (15-5), Oak Hill (16-1), Paoli (18-0), Pendleton Heights (14-4), Portage (16-3), Parke Heritage (17-4), Westfield (11-7), Westview (18-1), Zionsville (12-9), 21st Century Charter School – Gary (11-6).