

FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Sunny.
 Tonight: Mostly clear.

HIGH: 61 LOW: 37



DAR Horseshoe Prairie Chapter awards Good Citizen Scholarship

Tous les jours: you matter, every day

Submitted

Seven local high school seniors were honored as Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizens on Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Green Room in Noblesville:

- Riley Alderman (Carmel High School)
- Audrey Kixmiller (Fishers High School)
- Addison Mann (Hamilton Heights High School)
- Natalie Donnelly (Hamilton Southeastern High School)
- Meredith Knupp (Sheridan High School)
- Avery McDonough (Tip-ton High School)
- Shea Vohs (Westfield High School)

All received Good Citizen pins, graduation cords, and certificates.

Donnelly was judged as the chapter winner and also received a monetary scholarship

See *DAR* . . . Page 2



Photo provided

DAR Horseshoe Prairie Chapter recognized high school DAR Good Citizen winners February 22, 2026. Four (of seven) are pictured from left: Shea Vohs (Westfield High School), Audrey Kixmiller (Fishers High School), Meredith Knupp (Sheridan High School), and Natalie Donnelly (Hamilton Southeastern High School).

“Tous les jours” is a French expression. It means every day. Not sometimes. Not when it’s convenient. Not when someone approves. Every. Single. Day.

It is not a verb. It is not something you earn through performance. It is a way of being.

And don’t confuse it with “toujours” – one word – which means always. You belong always. All the time.

Somewhere between every day and always lives a truth we often forget: You matter.

Not occasionally. Not when you are loud enough. Not when you achieve enough. Not when you shrink yourself to make others comfortable.

You matter tous les jours.

For people like me – the ones who ask “why” – belonging has sometimes felt complicated. I was the child who raised her hand. The one who asked the question everyone else was thinking but did not dare to say out loud. Over time, I realized something: when I raise my hand, it is rarely just my question.

It belongs to the quiet ones. The hesitant ones.

The ones afraid of making someone uncomfortable.

Yet when truth enters the room, it can unsettle people. A question can feel like disruption. Curiosity can feel like defiance. And sometimes the person who dares to ask becomes the uncomfortable reminder that silence was easier.

But discomfort does not mean wrongdoing.

It does not mean I should lower my hand.

It does not mean you should silence your voice.

Belonging is not a reward handed out by gatekeepers. It is not a seat someone generously slides toward you. It should be the default setting of every community – every day, always.

That is why the phrase tous les jours stayed with me.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet the new Executive Director of Hamilton County Leadership Academy. We spoke about cohorts, about intention, about choosing people thoughtfully for the table. The selection process is not random. It is deliberate. It is careful.

See *You Matter* . . . Page 2



Hamilton County Health Department marks 30 years since Hepatitis A outbreak

The REPORTER

Thirty years ago, a Hepatitis A outbreak in Hamilton County sent more than 1,000 residents seeking treatment. Today, that anniversary serves as a powerful reminder: outbreaks can happen at any time, and vaccination is our best defense.

In January 1996, potential exposure linked to a Westfield restaurant led more than 1,000 people to receive immunoglobulin shots, with eight confirmed cases reported. Health Department staff worked extended hours to contain the spread, inform the public, and protect the community.

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the Hepatitis A virus. It spreads through close personal contact or by consuming contaminated food or drink. Symptoms can include fever,

fatigue, nausea, abdominal pain, dark urine, and jaundice. Vaccination is the best way to prevent infection.

The 1996 outbreak remains a powerful reminder of how quickly infectious diseases can spread – and how critical prevention efforts are in protecting public health.

“Thirty years ago, our community saw firsthand how rapidly an infectious disease can impact thousands of people,” Health Department Administrator Jason LeMaster said. “That experience reinforces why we must remain vigilant against vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines are one of



LeMaster



VanMetre

the safest and most effective tools we have to protect individuals, families, and our community.”

Today, public health officials are closely monitoring measles outbreaks occurring in parts of the United States and around the world. Measles is one of the most contagious viruses known and can lead to serious complications, especially in young children and those with weakened immune systems. Like Hepatitis A, measles is preventable through routine vaccination.

“The circumstances we saw in 1996 could absolutely happen again with a disease like

measles if vaccination rates drop,” Health Department Director of Nursing Janice VanMetre said. “Measles spreads incredibly fast – even faster than Hepatitis A – and it only takes one case to spark an outbreak in an under-vaccinated community. We strongly encourage residents to make sure they and their children are up to date on Hepatitis A, MMR, and all recommended vaccines.”

The Hamilton County Health Department encourages residents to review their immunization records, consult with their healthcare provider, and seek reliable information from trusted public health professionals.

For more information about Hepatitis A, measles, or recommended vaccines, visit the Hamilton County Health Department website or call the Immunization Clinic at (317) 776-8500.

Safe reunion on Morse Reservoir



Photo provided

On Monday, Feb. 16, 87-year-old Cicero resident Ron Liebert saved a man who fell through the ice on Morse Reservoir – twice! Read all about it at [this link](#). On Tuesday, Feb. 24, all three fishermen from that story got together to fish again at Morse Reservoir, this time safely from the docks. The man who fell through the ice, Jim Dickerson, recently got a replacement phone and, after a call from Liebert, arranged for the reunion. (From left) Liebert, Dickerson, and Lou Garcia were kind enough to pose for this shot, holding the very newspaper that told their tale.

Get ready for Noblesville Education Foundation’s Miller-Palooza fundraiser

Submitted

The Noblesville Schools Education Foundation (NSEF) will hold its largest annual fundraiser, Miller-Palooza, on Friday, March 13 at Embassy Suites in Noblesville.

This historic school spirit-themed fundraiser supports all 10 Noblesville schools and will further the Foundation’s mission of promoting and investing in the district through grants, scholarships, strategic partnerships, and volunteer support.

Miller-Palooza starts at 5:30 p.m. and will feature school spirit, food stations, spirits, a large auction, and awards honoring the second class of the Noblesville Schools Hall of Fame. The event will also celebrate 100 years of the Millers. The dress code is casual school spirit, and vintage or throwback items are encouraged.

NSEF volunteers are hoping to beat last year’s numbers and raise over \$160,000 to support all 10 Noblesville Schools. This is a 21-and-over event and tickets start at \$125 each. Tickets can be purchased at onecau.se/miller-palooza.



Photo provided

Miller-Palooza is the NSEF’s largest fundraiser, and this year the organization hopes to raise more than \$160,000 to support all of Noblesville’s 10 schools.

The Foundation expects an estimated 380 attendees and will feature many local businesses as sponsors. The top presenting sponsor of the event is Blades Audio Video Security. Gold level sponsors are 4 & 1 Creations, Beaver Gravel, Craig



& Christi Crosser, CSO Martin Automotive, Dr. Joe Architects, Don Smock Forgey, and T&T Sales & Auctions, Duke Energy, Ed Promotions.

Community News

Wayne-Fall Lions invite you to Chicken & Noodle Dinner

The Wayne-Fall Lions Club invites the community to a Chicken & Noodle Dinner from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. All donations will go to the Hamilton Southeastern FFA, and FFA Members will serve the meals.

The menu will include chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, desserts, and drinks. Chili dogs will also be available.

The Wayne-Fall Lions Club, 11940 E. 191st St., Noblesville, is located on the north side of 191st Street at Deshane and Victory Chapel Road.

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United Way of Central Indiana awards \$199K to five Hamilton County nonprofits

The REPORTER

United Way of Central Indiana is awarding \$199,000 in grants to five Hamilton County nonprofits to help meet residents' basic needs and improve the education, financial stability, and well-being of families.

The grants come from United Way's Basic Needs and Family Opportunity Funds.

The Basic Needs Fund supports the region's most vulnerable neighbors, ensuring they have access to life's essentials: safe and affordable housing, healthy food, transportation, and health services. The Family Opportunity Fund supports integrated programming that serves both youth and adults in the same household.

This is the second year United Way has opened funding of this kind to nonprofits outside its accredited network, part of United Way's ongoing work to reach more people in more communities across its seven-county service area.

The Hamilton County nonprofits receiving grants are:

- Ascent 121: \$25,000 Basic Needs
- Grace Care Center: \$25,000 Basic Needs
- Heart and Soul Clinic: \$9,000 Basic Needs
- Prevail, Inc.: \$10,000 Basic Needs
- Trinity Free Clinic: \$130,000 Family Opportunity

Heart and Soul Clinic: \$9,000 Basic Needs

Prevail, Inc.: \$10,000 Basic Needs

Trinity Free Clinic: \$130,000 Family Opportunity

"We are incredibly grateful to United Way for their continued support of Health Careers Pathway Program," Trinity Free Clinic Executive Director Mel Wischmeyer said. "This grant allows us to continue training young parents for meaningful careers in medical and dental assisting – careers that offer livable wages, stability, and long-term opportunity. Together, we are strengthening families and building a more equitable healthcare workforce in our community."

Tami Wanninger, Executive Director of Prevail, Inc., had this to say:

"We are incredibly grateful to United Way of Central Indiana for this generous investment in Prevail's mission. This grant reflects a



Wischmeyer



Wanninger



shared commitment to ensuring survivors of crime and abuse have access to safe, stable housing and essential health services. Because of United Way's support, Prevail will be able to directly address urgent housing and health disparities by connecting survivors to safe, affordable housing, as well as mental and behavioral health supports. Together, we are dismantling the barriers that keep individuals and families in crisis and creating pathways to stability, dignity, and the opportunity to truly thrive."

While the other nonprofits that received funding in this grant cycle are headquartered outside of Hamilton County, many of them serve Hoosiers throughout the region, including Hamilton County residents.

"We're committed to

expanding our investments across Central Indiana," said Shannon Jenkins, United Way's vice president of impact. "These grants support essential basic needs such as transportation, housing, health services and food access while also funding family-focused programs that strengthen education and long-term economic mobility for children and their parents or caregivers. By investing beyond our accredited partner network, we can expand collaboration and increase impact across our seven-county service area."

Hamilton County has been part of United Way of Central Indiana since 1966. Since 2019, United Way has invested over \$5 million in Hamilton County and partnered with 47 nonprofits and schools.

United Way works to tackle generational poverty, with a focus on basic needs, early care and learning, economic mobility, and safe and affordable housing.

DAR

from Page 1



Photos provided
(ABOVE) Laura Alerding presents Natalie Donnelly of Hamilton Southeastern High School with a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in her honor for being named the Daughters of American Revolution Horseshoe Prairie Chapter Good Citizen. Holding the flag is Chapter Regent Amy Holzum and Good Citizen Chair Maureen Morgan. (BELOW) Good Citizens Natalie Donnelly and Audrey Kixmiller, Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith, and Good Citizens Meredith Knupp and Shea Vohs.

and a flag flown in her honor over the U.S. Capitol at the request of Congresswoman Victoria Spartz. Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith addressed the guests with stories of our Founding Fathers.

The DAR Good Citizens program and scholarship contest is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. The program is open to all senior class students enrolled in accredited pub-

lic or private secondary schools.

The student selected as the school's DAR Good Citizen must have the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. In the application, students were required to list how they have manifested the qualities of a good citizen as well as submit two letters of recommendation. The second part is a timed essay.

This year's essay title was "Our American Heritage and our Responsibility for Preserving it" with a prompt of "Our nation will celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America on July 4, 2026. Describe how the characteristics of a good citizen help to renew and strengthen the democracy achieved by the Patriots of the American Revolution."



YOU MATTER

from Page 1

When you are offered a seat, you are not simply filling space. You are stepping into opportunity carved out among many deserving voices. That seat becomes meaningful only when you bring your whole self to it.

Being part of HCLA was not an accident for me. It was a prayer answered. A desire carried quietly for years. When I saw my name listed in the 2020-2025 cohort, I did not feel lucky. I felt ready.

I have a story the world needs to hear.

I have a responsibility to make spaces more visible, more welcoming.

I have the fire to ignite conversations that matter.

And what I found inside HCLA was this: there was no room where I felt I did not belong.

Not once.

But belonging is not a switch you turn on and off



Photo provided

for yourself alone. It is a responsibility you extend forward. If I feel seen, I must make space for the next person to feel seen. If I am heard, I must ensure another voice is not silenced.

Please consider this col-

umn as an open invitation to apply for the next HCLA cohort.

Tous les jours – every day – you matter.

Toujours – always – you belong.

And when we build communities that reflect that truth, we do more than gather.

We thrive. Together.

Pooja Thakkar is working to build connections, and you can read her column each week in the pages of The Reporter.

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Hamilton Southeastern Schools reports academic growth & expanded career pathways under Innovate 2028 strategic plan

Submitted by Hamilton Southeastern Schools

Hamilton Southeastern Schools presented its mid-year academic review at the Wednesday, Feb. 25 Board of School Trustees work session, highlighting measurable student growth, expanded career-connected learning, and continued implementation of the district's three-year **Innovate 2028** strategic plan led by Superintendent Pat Mapes.

The academic update represents a major milestone in the strategic rollout that began in July 2025 to ensure success and outcomes for every student.

District leaders shared data showing continued progress across all grade levels, specifically highlighting achievement in foundational literacy and math, strong secondary performance, and early success from new initiatives including Freshman Seminar and career-focused Networks.

In Kindergarten literacy, 30 percent of students began the year well below

target. By mid-year, that number dropped to 13 percent, with 76 percent performing above or well above targets following focused instruction and intervention support.

At the junior-high level, ILEARN Checkpoint No. 2 results show notable gains. Eighth-grade math proficiency increased from 50 percent in 2024 to 68 percent in 2025, an 18-point improvement. Seventh-grade math proficiency rose to 73 percent, outperforming state averages by more than 30 points.

"The data shared in this update illustrates that our Innovate 2028 plan is making a difference," Superintendent Mapes said. "By supporting our teachers through meaningful



Mapes



Pascoe



professional development, using performance statistics to strengthen our instruction, and creating more opportunities for students to explore future pathways, HSE is raising our already exceptionally high standard."

HSE's 2025 graduation rate reached 98.8 percent across its two high schools, continuing a multi-year trend of exceptional completion rates. Advanced Placement (AP) participation and performance also improved. The percentage of graduating seniors earning at least one AP score of 3 or higher increased from 45 percent in 2023 to 53 percent in 2025, and 63 percent of the graduating class completed at least one AP course.

"When you have the right people in the right place, students thrive," HSE Schools Board of Trustees President Tiffany Pascoe said. "The results shared at this work session demonstrate that HSE is not only outperforming state averages, but we are also actively working toward our goal of being the best in the state.

What makes this especially meaningful is seeing 17 buildings working in alignment to drive these outcomes. My gratitude goes to our leaders and staff for these outstanding accomplishments."

A central component of Innovate 2028 is expanding career-connected learning. All ninth graders now participate in Freshman Seminar, where they explore career pathways and align academic planning with future goals. The Board has approved 25 new Career and Technical Education courses over the past two years, and all career-focused Networks are on track to be fully operational by the close of the 2025-26 academic year.

Professional development for educators remains foundational to these efforts. Through Title II funding and the district's partnership with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), educators participate in structured collaboration designed to strengthen instruction and improve student outcomes.

The district will continue providing updates as Innovate 2028 implementation progresses. More information on the academic update is available at [this link](#).

Invitation for Veterans to 'Map Your Memoir' at Clay Township Military Library & Museum

Submitted by Jon Baldwin

Many veterans tell us, "My story isn't that important," or "I don't know where to start." We believe your story matters deeply – to your family, to our community, and to history – and we would like to make it easy for you to begin sharing it.

On Monday, March 2 from 10 a.m. to noon, the Clay Township Military Library and Museum, 10801 N. College Ave., Carmel, will host a special "Map Your Memoir – Veterans Edition" workshop at the Museum.

This is our first collaboration with New Mint Media, an Indianapolis-based organization that helps people turn their life stories into printed memoirs without having to "write a word" on their own. Their Map Your Memoir Writing Workshop has helped people of all ages start capturing family history and personal memories in a friendly, low pressure setting.

Workshop highlights:
 • Designed especially for veterans and their families, with prompts that focus on your time in service and its impact on your life.

• Interactive and relaxed – no writing experience needed; you can jot notes, talk through memories, or bring photographs to help spark stories.

• Guided by Angela Ridenour of New Mint Media, who specializes in

helping people organize their memories into a story that can later be shared with loved ones.

All you need to bring are your memories and, if you wish, a few photos or mementos from your time in uniform. You are welcome to attend with a spouse, adult child, or friend. Sometimes having a "battle buddy" or family member beside you makes it easier to remember and to talk.

Why we are offering this:

• Our Museum's mission is to preserve veterans' experiences so future generations can hear them in your own words.

• Many veterans are modest or reluctant to talk about their service; this workshop offers a gentle, structured way to begin, at your own pace.

• New Mint Media is expanding its work with veterans in Hamilton County, and we are honored to be their first partner in this effort.

To reserve your spot (space is limited), please call the Clay Township Military Library and Museum at (317) 435-7194 or email claytwpmilitarymuseum@gmail.com.

If you know a veteran or Gold Star family member in Hamilton County who might appreciate this opportunity, please let them know about this event. Your story – and their story – deserves to be heard and preserved.

Hamilton County Reporter

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Noblesville native among best business students in the nation

Submitted

Editor's note: The student team from Trine University's Ketter School of Business recently competed at the National Collegiate Sports Sales Championship, which took place this week at the State Farm Arena in Atlanta, Ga.

Notably, Noblesville's Isaac Wilson is one of the four members the team, which placed fifth overall at the national competition. The following information is from Alexander Atwood, a professor in the Ketter School of Business who served as team coach.

- **Isaac Wilson:** second place overall in Corporate Partnerships

- **Josh Hartman:** sixth place overall in Ticket Sales

- **Mason Slazyk:** top 16 finish in Ticket Sales

- **Beckam Pichardo:** top 32 finish in Corporate Partnerships

To say I'm proud of these men would be an understatement. The amount of hard work, time, and energy they put into their role plays and presentations paid off in the end, and many different employers took notice. These guys were

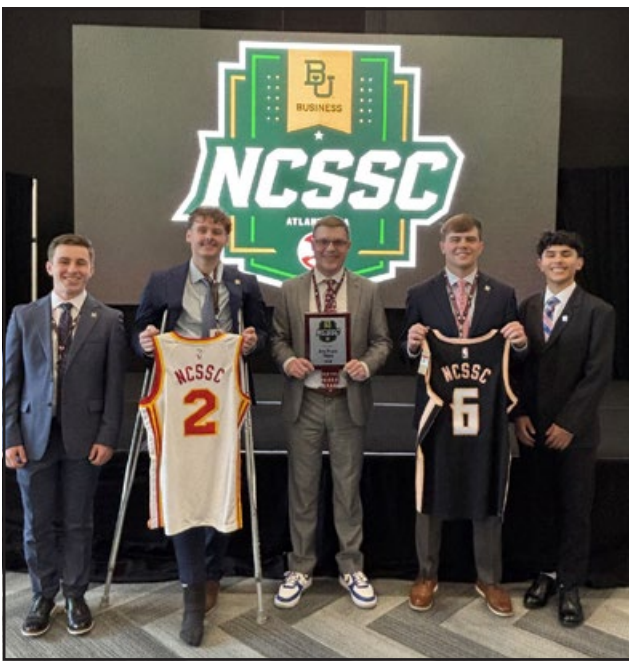


Photo provided

(From left) Mason Slazyk of Fort Wright, Ky., Isaac Wilson of Noblesville, Prof. Atwood, Josh Hartman of Avon, Ind., and Beckam Pichardo of Sunland Park, N.M.

incredibly motivated to succeed, and the results speak for themselves.

I couldn't be happier with how these guys performed and represented Trine University this year. Thank you to Catherine Benson and KSB for the opportunity to have our students compete in this tournament. Thank you to Lane Wakefield, Heather

Grover, and Baylor S3E for putting on another amazing competition this year. And a huge thanks to the Atlanta Hawks for hosting at State Farm Arena.

I'm eager to get things rolling for next year's group of Trine students, but for now, we're bringing some hardware home! Go Thunder!

Learn latest in best cybersecurity practices at Tech Talk on April 9

The REPORTER

Noblesville Schools and Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) invites all Noblesville residents to attend "Tech Talk" from 10 a.m. to noon on April 9 at North Elementary School, 440 N. 10th St., Noblesville.

Noblesville Schools Technology and HEPL library staff will provide:

1. Training on how to stay safe from online scams
2. One-on-one support for questions about your tech devices
3. Additional tech resources

This event is designed for community members who want to:

- Learn more about everyday cybersecurity best practices

- Know how to spot sophisticated online and email scams

- Get help troubleshooting issues with their devices

- Ask one-on-one questions about tech services (like photos, texting, apps, video chats, etc.)

- Learn about how to get the most from their technology experience

Westfield Public Safety Night to provide internet safety resources for families

The REPORTER

Westfield Washington Township and Westfield Washington Schools (WWS) invite parents and guardians to attend Public Safety Night, an evening dedicated to supporting the safety and well-being of children and families in the community.

The event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 11 in the Community Room at the Westfield Washington Township Office, 17400 Westfield Blvd., Suite B.

Last year, both organizations hosted "Strong Minds, Strong Choices," which included a focused discussion on basic social media protection and online awareness for families. Township and school district leaders say they believe it is important to continue and deepen that conversation.

Public Safety Night will provide updated information, resources, and practical tools to help families better protect their children, particularly in online spaces. The event will feature a parents-only internet safety presentation by Detective Tyler Mitchell of the Westfield Police Department, who serves on the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

"We know families

are navigating an increasingly complex digital world," Westfield Washington Township Trustee Jamie Goetz Mills said. "As a community, it's our responsibility to ensure parents have access to current information and trusted resources. This event is about coming together in a proactive way to protect our children and support one another."

From 6 to 7 p.m. that evening, community partners will be available during an open house. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and connect with representatives from:

- Hamilton County Health Department
- Prevail, Inc.
- Westfield Fire Department
- Westfield Police Department
- Westfield Washington Schools

Representatives will share information and resources related to crime prevention, fire safety, and family protection. Safety items will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

At 7 p.m., Detective Mitchell will present a parents-only Internet Safety session in the same location. The presentation will focus on current online risks, trends, and strategies parents can use to help safeguard their children.

"This evening is designed to educate and empower families in a supportive and informed environment," WWS Community and Engagement Director Ashley Knott said. "When parents understand the tools their children are using and the risks that can come with them, they are better equipped to have meaningful conversations at home and make strong, confident choices."

All parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to attend. By staying informed and engaged, community leaders say families can work together to better protect children and strengthen the entire community.

Registration is encouraged. The link to register is tinyurl.com/wwt-publicsafety26.



Goetz Mills



Knott

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Foster Success applauds Indiana General Assembly for passing legislation to codify Foster Youth Bill of Rights

The REPORTER

Foster Success applauds the Indiana General Assembly for passing **Senate Bill 15**, a landmark measure that formally establishes the Foster Youth Bill of Rights in Indiana law. The bipartisan measure, which now heads to Governor Mike Braun's desk, ensures that the rights of young people in foster care will be permanently codified and protected statewide.

SB 15 requires the Indiana Department of Child Services to create and maintain a statement summarizing foster youth rights and responsibilities, update it periodically, distribute it to foster youth and relevant stakeholders, and publish it on the department's website. While a **Youth in Foster Care Bill of Rights** currently exists on the DCS website, SB 15 guarantees that these critical protections will remain in place even as administrations change, providing consistency and stability for vulnerable youth navigating the foster care system.

"This is an historic win for young people in foster care across Indiana," Foster Success President and CEO Dr. Maggie Stevens said. "By codifying the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, our state is making a clear commitment that the rights and dignity of foster youth are non-negotiable. These

young people deserve to know what their rights are and that they are protected today, tomorrow, and for years to come."

Foster Success program participants championed SB 15 during the organization's Fourth Annual Day at the Statehouse in January, where they met with lawmakers to share their lived experiences and advocate for policies that improve outcomes for older foster youth.

This legislation garnered strong bipartisan support in both chambers.

It was authored by Sen. Kyle Walker (R-Lawrence), Sen. Greg Walker (R-Columbus), and Sen. Greg Goode (R-Terre Haute), and co-authored by Sen. Andrea Hunley (D-Indianapolis), Sen. Vaneta Becker (R-Evansville), Sen. La Keisha Jackson (D-Indianapolis), Sen. J.D. Ford (D-Indianapolis), Sen. Scott Alexander (R-Muncie), Sen. Shelli Yoder (D-Bloomington), Sen. James Buck (R-Kokomo), Sen. Lonnie Randolph (D-East Chicago), and Sen. Fady Qaddoura (D-Indianapolis).

House sponsors include Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel), Rep. Carey Hamilton (D-Indianapolis), and Rep. Julie Olthoff (R-Crown Point).

For more information about Foster Success, visit FosterSuccess.org.

Alex Stein of Fishers makes University of Wyoming honor roll

The REPORTER

The University of Wyoming has announced the 2025 fall semester Provost's Honor Roll.

Among those students is Alex Stein of Fishers.

The Provost's Honor Roll consists of undergraduates who have completed at least six but fewer than 12 hours with a minimum 3.5 grade-point average for the semester.

Thanks for reading!

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation receives award for Bur Oak Bridge

The REPORTER

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) received a 2026 Great Lakes Park, Facility or Program Award from the Great Lakes Park Training Institute (GLPTI). The award recognizes the Bur Oak Bridge at Hazel Landing Park.

Specifically, the award honors outstanding parks, facilities, and programs completed within the last five years. Eligible projects demonstrate forward-thinking design, cost-effective solutions, and meaningful community impact. Based on these criteria, GLPTI recognized Bur Oak Bridge for its innovative design and regional collaboration.

Bur Oak Bridge is a 500-foot-long, 14-foot-wide pedestrian and bicycle bridge that spans the White River. It connects Hazel Landing Park



Photo provided by Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation

in Carmel with Heritage Park in Fishers, strengthening central Indiana's regional trail network by linking the Monon Greenway, Big-4 Rail Trail and Nickel Plate Trail.



Klitzing

The \$11 million project was made possible through a collaborative regional investment, with funding contributions from:

- Clay Township – \$5 million through its Impact Program

- Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation – \$3 million
- Hamilton County – \$1.6 million
- Delaware Township – \$1.3 million
- City of Fishers – \$400,000

"At its core, Bur Oak Bridge provides pedestrians with a safe and accessible connection between regional trail systems," CCPR Director/CEO Michael Klitzing said. "Overall, this award reinforces

the importance of investing in projects that enhance recreation, mobility and connection throughout our community and the region."

The name "Bur Oak Bridge" reflects the ecological and cultural significance of the native Bur Oak tree and was selected in consultation with representatives of the Miami, Delaware/Lenape, Shawnee, and Peoria tribes. Interpretive signage at each end of the bridge will highlight the White River's natural and cultural history, as well as its Indigenous heritage.

Shamrock Drop returns to Grand Junction Plaza for St. Patrick's Day Fun

Submitted by City of Westfield

Get ready for the big drop, Westfield!

The city's popular St. Patrick's Day celebration, Shamrock Drop, returns to Grand Junction Plaza, 225 S. Union St, from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 14.

This free, family-friendly event will have live Irish music, a scavenger hunt, live crafts, airbrush tattoos, and food and beer vendors. Themed carnival games are also available for an additional cost; attendees may purchase a Lucky Loot Card for \$10, which enables them to play any of the six carnival games. Every player is guaranteed to win a prize.

Attendees are encouraged to stop by the Westfield Welcome tent to pick up



Photo provided by City of Westfield

their complimentary scavenger hunt card. Once the scavenger hunt is complete, participants can redeem their Lucky Shamrock Duck at the final clue location.

At 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.,

a leprechaun will climb aboard a Westfield Fire Department fire truck and drop all the Lucky Shamrock Ducks from above. One duck will be chosen at random, and the owner of the

winning duck will receive a grand prize generously donated by local Westfield businesses.

For more information, visit westfieldin.gov/shamrockdrop.

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Congress closed the hemp loophole. Indiana must too.

I am calling on Indiana House members to adopt the substance of **Senate Bill 250**, as passed by the Senate, to align Indiana law with the new federal definition of hemp and end the sale of illicit marijuana products masquerading as “low-THC hemp.”



TODD ROKITA
Ind. Attorney General

ucts exceeding 0.3 percent of any THC variant will be treated as marijuana under federal law. Indiana law must change to reflect this new definition.

Under the banner of “hemp,” a commercial marijuana market has taken root in Indiana – engineered for intoxication and shielded by a regulatory loophole in Indiana law. High-potency THC gummies and similar products are being sold openly, often containing multiples of the THC levels permitted in states that have formally legalized marijuana.

A 100 mg THC gummy is not hemp. It is marijuana in everything but name. Indiana should follow Congress’s lead and close this loophole.

Aligning Indiana law with federal law ends the fiction that these high-potency THC products are legitimate hemp. It sends a clear message: Indiana supports a lawful, agriculture-based hemp industry – not an intoxicating THC marketplace that profits at the expense of public safety and health.

House members should heed the law enforcement agencies that testified in committee that they need clear statutory guidance to enforce marijuana-related offenses. Aligning Indiana law with the federal definition eliminates uncertainty and gives officers and prosecutors the clarity necessary to enforce THC offenses without having to parse artificial distinctions between so-called “hemp” and marijuana.

There is also a risk to legitimate hemp farmers. Indiana’s USDA-approved hemp plan must comply with federal standards. Refusing to adopt the updated federal definition places the integrity of that plan in jeopardy – harming farmers who followed the rules and depend on regulatory stability.

Indiana law should be consistent. If someone selling 10 mg of marijuana on the street faces arrest, we should not excuse retailers selling 10 times that amount of THC simply because they operate behind a counter, wear suits, and hire high-priced lobbyists. A psychoactive drug does not become lawful because it is packaged differently or defended

more elegantly. When businesses profit from intoxicating THC while hiding behind a loophole, they are not advancing the hemp industry – they are drug dealers in suits.

Adopting the SB 250 language does not ban lawful hemp. It preserves legitimate, low-THC hemp products and protects compliant farmers. If lawmakers refuse to do so, Indiana will effectively legalize marijuana by default – without a direct vote to do so and without the safeguards required in states that have openly chosen that path.

Lawmakers cannot legalize marijuana through the back door and expect Hoosiers not to notice. When intoxicating THC products are sold in plain sight, voters will not accept claims that marijuana was never legalized. If this loophole remains, Hoosiers will hold the entire legislature accountable.

House members should act decisively.

Adopt the federal definition of hemp. Close the loophole. End the deception.

Todd Rokita serves as the Attorney General for the State of Indiana.

Bill restricting cellphone use in schools heads to Governor Braun’s desk

By **KENDALL PIERSON**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

time. This bill would expand that to the entire school day.

Indiana lawmakers have passed a bill that would ban students from using cellphones during the school day.

The bill is now heading to Gov. Mike Braun’s desk.

As of right now, students are not allowed to use phones during instructional

time. This bill would expand that to the entire school day. Lawmakers say there are exceptions built into the bill for students with special needs.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/bill-restricting-cellphone-use-in-schools-heads-to-gov-brauns-desk.

Speaker Huston issues statement regarding Chicago Bears potentially moving to Indiana

Submitted by Office of Speaker Todd Huston

*Indiana House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) issued the following statement Thursday, Feb. 26 upon final passage of **Senate Enrolled Act 27** establishing the Northwest Indiana Stadium Authority.*



Huston

Indiana is ready to seize this transformational opportunity for Northwest Indiana that will deliver lasting benefits to the entire state. A project like this brings jobs, new businesses, increased tourism, and long-term economic and

population growth. We’re excited to bring this project one step closer to fruition and firmly position Indiana as a premier destination for world-class sports and entertainment. I thank the ownership and leadership of the Chicago Bears and look forward to building on our partnership.

SEA 27 passed the Senate for a final time Thursday and now heads to the governor’s desk for final consideration to become law. The bill passed the House on Tuesday with a bipartisan vote of 95-4.

Indiana Senate sends immigration enforcement bill to the governor

By **GARRETT BERGQUIST**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

All governmental bodies would have to comply with immigration detainers under a bill that the Senate gave final approval to Wednesday evening.

In its final form, the bill requires all governmental bodies, including school corporations, to comply with immigration detainers and inform judges in writing about the immigration status of anyone who is subject to a detainer. The bill prohibits employers from knowingly recruiting, hiring, or employing someone who is not authorized to work in the United States. In addition, the bill authorizes the attorney

general to defend any agency that faces a lawsuit over its enforcement of immigration laws.

The Department of Correction would work on training requirements for county jails on how to deal with immigration cases.

The House added language to require monthly reports to the State Budget Committee on federal reimbursements from use of the Miami Correctional Facility by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Senate Democrats said the bill would erode community trust in law enforcement and open up schools and other agencies to legal liabilities. Sen. Andrea Hunley, D-Indianapolis, who is a

former school principal, said she fears forcing schools to divulge student information to ICE agents would violate the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

“We can’t get this wrong when it comes to kids. I can’t imagine for a moment coming to school to pick up my child and them not being there and me not knowing where they are,” Hunley said.

Republicans pointed to recent high-profile instances of deaths of U.S. citizens at the hands of undocumented immigrants as proof of the bill’s need. Sen. Chris Garten, R-Charlestown, invoked the names of several Americans who have been murdered in cases in which the suspects were persons

who lacked proper documentation.

“I heard a colleague say we should be focused on big problems. I would say American citizens being murdered is a pretty freaking big problem. Maybe the biggest that we can address,” he said. “But we shouldn’t be scared because people are scared? This is insanity, friends. I can’t believe that this is something that we have to stand up here and debate.”

The bill now goes to Gov. Mike Braun, who has indicated he will sign it.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/indiana-immigration-bill-approved.

Baldwin’s bill modernizing Indiana’s judicial security structure heads to Braun’s desk

Submitted by Office of State Sen. Scott Baldwin

A bill authored by State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) that would modernize Indiana’s judicial security framework unanimously passed the Senate on Wednesday, Feb. 25 and now goes to the governor’s desk.



Baldwin

Under **Senate Enrolled Act 291**, the existing Supreme Court Sheriff model would be repealed and replaced with a dedicated Supreme Court Marshal. The Court of Appeals would also be allowed to create their own marshal system, which would provide security for the Court of Appeals and Tax Court. The marshals would be appointed by court leadership and be authorized to hire deputy marshals who would serve at the pleasure of the Chief Justice or Chief Judge.

“Indiana’s judges do excellent work, and they must be able to do their job without fear, intimidation and disruption,” State Sen. Baldwin said. “Senate Enrolled Act 291 would ensure our judges and courts are protected by modernizing how we protect our judicial officials, and the need for this legislation is only

emphasized by the January shooting of Judge Steve Meyer and his wife at their home.”

Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Marshals would be tasked with:

- Protecting justices, judges, court staff, facilities, and judicial residences;
- Maintaining security systems at the Statehouse and judicial offices;
- Keeping order during court proceedings;
- Providing security assessments, education, and guidance to trial courts;
- Coordinating security for court-related events across the state; and
- Serving as the liaison between the courts and law enforcement agencies.

The bill would give marshals limited police power while on duty, allowing them to carry weapons, temporarily detain individuals to address security threats, and have access to law enforcement intelligence like criminal history records and threat assessments.

State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) represents Senate District 20, which includes Noblesville, Carmel, Cicero, and unincorporated areas of Hamilton County.

Indiana lawmakers OK expanded alert criteria in response to Fishers teen’s death

By **GREGG MONTGOMERY & CAT SANDOVAL**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

More missing children may soon qualify for Indiana Silver Alert status.

The Indiana House on Wednesday passed **House Bill 1303** by a vote of 96-0. On Tuesday, senators approved the measure 46-0.

Changes made to the bill were a response to the death of 17-year-old Hailey Buzbee. The Fishers girl and Hamilton Southeastern student left home in early January after communicating with someone she met through an online gaming platform. She was later found dead in Perry County, Ohio. A suspect has been arrested and charged in connection with her disappearance but nobody has

been criminally charged in relation to her death.

Her case did not qualify for an Amber Alert or an Indiana Silver Alert.

State lawmakers say they want to add such cases to the state’s alert system without overwhelming the alert system.

The bill will go to Republican Gov. Mike Braun for his signature into law.

Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn, D-Fishers, said, “This is one aspect of a larger initiative that really has mobilized the entire Statehouse to do the right thing for our community. I think it’s a step towards healing for the family.”

She added, “As our children become vulnerable targets for predators online, I think this is an additional safeguard for everyone.”

Rep. Wendy McNamara was the author of the House bill. She worked with Senate to add the Silver Alert language. The Republican from Evansville said, “The key was adding high-risk missing person to the statute under Silver Alert so that it could really connect that for children that go missing.”

McNamara added, “This doesn’t help ease any pain or any grief for the families, that the families are experiencing hopefully because of the clarifying language under the Silver Alert. It will help future families who might find themselves under a similar situation.”

She added, “What this bill does is separate child sex abuse material into three sections – possession, distribution, and ex-

ploitation – because usually some sort of abuse that goes on with it. Prior to this bill, you couldn’t charge them with all three and now, with this bill, it has an emergency act on it. Once the governor signs on it, it becomes law.”

McNamara expected the governor to sign the bill sometime next week. The Silver Alert provision is an emergency clause and will begin as soon as it’s signed into law.

News 8 reached out the Buzbee family for comment but did not immediately receive a response.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/indiana-lawmakers-ok-expanded-alert-criteria-in-response-to-fishers-teens-death.

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Jan Keefer launches Indiana State Senate campaign in District 31

Submitted

On Thursday, Feb. 26, seasoned family law attorney and longtime Lawrence Township (Marion County) community leader, Jan Keefer, officially launched her campaign for the Indiana State Senate District 31 seat, vowing to protect Hoosier families as she has for 35 years in the courtroom and to keep Indiana a place where families can plant roots, raise their children, and build their futures.

Keefer has spent her career standing up for Indiana families and helping them find solutions to the problems and issues that they face. She is now running for Indiana State Senate in the 31st District to continue her mission.

She spent her late teen-

age years in Marion, Ind., and later attended Indiana University. After graduating from IU, she met her husband, Jack Keefer. Following a successful career in sales with AT&T, she earned her law degree from Indiana University's McKinney School of Law and began working to protect what she believes is society's most essential institution: the family.

Keefer has always been actively involved in many community organizations that bring opportunities to and serve families and children, such as the Lawrence Township School Foundation, the Fishers Art Council, and the Community Health Network Foundation. She believes Indiana's future depends on

creating paths to retain and recruit families, rather than pushing young people away from their Hoosier homes and toward cities like Chicago or Nashville to achieve their career aspirations.

During her husband's Hall of Fame basketball coaching career at Lawrence North High School, she traveled across Indiana, spending countless evenings in gymnasiums in communities throughout Indiana, from Gary to Jeffersonville, including cities like Marion, New Castle, Kokomo, Terre Haute, and Bloomington. Through these experiences, she connected with Hoosiers from all walks of life and grew to appreciate the often-overlooked communities that built Indiana's manufac-

turing strength, as well as the shared values that knit them together: faith, family, freedom, and the dignity of hard work.

Keefer is determined to safeguard these values for future generations of Hoosiers. As a State Senator for District 31, she will fight to keep Indiana a place where families can and will plant roots, raise their children, and build their futures. She champions fiscal responsibility, investing in infrastructure, fueling economic development to create good-paying Hoosier jobs, prioritizing education and supporting educators, defending pro-adoption policies, and keeping communities safe by securing the border and supporting law enforcement.

AmeriHealth Caritas & Gleaners announce \$100K to support food access

Submitted

The AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies announced on Thursday, Feb. 26 a \$100,000 contribution to Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana to expand access to healthy food for children and families across 21 counties in central and southeastern Indiana.

The funds will go to both Gleaners' annual fund and its school-based pantry program, strengthening each community's food safety net and helping ensure families can access support where they live, learn, and work.

"Access to nutritious food is foundational to health, both for individ-

ual people and communities as a whole," said Charlene Vickers, AmeriHealth Caritas Director of Community Impact. "The contribution and our partnership with Gleaners will help families find food where they live and learn by supporting the networks that make that possible. And when food is available, health improves, families are more stable, and long term prospects brighten."



Vickers



Glass

The money for school-based pantries will support bringing food directly to students and their families in trusted, familiar settings, reducing barriers related to transportation, time, and stigma, and helping to fill gaps for those who rely on school meals.

"Hungry kids have difficulty focusing and reaching their full potential in school," Gleaners President and CEO Fred Glass said. "Ameri-

Health Caritas support of our efforts to feed children and their families through our school-based pantry network will ensure that access to nutritious food is available to all families in an accessible location."

Gleaners, part of the Feeding America network, distributed approximately 51.6 million meals in its service area in fiscal year 2025, including about 1.9 million meals through 60 pantries in schools.

Feeding America data shows **one in seven Hoosiers** face challenges with food security, a key social driver of health. Families seeking food assistance or ways to support Gleaners can visit gleaners.org.

Indiana first in nation to block insurer penalties that threaten patient access to care

Submitted by Indiana Hospital Association

Indiana has become the first state in the nation to pass bipartisan legislation protecting patient access to timely, medically necessary care by prohibiting insurance companies from imposing financial penalties on hospitals and facilities when a patient's care involves an out-of-network provider.

Authored by State Senator Scott Baldwin, **Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 189** was approved by both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly and now heads to Governor Mike Braun for signature.

The measure comes as Elevance implemented its "Facility Administrative Policy: Use of a Nonparticipating Care Provider" in Indiana effective Jan. 1, 2026. Under the policy, hospitals, and other outpatient facilities faced a 10 percent reimbursement cut if any out-of-network clinician participated in care. Without similar legislative action, 10 other states

— Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Wisconsin — remain subject to the policy.

Advocates say the legislation is a critical step toward protecting patient access to high-quality care and curbing unfair insurer practices within Indiana's health care system where Elevance, including its Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield plan, controls 68 percent of Indiana's commercial insurance market.

Health care leaders warned the policy could have led to unintended consequences, including delayed care, increased travel burdens for patients, and the loss of critical services hospitals can provide.

"We thank members of the Indiana General Assembly and Sen. Baldwin in particular for putting Hoosier patients first," said Scott B. Tittle, president of the Indiana Hospital Association. "Patients are already protected from

surprise medical bills under the No Surprises Act, meaning Elevance's policy was not saving anyone money; it would have only benefitted Elevance at the expense of patients, providers, and access to care."

The impact would have been especially significant for independent physicians, who often lack the resources to absorb such financial pressures, advocates said.

"Doctors already navigate complex networks and heavy administrative burdens," said Ryan Singerman, DO, FAAFP, a family physician and president of the Indiana State Medical Association. "This policy would have added even more pressure, forcing physicians into unfavorable contracts that may not sustain their practices."

"We greatly appreciate state lawmakers for recognizing the role of independent providers in maintaining high-quality, lower-cost health care in Indiana," said Steve Free-

land, board officer of the Indiana Physicians Health Alliance and CEO of Cancer Care Group in Indianapolis. "There are circumstances when the best medical option for the patient is an out-of-network independent physician, and SB 189 ensures patients can continue to receive the care they need."

"We are grateful to Senator Baldwin and our other state legislators for passing this common-sense measure," said J. Andy Day, MD, president of Indiana Society of Anesthesiologists. "In anesthesia, like with other hospital-based specialties, being out of network is often a result of providers being offered unfair contracts by insurance companies. Anthem's policy would have used hospitals and patients as a leverage tool to force physicians into bad contracts. This bill will prevent that, ensuring that Indiana residents will have access to the top physicians and the best care possible."

Obituaries

Jacqueline Bradford Hiatt

January 3, 1974 – February 25, 2026

Jacqueline Bradford Hiatt, 52, Noblesville, passed away on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at her home. She was born on January 3, 1974, to Ira, Jr. and Ella (Lester) Bradford in Beckley, W.V.



Jackie graduated from Bluefield State University in West Virginia and was a radiology technician for Community Health. Growing up, Jackie played basketball in high school and always had a love for the game. For many years she had season tickets to the Indiana Pacers and Fever, and enjoyed attending the games with her sons. Jackie also enjoyed crocheting.

She is survived by her husband of 10 years, David Hiatt; mother, Ella Darice Bradford; sons, Andrew Castellano and Brannond Castellano; bonus son, Ryan (Alishia) Hiatt; bonus daughter, Alison Hiatt; grandchild, Robin Hiatt; brother, Rodney (Patti) Bradford; sister, Becky (Charlie) Rowe; half-sisters, Tabby (Mike) Ellis and Teresa Henegar Harper; niece and nephews, Wesley Rowe, Will Rowe, and Susan (Zach) Morrison; and great-niece and great-nephew, Georgia and Ben Morrison.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ira Bradford, Jr.; half-brother, Billy Jack Henegar; maternal grandparents, Wallace & Vera Lester; paternal grandparents, Ira & Molly Bradford; cousin, Darice Ann Gordon; and in-laws, Ross & Frieda Hiatt.

Services will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 1, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville, with Pastor Marie Wiese officiating. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. until the time of service at the funeral home.

For those attending Jackie's service, the family asks you to honor Jackie by wearing something pink, her favorite color.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Shirley Ann Bales

November 10, 1932 – February 23, 2026

Shirley Ann Bales, a loving, generous, and spirited woman, passed away on February 23, 2026. Born on November 10, 1932, in Indianapolis to Leonard Jr. and Esther Allmeroth, Shirley was known for her supportive nature and zest for life.

Shirley dedicated 24 years of her life to the *Indianapolis Star News* and spent 10 years serving as an insurance administrator for Methodist Health Systems. She also worked with Dr.

Glen Leer, DO, for 11 years. Despite her busy career, Shirley always found time for her passions. She loved to watch sports, especially football, and enjoyed sewing, drawing, painting, and crafting. She always hosted Christmas, her favorite time of year, and loved having fun and entertaining. A lover of music and dance, she often danced with her husband, bringing joy and laughter to all those around her.

Shirley was a devout member of the Cicero Christian Church for nearly 40 years, where she sang in the choir and led grief share. She was also a generous supporter of the All Peoples Church. She is survived by her children Sharon (Bill) McClish, Kathryn "Kathy" (Danny) Hinds, Janet "Jan" (Steve) Ritchey, and Richard (Sue) Bales. Shirley was a proud grandmother to Carrie Ann (Chad) Miller, Cassandra Bales, Derron (Tracey) Bales, Kevin (Darla) Myers, Lora Keller, Michelle Cragan, Nickole Sprong, Stacey (Ben) Fowler, and Suzanne Marrero (Mike Bertsch); 14 great-grandchildren; and 10 great-great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband Aaron Bales; parents, Leonard and Esther Bales; and her beloved sister, Donna Alger.

Visitation for Shirley will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, February 27, 2026, at the Cicero Christian Church, 1715 Stringtown Pike, Cicero. The funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. with Pastor Smiley officiating. Services are under the direction of Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Homes – Cicero.

In memory of Shirley, donations may be made to the Cicero Christian Church or All Peoples Church at allpeoplesjuana.churchcenter.com/giving/to/missions-guzman-salomon-and-megan.

Please feel free to leave memories and upload photos to Shirley's memorial page to celebrate her life.

Condolences: hartleyfuneralhomes.com

Rick Eugene Faucett

October 9, 1954 – February 10, 2026

Rick Eugene Faucett, 71, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Sheridan, on Tuesday evening, February 10, 2026. Born October 9, 1954, in Lebanon, Ind., he was the son of Bobby Eugene and Retha Fern (Scott) Faucett.

He attended Sheridan High School. Rick worked in landscaping for much of his career, first with Hittle Landscape, a position he held for over 20 years. He loved every day he spent with the company. He later went to work for Country Mulch, where he continued to work in the landscaping industry albeit in a different capacity. After four years with Country Mulch, he changed gears completely and became a bus monitor for Sheridan Community Schools, a position that truly captured his heart.

Rick's interests were wide and varied. He loved fishing, racing stock cars (and later RC cars, when age made him slow down), and hitting the open road on his Harley. His favorite activities were those that he could share with his family. Rick was a collector of just about everything. One man's junk was Rick's treasure. He loved collecting rocks, especially geodes, and he passed his passion for rock-hunting and collecting along to the grandkids. They created memories along the way; time spent with grandpa, searching for the perfect rock. However, many of Rick's random collections were not as "understood" by the rest of the family. Rick also loved sharing his love of games, especially chess and dice, with his grandchildren.

Rick's family is very grateful to know that he is finally at peace. His legacy will live on in the memories of those who were lucky enough to have him in their lives.

Rick is survived by his wife, Sandra Sue (Herbert) Faucett. She and Rick were married on April 27, 1990. Also surviving is his son, Zach R. Parks of Whitestown; daughter, Courtney N. Faucett of Sheridan; four grandchildren, Landyn Gardner, Brooklyn Mautch, Noah Parks, and Izzy Shakiur; two sisters, Cheryl Dautrich and Kim Emmons; and three brothers, Kevin Faucett, Bryan Faucett, and Robbie Faucett.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bobby Eugene and Retha Fern (Scott) Faucett; brother, Bobby Faucett; and by his daughter, Jennie Shakiur.

A celebration of Rick's life will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, February 28, 2026, at the K.V. Elliott American Legion Post 67, 406 E. 10th St., Sheridan.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kercheval Funeral Home in Sheridan.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

Wanda Lyons

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Barbara Ann Millikan

July 4, 1938 – February 18, 2026



Barbara Ann Millikan, 87, passed away unexpectedly at her home in Sheridan on Wednesday afternoon, February 18, 2026. Born July 4, 1938, in Sheridan, she was the daughter of Lonnie Jefferson "Puss" Singleton and Eva Viola (Smith) Singleton.

She was a 1956 graduate of Sheridan High School.

Barbara was never one to shy away from hard work. Earlier in her career she worked for a variety of different businesses, including Conesco, where she was employed as a file clerk, and Pickett's 5 & Dime in Sheridan, where she did a little bit of everything, including running the check out counter. She also worked at the bank for a short time. Her responsibilities at home were her most important jobs of all. Among those responsibilities was helping her husband on the farm. When she married Kent, she knew that farming was going to be a part of their future life together, and Barbara was going to be supportive in whatever way she was able. The fixing of the equipment was left to Kent (who could fix just about anything), but Barbara kept the entire operation running. Her home cooking kept everyone fueled during planting time and harvest season, but her favorite home job was being mom (and later grandma). When the kids were growing up, she loved it when their friends came over to the house. When it became the grandchildren's turn, everything else took a back seat. Babysitting quickly became her new favorite activity.

Barbara loved cooking and enjoyed knitting and crocheting. She also loved to travel, especially with her favorite travel companion, Kent. There was never a bad time to hop on their Honda Goldwing and hit the open road. As the seasons started to cool and the fields were all in, they would follow the warmth south. They'd ride out the winter in Sebring; they loved being snowbirds and always enjoyed seeing their "Florida family" every year. Barbara had a love for people, and meeting new friends during their travels was always something that just kind of happened wherever they went.

If you knew Barbara, you also knew the love and devotion she had for her family and friends and for the community she called home. She'll also be remembered for her sense of humor. This is the foundation of the legacy she leaves in the hearts of everyone who had the good fortune to know her.

Barbara is survived by two sons, Kevin S. Millikan (Nancy) of Sheridan and Brian Kent Millikan (Lorie) of Sheridan; two daughters, Lynette Millikan-Cunningham of Hagerstown, Md., and Luann Cheryl Colvin (Ronald) of Kokomo; four grandchildren, Terri Holbrook of Hagerstown, Md.; Christina Ann Blanding (Justin) of Westfield, Devon Heck (Erin Shockley) of Tipton, and Melissa Miller (Rickey) of Kokomo; six great-grandchildren, Trey Miller, Able Miller, Maverick Miller, Jalen Miller, Nyla Ann Blanding, and Corey Ford; three sisters-in-law, Carol Jane Edwards, Julianne Baldwin, and Sharon Joy Thompson; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lonnie Jefferson "Puss" Singleton and Eva Viola (Smith) Singleton; brother, William Singleton; sister, Alma Berneice Pearson (Ross David); brothers-in-law, Robert Edwards, Arthur Baldwin, and Vern Thompson; sisters-in-law, Sandra Sue Dennis (William) and June Millikan-Cordell (Eugene); by her canine BFF, Pluto; and by her partner in life for 69 years, her husband, Kent Millikan on April 23, 2025. Kent and Barbara were married on January 7, 1965.

A celebration of Barbara's life will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, March 1, 2026, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan.

Barbara and Kent will be laid to rest at Summit Lawn Cemetery in Westfield at a later date.

To honor Barbara's love of reading, memorial contributions may be presented to the Sheridan Public Library.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

Phillip Morris Vawter

October 1, 1956 – February 22, 2026



Phillip Morris Vawter, 69, Sheridan, passed away at home on Sunday, February 22, 2026, surrounded by his loving wife, daughters, son-in-law, and his beloved dog, Gus.

Phil was born on October 1, 1956, in Noblesville, the youngest of four children of Samuel Morris and Betty Ann (Merrill) Vawter. He graduated from Marion-Adams High School in 1975 and soon began building a life centered on hard work, family, and quiet devotion to those he loved.

On November 12, 1977, Phil married Tina Jo Burgett at Sheridan First Christian Church. The two grew up just one road apart and started dating in high school, beginning a partnership that would span nearly five decades. Next year would have marked their 50th wedding anniversary—a testament to a lifetime of shared commitment, laughter, and love.

Phil's working life reflected his steady character and strong work ethic. He began hauling grain for Jones Trucking before purchasing his own semi to haul steel. In the early '80s, he joined UPS as a feeder driver, where he spent nearly two decades building a reputation for reliability and dedication as a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local No. 135.

Though he took pride in his work, Phil's greatest joy was always his family. He loved time spent together—whether woodworking, hunting, fishing, or simply sharing stories and laughter. He enjoyed westerns, classic rock, and outlaw country music, especially Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson. He also had a special love for animals, none more than his loyal black Labrador Retriever, Gus.

Those who knew Phil will remember his wonderful—and often ornery—sense of humor, his quiet nature, and the kindness that defined him. Despite his large stature, he was a gentle giant with a generous heart and a deep care for others. Phil was baptized at Sheridan Wesleyan Church and carried his faith with quiet steadiness throughout his life.

Phil is survived by his devoted wife, Tina Jo Vawter; his daughters, Christina Vawter of Sheridan and Megan (John) Ward of Greencastle; his sister, Pamela (Bill) Hintalla of Michigan; his aunt, Norma (Donald) Hall of Carmel; sisters-in-law, Janet (Keith) and Wanda (Richard) Vawter; his canine BFF, Gus; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews who will cherish his memory.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel Morris and Betty Ann (Merrill) Vawter; his brothers, Keith and Richard Vawter; and his beloved Labrador Retrievers, Riley and Buddy.

A celebration of Phil's life will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2026, at Sheridan First United Methodist Church, 207 E. Second St., Sheridan, with visitation from 4 p.m. until the time of service.

Pastor John Meunier will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to Pals for Paws, the organization responsible for rescuing Gus, at palsforpawsinc.com, or the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network at pancan.org, where they are working to detect the disease earlier and bring promising treatments to patients sooner.

Phil will be remembered for his quiet strength, steady presence, and the deep love he showed to his family every day of his life.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kercheval Funeral Home in Sheridan.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

SUPPLEMENTARY OFFERINGS

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land to which I am taking you and you eat the food of the land, present a portion as an offering to the Lord. Present a loaf from the first of your ground meal and present it as an offering from the threshing floor. Throughout the generations to come you are to give this offering to the Lord from the first of your ground meal.'

OFFERINGS FOR UNINTENTIONAL SINS

"Now if you as a community unintentionally fail to keep any of these commands the Lord gave Moses—any of the Lord's commands to you through him, from the day the Lord gave them and continuing through the generations to come—and if this is done unintentionally without the community being aware of it, then the whole community is to offer a young bull for a burnt offering as an aroma pleasing to the Lord, along with its prescribed grain offering and drink offering, and a male goat for a sin offering. The priest is to make atonement for the whole Israelite community, and they will be forgiven, for it was not intentional and they have presented to the Lord for their wrong a food offering and a sin offering. The whole Israelite community and the foreigners residing among them will be forgiven, because all the people were involved in the unintentional wrong.

Numbers 15:17-26 (NIV)

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The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

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

Meeting Notice

The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees will meet for a work session at noon on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, in the Board Room at the Noblesville Schools Educational Services Center, 18025 River Road.

An executive session will follow at 1 p.m., pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(11) To train school board members with an outside consultant and the performance of the role of the members as public officials.

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.

**Thanks for reading
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HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

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PENDING!

7389 E 209TH STREET
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Fantastic waterfront condo on Morse Reservoir's secluded Waterscape side! 3BR/2BA, boat dock #104, fireplace, and deck offer year-round fun, relaxation, and scenic waterfront living with beaches and kayak storage.

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SOLD!

11405 Haverstick Road
CARMEL

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

Listed at \$409,900

LISTED & PENDING!

875 S 9th street
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Located in downtown Noblesville, this beautiful 1912 Craftsman perfectly blends historic charm (original trim, staircase) with modern updates, including a remodeled kitchen, finished outbuilding, and fenced yard.

Listed at \$430,000

SOLD!

1307 CLIFF VIEW DRIVE
WESTFIELD

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

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REPORTER SPORTS FRIDAY

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

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

Boys Basketball



Photo by Dwight Casler

Sheridan freshman Corbin Webster scored five points for the Blackhawks during their Thursday win over Traders Point Christian.

Hawks win big in regular-season finale

The REPORTER

The Sheridan boys scored an overwhelming win to finish the regular season, beating Traders Point Christian 90-37 Thursday at Larry Hobbs Hall.

The Blackhawks outscored the Knights in each of the four quarters, starting with a 28-8 lead after one period. Trey Page, Hamilton County's newest member of the 1,000-point club, was on fire in that quarter, pouring in 16 points. Page made four 3-pointers during that time. Devon Hamilton and Chance Spencer both scored six points.

Sheridan's lead reached 50-23 by halftime. Brock Hagan had seven points in the second quarter. The Hawks poured in another 22 points in the third period for a 72-31 advantage, instituting a running clock.

Page added eight more

points in the third for his game-high 24 points. Hamilton scored another eight points; he added two more in the fourth to give him 16 points.

The Sheridan bench stepped up, with Landon Moffitt and Brayden Whisman both scored nine points. Spencer totaled eight points and Hagan had seven. Twelve different Blackhawks scored during the game.

John Crowder led the rebounds with eight, followed by six each for Spencer and Hagan. Jax Peerman dished out seven assists.

Sheridan is 18-4 and will play at the Elwood sectional next week. The Blackhawks drew the bye and will play a Friday, March 6 semifinal against the winner of Tuesday's game between Tipton and Taylor.

Boys Swimming State Preview

Hounds are heavy favorite for another state title

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

The Carmel boys swim team will travel down to the IU Natatorium tonight in an attempt to keep their state championship streak going.

The Greyhounds are heavy favorites to win a 12th consecutive state title. Carmel qualified 26 swimmers to state this year, with seven of them receiving the top seed in tonight's prelims.

In fact, the Hounds are seeded 1-2-3 in both distance events. William Allen is the defending state champion in both the 200 and 500 freestyles. He easily holds the first seed in both events, based on his sectional-winning times of 1 minute, 36.26 seconds in the 200 free and 4:24.55 in the 500 free.

Carmel has two other state champions back. Yi Zheng was part of Carmel's winning medley and 200 free relays last season. Zheng is the top seed in the individual medley (1:43.60) and the second seed in the breaststroke (54.42).

Carter Hadley swam on the Greyhounds' state champion 200 and 400 free relay teams last year. Hadley holds two top individual seeds: the 100 freestyle (44.46) and the backstroke (49.02).

In this year's relays, Carmel is seeded first in the medley (1:29.90) and 400 free relay (3:03.21). The Greyhounds are seeded second in the 200 free relay (1:24.21); they swept all three relays at state last year.

Top five finish in sight for Tigers

Fishers will have 13 swimmers at state this season, which puts the Tigers in line for a top-five finish at the Natatorium.

Alex Koo has the potential to score many points. He holds the fourth seed in the 50 free (20.48) and butterfly events (49.25). Fishers' highest swimming seed is in the 200 free relay, in which the Tigers are seeded third (1:25.14).

Fishers has a secret weapon in diving. Mason Lawson and Kirby Dangle finished 1-2 in that event at both their own sectional last week and earlier this week at the Fort Wayne South Side regional.

Lawson won the regional with a score of 524.10



Reporter photo by Julie Brown

Westfield's Griffin Barents Froman will swim for the Shamrocks in the individual medley and breaststroke.

points, while Dangle was second with 495.65 points. They are seeded third and fourth based on regional scores but earned much higher marks at the sectional. Lawson won that round with 640.90, with Dangle right behind by totaling 630.40.

Rocks ready for top 10

Westfield is in the running for a top-10 finish at state. The Shamrocks qualified 11 swimmers and have a solid distance man in Zach Welch.

The junior is seeded fourth in the 500 free (4:31.06) and fifth in the 200 free (1:41.06). Westfield has two swimmers in both those events, as well as in the individual medley. Also, look out for Griffin Barents Froman, who is in the podium conversation with his eighth seed in the breaststroke (56.83).

Other teams

Hamilton Southeastern will have eight swimmers at state. The Royals will make some noise in the 500 free, where Zachary Marchisin is seeded eighth and Bryce Salvadori is seeded ninth.

Noblesville qualified seven for state. The Millers advanced all three relays to state, with the medley and 200 free relays seeded ninth with room to move into podium contention. Joshua Naas holds the 11th seed in the IM and is rated 13th in the breaststroke.

Hamilton Heights' Aiden Clarke will swim in two events and has the potential to score points in both. He



Photo by Becky Meek / BeckyMeekPhotography.com

Carmel's William Allen is the defending state champion in the 200 and 500 freestyles and is seeded No. 1 in both events at this year's state meet.

is rated 14th in the 500 free and 18th in the IM.

Guerin Catholic's Sam Holl qualified for state in the 500 free. He is seeded 20th, not far from the top 16.

Hamilton County state qualifiers

200 medley relay: 1. Carmel 1:29.90, 6. Fishers 1:33.34, 9. Noblesville 1:33.94, 12. Westfield 1:35.09, 21. Hamilton Southeastern 1:37.01.

200 freestyle: 1. William Allen (C) 1:36.26, 2. William Lathrop (C) 1:39.59, 3. Lewis Zhang (C) 1:39.65, 4. Camden Bailey (HSE) 1:40.94, 5. Zach Welch (W) 1:41.06, 8. Carter Schultz (F) 1:41.80, 9. Landon Wendel (W) 1:41.82, 11. Caden Askren (F) 1:42.31.

200 individual medley: 1. Yi Zheng (C) 1:43.60, 4. Noah Moeller (C) 1:48.82, 6. Cory Han (C) 1:50.31, 10. Garret Thomas (W) 1:52.00, 11. Joshua Naas (N) 1:52.98, 14. Elijah Fishman (F) 1:53.78, 15. Griffin Barents Froman (W) 1:54.67, 18. Aiden Clarke (Hamilton Heights) 1:55.30, 19. Qwinton Upshaw (F) 1:55.43.

50 freestyle: 4. Alex Koo (F) 20.48, 13. Donald Zhao (C) 21.17, 21. Lukas Biller (C) 21.44, 26. Drew Setmeyer (N) 21.58.

One-meter diving: 3. Mason Lawson (F) 524.10, 4. Kirby Dangle (F) 495.65, 25. Alik Mensberger (C) 354.05.

100 butterfly: 4. Koo (F) 49.25, 5. Jack Street (C) 49.53,

10. Moeller (C) 49.99, 14. Thomas (W) 50.50, 18. Eddy Zhu (C) 50.57, 25. Zachary Marchisin (HSE) 51.28.

100 freestyle: 1. Carter Hadley (C) 44.46, 8. Lathrop (C) 46.06, 11. Biller (C) 46.21, 13. Bailey (HSE) 46.32, 17. Setmeyer (N) 46.70.

500 freestyle: 1. W. Allen (C) 4:24.55, 2. Zhang (C) 4:29.44, 3. Austin Bruford (C) 4:29.52, 4. Welch (W) 4:31.06, 5. Askren (F) 4:34.22, 8. Marchisin (HSE) 4:40.31, 9. Bryce Salvadori (HSE) 4:40.43, 11. Wendel (W) 4:41.77, 12. Brody Chop (F) 4:41.77, 14. Clarke (HH) 4:43.15, 20. Sam Holl (Guerin Catholic) 4:44.25.

200 freestyle relay: 2. Carmel 1:24.21, 3. Fishers 1:25.14, 9. Noblesville 1:26.58, 15. Hamilton Southeastern 1:27.23, 19. Westfield 1:28.58.

100 backstroke: 1. Hadley (C) 49.02, 6. Andrew Allen (C) 50.63, 7. Street (C) 50.67, 16. Jackson Teske (N) 51.45, 22. Logan Senior (F) 51.75.

100 breaststroke: 2. Zheng (C) 54.42, 8. Barents Froman (W) 56.83, 9. Han (C) 56.99, 10. Luke Feller (C) 57.00, 13. Naas (N) 57.40, 14. Upshaw (F) 57.49, 16. Dylan Geesaman (F) 57.98, 20. Jagger Chan (HSE) 58.33.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Carmel 3:03.21, 9. Westfield 3:11.46, 13. Fishers 3:12.36, 17. Noblesville 3:12.72, 21. Hamilton Southeastern 3:13.97.

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Men's Basketball



Photo by Mike Navarro



Photo by Joshua Herd

(ABOVE LEFT) The Noblesville Boom's Jalen Slawson, shown here during the team's Sunday, Feb. 22 game, put together a triple-double during the Boom's Saturday, Feb. 21 win over the Capital City Go-Go. Slawson had 26 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds. (ABOVE RIGHT) Cameron Hildreth scored 21 points for the Boom during their Sunday, Feb. 22 game with the Go-Go.

Boom split games with Go-Go

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom, the NBA G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers, split a pair of games with the Capital City Go-Go this past weekend at The Arena at Innovation Mile.

The Boom secured a thrilling 128-125 overtime victory against the Go-Go on Saturday, Feb. 21 in front of a sellout crowd of 3,109.

Jalen Slawson continued his stellar season by recording his second career triple-double - and the 18th in franchise history - finishing with 26 points, 12 assists, and 10 rebounds on 10-of-18 shooting, including 4-of-8 from beyond the arc. M.J. Iraldi added 21 points, five assists, and four rebounds, while Au'Diese Toney contributed 20 points and nine boards.

Capital City was led by Keshon Gilbert, who posted a game-high 34 points on 10-of-13 shooting and added seven assists. Skal Labissiere (18 points, 13 rebounds) and Chris Livingston (13 points, 10 rebounds) both delivered a double-double, and Damari Monsanto chipped in 17 points.

The Boom dominated

the first half, erupting for 74 points and taking a 22-point lead (74-52) into the break. Noblesville used a 20-6 first quarter run to build early separation, highlighted by 10 points from Toney on 4-of-5 shooting - knocking down both of his attempts from deep. Noblesville's momentum carried into the second quarter, extending the lead to as many as 25 while holding Capital City to just 22 points. As a team, the Boom shot 63.3 percent from the field and 50 percent from three in the opening half.

The Go-Go responded with authority after halftime, orchestrating a 28-8 run in the third quarter to slice the deficit to five with 4:13 left in the frame. Despite being held to only 24 points in the quarter, Noblesville maintained a slim advantage entering the fourth. The Boom pushed their lead back to 14 midway through the final period before Capital City closed regulation on a 20-6 run, fueled by 10 points from Gilbert, to force overtime. In the race to the target score of 128, Slawson delivered in crunch time - scoring the final five Boom points,

including a clutch step back three, to help secure the win in front of the electric sellout crowd.

The Boom (14-10), dropped the second game of the back-to-back against the Capital City Go-Go (12-11), falling 130-114 on Sunday, Feb. 22.

Cameron Hildreth led the Boom with 21 points and five assists on 9-of-13 shooting, including 2-of-5 from three. RJ Felton followed with a career-high 19 points, while Slawson added 17 points, six assists, and five rebounds.

Capital City was paced by Labissiere, who finished with a game-high 25 points, seven rebounds, and three assists in 30 minutes. Kadary Richmond and Akoldah Gak each added 23 points, with Richmond also contributing six assists.

The Go-Go found their rhythm early behind Labissiere, who scored 17 of the team's first 28 points while going a perfect 6-of-6 from the field and 4-of-4 from deep, helping Capital City build an 11-point lead midway through the first quarter. As a team, the Go-Go hit nine three-pointers in the

opening frame to take a 45-29 lead into the second. Noblesville opened the second quarter on an 11-3 run to cut the deficit in half, but Capital City responded by stretching the lead to 23. Gilbert and Richmond combined for 21 points in the period, giving the Go-Go an 83-60 advantage at halftime.

Capital City continued to pull away after the break, leading by as many as 32 in the third quarter despite a 12-point frame from Slawson. The Boom chipped away late and trimmed the deficit to 16, but the Go-Go's hot shooting and dominance on the glass proved too much to overcome. Rebounding played a decisive role, as Noblesville was outrebounded 41-26, leading to 20 Capital City second-chance points.

Next up

The Boom hit the road for a three-game trip, beginning Friday against the Rio Grande Valley Vipers at Bert Ogden Arena in Edinburg, Texas. Tipoff is set for 8 p.m., with coverage streaming live on NBAGLeague.com. Tickets and team updates are available at NoblesvilleBoom.com.

Boys Basketball



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

University's Faisal Mohamud scored 23 points for the Trailblazers during their win over Indiana Math & Science Academy on Thursday.

Blazers run past IMSA

The REPORTER

University took care of business in its regular-season finale, running away from Indiana Math & Science Academy 82-49 Thursday at the U Center.

The first quarter was tight before the Trailblazers went on a run at the end of the period to lead 22-14. Joshua McGee scored eight points, while Noah Cortez and Faisal Mohamud both made a 3-pointer.

University's offense kicked into overdrive in the second period, as the Blazers put up 26 points for a 48-28 halftime lead. Jaxen Bennett nailed two 3s while scoring 10 points in that quarter. Mohamud added another seven points. The Trailblazers found another gear in the third

quarter, pouring in 28 points. University's lead of 68-32 with three minutes left instituted a running clock, and the Blazers finished the period with a 76-36 advantage. Mohamud scored 11 points, including three 3s for a total of five triples in the game.

Mohamud was one of four double-digit scorers, leading the way with 23 points. McGee scored 16 points, with Bennett and DJ Willis both scoring 10 points.

Noah Cortez handed out eight assists, while Blake Gray dished out seven assists and scored six points. Cooper Cammack led the rebounds with 11.

University is 15-8 and plays Monrovia Tuesday in the first round of the Cardinal Ritter sectional.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 27

BOYS SWIMMING

State prelims, 6 p.m. at IU Natatorium
GYMNASTICS SECTIONALS
 Noblesville at The Gymnastics Company, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 28

BOYS SWIMMING

At IU Natatorium
 State diving prelims and semifinals, 9 a.m.
 State swimming and diving finals, 1 p.m.
GYMNASTICS SECTIONALS
 Westfield at Harrison, 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3

BOYS BASKETBALL

Sectional 8 at Noblesville
 Noblesville vs. Zionsville, 6 p.m.
 Westfield vs. Hamilton Southeastern, 7:45 p.m.
Sectional 24 at New Castle
 Jay County vs. Yorktown, 6 p.m.
 New Castle vs. Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.
Sectional 25 at Frankfort
 Brebeuf Jesuit vs. Tri-West, 7 p.m.
Sectional 38 at Elwood
 Tipton vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.
 Lapel vs. Frankton, 7:30 p.m.
Sectional 42 at Cardinal Ritter
 University vs. Monrovia, 6 p.m.
 Cardinal Ritter vs. Riverside, 7:30 p.m.

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

TreeRunner Adventure Park opens March 21 at Droplight Grand Park Sports Campus

The REPORTER

Droplight Grand Park Sports Campus in Westfield announces the opening of TreeRunner Adventure Park on Saturday, March 21. The new park offers zip lines, ninja climbing elements, and elevated outdoor experiences designed for families, school groups, sports, and corporate teams.

The new TreeRunner location represents a significant expansion of Grand Park's offerings, reinforcing the 400-acre campus as not only a premier youth sports destination but also a year-round hub for outdoor recreation,

group experiences, and regional tourism.

"Opening at Grand Park offers families, teams, and groups an outdoor experience in a forest setting that has been missing from central Indiana," said Jeremy Fishman, PhD, Partner of TreeRunner Adventure Parks. "Many major metropolitan markets have outdoor adventure parks, and with the incredible growth in Westfield, Carmel, Fishers, and Noblesville, we knew this was the place for TreeRunner Adventure Park. It's a natural extension of everything happening at Grand Park and something guests can enjoy

together in a new way."

Grand Park Sports & Entertainment leadership emphasized the partnership's impact on the campus and the surrounding community.

"TreeRunner Adventure Park is a meaningful addition to our campus and an early step in our broader vision to position Grand Park as a premier destination for both traveling teams and our local community," said Greg Stremmlaw, Co-Chief Executive Officer of Grand Park Sports & Entertainment. "As we continue to grow, our focus remains on enhancing the overall visitor

experience while creating new opportunities for residents to engage with and enjoy Grand Park in fresh, exciting ways."

TreeRunner Adventure Parks operates multiple award-winning aerial adventure locations across the Midwest and Northeast, with a focus on immersive outdoor experiences, group engagement, and thoughtful integration into natural environments. The Grand Park location continues that mission while creating new recreation and employment opportunities in Hamilton County.

Learn more at TreeRunnerParks.com.

Palou unveils 110th Indianapolis 500 ticket

Submitted by IMS

Four-time NTT INDY-CAR SERIES champion Alex Palou unveiled the ticket for the 110th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge on Tuesday, Feb. 24 in Indianapolis.

Palou earned his first victory in "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" last May in the No. 10 DHL Chip Ganassi Racing Honda, and one of the many honors bestowed upon the winner is unveiling the ticket for the next year's race. Featuring the winning driver on the next year's "500" ticket dates to Mauri Rose's appearance in 1948.

Spain native Palou received a special DHL delivery at K1 Speed in Fishers. He opened the DHL packaging to reveal an en-

larged version of the colorful ticket, featuring a photo of his jubilant celebration standing on his winning car following the victory.

"I always had to sign the ticket as a driver, and I always wanted to be on the ticket," Palou said. "It's amazing. I love it. It was probably the coolest day of my life, and I cannot wait to see it on a small scale all around IMS. It's going to look good."

Designed in house by Senior Art Director Mandy Walsh, the ticket celebrates the excitement of Palou's first "500" victory with his full-color image superimposed over an overhead shot of his car crossing the famed Yard of Bricks. The ticket also features a patriotic flair to celebrate the na-

tion's military, which is honored throughout the storied event held annually during Memorial Day weekend, and the 250th birthday of the United States this year.

Palou will defend his victory in "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" on Sunday, May 24 in the 110th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, with live coverage starting at 10 a.m. ET on FOX, FOX One, FOX Deportes, FOX Sports app and the INDY-



Photo provided by IMS

CAR Radio Network. Tickets for the Indy 500 and all Month of May activities are on sale at IMS.com, by calling the IMS Ticket Office at (317) 492-6700, or by visiting the ticket office.

Kick, snap & dash during fan event at NFL Combine

By CAT SANDOVAL
 WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The 40th NFL scouting combine is at Lucas Oil Stadium through Sunday.

The real competition is inside the stadium as 319 football prospects try out for NFL teams.

But outside, NFL fans of all ages get to play along. They're throwing a snap, kicking a field goal, and even running a 40-yard dash. Giant helmets from

all 32 teams were installed for photo opportunities.

Chicago Bears fan Warren Young said, "It's an awesome experience. I've seen a lot of the 40s and everything online, but actually being here is a really cool experience."

After trying multiple exercises, Young said he was humbled by what the players go through. "The stuff they are doing is really incredible the crazy times and all the measurements

they are doing, it's definitely extraordinary compared to an ordinary person. It is definitely awesome to see."

Ally Charleswood said, "It's just a great experience. It's to build community with maybe Seahawks fans or other fans of other teams."

Caliber Lynn is a Colts fan. He tagged along with his parents and tried doing bench presses. "I can lift the weight. It's pretty fun. I like it. I like all the sessions and

it's fun hanging out with my family."

The **NFL Combine Fan Experience** is free and open to the public through Sunday. People hoping to go must register by going to nfl.com/apps/one-pass and downloading the NFL One-Pass app.

This story originally appeared on WISH-TV.com at wishtv.com/sports/kick-snap-and-dash-during-fan-event-at-nfl-combine-in-indianapolis.

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