

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy. Scattered morning showers. Nice in the afternoon.
 Tonight: Partly cloudy evening. Mostly cloudy overnight.



HIGH: 68 LOW: 44

Youth have hearts for service

Young people across Hamilton County have been hard at work sharing their spirit of service. Today, The Reporter brings readers just a sample of the work being done by Mayor's Youth Councils from Fishers, Noblesville, and Westfield. Good job and thank you for making your communities better for everyone.

Fishers students help at Good Samaritan Network



Photos provided by City of Fishers

Last week, students with the Fishers Mayor's Youth Academy explored the impact of local nonprofit organizations and rolled up their sleeves to give back. They spent time at Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County helping sort and organize donations, gaining firsthand insight into how community support turns into meaningful assistance for neighbors in need. Everyone can be proud of these students' heart for service and commitment to making a difference. Great work!

Noblesville students spend time at Outlook Hamilton



Photos provided by City of Noblesville

The Noblesville Mayor's Youth Council Focus Group had the chance to drop off Valentine's Day cards to the residents at Outlook Hamilton. There's nothing like a few handwritten notes and reminders that people are seen and appreciated.

Westfield students present civic project to City Council



Photo provided by City of Westfield
Congratulations to the members of the Westfield Mayor's Youth Council on successfully presenting their civic project to City Council on Feb. 9. Their project – solar-powered picnic tables – will be installed at Grand Junction Plaza in the coming months. Stay tuned to the city's social media pages for more details in the coming weeks. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Westfield Mayor's Youth Council.

A familiar cycle

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
 Disability in the City

A nudge from God, a dash of trust, attempted faith, rinse, and repeat. This is how I would describe my ongoing quest to strengthen my faith.

The nudge I felt recently could not be ignored. I kept getting the same idea placed on my heart. So much so that I gave in and committed to this request that was outside of my comfort zone.

After following through, I felt confident about it, which is uncharacteristic of me. Even a little too confident. But I kept going back to the thought I had at the beginning of this year.

Ruminate on the best-case scenario until I have a reason not to.

When I get these nudges and follow through, my expectation is that it will work out. A reward for my obedience. This time, it did not. I felt confused. My first thought was that my discernment is rusty.

But perhaps it is less about getting what I perceived to be something I wanted or needed, and instead more of an exercise in strengthening my trust muscles. A testing of the faith. Preparation for something bigger than my imagination can ruminate on.

What if the test becomes the lesson and that is the reward?

Growing up, my faith was built on a brittle foundation. It was made up of all the wrong qualities. I just was not aware that it was. It was more of a "give a little" and "expect a lot" type of faith.

I watched others who prayed big prayers for healing or goodness to come their way. Their prayers were often answered. I wondered why my prayers remained unanswered. Was I being punished for my imperfect faith?

That is how it felt to me most of the time that I spent in the decades searching for my diagnosis.

See Cycle . . . Page 2

WISH-TV legal expert talks about federal charges for suspect in Hailey Buzbee case

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
 WISH-TV | [wishstv.com](#)

A 39-year-old now faces federal charges in the case of 17-year-old Hailey Buzbee after state-level charges were dropped.

Zach Myers, a WISH-TV legal analyst, said Monday, Feb. 16 on News 8 that the federal case against Tyler Thomas includes charges of travel and interstate commerce to engage in unlawful sexual contact with a child and child exploitation.

Buzbee was reported missing on Jan. 5, leading to a search that concluded when her remains were found in Perry County, Ohio. Investigators identified Thomas as the last person known to have contact with the Fishers teenager before her death.

Myers explained the transition to federal court. He noted that federal law prohibits creating sexual visual depictions of anyone under age 18, regardless of specific state age-of-consent laws.

"So right now, the state charges have been dropped that he's charged in federal court with travel and interstate commerce to engage in unlawful sexual contact with a child, as well as with child exploitation," Myers said. "Now, even though the victim here was 17 under federal law, creating visual depictions that are sexual in nature of someone under 18 of a child is a violation of federal law."

Federal authorities have a specific window to move the case forward. Myers described the preliminary phase where prosecutors must secure a formal indictment.

"And here, he's charged with preliminary charges in federal court and they've got about 30 days in which they need to get a grand jury to indict him, or he needs to waive his rights, which sometimes people do as they're trying to consider pleading guilty to a charge," Myers said.

Myers also discussed the broader context of cases involving adults communicating with children through online platforms and apps such as Roblox and Snapchat. He described these environments as a "digital playground" where adults can build relationships with minors from any location.

See Charges . . . Page 2

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



\$15.00 to play
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THE REPORTER

Westfield goes Pink for Hailey Buzbee



Photo provided by City of Westfield

In a show of solidarity with friends and neighbors of the Buzbee family in Fishers, the City of Westfield is also taking part in "Go Pink for Hailey" month. The city has changed the colors on the Monon Bridge for the month of February, and police officers are also authorized to wear their pink badges for the month.

CYCLE

from Page 1

What if the reward is in the unanswered prayer? My faith was far too underdeveloped to grasp that concept. It is so hard to see through our pain in periods of waiting. Longing for answers or healing. Everything just feels never ending and dark. Bottomless.

My pleading with God was always, "If you do this for me, I promise to better." If I got what I thought I needed, then I would be more faithful and trusting.

I was rushing the process. Tempted to quit too

early. Not opening myself up to the fact that I may not know what is best for my life. That is what faith is all about. Being ready to accept that we do not see the full picture, just a sliver. There was always the faintest voice I heard that said don't give up yet.

While I still would not wish 44 years of waiting for something so important on my worst enemy, I do see the positives in it now. I see the lessons and rewards. I see the beautiful people placed in my wait-

ing period.

It is fascinating to look back on that time with the perspective I have now that I am in awe of much of it.

I had a little faith, and that was enough. I will continue to have my faith tested. Life often is full of trials along with temptations to give up.

The familiar cycle will continue. Similar to my diagnostic journey, I need to remind myself to have patience with God's timing. I want to live in gratitude for

the blessings He has made a part of my everyday life. Living in the present moment.

Until next time ...

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

CHARGES

from Page 1

"And unfortunately, the bad guys don't have to go to a playground to find a kid anymore," Myers said. "They go to the digital playground. And bad guys from all over the region, all over the country, can get to your children with those devices frequently that you put in

their hands."

The legal proceedings against Thomas are expected to be lengthy. Myers said that cases of this nature can take many months or even more than two years to resolve, depending on whether the defendant chooses to proceed to a trial or enter a

guilty plea.

"Most federal cases result in guilty pleas and even the extremely serious ones like this," Myers said. "But ultimately, that's the decision of the defendant."

Myers is a partner with Indianapolis-based McCarter & English law firm. He's a former U.S.

attorney in the Indianapolis district. He also leads a cybersecurity and data Privacy Practice.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/crime-watch-8/wish-tv-legal-expert-talks-about-federal-charges-for-suspect-in-hailey-buzbee-case.

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indy hygiene hub

Two local nonprofits receive grants from The MJ Foundation

The REPORTER

The MJ Charitable Foundation has awarded grants to two local nonprofits: a \$25,000 grant to **Indy Hygiene Hub**, 9511 Angola Court, Indianapolis, and an honorable mention grant of \$5,000 to **Student of Impact Westfield**.



community impact,” MJ Foundation Executive Director Britni Shroust said. “We are inspired by this year’s recipients, and our shared purpose to be an intentional, active force for good. We are eager to see how this support will elevate their missions and strengthen our communities.”

Each of these nonprofits address unique needs in their communities and were selected in part for their alignment with the four cornerstones of the MJ Foundation mission: overcoming poverty, fostering diversity, advancing education, and embracing humanity.

“This year represents a milestone for the MJ Foundation as we awarded our highest level of grant funding since the program began over three years ago and reflects the MJ Foundation’s deepening commitment to

This grant cycle featured the largest applicant pool to date, with more than 50 nonprofits considered. The grant process is invitation-only, and each of the invited nonprofits are organizations where MJ associates choose to volunteer their time.

This year each MJ office held a donation drive to support **Prevail, Inc.**, an organization close to the heart of an MJ associate who passed away this year.

For more information, go to mjfoundation.com.

\$125M Pleasant Street project set to finish by summer’s end

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
WISH-TV | wistv.com

Noblesville officials say the Reimagine Pleasant Street project is on track to be fully completed by the end of the summer, according to an email from Indianapolis-based architecture and engineering firm **American Structurepoint**.

The **Reimagine Pleasant Street project** is a \$125 million, multiyear initiative designed to improve east-west connectivity with new bridges, roundabouts, and trails.

One lane of the street partially opened between 13th and 19th streets in January. Officials say this final phase linked state roads 32 and 37 in Noblesville. The project includes widening Pleasant Street to four lanes, a new bridge over Wilson Drain, and a redesigned two-lane roundabout at 19th Street.

The project also im-



Photo provided by American Structurepoint
This aerial view of the roundabout at Pleasant and 19th streets is looking east toward State Road 37. The roundabout will be two lanes by the time it’s finished.

proves pedestrian and bike access, with new trail connections and tunnels under State Road 32 and Pleasant

Street linking the Midland Trace and Hague Road trails. This story was originally published by WISH-TV

at wistv.com/news/local-news/125-million-pleasant-street-project-set-to-finish-by-summers-end.

American Structurepoint named a ‘Best Place to Work’

Submitted

American Structurepoint, a national full-service architecture and engineering consulting firm, has been recognized as one of Indiana’s top employers by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

The Best Places to Work in Indiana recognition is largely based on employee feedback, reflecting the positive input shared by staff regarding a company’s culture and environment. American Structurepoint was named a 2026 Best Places to Work in Indiana in the Large Employers Category. A formal celebration will take place on May 13.

“This recognition is especially meaningful since it is based on employee feedback and confirms that our people are committed, motivated, and invested in our shared success,” President Cash Canfield said. “Being named one of the Best Places to Work reflects the culture and environment our staff has created. We are incredibly proud of our staff, and the positive culture we create every day.”

Companies from across the state entered the two-part survey process to determine the Best Places to

Work in Indiana. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company’s workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems, and demographics. The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience.

“The Best Places to Work program is a great way for organizations to

take the temperature of their culture and how it’s resonating with today’s workers,” Indiana Chamber President and CEO Vanessa Green Sinders said. “We salute each of this year’s winners for their commitment to displaying best practices in their workplaces, which are enabling them to attract and retain employees, as well as

drive increased productivity and overall success.”

Last year, Crains Cleveland Business named American Structurepoint a Best Employer in Ohio, representing the strength and culture of the entire firm and the people working across all design centers and states.

Learn more at structurepoint.com.



Photo provided

Don’t miss traditional Irish music with Goitse at The Center

The REPORTER

There’s still time to get tickets for this event and others coming up at Carmel’s Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to TheCenterPresents.org.

Telamon Passport Series
Goitse
Sunday, March 8 at 7 p.m.
Payne & Mencias
Palladium

Named Live Ireland’s Traditional Group of the Year and Chicago Irish American News’ Group of the Year, Goitse have become leaders of the new generation of tra-

ditional Irish ensembles.

The group has released six critically acclaimed recordings, mixing original compositions with age-old traditional tunes. Its lineup consists of Colm Phelan, bodhrán; Aine McGeeney, fiddle and vocals; Conal O’Kane, guitar; Alan Reid, banjo and bouzouki; and Daniel Collins, piano and accordion. Together, the quintet Goitse – the Gaelic word for “come here,” pronounced *GO-witcha* – makes what *Irish Music Magazine* calls “Music that’s brimming with energy and creative zeal.”

This will change how you think about dinosaurs

By Michael Nordine
HistoryFacts.com

Dinosaurs have been extinct for 65 million years. That’s a long time, but not nearly as long as they were alive for: 165 million years.

Their reign as the planet’s dominant species absolutely dwarfs our own, which began a few hundred thousand years ago, and accounts for just 0.007 percent of the Earth’s history – a blink of the cosmic eye. If you compressed the planet’s history into one calendar year, dinosaurs would have appeared on Jan. 1 before going extinct in the third week of September; humans, meanwhile, wouldn’t have shown up until Dec. 31.

Dinosaurs lived in the

Mesozoic Era, which began 252 million years ago and was divided into three periods: Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous. Many of the most well-known species had already gone extinct by the time others appeared; for instance, more time separated Stegosaurus and Tyrannosaurus (80 million years) than separated the T. rex and humans. It wasn’t until 1677 that the first fossil was discovered, not that the man who came upon it had any way of knowing what it was – he thought the bone in question belonged to a giant.

Did you know?

Not all paleontologists think an asteroid killed the dinosaurs.

Though what’s known as the Alvarez hypothesis

is the most widely accepted theory for what caused the dinosaurs to go extinct, not all paleontologists think an asteroid was responsible. Others believe the dinos met their doom gradually rather than suddenly, with increased volcanic activity at the end of the Cretaceous spewing so much dust and soot into the atmosphere that the sun was eventually blocked out.

Those who belong to the latter camp are referred to as “intrinsic gradualists” rather than “extrinsic catastrophists,” as they contend that the K-T boundary separating the age of dinosaurs from the age of mammals was of an earthly nature, and occurred over the course of millions of years.

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 Greenwood, Indiana became one of the best-selling authors of his time!

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The Reporter

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Indiana Hospital Association

Indiana Hospital Association launches 'Access Denied' to expose abusive insurer practices

Submitted by Indiana Hospital Association

The Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) has launched a new effort to raise awareness about abusive insurer practices that leave Hoosiers without the ability to get medically necessary treatment.

It's called "Access Denied" and features a web portal that breaks

down how insurance companies block care, shares stories from the media with examples of insurer-practice abuse and includes a tool that allows people to submit their own stories.

"Across Indiana, large insurance companies create barriers that leave patients waiting, even while their conditions worsen," IHA President Scott B. Tittle said. "These companies are also using their market power to undercut independent providers that are struggling to stay open – and leaving patients with fewer options for local care."

According to IHA, recent polling shows 80 percent of Hoosiers say insurers are mainly focused on making money while 72 percent say insurers have raised health care costs over the last two years. The so-called "Big Two" – Elevance (Anthem) and UnitedHealthcare – control 86 percent of Indiana's commercial market, giving them enormous power over who gets timely care and from which providers.

Meanwhile, a recent State-commissioned report by the Indiana Department of Insurance shows the largest Indiana hospital systems have made significant progress reducing commercial prices – by as much as 7 percentage points on

average in 2024 compared to the year before. And several national rankings point to steady declines in health care costs and lower prices among all Indiana hospitals compared to other states.

"Our hospitals are doing their part to make health care more affordable," Tittle said. "It's time for insurers to do theirs and pass these savings on to patients. Yet while companies like Elevance are raking in billions in profit, they are restricting care, narrowing provider options, and driving up health care costs."

One way to stop this from happening, according to Tittle, is through legislative action. Several pieces of legislation are making their way through the Indiana General Assembly that are intended to protect patients as well as independent physicians.

"We appreciate Senator Baldwin and Representative Barrett's work on Senate Bill 189 to prevent insurers from engaging in unfair practices that disrupt care for Hoosier patients by imposing unfair penalties on hospitals and providers, as well as Representative McGuire and Senator Brown's work on House Bill 1271 to rein in harmful downcoding and recoupment tactics," Tittle said.

To learn more, visit AccessDeniedIN.org where Hoosiers can also send an email to legislators asking for their support.

"The more Hoosiers who get involved advocating for their access to medically necessary care, the more policymakers will realize the time for action is not tomorrow – it's now," Tittle said.



Tittle

Letter to the Editor

Reader has new idea for local promotions

Dear Editor:
I hate the internet. I don't use social media. I don't really know the difference between googling and binging. But I gave it a shot today, and man is that AI thing is smart!

I think we all know that Hamilton County is an economic powerhouse. While I disagree with most of the ways our elected "leaders" handle our tax money, there is no arguing that this county is not only one of the fastest growing and most affluent places in the continental United States, but it also exerts influence far beyond our own borders.

I think we should not only be honest about that, but we should also try to overcome some of our Hoosier humility and start shouting it from the rooftops.

I spent a few minutes talking to my new robot friend about this topic today, and it came up with a brilliant idea: the HamCo+ Economic Zone. That robot even made a logo for it,

which I'm submitting with this letter.

Hear me out. If our leaders want to spend tens of thousands of dollars designing a slightly better version of this logo, OK.

If Hamilton County Tourism wants to monetize it, my robot and I have some ideas for you.

My robot friend, whom I am going to call Robbie, suggested I capitalize most of the Nouns, use a lot of bold type in the middle of sentences, and he also really likes Bullet-Point Lists. So here you go, straight from the Robo-Horse's Mouth:

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here]. For example: "HamCo+Adam!"

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The future is now here. Whatever you want to do in HamCo+, *there's something for you!*

If you use any of these ideas, I do expect a modest fee for the Intellectual Property Rights. Let's say 2 percent of the Promotional Budget.

Adam E. Mupen
Proud Hamiltonian

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.

Human foibles fester in God of Carnage

Mud Creek

Players offers up

God of Carnage

(from 2008),

Yasmina Reza's

imaginings of

what might occur

when two sets of

parents attempt to

figure out whose

child is at fault

for a note-worthy

event in a local

playground.

Of course, they each

defend their own

little darling and

the obvious conflicts

ensue augmented by

a good many other

debated topics

including hamsters,

childhood gangs,

rum, dessert

recipes, and occupa-

tions – to name a few.

In my opinion, *God*

of *Carnage* is not

Reza's best play

(ART holds that

distinction) but

it nonetheless

carries her special

knack for highlighting

personal human

conflicts. Ms. Reza

is great at placing

her characters in

fairly normal

situations and then

watching as their

human foibles

fester.

Kelly Keller

directs the action

here and shows a

good understanding

of what Reza is up

to. He has

an excellent cast

to work with.

Andrea Odle

and her husband

Mason play *Veronica*

and *Michael Novak*,

the couple whose

son Henry was

struck in the face

with a stick

wielded by Benjamin.

He is the

son of Alan and

Annette Raleigh

(Gregory Roberts

and Amanda McCabe),

who are invited

over to the Novaks'

to try to figure

out what steps

need to be taken

due to the injuries

Henry received

and the violent

act committed by

Benjamin. It

all gradually

devolves into a

mess of arguments

and accusations

between couples,

on gender

boundaries, and

against individuals.

This is truly an

ensemble piece

and each actor

plays emotional,

outraged, and

drunken (eventually)

levels. Most of the

action is a fury

that every cast

member takes

their turn to

participate in

at full-force. Much

of it is funny;

much of it is

just outrageous –

meant to make

the playwright's



KEN KLINGEMEIER
A Seat on the Aisle



Photo by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com

Veronica (played by Andrea Odle) makes her differences of opinion known to her husband, Michael (Mason Odle).

point about how childish we all can become in certain stressful situations. It bears little resemblance to reality, or rather any reality I have ever witnessed, and is well suited to the 90-minute limit Reza imposed.

Bottom line: I enjoyed seeing my friends the Odles on stage together again. Ms. McCabe and Roberts were new faces for me, and I'll hope to get to see them again. This entire crew's energy for chaos was fantastic. Also of note were the

sharp set design by Chris Bundy and the costumes by Judy McGroarty.

God of Carnage continues at Mud Creek Players through Feb. 21. You can find more info about reservations, the theatre's location, and the company's upcoming schedule by going to mudcreekplayers.org. This show comes with a warning of adult language and situations.

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



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New protein guidelines represent increase from minimum intake

Submitted by Parkview Health

Adding more protein to your diet can boost your ability to build and rebuild the cells in your body, but be mindful about the types of protein you're consuming and how it balances into the rest of your diet, a Parkview Health dietitian advises.

Protein is the latest buzz in nutrition. From snack bars and treats; to infused coffees, milkshakes, or smoothies; to campaigns urging you to eat more meat; protein is in the spotlight.

Part of the protein push is coming from the federal government, as officials recently declared an end to the "war on protein" and unveiled updates to the U.S. Dietary Guidelines that upped recommendations for daily protein intake.

That change nearly doubled the recommended range for Americans from 0.8 to 1 grams of protein per kilogram of weight to 1.2 to 1.6 grams per kilogram. That equates to about 109 to 145 grams of protein today for a male at the U.S. average weight of 200 pounds, or 93 to 123 grams for women at 170 pounds.

Although the change represents a significant increase in recommended daily intake, Parkview Clinical Dietitian Thomas Arend called the new guidelines "pretty reasonable" for most adults.

"The previous recommendations were based on science, looking at the bare minimum amount of protein a healthy person needs to eat so they don't have to break down their own cells," Arend explained. "It was kind of a biological floor. Most people will benefit from following the new recommendations depending on their lifestyle."

Protein builds your body

Protein is important in your diet because it's a primary building block for your body.

"It's what makes up your whole body," Arend said. "All your cells are made up of protein, so you need to bring in a certain amount to replenish your cells."

Although it feels like protein is being added to just about any food recently, the best sources of protein in your diet are going to come from basic, natural foods – meat, poultry, fish, beans, lentils, and hemp heart. Meat products typically have higher protein content than plant-based proteins like beans, lentils or peas, and the body is more efficient at breaking down and utilizing the protein from meat products compared to plant products.

How much protein you really need in your diet can depend on multiple factors, so there's no single number that works for everyone. A person who is mostly sedentary will need less protein in their diet than someone who is strength training to build muscle or very active in fitness. Older individuals should also try to eat more protein because their digestive system gets less efficient as they age.

"As you get older, your ability to metabolize protein decreases," Arend said. "That old guy is not going to metabolize or utilize those 80 grams the same way the



This chart compares the old recommendation (red) to the new recommendation (green) for protein intake, according to the U.S. government.

young guy is, so his needs are going to be higher."

Balance your diet & don't overdo it

Boosting your protein intake can be good for your health, but you need to be mindful of what else you're getting along with it.

Foods that are high in protein may also come with high amounts of other ingredients that aren't great for your body or may be missing important nutrients that you need.

For example, red meat, like beef, has a lot of protein, but it can also have a higher saturated fat content, which you should limit in your diet. Meanwhile, if you're chowing down protein-rich foods but not eating fruits or vegetables or grains, you could be missing out on other important vitamins and minerals.

Vitamins, minerals, phytonutrients, fiber, heme iron and more are also why getting protein from natural sources is going to be better than from powders or supplements or from highly processed foods. Processed foods like lunchmeat, canned meat, beef sticks, or sausages are more likely to come with more sodium and other additives. Fish is a great choice because, on top of protein, it contains many essential fatty acids, but any kind of natural meat can be a good protein source when balanced in your diet.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket by focusing on just one type of food, like only eating piles of eggs for all your protein, Arend said.

"It's important to get diverse sources of protein," Arend said. "Getting it from beef, from chicken, from peas rather than just focusing on eggs, as an example. You're going to get benefits from everything else in those foods, in addition to the protein. The more diverse your diet, the more beneficial it will be to your overall health."

Increasing your protein intake usually won't harm your body, but Arend said to take it slow and be mindful of what you're eating. If you try to add too much protein to your diet too fast, your gut will likely give you a clear warning sign that you've exceeded your limit. Your body produces enzymes to break down protein, so you need to give your body time to ramp up production to meet your new diet.

"Thankfully for healthy people, it's hard to eat too much protein," Arend said. "When you eat protein, it's going to slow your diges-

tion down, so if you eat too much, you're going to have some gastrointestinal upset. Your body is wise enough to say, 'This is too much.'"

Individuals with late-stage kidney disease

should be cautious, however, as too much protein can cause damage. Those people should check with their doctor before making any significant changes to their diet.

Graphic provided

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announces 2026-27 season program

Submitted

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) has announced its 2026-27 season, placing Beethoven at the center of a *Classical Series* that spans centuries, styles, and symphonic scale.

Music Director Jun Märkl shapes a season that pairs all seven of Beethoven's concertos with landmark works by Mahler, Brahms, Schumann, Shostakovich, and Tchaikovsky, while also exploring the revolutionary legacy of the Ballets Russes and reaffirming the ISO's commitment to living composers.

Subscriptions are available now at Indianapolis-Symphony.org or by calling the Box Office at (317) 639-4300. [Click here](#) to see the full season lineup. Tickets to individual concerts may be purchased beginning July 21.

Classical Series programs featuring Music Di-

rector Jun Märkl:

- Sept. 19: Gala: OPUS endowed by Christel DeHaan – Beethoven's "Emperor" Piano Concerto

- Sept. 25 & 26: *Rite of Spring* and Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto

- Oct. 15-17: Epic Origins: Beethoven and Mahler

- Jan. 8 & 9: Ballet Russes & ISO Principals

- Jan. 21-23: Romantic Legacy: Schumann and Brahms

- Jan. 29 & 30: Ecstasy & Elegance: *Daphnis et Chloé*

- Feb. 18-20: Poulenc's Organ Concerto & Pines of Rome

- Feb. 26 & 27: Berlin to Vienna: Mozart & Mahler

- May 20-22: Beethoven's Triple Concerto and Prokofiev

- June 10-12: Celestial Beethoven: Violin Concerto and Symphony No. 4

See ISO . . . Page 6

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Allied Solutions Center awards arts commissions

Five New Works projects to be unveiled May 30 at the Tarkington

The REPORTER

Four Indiana performing artists and one visual artist have been selected to receive cash awards and public premiere opportunities through Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts' annual New Works commission project, now in its fifth season.

The 2026 New Works Premiere Performances will take place Saturday, May 30, at the Tarkington theater and will be livestreamed on Allied Solutions Center's website and social media accounts. Free tickets are available now at TheCenterPresents.org and (317) 843-3800. The event also will include the unveiling of this year's winning visual artwork.

The New Works project is designed to promote and sustain the area's working artists and artistic communities by supporting the creation of new works in the performing and visual arts disciplines. The proposed performance works are limited to 20 minutes each and must reflect Allied Solutions Center's organizational core values of integrity, excellence, innovation, collaboration, and inclusion. Each winning proposal receives a \$2,500 cash award, technical support in adapting the piece for the stage, on-stage rehearsal time prior to the performances, and access to the archived event video for promotional use.

The winning performance proposals selected by the judging panel are:

They Knew They Would Dance Again Mina Keohane, Indianapolis

Keohane is a musician and composer who stud-



Photo by Joshua Hasty

Winners of the 2026 New Works arts commissions at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts are (from left) Justin David Sears, Kyle Ragsdale, Mina Keohane, Brandon Meeks, and Saki Morimoto.

ied at the Berklee College of Music. Her project is a musical work in three movements for tambourine ensemble and voice, using oversized tambourines designed and constructed by collaborators Fred Erskine and David Melsheimer. Keohane chose to explore the simple instrument because of its mysterious origins and its widespread use throughout history by diverse cultures around the world. The title is drawn from the biblical story of the Exodus, in which the tambourine symbolized hope amid hardship.

Unsung Giants: Clifford Ratliff Brandon Meeks, Indianapolis

Meeks is a bassist and composer known for blending jazz, soul, and hip-hop influences. His project, part of a broader effort to celebrate Indiana jazz history, will pay tribute to legendary Indianapolis trumpeter Clifford Ratliff with an original work for piano trio. The performance will include new compositions and improvisation by Meeks and collaborators William Menefield on piano and Cassius Goons on drums, accompanied

by projected images and spoken narrative detailing Ratliff's achievements and continuing influence on younger generations of musicians.

Neither and Both Saki Morimoto, Fort Wayne

Morimoto is a professional dancer with Fort Wayne Ballet and will be joined by colleagues for the performance. Her project is a contemporary dance work inspired by her cross-cultural experience of moving from Japan to the United States at age 14, highlighting the contrasts between Japanese values of humility, harmony and community and American ideals of individuality, boldness, and self-expression. The dancers' costumes will reflect the cultural differences, and prerecorded audio will include Western orchestral music and an original collage of everyday sounds from Japan.

Edges of Insanity Justin David Sears, Indianapolis

Sears is a dancer, choreographer, and founder of Justin Sears Dance Founda-

tion project explores addiction recovery through embodied storytelling, video projections and recorded testimonials to interpret the real-life experiences of individuals who have journeyed through substance abuse to recovery. Created in collaboration with Marggo Korn, Amanda Hoover, Pulse Dance Theatre and Avenues Recovery Center Indianapolis, the piece portrays a progression from isolation and suffering to community and hope, aiming to reduce stigma while highlighting the transformative power of recovery communities.

The four pieces will be performed publicly for the first time at the 7 p.m. May 30 event, and the artists will join in a talkback discussion to close the evening. Tickets are free to reserve at the Fifth Third Bank Box Office at the Payne & Palladium, online at TheCenterPresents.org, and by phone at (317) 843-3800. The livestream and recorded video of the performance will be available free on

See New ... Page 7

Last chance to take Fishers' 2026 Community Survey

The REPORTER

Fishers residents ages 18 and over are encouraged to complete the 2026 Community Survey before it closes on Feb. 24.

The survey asks for feedback on:

- Overall quality of life and neighborhood experiences
- Public safety
- Transportation, growth, and development
- Parks, recreation, and community amenities
- City services, including streets and sidewalks, utilities, snow removal, recycling, facilities, public

information, and customer service

Survey results will help guide city planning, inform budget priorities, and identify opportunities to improve services across departments.

The survey is administered by Polco, an independent research and benchmarking firm. All responses are confidential, and no identifying information will be shared with the city.

Some residents may receive a text message invitation from Polco. Take the survey at FishersIN.gov/Survey.

ISO

from Page 5

• June 18 & 19: Season Finale – Schumann's Symphony No. 4

Other *Classical Series* highlights include:

• Oct. 23 & 24: The Hand of Tao: Beethoven and Mozart

• Dec. 17: Handel's *Messiah*

• April 2 & 3: Classically Modern: Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, and Stravinsky

• April 16 & 17: Gluzman Plays Tchaikovsky & Mozart's "Jupiter"

• April 22 & 23: Swan Songs: Tchaikovsky & Sibelius

• May 7 & 8: The Italian Baroque

• May 14 & 15: *La Valse* and Brahms Violin Concerto

The ISO is honored to welcome a distinguished roster of new and returning guest artists and conductors. Returning artists include Denis Kozhukhin, Conrad Tao, Javier Perianes, Ingrid Fliter, Paul Jacobs, Vadim Gluzman, Geneva Lewis, Dmitry Sinkovskiy, Joshua Weiler-

stein, Francesca DeGo, Alexandra Dariescu, Arabella Steinbacher, and Andrew Litton. Artists making their ISO debuts include Michael Davidman, Richard Egarr, and Stefan Dohr.

ISO subscriptions: Best Value

Subscriptions are the best way to experience the ISO, offering the greatest value and the most benefits. For the *Classical Series*, patrons who subscribe receive significant savings over the cost of purchasing single tickets. Pops subscribers enjoy exclusive access, priority seating, and special subscriber-only benefits throughout the season. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Patrons may renew current subscriptions or become a new subscriber by visiting IndianapolisSymphony.org, by phone at (317) 639-4300, by mail, or in person at the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office. Subscriber benefits include advance ticket access and discounts for special events throughout the year.



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Tickets on sale for Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre's production of *Exodus*

Submitted

From Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre, *Exodus* makes a triumphant return to the stage at The Tarkington at the Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts, 3 Carter Green, Carmel.

The concerts take place at 7 p.m. Friday, March 27 and 5 p.m. Saturday, March 28. Get your tickets by calling the Center's office at (317) 843-3800 or at TheCenterPresents.org.

A monumental production with an extended cast, and a story of intense relevance to current affairs, *Exodus* weaves in modern-day plagues and explores themes of social justice, economic and ecological issues, perseverance, power, corruption, and hope. This truly epic concert is a must-see and takes the story you think you may know and flips it upside down.



Photo by Lydia Moody

Audience members are immediately confronted with the stark image of women and children engaged and enslaved, and one dominating authority figure wreaking havoc on their population. A lone mother, desperate for a better life for her child, slips her infant through the gates and sets her afloat down the

river. This begins the story of The Chosen One, a secretly adopted child who grows up in privilege and discovers the injustices of a society that provides such privilege to some while others suffer.

This ancient story is retold as only Gregory Hancock can, with powerful music and athletic dancing, steeped in tradition but

time-warped into modern society where The Plagues are ripped from today's headlines, and the narrative touches a 21st-century global community. With an expanded cast to complement the professional company dancers, *Exodus* is a powerful tale of love, sacrifice, incredible strength.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE PEOPLE REBEL

But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they."

Moses said to the Lord, "Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, Lord, are with these people and that you, Lord, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. If you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, 'The Lord was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.'

Numbers 14:10-16 (NIV)

NEW

Allied Solutions Center's website and social media channels.

This event also will include the public unveiling of this year's winning visual arts project:

Folklorico
Kyle Ragsdale,
Indianapolis

Ragsdale is a fine art painter and longtime curator for the Harrison Center in Indianapolis. His project is an oil painting on canvas reflecting his interest in Mexican culture and its contributions to life in the Midwest. The content is inspired by a mariachi and folklorico dance performance he observed last year, reflecting the collaboration among the musicians and dancers. The surface will be manipulated with trowels and palette knives to create textures that accentuate the dancers' costumes and movements. Following the unveiling,

the painting will hang in the Payne & Mencias Palladium's South Lobby for one year, to be viewed by thousands of patrons and other visitors.

from Page 6

New Works is supported by the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation. More information is available at TheCenterPresents.org/NewWorks.

Meeting Notice

The Noblesville Council Roads Committee will meet at 8 a.m. Friday, March 6, 2026, in Room A213 at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

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.

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REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

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

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

Boys Basketball

Rocks win home game over Blazers

Westfield's Haffner scores 32, hits seven 3s

The REPORTER

Drew Haffner scored 32 points to lead Westfield to a 71-49 win over University in an all-county matchup Tuesday night.

Haffner found his rhythm early, scoring the first five points of the game and adding another three pointer as the Rocks raced to a 12-2 lead midway through the first quarter. University did close the gap to 16-9 after four straight points by Faisal Mohamud before Brock Detamore's three-point play with 4.7 seconds remaining put Westfield up 19-9 at the quarter break. Haffner had eight points in the quarter and Detamore seven. Mohamud had six first quarter points to lead University.

The teams battled on even terms in the second quarter before Haffner scored four points in the last 48 seconds of the half to give Westfield a 32-18 lead at halftime. Haffner had eight points in second quarter to finish the first half with 16 points.

University made a run



(LEFT) Westfield's Brock Detamore (left) and Drew Haffner prepare on defense during the Shamrocks' win over University on Tuesday. Haffner scored 32 points, including seven 3-pointers. (RIGHT) University's Joshua McGee takes the ball to the basket.

Reporter photos by Richie Hall

early in the third quarter to try to get back in the game. Mohamud and Blake Gray opened the half with baskets, but Haffner was fouled making a three pointer and completed the four-point play for a 36-22 lead. The Trailblazers used a Mohamud free throw and a Joshua

Henderson rebound basket, followed by a Gray three pointer to get within eight. Haffner again answered with a three pointer that was matched by Henderson to make the score 39-31.

Westfield then took total control of the game, outscoring University 20-3

over the next five minutes. Hafner added ten more points in the third quarter while Graham Wilson had seven points and Wyatt Freehauf six and the Rocks were in front 59-36 heading to the fourth quarter. Henderson scored nine points in the third quarter.

Haffner added two more three pointers in the fourth quarter giving him seven triples for the game. Freehauf and Wilson also reached double figures for Westfield with 11 points each. Henderson had 18 points and Mohamud 13 for University.

The win improves West-

field's record to 12-7. The Rocks will host Franklin Central Friday night in their final Hoosier Crossroads Conference game of the season.

University falls to 13-7 with the loss. The Trailblazers will travel to KIPP Indy Legacy Thursday night.

Golden Eagles win streak reaches eight

The REPORTER

Guerin Catholic's boys kept their winning streak going on Tuesday, beating Shortridge 67-46 on the road.

The Golden Eagles outscored the Blue Devils in each of the four quarters. Guerin Catholic led 14-10 after the first period, then ran its lead to 31-19 by halftime. The Golden Eagles poured in another 19 points

in the third quarter.

Jake Grissom had another outstanding game, scoring 30 points and collecting eight rebounds. Hayden Rogers added 10 points and dished out nine assists. Will Bach collected eight rebounds.

Guerin Catholic is 16-5 for the season. The Golden Eagles host Roncalli on Thursday to finish Circle City Conference play.

Hawks overwhelm WeBo

Page scores 34 points, makes seven 3s

The REPORTER

Sheridan put together another big win on Tuesday, taking care of Western Boone 72-44 at Larry Hobbs Hall.

The Blackhawks outscored the Stars in each quarter, beginning with a 20-point first quarter for a 20-15 lead. Trey Page was outstanding early, making three 3-pointers on his way to 11 points.

Sheridan kept the pressure on in the second period, holding WeBo to eight points. The Hawks went into halftime with a 34-23

lead, then poured in another 22 points in the third quarter. Page scored 12 of those points.

The fourth quarter was another good defensive one for Sheridan, as it outscored the Stars 16-9. Page added another seven points. He finished with 34 points, including six 3-pointers.

Devon Hamilton added 12 points, including five in the first period. Chance Spencer scored eight.

The Blackhawks are 16-3 and host North Montgomery on Friday.



Photo by Dwight Casler

Sheridan's Devon Hamilton draws a foul during the Blackhawks' game with Western Boone on Tuesday. Sheridan won 72-44.

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Gymnastics



Photos provided

(ABOVE LEFT) Noblesville's Haily Nobbe salutes after being recognized for first place on the vault at the Connersville Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 14. (ABOVE RIGHT) Nobbe also placed fourth on uneven bars, helping her to a third-place all-around finish.

Millers place third at Connersville

The REPORTER

The Noblesville gymnastics team finished third at the Connersville Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 14.

The Millers finished with a team score of 102.50 points and came home with one event victory. Hailey Nobbe won the vault with 9.10, easily the highest of the night for Noblesville. Valorey Bittles also scored highly on the vault, with an 8.95 to place fourth.

Nobbe also finished fourth on the uneven bars with 8.65, while Bittles was right behind with 8.575. Both Millers reached the top six in the all-around: Nobbe placed third with 34.85 and Bittles was sixth with 34.425.

All-around scores: 3. Hailey Nobbe 34.85, 6. Valorey Bittles 34.425, Emmerson Leckrone 32.85, Vera Deichman 31.875, Sterling Southard 26.95.

Vault: 1. Nobbe 9.10, 4.



Photo provided

Valorey Bittles performs her balance beam routine.

Bittles 8.95, Leckrone 8.40, Deichman 8.25, Southard 8.175.

Uneven bars: 4. Nobbe 8.65, 5. Bittles 8.575, Deichman 7.975, Leckrone 7.60, Southard 4.975.

Balance beam: 6. Nobbe

8.80, Leckrone 8.30, Bittles 8.125, Deichman 7.55, Southard 6.70.

Floor exercise: 7. Bittles 8.775, 9. Leckrone 8.55, Nobbe 8.30, Deichman 8.10, Southard 7.10.

Men's Soccer

Indy Eleven unveil new look

By ANGELA MORYAN
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A next era for the Indy Eleven officially began Saturday. The Boys in Blue unveiled a new look for the 2026 season with a kit design a bit different from what fans have seen in the past.

The new solid red and blue jerseys feature Ford as the primary sponsor with a full stripe across the front, creating a new distinguishable design for the club.

"How I perceive it is like one big stripe across, one big nation, one county one state and obviously Indianapolis kind of being the city has everyone together," said midfielder Jack Blake, who led the Indy Eleven in goals last season.

The stripe is a change from the usual checkered design the club has sported

in honor of the Indianapolis 500. Head coach Sean McAuley thinks the stripe – or sash, as he calls it – has a lot of potential for brand recognition in the future.

"We've always had an identity in terms of the checkered flag, which I think is great, and now the sash. I think if we can get it to where you don't need the crest on the shirt and people around the country will go 'Oh, that's Indy Eleven,' that's fantastic," McAuley said.

"We'll know their Indy Eleven kits," midfielder Cam Lindley said. "I think obviously the checkered [design] you think about Indy Eleven stuff, too, but it's cool the direction they went in this year. I like how there consistent, as well, Home and away, the stripe stays consistent so it's cool."

The entire team was on hand at the Dallara Experi-

ence Hub in Speedway for the unveiling Saturday afternoon. Even IndyCar driver Rinus Veekay spent time with the squad.

Fans enjoyed both sports at once – hopping in the IndyCar simulators then getting autographs from the Boys in Blue.

The Indy Eleven kick off the 2026 USL Championship season on the road at Brooklyn FC Sunday, March 8. The first home game will be an Open Cup match against USL League Two team Des Moines Menace on Tuesday, March 17. The USL Championship season home opener is scheduled for Saturday, March 21 against Detroit City FC.

This story originally appeared on WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/indy-eleven-unveil-new-look-for-2026-season.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, Feb. 19

BOYS BASKETBALL

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

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

Hoosier Conference placement game

Hamilton Heights at Lafayette Central Catholic, 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.

Thursday, Feb. 26

BOYS BASKETBALL

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

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

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

Thanks for reading!

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