

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Periods of rain.
 Thunder possible.
 Tonight: Rainy.



HIGH: 51 LOW: 43



Photo provided by Kroger

Together, Kroger Central Division executives and local store teams worked with Athletes in Action to pack approximately 16,000 meals for hungry Hoosiers.

Kroger & Noblesville launch next hunger-fighting mission

Leaders fill 1,000 boxes with nutritious food for Midwest Food Bank

The REPORTER

Kroger took the fight against hunger to a basketball court in Noblesville, but not to play the game. Instead, its store leaders and executive team packed boxes of food for Midwest Food Bank. The packing project on Monday, March 2 was the first phase in the grocer's latest effort to feed Hoosiers in need.

Mike Goodwin, president of Kroger Central Division, said, "This event is important as a connection to the Zero Hunger | Zero Waste plan, Kroger's national mission to end hunger in the communities we serve. Our store leaders know too many Hoosier parents worry about feeding their children, so we're honored to help Midwest Food Bank, as they say, make sure those families feel cared for and valued."

The Arena at Innovation Mile in Noblesville served as the setting for the meal packing



Photos provided by Kroger

It's no easy task packing 1,000 boxes of anything, but a coordinated effort of caring, hardworking people makes it possible. (RIGHT) Mayor Chris Jensen jumped in to help.

project. The Noblesville Boom, the Indiana Pacers G League affiliate, provided their court for the 150 members of the Kroger team and Noblesville's Mayor Chris Jensen who joined the effort in his city.

"I'm grateful to Kroger for hosting a meal-packing event at The Arena at Innovation Mile during their leadership meeting in Noblesville,"

Mayor Jensen said. "Kroger continues to give back and invest in Noblesville and the people who make it a great place to live, and events like this have a lasting impact on our community."

Marcie Luhigo, Development Director at Midwest Food Bank, also praised the packing plan.

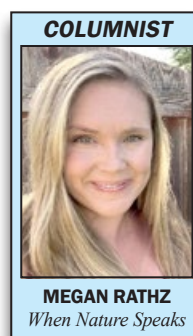
"When we get healthy and easy-to-prepare food such as

this peanut butter, oatmeal, and tuna, this is a huge help to us," Luhigo said. "Families in need appreciate these items so very much. The need in Indiana and across the Midwest has remained high for food support. Kroger is a great partner to the community and to Midwest Food Bank."

See Mission . . . Page 2

Heirloom

My grandmother recently moved into an apartment at an assisted living facility from her home in Westfield. When going through her stuff, the family joke has become that everything is an heirloom. "Do you want this table of your Nana's? It's a family heirloom."



MEGAN RATHZ
 When Nature Speaks

My mom believes if she mentions the word heirloom that it will make said item more enticing and then that item will be removed from the home, making it one less thing to have to deal with when her home hits the market in the coming months. The reality is, some of the stuff is in fact special and truly an heirloom, while other things are exactly that . . . just things.

Most of her prized possessions moved with my grandmother to her new home. She has a fully furnished apartment with everything anyone could ever need, and my mom was able to make the place feel just like her normal living room. She had far more stuff than could ever fit in her new place.

After spending a day there helping my mom and stepdad go through various items a couple months ago, I noticed my Nana's china cabinet with all her crystal in her front dining room. The room has had very little, if any, entertained guests for many years.

Towering in the corner of her dining room, sat the beautiful piece of furniture, filled to the brim of various pieces of Waterford crystal. Nobody had said anything about the cabinet, but my mom was encouraging anyone to take anything out of the cabinet and home. Nobody really wanted anything from it. I found myself marveling at each piece as we would wrap it and notice how exquisite the crystal looked in the natural light of the room.

See Heirloom . . . Page 2

HSE Superintendent Pat Mapes resigns

Submitted by HSE Schools

On Monday, March 2, Hamilton Southeastern Schools Superintendent Pat Mapes announced his resignation, effective April 13.

Mapes, who was appointed to lead the district in February 2024, departs following a tenure defined by academic improvement, a renewed focus on student outcomes, and the launch of the district's Innovate 2028 strategic plan.

Mapes brought more than 35 years of dedicated service to Indiana public education, including experience as a teacher, administrator, and superintendent across the state. He came to HSE after seven years leading Perry Township Schools, where he oversaw \$153 million in construction projects and increased teacher base salaries by nearly \$17,000. He also served as chairman of the Indiana Ed-

ucation Employment Relations Board and continues as an appointee to the Indiana State Board of Education.

According to Mapes, despite persistent divisiveness driven by community members that pulled public attention away from students, he says he never lost sight of the district's core mission, and the results reflect that.

"My entire career in public education has been about serving students," Mapes said. "At Hamilton Southeastern, that has been no different. HSE students are exceptional and serving them has been a privilege."

Throughout his tenure, HSE recorded measurable academic gains:

- Ninety-six percent of HSE third-graders passed the 2025



Mapes



IREAD assessment, the highest district pass rate in five years.

- HSE's combined high school graduation rate reached 98.8 percent, ranking among the best in Indiana.

Across grades 3 through 8, HSE students consistently outperformed state averages on ILEARN in both ELA and math, with SAT and PSAT scores surpassing statewide benchmarks as well.

Under Mapes' leadership, the district launched the HSE Networks career pathways program, enrolling all ninth graders in Freshman Seminar and expanding career-connected learn-

ing through 25 newly approved CTE courses. All career-focused Networks are on track to be fully operational by the close of this school year, meeting a key Innovate 2028 milestone. Academic progress was further supported by a partnership with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), bringing a data-driven professional development model to all 17 HSE buildings.

Mapes has committed to a complete transition of responsibilities through his final day on April 13. The HSE Board of School Trustees is expected to announce next steps in the superintendent search process in the coming weeks.

Community invited to An Evening of HOPE Charity Dinner for Hope Family Care Center

The REPORTER

The Cicero American Legion Auxiliary invites the community to attend An Evening of HOPE, a charity spaghetti dinner benefiting Hope Family Care Center, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 31 at the Red Bridge Community Center, 697 W. Jackson St., Cicero.

This special evening will bring the community together for food, fellowship, and fundraising to support Hope Family Care Center, a vital local organization providing compassionate care, support services, and essential resources to families in need.

Recently, Hope Family Care Center lost its primary source of funding and now needs community support more than ever to

continue serving local families. Proceeds from the dinner and raffle will directly benefit the organization and help sustain its mission during this critical time.

Dinner tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. In addition to the meal, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a raffle featuring donated items from generous local businesses.

Community members who are unable to attend in person may still make a donation online at tinyurl.com/AnEveningOffHope2026.

"We are proud to rally our community around Hope Family Care Center," Auxiliary Board Member Allison Hardy said. "This event is about com-

ing together to ensure families in our area continue to receive the support they need."

Local businesses and individuals interested in sponsoring the event or donating raffle items are encouraged to contact the Cicero American Legion Auxiliary by emailing cicerolegionaux@gmail.com.

For more information about the event, follow the Cicero American Legion Auxiliary or Hope Family Care Center on social media.

About Cicero American Legion Auxiliary
 The Cicero American Le-



gion Auxiliary is dedicated to supporting veterans, military families, and community initiatives through service, fundraising, and outreach efforts.

About Hope Family Care Center

Hope Family Care Center provides compassionate care, support services, and resources to individuals and families in the Cicero community.

Westfield's Green Building move set for Thursday

One-day closure planned at Union Street & State Road 32

Submitted by City of Westfield

The City of Westfield will relocate the "Green Building" on Thursday, March 5, a key step in the **32Connects project** in partnership with Indiana Department of Transportation. The building move is expected to begin around 8 a.m. and may be adjusted based on weather or operational needs.

To safely complete the move, the intersection of Union Street and State Road 32 will be closed beginning 4 a.m. Thursday. The intersection is anticipated to reopen by 5 p.m. Drivers should plan ahead and use alternate routes to avoid delays.

A hard closure will be in place on SR 32 east of Camilla Court, with additional traffic control at Poplar Street and Shamrock Boulevard. Residents on Westlea Drive will be able to access their neighborhood. For westbound traffic, drivers should use Carey Road/Grassy Branch Road or East Street if heading north.

If weather causes delays, the move will shift to Friday, March 6.

Viewing area & parking

Residents interested in observing the move may do so from Hadley Park (northwest corner of State Road 32 and Union Street), which serves as the designated viewing area. Suggested parking is available at Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn St., with access via East Street to Penn Street.

Please note that this is an active work site. For everyone's safety, stay within the viewing area, follow instructions from on-site personnel, and keep clear of crews and equipment.

Parking will not be permitted on Union Street in the immediate work area, and no parking will be allowed on North Union Street on March 4 and 5 to keep the route clear for crews and equipment.

For updates (including weather-related changes), follow the City of Westfield on **Facebook**.

MISSION

This event served as Phase One of a meal packing mission connected to April's Final Four in Indianapolis. Kroger will combine with community partners such as Coca-Cola Consolidated and Athletes in Action to pack another

500 meal kits. "With Indianapolis hosting this year's Final Four, we're proud to partner with Kroger to create lasting impact that extends well beyond the court," said Eric Nelson, President of Athletes in Action. "Tipping

off the week's excitement, Hoosier native Steve Alford and fellow coaches will join team efforts to help feed local families. As Coach John Wooden once called Indiana home, the 29th Annual "Keys to Life" Breakfast [Saturday, April 4] holds special significance as it continues to celebrate character, leadership, and integrity both on and off the court."

Since 2017 such partnerships and donations have enabled Kroger to direct more than 3.9 billion meals to nourish people in need and provide \$1.8 billion in food and funds to support hunger relief in Kroger communities.

from Page 1

Gov. Braun appoints five local residents to various state boards

The REPORTER

Governor Mike Braun announced on Friday, Feb. 27 new appointments to various state boards and commissions. The following individuals are from Hamilton County.

- **Laura Campbell** of Elevate Carmel, Inc., was named to the Governor's

Council for People with Disabilities; term expires Sept. 30, 2028.

- **Rachel Quade** of F.C. Tucker Company was named to the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities; term expires Sept. 30, 2028.

- **Katie Lucas** was named to the Indiana Destination Development Corporation

Board; term expires June 30, 2028.

- **Joshua Anderson** of Walgreens was named to the Drug Utilization Review Board; term expires Jan. 31, 2029.

- **Walker Lasbury** was named to the Youth Advisory Council; term expires Jan. 31, 2028.

HEIRLOOM

from Page 1



Photo provided by Megan Rathz

Our columnist noted that her Nana's china cabinet, which she now proudly owns, is a beast. It certainly is. She also wrote that some people may call it "outdated." As our editor remarked, at this point, "outdated" really is just a synonym for "better."

My husband and I spent a lot of time wrapping many various glasses to take home. Upon unwrapping and placing everything on the kitchen counter, we both remarked at how truly beautiful her cabinet looked filled with all of the various crystal pieces.

I mentioned to my husband the next day about getting the china cabinet and what he thought it would look like in our home. We both knew that we wanted

it and agreed on the place for it in our home. We hired a mover to bring it to our house and proudly displayed in it is all my Nana's crystal, along with some of my own special pieces.

I know many people have moved away from the big china cabinets, often referring to them as being outdated. I don't really care. It is filled with pieces that once entertained people and has seen many parties and gatherings with friends over

the years. It now has a special place in my home and is a focal point of my dining room. The pieces in it will continue to be used and will hold a special place in my heart long after my grandmother is gone, and will hopefully be passed down to my own kids one day.

Megan Rathz is a wife, mother, and teacher. She says everything she has ever learned in life came from her Master Gardener mother.

Strike gold with more details at westfieldin.gov/shamrockdrop

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Plea deal filed in death of former HSE football star Mason Alexander

By MICHAELA SPRINGER
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The 18-year-old charged in the death of former Hamilton Southeastern High School football star Mason Alexander has filed a plea agreement.

Online court records show attorneys for Trey Williams filed the agreement Friday.

In June 2025, Williams was charged with reckless homicide, reckless driving, and providing a false government ID following a car accident that killed 18-year-old Alexander months before.

News 8 previously re-

ported that around 9 p.m. March 1, 2025, a BMW occupied by Williams and Alexander was traveling southbound on Florida Road, near Geist Park and 113th Street in Fishers.

When Williams, the driver, moved to pass another vehicle, he came in line of a northbound Toyota. He swerved to avoid a crash.

While the Toyota hit a mailbox, the BMW slammed into a tree and caught fire. Alexander died at the scene.

According to a copy of the agreement shared with News 8, Williams would plead guilty to one count

of reckless homicide and serve six years in the Indiana Department of Correction. Charges of reckless driving and false government identification would be dismissed.

Williams would also have to serve two years on probation, and will have driving privileges stripped for five years.

Williams has not yet pleaded guilty in Alexander's death. He is due in court for a change of plea hearing on March 11.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/local-news/trey-williams-plea-deal.

HSE Schools opens second year of non-resident transfer student enrollment

Submitted by
HSE Schools

Hamilton Southeastern Schools (HSE) has opened its second year of non-resident transfer enrollment. The initiative reflects the district's continued commitment to high-quality learning experiences while maintaining financial stability and maximizing the use of district facilities and programs.

Families residing outside district boundaries may apply for available seats across the district.

Enrollment studies and demographic projections indicate that the district is no longer experiencing the rapid growth seen in previous decades. As a result, the district has approximately 900 seats available across grades K-12.

Applications submitted



by April 17, 2026, will receive priority consideration. Rolling admissions will continue after that date until the third Friday in January, or until capacity is reached at individual schools or grade levels.

By offering non-resident transfer opportunities, HSE can:

- Strengthen financial sustainability
- Continue attracting and retaining high-quality staff
- Expand high-demand programs, including STEM and Career and Technical Education
- Maximize the use of existing facilities and re-

sources

Key information for families

- Transfer students will only be placed in schools and grade levels with available capacity.
- Enrollment will close at individual schools once capacity is reached.
- Families of out-of-district students are responsible for transportation.
- Transfer students must reapply annually to maintain eligibility.

Families interested in learning more about eligibility and the application process may visit hseschools.org/about/enrollment/non-resident-transfer.

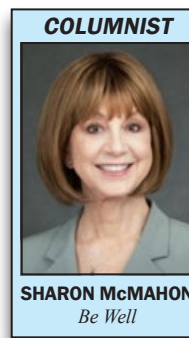
Olympics can inspire us all to start our own exercise routine

"Good night, good night, until we meet again / Adios, au revoir, auf wiedersehen 'til then..."

— Theme from *The Lawrence Welk Show*

Well, I am finally moving about after being planted in front of my TV screen watching – and cheering on – our USA athletes for two weeks!

Although I watch and thoroughly enjoy the Summer Olympics, the winter games have my heart. From my fave figure skating to curling, luge, speed skating, downhill and cross country skiing (and more!) I am all in. Hockey – true confessions here: I missed Church for that last game (don't tell!) and both our teams were awesome! There was triumph and heartbreak, nearly-miraculous feats of physical prowess and stamina, and the awesome spectacular of



SHARON McMAHON
Be Well

what the human body and spirit can accomplish.

My only personal Olympic category experience is ice skating and downhill skiing ... both of which are verboten since I have a nodding relationship with osteoporosis. The skates still hang on a hook in the garage, so maybe ...

Granted, dear readers, that although those who represent us in this global competition are young, well-trained physical specimens we can garner some enthusiasm for our own personal Olympic accomplishments! That is not to say you will practice the quad spin or the slalom, but how about taking on that bunny hill or a few times around the rink? A brisk walk around the neighborhood will get the blood pumping and your limbs moving!

I can tell you for certain that the Olympic athletes practice deep breathing, frequent stretching, and muscle toning through resistance training; all of which we can incorporate into our own lives and to our advantage.

Did watching these amazing Olympic athletes from around the world inspire you? Maybe you can consider crafting your own "Olympic routines" to engage and inspire you to use your body and mind to achieve a stronger, more coordinated, and flexible physique. Perhaps you can develop a plan which will

incorporate both cold- and warm-weather pursuits. Some suggestions would be outdoor activities such as ice skating, cross country skiing, and, of course, walking. Indoor activities can include swimming, climbing, fencing, and weight lifting. And there is always pickleball!

You should always take into account your age, any health-related issues or medications, and of course your natural interests. *Do not begin new activities without knowing your personal health information and talking to your physician.*

Let's keep in mind that Olympic activities are not over and we need to continue to cheer on other amazing athletes! The Paralympics take place March 6 to 15 in Milan-Cortina and if you need any inspiration at all I recommend that you tune in. Additionally, the Special Olympics will take place June 20 to 26 at the University of Minnesota and I simply adore watching the dedication and fun these athletes are having! The Senior Games will demonstrate what we "senior citizens" can show the world from June 30 to July 11, 2027, in Tulsa, Okla.

Light your own Olympic Torch!

Sharon McMahon, CNWC

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

Americans for Prosperity Indiana endorses Tracey Powell for State Senate

Submitted

Americans for Prosperity Indiana (AFP-IN) has officially endorsed Tracey Powell for Indiana State Senate District 21. The endorsement recognizes Powell's commitment to fiscal responsibility, limited government, and economic freedom.

Tracey Powell, a Tipton County Commissioner, chiropractor, farmer, and small business owner, has built a reputation as a principled leader who understands the needs of hardworking Indiana families.

AFP-IN Deputy State Director Cody White released the following statement:

"AFP-IN has been fighting every day in the General Assembly advocating policies that will cut spending, increase healthcare access, expand school choice, and

reform regulations. The 2026 legislative session might be over, but we have no plans on slowing down our priorities.

"These five candidates all share our commitment to making Indiana the crossroads of prosperity where all Hoosiers can thrive and continue our momentum in next year's session. AFP-IN will be out in force knocking on doors supporting them and we look forward to another season of authentic grassroots engagement."

"I am honored to receive this endorsement," Powell said. "I will continue to fight to cut taxes, grow our economy, and deliver real results for the families of District 21."

Learn more about the candidate at PowellForIndiana.com.



Powell

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BIDDING OPENS: Friday, February 27th @ 6pm
SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, March 14th @ 6pm
PREVIEW DAY: Thursday, March 12th, Noon - 6pm
PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, March 16th, Noon-6pm
Tuesday, March 17th, Noon - 6pm

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Conservation, education & water security take center stage at Soil & Water's annual meeting

The REPORTER

Conservation leaders, farmers, educators, and community partners recently gathered to celebrate local environmental excellence at the 2026 Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Annual Meeting.

- The SWCD recognized Grand Park Sports Campus and Westfield Green Together with the Outstanding Conservation Project Award for their 2025 native tree planting at Grand Park Sports Campus.
- The Clay Middle School Invasive Species Symposium was recognized with the Excellence in Environmental Education Award.

- Hamilton County Master Gardener Alecia Larkin was recognized with the Friend to Conservation Award for her support of SWCD programs and services.
- Special recognition was also given to Heather and Jeff Figurelli of Fig's Farm for exemplary conservation stewardship and commitment to protecting soil and water resources in Hamilton County, earning them the River Friendly Farmer Award.
- Further special recognition was given to Shawn Miller for his year of service



County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt speaks to attendees about the county's plans for water security.

on the Hamilton County SWCD Board of Supervisors.

Representatives from the Nature Conservancy, Sarah Reilly and Danielle Randles, delivered presentations on edge-of-field drainage practices and new initiatives to install these practices for conservation-minded farmers in Indiana.

Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt and Jack Wittman, PhD., of Intera presented on water

conservation and availability concerns within Hamilton County. Commissioner Heirbrandt shared the Commissioners' growing concerns about future water supply, while outlining recent accomplishments and next steps aimed at securing sustainable water resources for the county.

Crystal Neuman was elected to the SWCD Board of Supervisors and sworn in at the SWCD Annual Meeting by Mark Heirbrandt. A former Fishers City Councilor, sustainability was one of Crystal's core policy priorities, and that dedication continues in this new role.

The Hamilton County SWCD works to conserve soil and water resources by identifying local priorities, providing education, and connecting landowners to technical and financial assistance that supports conservation practices.

To learn more about programs, services, and upcoming events, visit hamiltonswcd.org.

Photo provided by Hamilton County SWCD



Photo by Ken Klingenstein

Our dinner at Drake's.

Dinner at Drake's

After a recent Happy Hour (HH) visit to Drake's Indianapolis at 3740 E. 82nd St. in the Clearwater Crossing Center, Mrs. K and I were invited to have dinner there. We looked forward to sampling the wider menu, after the fewer offerings of HH.



KEN KLINGENMEIER
A Seat at the Table

went with Sweet Potato Fries.

While we waited, restaurant manager Amber J. came by and chatted. She said that Drake's had been at this location for around 15 years – something we never knew. Under Amber's tutelage, the restaurant has a casual, laid-back vibe, very comfortable, and very inviting. In the dining room, in the array of TVs, music videos played on one and were very entertaining. Drake's offers wonderful service, attracting families, couples, and groups. And the food is very good as well!

A moderate crowd was on hand as we took our seats in the dining room at around 6. Our server Ashley was with us in a flash and took our drink orders – Kendall Jackson Chardonnay for the lady and I opted for a Blue Moon lager. Drake's menu is full of sandwiches, burgers, a tempting round of entrée-type dishes, plus salads and steaks. There is also a nice list of Starters and we picked a half-order of Fried Pickles for our appetizer. You can peruse the entire menu here: drakescomeplay.com/menu/drakes-indianapolis-in.

Our order came out, hot and fresh. Mrs. K's Minis were nice sized portions of beer-battered fish, with lettuce and tomato on butter-toasted mini-buns. Her side salad was generous, with a creamy ranch dressing mixed in with the added chopped bacon and roma tomatoes.

I've had fried pickles at a few other establishments – Drake's version is a cut above: a good-sized serving of slices, lightly breaded and pan-fried, served with a ramekin of ambrosia ranch dressing. It really has a distinct, crunchy dill flavor, especially good with the dressing dip.

My fish plate held four servings of the same beer-battered fish as hers, but these were huge pieces of white fish, arranged with a healthy amount of sweet potato fries. Everything was delicious and we had enough to take home for a second dinner.

It was a bit harder to decide on the main course. We considered one thing, then another, and surprised each other as we both got fish – two Fried Fish Minis for Mrs. K, and the Fried Fish dinner (full order) for me. Both items came with a side; my wife asked for a side salad. We learned that she could choose from any of the dinner salad varieties and get a smaller portion – she took the BLT Salad. I

This was a completely satisfying dinner experience. I do want to come back some time and try out one of those famous Drake's burgers! Maybe I'll see you there.

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

Mayor's Grand Gala returns to support Westfield nonprofits

Submitted by City of Westfield

Westfield will hold the second annual Mayor's Grand Gala, presented by Card and Associates and Keystone Group, from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 1, at Westwood Vowery and Estate, 18342 Spring Mill Road.

The Mayor's Grand Gala is an evening centered on community, generosity, and support for local nonprofit partners. The event will feature a plated dinner, entertainment from a DJ, silent and live auctions, and interactive experiences throughout the event. In a nod to Indiana's iconic "Month of May," guests can also take

part in on-site race simulators for a fun and memorable addition to the evening.

"Westfield's nonprofits are essential to the health and strength of our community," Mayor Scott Willis said. "They provide support, services and hope to residents in ways that often happen quietly and behind the scenes. This event is about coming together to support their missions and ensure they can continue serving those who need them most."

The evening will also



Willis

feature a reverse raffle for a chance to win a 2026 Cadillac XT5 through a two-year lease, generously donated by Chariot Automotive Group in Kokomo. The donation is especially meaningful because the company's owner, Rex Gingerich, is a Westfield resident and supporter of the community.

Proceeds from the Mayor's Grand Gala support nonprofit partnerships through the Advancing Westfield Foundation. Funds raised in previous

years have supported ClCOA, Heart and Soul Free Clinic, and Westfield Youth Assistance Program.

Grant applications for 2026 funding will open June 1 and close June 30. Applications will be coordinated through the Hamilton County Community Foundation. Additional information, including how to apply, will be released closer to the application date.

Tickets for the Mayor's Grand Gala start at \$200, and only a limited number remain. To purchase tickets or learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit WestfieldGrandGala.com.

Stony Creek church of Christ



We are a group of Christians doing our best to follow the Bible and nothing more. No outside organization(s). No man-made traditions. No man-made creeds. No additions or subtractions. Just hearts fully set on Jesus, His church, His word, and living His ways. We would LOVE for you to come join us! Please let us know if you are interested in having a personal Bible study.

WHY THE BIBLE?



EVIDENCES FOR THE BIBLE



This is the John Rylands Library Papyrus P52. It is the earliest New Testament manuscript discovered to date. It is dated possibly earlier than 100 AD, but no later than 150 AD. This fragment contains a Greek script of John 18:31-33 on one side and John 18:37-38 on the other.

Why is this significant?

1. **THIS MANUSCRIPT'S DATE.** Before this discovery, critics argued the Gospel of John was written well into the second century, long after apostolic eyewitnesses to these events. But this manuscript is (at the latest) 120 years after the resurrection. Just compare it to other earliest copies of historical manuscripts around the same period: Pliny (300-440 years after), Suetonius (700-750 years), Caesar (850-900 years), or Tacitus (750-800 years).
2. **THIS MANUSCRIPT WAS FOUND IN EGYPT.** This shows that John's Gospel was copied, distributed, and in Egypt within a few decades of its original composition. This places the date of John's Gospel to around 96 AD, during the life and authorship of the apostle John, roughly 60 years after the resurrection of Jesus.
3. **THIS MANUSCRIPT'S TEXTUAL ACCURACY.** The content of the fragment matches the text of the Gospel of John as we know it today. This discovery supports the reliability of scripture and the accuracy of textual transmission.

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speakingtruthinlove4.15@gmail.com

Our Assembly times:
Sunday Bible Study | 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship | 11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 PM

Celebrate National Disability Awareness Month in Carmel

Submitted by
City of Carmel

Carmel is shining a light on inclusive programming and community events that celebrate individuals of all abilities and promote greater understanding and accessibility ahead of and during National Disability Awareness Month.

From Carmel's Midtown Plaza to Noblesville High School, local leaders and organizations are partnering to host a series of "limitless" events, ranging from sensory-rich community days and adaptive competitions to regional resource fairs, all dedicated to making Hamilton County a place where everyone belongs.

Adaptive Virtual Art Exhibit

Throughout March
Midtown Screen in
Midtown Plaza & city's
digital channels
365 Monon Blvd.

In a beautiful display of local talent, this annual virtual exhibit, Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (held in partnership with the Carmel Arts Council) will showcase the work of artists with disabilities. Look for these exciting pieces on the Midtown screen all month long.

March Disability Awareness Book List
Throughout March
Carmel Clay Public Library

This month, Carmel



Photo provided by City of Carmel

Clay Public Library will share a list of recommended books to highlight authors with a disability or books with characters with a disability.

Hamilton County
Disability Resource Fair
Wednesday, March 4,
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Noblesville High School
18111 Cumberland Road

Families and individuals are invited to connect with a wide network of local advocates and service providers. This regional fair features Pure Abilities recreational therapists, music therapists, behavior consultants and PAC/DSP providers, offering a comprehensive look at the

support systems available throughout the county.

Community Sensory Day

Saturday, March 7, 11
a.m. to 1 p.m.

Carmel Fire Department
S.A.F.E. House
210 Veterans Way

Join the community at the Carmel Fire Department S.A.F.E. House for a day of sensory-friendly fun, sponsored by Xfinity. This event features snacks courtesy of BraunAbility, free giveaways, and sensory activities.

Inclusive Theater Performance:

Fireside Mysteries
Saturday, March 14,
6 to 8 p.m.

Sunday March 15,
2 to 4 p.m.

Monon Community
Center in Multipurpose
Rooms A, B & C

This production was developed over six months by Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation's inclusive theater ensemble, featuring neurodivergent actors who collaboratively created the original script and characters. This performance celebrates creativity, inclusion, and the power of storytelling.

• [Click here](#) to reserve tickets to the Saturday, March 14 performance.

• [Click here](#) to reserve tickets to the Sunday, March 15 performance.



Photo provided by Hamilton County SWCD

Hamilton County Soil & Water launches Spring Native Plant Kit Sale

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) announces the launch of its Spring Native Plant Kit Sale, offering residents an accessible way to establish beautiful native landscapes, support pollinators and wildlife, and enhance watershed health across Hamilton County.

Native Indiana plant kits take the guesswork out of creating vibrant ecosystems and provide a curated mix of tried-and-true species suited to a range of yard conditions.

This annual fundraiser supports the SWCD's mission to advance conservation, educate the community, and reinvest in local environmental stewardship. Funds raised help expand educational programs, shore up water quality efforts, and support future restoration projects throughout the county.

What's available

• Multiple native plant kits, each containing 50 plant plugs tailored for specific garden types (e.g., prairie, rain garden, shade garden, monarch-friendly, basic prairie)

• \$165 per kit plus tax

• Pre-order deadline: March 31

• Pick-up: First week of June in Noblesville

"We've designed these kits for simplicity and success," said Claire Lane, Urban Conservationist at the Hamilton County SWCD. "Whether residents are new to native planting or seasoned gar-

deners, these plants are selected for strong performance in Indiana soils and climates – and they bring critical benefits for pollinators, birds, and water quality."

Native plants have deep ecological roots in our region, offering habitat, stabilizing soil to reduce erosion, and naturally filtering stormwater. By planting native gardens, homeowners and businesses alike can bolster local biodiversity and make meaningful contributions to landscape sustainability.

How to participate

• Visit the SWCD's online store to order plant kits.

• Pre-order early; kits can sell out as demand grows.

• Payment can be made online, or by calling the SWCD office if you prefer to use cash or check. Call (317) 773-2181. The office is now located at 1721 Pleasant St., Unit A, Noblesville.

About Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District

The Hamilton County SWCD is a community-focused conservation leader dedicated to improving soil and water resources through partnerships, education, and on-the-ground support. Established in 1968, the SWCD works with landowners, organizations, and residents to implement practices that strengthen environmental quality and enhance the beauty and resilience of our local landscapes. Learn more at hamiltonswcd.org.

The Salvation Army of Central Indiana greatly surpasses 2025 Christmas goal

The REPORTER

The Salvation Army of Central Indiana raised \$3.41 million during the Christmas season, exceeding its goal by \$140,000, largely thanks to corporate partners and the Central Indiana community.

In addition to funding success, The Salvation Army served more than 5,900 local children through Angel Tree, a 17 percent increase in children from 2024. Much of that success was based on a 62 percent increase in sponsorships of children in Central Indiana, ensuring every child received Christmas gifts.

"This incredible achievement speaks to the heart of our community," said Major Dan Sawka, General Secretary of The Salvation Army of Indiana. "Hoosier hospitality showed up in a major way this last Christmas season. Because of the generosity of our neighbors, thousands of families experienced hope during a time they needed it most."

One such family, riddled with medical bills, came to The Salvation Army Eagle Creek food pantry for the first time last year. They found relief in getting most of their groceries from the food pantry to allow them to pay their

bills. The family was also able to apply for Christmas Assistance and receive gifts for their children to open on Christmas morning.

Community members also stepped up through volunteering. In 2025 The Salvation Army had more people ringing the bell at Red Kettle locations, organizing Christmas gifts, and distributing necessities across Indianapolis and the surrounding areas.

Funds raised during the Christmas season support Salvation Army programs year-round, not just during the holidays. Currently, food insecurity and housing

assistance remain among the greatest needs facing families across Central Indiana. In recent months The Salvation Army of Central Indiana saw a 20 percent increase in requests for our food and housing services.

There are plenty of ways to still get involved and help our neighbors in need:

• Volunteer at any Salvation Army facilities

• Collect non-perishables for Salvation Army food pantries

• Donate financially
Information on ways to give back and more is available at SACentralIndiana.org.

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Zionsville Chamber of Commerce celebrates 65 years

Honors outstanding local businesses & leaders at Annual Awards Celebration

Submitted

The Zionsville Chamber of Commerce marked its 65th anniversary last week with an Annual Awards Celebration, presented by Duke Energy, drawing a packed crowd to The Cardinal Room at the Golf Club of Indiana. The event brought together business leaders, community partners, and local officials to celebrate excellence, innovation, and the continued growth of Zionsville's business community.

The evening opened with a VIP reception, followed by networking and fellowship among Chamber members and guests. The Awards Program highlighted individuals and organizations making a significant impact on Zionsville's economic and civic landscape.

"Celebrating the Chamber's 65th anniversary this year made the evening especially meaningful," said Mike Hanlon, Executive Director of the Zionsville Chamber of Commerce. "We're proud to honor the remarkable businesses and individuals who continue to make Zionsville a thriving, connected, and innovative community."

This year's award recipients included:

2026 Award Winners
• Community Service Award: *The Community Foundation of Boone County* – Recognized for strategic philanthropy, leadership, and long-term investment throughout Boone County.

• Start-Up of the Year Award: *The Baker's House* – Honored for creativity, community impact, and early-stage growth within Zionsville.

• Dahlia Excellence in Service Award: *Janet Mann, Chief Marketing Officer, Zionsville Community Schools* – Celebrated for outstanding communication leadership and storytelling that strengthens community connection.



• Outstanding First Tuesday Award: *Hoosier Village* – Acknowledged for exceptional hospitality and creativity in hosting the Chamber's premier monthly networking event.

• Town Crier Award: *Main Street Zionsville Board of Directors* – Recognized for leadership, advocacy, and commitment to preserving the character and vitality of Main Street.

• Business of the Year Award: *Fivethirty Home* – Celebrated for strong community presence, excellence in customer experience, and outstanding contributions to the Zionsville community.

The program also included special recognition for two individuals whose dedication ensured the success of last year's Christmas in the Village celebrations: Tom Santelli and Eric Skutt. The event was made possible through generous support from Title Sponsor Duke Energy, along with Champion Level Members: Control Tech, Witham Health Services, Security Federal Savings Bank, Ed Martin Buick GMC, and Hoosier Village.

About the Zionsville Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1961, the Zionsville Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic network of local businesses, entrepreneurs, and professionals working together to promote economic growth and community prosperity. The Chamber is committed to fostering collaboration, innovation, and engagement throughout the Zionsville area. Visit ZionsvilleChamber.org for more information.

AG Rokita secures landmark settlement with Vanguard to protect coal industry & investors

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

A leading global investment management company, The Vanguard Group Inc., has pledged in a settlement obtained by Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita that it will not impinge on its customers' profitability by imposing ESG goals that threaten to tank the coal industry and drive up electricity prices.



Rokita

ESG, an acronym standing for "environmental, social and governance," refers to an investing principle that elevates goals like mitigating climate change, enforcing hiring quotas, and achieving social justice benchmarks above the fiduciary duty to maximize returns for investors.

"For far too long, a few powerful corporate titans have worked against the interests of everyday Hoosiers by pursuing a senseless vendetta against the coal industry," AG Rokita said. "Coal has been the backbone of Indiana's economic success for decades, and I appreciate Vanguard's commitment to change course and take positive steps that benefit investors and consumers alike."

The settlement, which also includes a commitment to empower investors with proxy voting, resolves alle-

gations made against Vanguard in a Texas-led multi-state lawsuit.

This complaint also includes as defendants two other asset managers – BlackRock and State Street. In a pending legal action, AG Rokita and other attorneys general allege that these two companies continue to engage in anticompetitive schemes that hurt investors and U.S. energy companies.

Under the settlement, Vanguard has pledged it will not use its shareholdings to (a) direct its portfolio companies' business strategies, (b) threaten its portfolio companies that it will withdraw from its holdings unless they agree to act (or not act) in some manner, or (c) nominate directors or shareholder proposals to its portfolio companies. Vanguard has also agreed to pay \$29.5 million to the states.

In addition, Vanguard will offer proxy voting to investors in funds accounting for at least 50 percent of assets invested in U.S. equity funds it advises. This will ensure that Vanguard's customers can make their voices known on portfolio companies' business, including whether companies should maximize profitability over ESG or other goals.

Get paid to be a Prism Project 'Buddy'



Photo by Mark Sheldon

The Prism Project is performing arts day camp for youth with disabilities at the Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts. The Project is seeking "Buddies" to provide one-on-one support for the campers as they develop an original stage production based on their unique talents and interests. It's a great way to serve the community and, for interested high school (16 and up) and college students, to gain experience working with this population. This year, thanks to **generous donors and sponsors**, the previously volunteer role is now a part-time job paying \$15 an hour. If you're free mornings or afternoons May 27 to June 20, [apply here](#) to become a Buddy.

Letter to the Editor

Adults with disabilities are 2.5 times more likely to die by suicide

Dear Editor:
 March is recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM), a time to celebrate, advocate, and promote inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities. It also highlights the experiences, rights, and contributions of people with developmental disabilities, such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, intellectual disabilities, ADHD, and sensory impairments.

The month also emphasizes public education, advocacy, respect for individual rights, and opportunities for people of all abilities to participate fully in society. It encourages communities to foster understanding, reduce stigma, and create inclusive environments in schools, workplaces, and public spaces.

DDAM was officially established in 1987 and serves as a reminder that individuals with developmental disabilities have unique talents and contributions.

People with developmental and intellectual disabilities face a significantly higher risk of suicide, suicide attempts, and suicidal ideation compared to the general population. Adults with disabilities have a suicide rate approximately 2.5 times higher than those without.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, autistic people report suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Research indicates that rates of death by suicide are higher for autistic people. A 2024 meta-analysis estimated that the relative risk of autistic people dying by suicide was 2.85 times higher than population comparisons. The same meta-analysis indicated that one in three autistic individuals reported suicidal ideation. Suicide has become a leading cause of death among autistic youth. They are two to three times more likely to experience depression and seven to eight times more likely to experience suicidal thoughts.

Research conducted by Florida Atlantic University and published in the journal *Current Psychology* in 2025 sheds light on the growing concern of suicidal ideation among young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The study's data shows that young adults with these disabilities may actually face heightened suicide risk due to social isolation, abuse, bullying, trauma, and limited access to appropriate care and education.

The Jason Foundation, Inc. (JFI) is a valuable resource if you or a loved one is struggling with mental health. JFI is dedicated to the prevention of suicide through educational awareness programs that equip us with the tools and resources needed to identify and assist at-risk youth and young adults. It is important to know the warning signs and risk factors associated with suicidal ideation. Knowing this information could be key to saving a life.

For more information, or to find the closest Jason Foundation Affiliate Office, visit JasonFoundation.com.

Scott Knight
 Senior Director of Field Operations
 The Jason Foundation, Inc.

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

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Meeting Notices

- The Westfield Plat Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, Monday, March 9, 2026, has been canceled due to no business items for consideration.
- Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Council Highway Committee will meet to discuss highway projects at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Hamilton County Highway Department, 1700 S. 10th St., Noblesville.
- The Noblesville Park Board Meeting scheduled for 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2026, has been canceled.
- Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners Highway Department meeting on Friday, March 6, 2026, has been canceled.
- The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet in an executive session at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St.

Wanda Lyons
(317) 345-3960
Lyons-Realty.com

LYONS REALTY

New bridge over 96th Street adds to Nickel Plate Trail connections

By MELEA VanOSTRAND
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The Nickel Plate Trail pedestrian bridge over 96th Street is officially open.

It was being touted Friday, Feb. 27 as a major milestone for central Indiana's growing trail system. The street is the Fishers-Indianapolis border.

Leaders called the project a critical connection point for the Nickel Plate Trail. The new bridge helps move the nearly 17-mile trail closer to its goal of connecting multiple counties through one continuous path.

The bridge also came with a 1.3-mile trail extension. A \$4.5 million grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources made the bridge possible.

Dale Brier, deputy director of Indiana Department of Natural Resources, talked about [the state's Next Level Trails grant program](#).

"Currently, we have 89 trail projects that that were funded with that money," Brier said. "Fifty-nine of those are complete. We've got 12 under construction. As of this opening, we have 167 miles of trail that have now been opened with that grant money."

People who frequently take the trail for their daily



WISH-TV photo by John LeSage

The Nickel Plate Trail pedestrian bridge over 96th Street is officially open. It is being touted as a major milestone for central Indiana's growing trail system.

exercises say they're excited the bridge is finally open.

Alan Errichiello of the Fishers Running Club said, "Extending this down south into Indianapolis is a big game changer for us. It'll add a lot of miles that we can easily get into."

Resident Tracy Mundell said, "Trying to get to the other side was nearly impossible, so I think most people didn't even attempt it. It's going to be great. We can get over to the other side, and I'm anxious to see

what's over there."

The final portion of the project, called the Clear Path project, remains under construction.

Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness, a Republican, said, "We need to double down on that investment, and we know time and time again here in the city of Fishers that trail systems, the ability to get up and get out and get active, is such an important part in our culture of health, that an investment like this is critical."

Once complete, local leaders say the goal is to provide a more safe and connected routes between Noblesville, Fishers, Indianapolis, and other surrounding cities.

Resident Steve Mundell said, "It's lovely. It'll be real convenient to get across too."

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/local-news/new-bridge-over-96th-street-adds-to-nickel-plate-trail-connections.

The Spitfire Grill reminds us all that people can change for better

By DANIEL SHOCK
A Seat on the Aisle



Photo by Carmel Community Players
Breanna Helms portrays Percy Talbott in *The Spitfire Grill*.

When *The Spitfire Grill* opens with a young woman arriving in an unfamiliar town, carrying little more than a fragile hope for a fresh start, I felt the pull of something personal. Twice in my life I've packed up and moved to a community I didn't know. So, I know what it is like to arrive as an outsider and wonder, will anyone make room for me here?

The Spitfire Grill, a folk-tongued tale of second chances, unfolds gradually in Carmel Community Players' production, softening your defenses and evoking deep compassion for a group of broken individuals striving for wholeness.

The show follows Percy Talbott (Breanna Helms), a young woman newly released from prison who arrives in the small town of Gilead, Wis., after seeing a brochure that makes the place look like a fresh start. Gilead is the kind of town where everyone knows everyone and where the residents either don't want to be there or don't want anyone else to be there.

Sheriff Joe Sutter (Zach Hoover) is the first to encounter Percy, and he helps her land a job at the Spitfire Grill, an aging diner run by Hannah Ferguson (Susan Smith), a woman who is grouchy, guarded, and clearly tired of being in charge of anything.

What makes this production work is the way the cast connects both musically and emotionally, like people who have actually been listening to one another. Susan Smith's Hannah Ferguson was my favorite performance of the night. I've seen Smith in other productions and already knew she could act. What I didn't know, until this show, was what she could do with a song. She was magnificent. Her voice is full, clear, and emotionally grounded; she sings like she means it. Every time she opened her mouth, I enjoyed it.

Breanna Helms plays Percy with a kind of earned anger. She portrays Percy as a trauma-filled young woman with sharp edges and little patience for comfort she hasn't paid for. It's a believable portrayal, and it makes Percy's moments of vulnerability land harder. Sarah Marone-Sowers, as Shelby Thorpe, brings a voice clear as a bell and a presence that feels luminous in her featured moments. And the show truly shines when Percy, Hannah, and Shelby sing together. These harmonies drive the emotional intensity of the evening. It's the sound of their wounded lives briefly lining up into something beautiful and uplifting.

The men are strong, too. John Whitaker's Caleb is, frankly, annoying (not a great guy), and Whitaker leans into that without turning him into a cartoon. His portrayal is solid, and he sings beautifully even while making you want to throw a spatula at him.

Zach Hoover's Sheriff Joe Sutter sings with a warmth that, at times, reminded me of John Denver: open, earnest, and strangely comforting.

Christine Sanserino's Effy Krayneck adds humor and heart, landing jokes cleanly and singing nicely as part of the ensemble. And Brandon Wentz plays the Visitor with mystery and sincerity, making the role feel human instead of merely symbolic.

Because this was opening night, the first few musical moments landed a little unevenly. There were some pitch issues here and there that felt like pure jitters rather than lack of preparation. The good news is that whatever nerves were in the room didn't stay long. By the end of the night, the singing had become more confident, clear, and genuinely enjoyable.

Technically, the sound in this production deserves real credit. The cast is miked, and both speaking and singing came through clearly: no muddy lyrics, no swallowed dialogue, no distracting volume swings. The lighting didn't call attention to itself, which isn't a criticism; it simply did its job without drawing focus away from the people and the story.

If I had one staging quibble, it's this: there was a noticeable amount of action staged at audience level on the left side (stage right). For many audience members, that's a tough angle, and it made several moments difficult to see. It didn't ruin the show, far from it, but it did feel like a self-inflicted injury in a production that otherwise wants the whole room to lean in together.

The Spitfire Grill is a story about healing, forgiveness, and the quiet power of community. It is not a story that fixes you with a speech, but rather with consistency. Carmel Community Players delivers it with warmth, strong vocals, and a cast that gels in a way that makes the whole town of Gilead feel real. If you need a reminder that people can change, and that towns can, too, this is a good place to spend an evening. Recommended.

Content advisory: Recommended for ages 12 and up; contains some adult themes and language.

Carmel Community Players' *The Spitfire Grill* runs at The Switch Theatre (Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy), 10029 126th St., Fishers, through March 8. Find tickets and information at carmelplayers.org.

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

Spring is coming down the tracks

Book your trip on the Nickel Plate Express today!

Submitted

Spring is officially on the horizon, and there's no better way to celebrate the season than getting outside, spending time together, and making memories on the rails. From the beloved Easter Express to the return of springtime railbike rides, Nickel Plate Express (NPX) has plenty of ways to welcome warmer days ahead.

All aboard the Easter Express

The Easter Express is back, and if you've ridden before, you know just how special this experience is. Year after year, it's one of NPX's most-loved spring traditions, and tickets go quickly.

Climb aboard for a 65-minute round-trip rail adventure departing from Hobbs Station in Noblesville. As the train rolls through Hamilton County's northern countryside, guests will enjoy blooming scenery, a springtime story, a sweet treat, and NPX's signature drink. Along the way, you'll help a farmer search for some misplaced eggs believed to be hidden somewhere along the Nickel Plate Express.

It's a cheerful, low-key spring outing designed especially for families ... and a perfect way to kick off the season.

Here's what's included:

- Train ride
- Springtime story
- Signature drink
- Sweet treat



Photo provided by Nickel Plate Express

The Railbike Rides are a great family activity. [Get your tickets right now!](#)

Seating options

• **Diamond Seating:** Duke Dining Car – Social four-top booth seating (tickets sold as full tables) (Lap children are not permitted in Diamond seating.)

• **Platinum Class:** Reporter Lounge – Social four-top table and chair seating (Lap children are not permitted in platinum seating.)

• **Standard Seating:** Classic railroad-style seating (ages 2 and under ride free as a lap child in standard seating only)

If Easter traditions are your thing, this is one ride you won't want to miss. [Click here](#) to buy your tickets.

Spring Railbike Rides are back

Looking for a fresh-air adventure? NPX's railbike rides are rolling back into action this spring, and

they're a completely different way to experience the railroad.

Railbikes run on multiple dates throughout the season, and each ride offers its own unique experience. Whether you're cruising through the woods, pedaling into downtown, or riding at twilight, there's a railbike ride to match your vibe.

• **Forest Park Rail Adventure:** A seven-mile railbike ride through wooded areas and farmland in Northern Hamilton County. This ride is perfect for friends and families looking for a leisurely outdoor adventure. Please note: bikes are pedal-powered (no assist), and guests should be prepared to ride outdoors the entire time. [Click here](#) to buy your tickets.

• **White River Family Cruise:** A shorter, fami-

ly-friendly ride over the White River and into Downtown Noblesville. Enjoy a relaxed pedal, followed by a one-hour layover downtown for lunch, ice cream, or shopping before heading back. [Click here](#) to buy your tickets.

• **Twilight Rail Ride:** An evening railbike experience with a seven-mile round-trip ride and a cozy stop at the turnaround point featuring a campfire and s'mores. A peaceful, memorable way to enjoy the sights and sounds of twilight. [Click here](#) to buy your tickets.

All railbike rides are led by trained staff, depart promptly at their scheduled times, and offer a smooth, scenic ride that's approachable for a wide range of fitness levels.

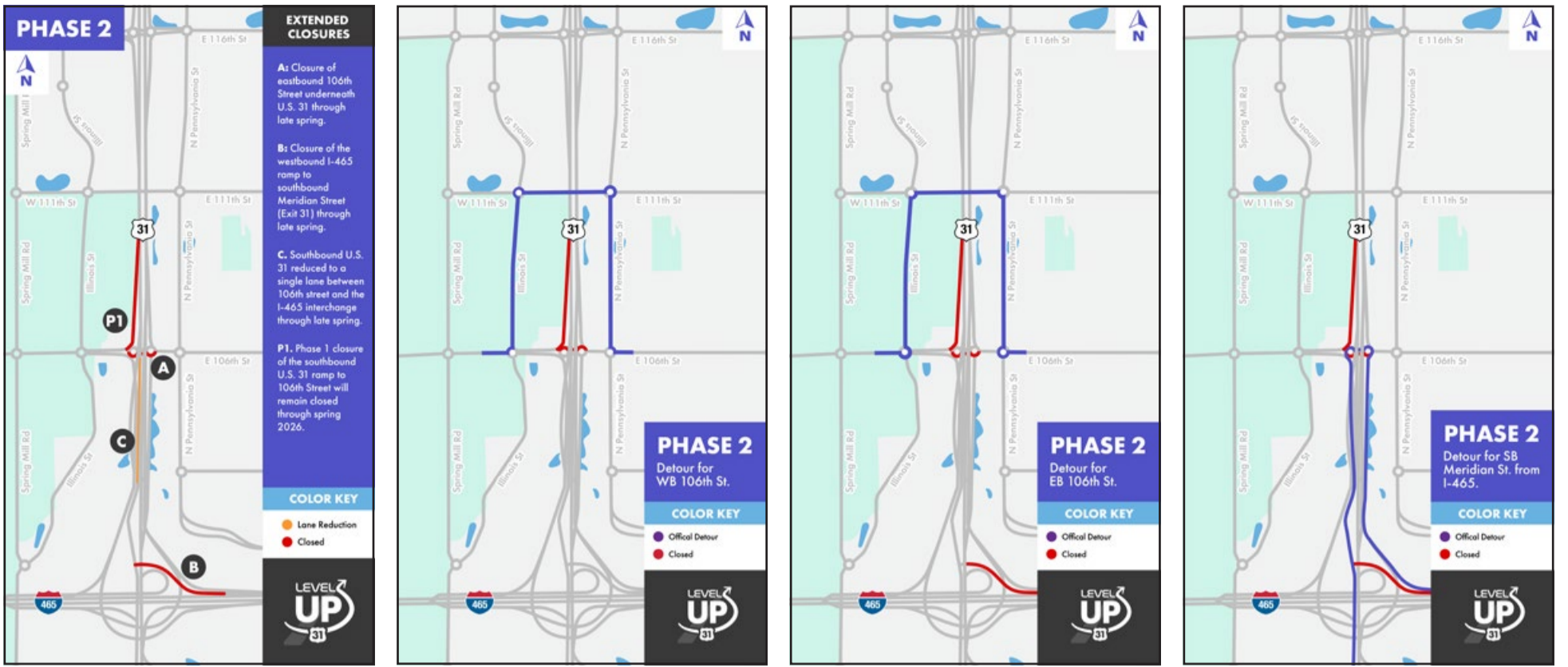
Find more great rides at NickelPlateExpress.com.

Don't just ride the rails ... Bike them!

Forest Park Rail Adventure
An 8-mile round trip rail bike ride starting at Hobbs Station in Forest Park.

White River Family Cruise
Enjoy this short, scenic rail bike ride from Hobbs Station in Forest Park.

NickelPlateExpress.com/railbike-rides



Graphics provided by INDOT

Phase 2 of the Level Up 31 project involves several closures and detours in the vicinity of Interstate 465 and U.S. 31 on the north side of Indianapolis.

Level Up 31 moves into Phase 2 of construction

The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has announced that the Level Up 31 project is moving into the second phase of construction. This phase includes ramp and lane closures, local access restrictions, and detours.

The following traffic impacts are already in place for Phase 2 construction:

- Full-time inside shoulder closure and intermittent stoppages on Interstate 465 eastbound and westbound from Spring Mill Road to College Avenue and Meridian Street northbound and southbound at the inter-

change

- New traffic pattern at southbound U.S. 31 at the I-465 ramp and Meridian Street split
- Southbound U.S. 31 reduced to a single lane between 106th street and the I-465 interchange

The following traffic impacts are planned for Phase 2 of construction and are expected to remain in place through late spring:

- Sunday, March 15: Closure of the westbound I-465 ramp to southbound Meridian Street (Exit 31)
- Monday, March 16: Closure of eastbound 106th Street underneath U.S. 31

Additionally, on or after Monday, March 9, westbound 106th Street is set to close underneath U.S. 31 for approximately one week

Scheduled closures beginning in March

- A weeklong closure of westbound 106th Street underneath U.S. 31 is expected to occur starting Monday, March 9. Motorists traveling west on 106th Street will take the Pennsylvania Street exit north to westbound 111th Street, travel west to Illinois Street then head south on Illinois Street before proceeding west onto 106th Street.
- A closure of eastbound

106th Street underneath U.S. 31 is scheduled to begin on or after Monday, March 16. This closure is scheduled to remain in place for approximately a month and a half. Motorists traveling east on 106th Street will take the Illinois Street exit north to eastbound 111th Street, travel east to Pennsylvania Street then head south on Pennsylvania Street before proceeding east onto 106th Street.

- A closure of the westbound I-465 ramp to southbound Meridian Street (Exit 31) will begin on or after Sunday, March 15 and re-

main in place through late spring. Motorists traveling from westbound I-465 to southbound Meridian Street should take Exit 125 onto 106th Street, use the roundabout to re-enter U.S. 31 southbound/Meridian Street and travel south toward Indianapolis.

- The extended closure of the southbound U.S. 31 ramp to 106th Street will remain closed during the first part of the Phase 2 work and is expected to open mid-spring 2026. The speed limit remains 45 mph along I-465 and U.S. 31 in the construction zone. Drivers should follow posted signs

and watch their speed. Delays are likely during peak travel times, so drivers are encouraged to plan alternate routes and allow extra travel time.

Actual dates of scheduled work may change due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

For a more in-depth look at the four-phase project and updated traffic overview with the latest closures, visit LevelUp31.com.

Subscribe to Level Up 31 text and email updates at alerts.indot.in.gov to receive the latest traffic alerts, construction updates, and project progress.



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Robert Lee May

June 27, 1935 – February 25, 2026

Robert "Bob" Lee May, 90, was taken to his heavenly home to meet his Savior on February 25, 2026, in Indianapolis. Bob a former resident of Chillicothe and Kings-ton, was born on June 27, 1935, in Chillicothe, Ohio, the oldest child of the late Leroy "Bud" and Letha "Bea" May.

Bob graduated from Laurelville High School in 1954. Shortly after graduation, he eloped to Indiana to marry his high school sweetheart, Loretta (Stump) May. Bob and Loretta were married for nearly 65 years, and are the parents to Carol (Jim) Stewart, Galloway, Ohio; Randy May, Pikeville, Tenn.; and Brian (Melanie) May, Cicero.

Bob served as a radio operator for the Air Force during the Korean War, stationed at the 38th parallel in South Korea and in Okinawa, Japan. After returning from the war, Bob worked for DuPont and the United States Postal Service from which he retired in 1992.

Bob enjoyed many hobbies over his lifetime. He enjoyed woodworking, hunting, gunsmithing, and mowing. All his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will cherish the piggy banks, made from old combination style U.S. Post Office mailboxes, he gave each of them.

In 2016, Bob was part of the Indiana Honor Flight and went to Washington, D.C., to visit the monuments. Bob was one of the founding members of Faith Chapel in Chillicothe, and we know that he is now resting in the kingdom of Heaven. "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" Galatians 5:13-14.

In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Loretta in 2020; nephew, Steve McNichol, and grandson, Tyler May.

Survivors include his children, Carol (Jim) Stewart, Galloway, Ohio, Randy May, Pikeville, Tenn., and Brian (Melanie) May, Cicero; grandchildren, Jennifer Pollard, Kelli (Mike) Baker, Brent Barton, Rob (Cari) May, Julia (Matthew) May-Perkins; and great-grandchildren, Katherine Pollard; Amelia, William, Audrey, and Bennett Baker; Grant, Gray, and Shiloh Perkins; sisters, JoAnn Meade and Anna (Bill) Smith; and brother-in-law, Melvin (Edna) McNichol.

Family and friends will gather from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Hill Funeral Home, Kingston, Ohio, where the Funeral Service will take place at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 5.

Burial will follow in Green Summit Cemetery, Adelphi, Ohio.

Local arrangements are entrusted to Bussell Family Funerals, Carmel-Westfield.

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com



Ruth Ann Gigax

October 16, 1933 – February 27, 2026

Ruth Ann Gigax, Carmel, went home to her heavenly Father early in the morning on February 27, 2026. Ruth Ann was born to Rufus and Mildred Colgin in Tulsa, Okla., on October 16, 1933.

In 1951, a coed at the University of Tulsa, Ruth Ann became a pen pal with a handsome young sailor named Dick. The rest was history: Early in 1952, Ruth Ann and Dick wed in Dana Point, Calif. In San Diego they welcomed their firstborn, later relocating to Tulsa, where the rest of their children were born. Eventually the family moved to Ruth Ann's beloved Carmel, which she considered to be "heaven on Earth."

In the late 1960s, Ruth Ann joined a newly formed congregation, Faith Missionary Church, at 61st & Carrollton, in Broad Ripple. Through the years of faithful attendance, service, and holiday gatherings, the other "Faith" families became family to Ruth Ann and her family. Ruth Ann supported multiple missionaries serving around the globe, through hospitality when they were home on furlough, correspondence to lift their spirits, and through generous financial giving.

After losing Dick suddenly in 1995, Ruth Ann courageously embraced life, traveling the Western Hemisphere, occasionally with friends and family, and frequently alone, on Ambassador trips to South America, Europe, Canada, and the United States. Of these journeys, her favorite was the Denver Seminary-sponsored Travels of Paul.

Ruth Ann loved gardening and was known for the showy flowers in her front garden. She grew the bluest hydrangeas the size of your head, and vibrant hibiscus, but her backyard tomatoes took the prize. Though autumn was her favorite season and she never missed an October visit to Brown County, she soaked up summers for nightly swims and weekly visits to the Carmel Farmer's Market.

In addition to her parents, Ruth Ann was preceded in death by her husband, Richard C. Gigax, and her sister, Patricia Bendelow, née Colgin.

Ruth Ann is survived by her four children, Craig (Melissa) Gigax of Fishers, Jim (Lisa) Gigax of Denver, Colo., Missy (Tom) Welsh of St. Augustine, Fla., and Beth (Dan) Bates of Montrose, Colo.; nine grandchildren, Andy, John, Molly, Annie, Barnes, Margaret, Richard, Jack, and Grace; five great-grandchildren, Amélie, Townes, Millie, Lucy, and Thomas; and four nieces and a nephew, Sharon, Sue, Shiela, Andrew, and Sarah, and their children and grandchildren.

Family and friends will gather at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Faith Church, 9125 N. College Ave., Indianapolis, where the funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. A private family burial will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Wycliffe Bible Translators or Faith Church Indy are welcome.

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

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com



TODAY'S BIBLE READING

OFFERINGS FOR UNINTENTIONAL SINS

"But if just one person sins unintentionally, that person must bring a year-old female goat for a sin offering. The priest is to make atonement before the Lord for the one who erred by sinning unintentionally, and when atonement has been made, that person will be forgiven. One and the same law applies to everyone who sins unintentionally, whether a native-born Israelite or a foreigner residing among you.

"But anyone who sins defiantly, whether native-born or foreigner, blasphemes the Lord and must be cut off from the people of Israel. Because they have despised the Lord's word and broken his commands, they must surely be cut off; their guilt remains on them."

Numbers 15:27-31 (NIV)

Martin Ray Oman

February 14, 1937 – February 27, 2026

Martin Ray Oman, 89, Carmel, passed away unexpectedly on February 27, 2026. He was born on February 14, 1937, in South Bend, Ind., son of Walter N. and Aileen D. (Martin) Oman.



Martin was a graduate of Riley High School in South Bend. He received his vocational training in Computer Technology. Before retiring, Martin was employed with Indiana Bell as a Computer System Analyst. Ray also served his country as a member of the Indiana Army National Guards.

Having a heart to serve others, Martin was involved with building projects and the maintenance at Carmel Friends Church. Also, he was involved with the Friends Disaster Relief Service in rebuilding homes which were destroyed by tornadoes. Martin appreciated the time he worked in helping build a mission children's school in the country of Belize.

Most importantly, Martin valued time spent with his family. He enjoyed the adventures of traveling, camping, and tinkering with cars.

In addition to his parents, Martin was preceded in death by his first wife, Kathleen (Hock) Oman, and second wife Virginia (Avery) Oman; and brother, Gary D. Oman.

Survivors include his daughters, Karen (Ron) Feltz of Celina, Ohio, and Kim (Russ) Abell of Wabash, Ind.; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and brother, Ronald (Peg) Oman.

A Time of Fellowship will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Carmel Friends Church, of which he was an active member. The Celebration of Life Service will begin at 11 a.m. with a meal following the celebration.

Martin's final resting place will be in Carmel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in memory of Martin, to be directed to Carmel Friends Food Pantry, 651 W. Main St., Carmel, IN 46032; or the Shepherd Community Center. Donate at shepherdcommunity.org/give/donate or makes checks payable to Shepherd Community Center, 4107 E. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46201. Envelopes will be available at the service.

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

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

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.

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REPORTER SPORTS TUESDAY

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

Boys Swimming State Championship

Adaptable Hounds win 12th consecutive championship

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

INDIANAPOLIS — Whatever it takes, whatever is needed, the swimmers for Carmel will do it.

The Greyhounds boys team put that into practice this past weekend at the IH-SAA state finals. Carmel put on a show during the Saturday, Feb. 28 finals at the IU Natatorium, powering to its 12th consecutive state championship with a team score of 408 points.

Along the way, the Hounds claimed six individual events, including a 1-2-3 finish in the 500 freestyle. Trent Allen defended his state championship in that race, clocking in at 4 minutes, 20.02 seconds. Lewis Zhang placed second and Austin Bruford was third.

Allen, a junior, is already thinking about next year.

"I feel like this team we have, me, Yi [Zheng], all the underclassmen, I feel like we're building for something special next year," said Allen. "And I feel like next year, a lot of records are going to come down."

Allen had earlier won the 200 free, also in a state championship repeat. Allen



(ABOVE LEFT) Carmel's Trent Allen defended his state titles in the 200 and 500 freestyles at the IHSAA state meet on Saturday, Feb. 28. Allen also swam on the first-place 400 free relay and helped the Greyhounds win their 12th consecutive state championship. (ABOVE CENTER) Carmel junior Yi Zheng won the individual medley in addition to swimming on the medley and 400 free relays. (ABOVE RIGHT) Senior Carter Hadley won the backstroke and also swam on the medley and 400 free relays.

Reporter photos by Julie Brown

won in 1:35.08, with Zhang second and William Lathrop placing fourth. Carmel coach Chris Plumb used a conversation with Lathrop as an example as to how the Greyhounds' adaptability and team mentality guided them to another win.

"I said, 'Hey, what do you think about this,' and he was like, 'Hey, I really want to go here, but I'll do whatever you need,'" said Plumb. "And that's just the attitude of these guys."

Another example was Lukas Biller. Plumb pointed out the Biller is a 500 freestyle racer, but he raced in

the much shorter 100 free race. Biller finished sixth.

"That's what he needed to do and that's where the team needed him," said Plumb.

Zheng claimed a championship in the individual medley. Zheng dropped nearly two seconds off his prelim time to win the IM in 1:43.92, just off the state record of 1:43.92.

"I went for it, the first 100," said Zheng. "Felt it a little bit at the end, but I'm glad I went for it. I did as well as I could."

See Hounds . . . Page 12

Boys State Swimming Championship Results

Team scores (top five and all county):

1. Carmel 408, 2. Penn 247, 3. Homestead 201, 4. Center Grove 189, 5. Fishers 166, 10. Westfield 69, 12. Noblesville 55, 17. Hamilton Southeastern 37, 44. Guerin Catholic 2.

200 medley relay

"A" Final: 1. Carmel (Carter Hadley, Yi Zheng, Jack Street, Donald Zhao) 1:29.24, 5. Fishers (Qwinton Upshaw, Dylan Geesaman, Alex Koo, Elijah Fishman) 1:33.50, 8. Noblesville (Jackson Teske, Joshua Naas, Liam Hayward, Brayden Wright) 1:34.97.

"B" Final: 16. Westfield (Alden Thomas, Griffin Barents Froman, Garreth Thomas, Estaban Roussel) 1:36.52.

200 freestyle

"A" Final: 1. Trent Allen (C) 1:35.08, 2.

Lewis Zhang (C) 1:38.32, 4. William Lathrop (C) 1:39.74, 7. Zach Welch (W) 1:41.47.

"B" Final: 11. Camden Bailey (HSE) 1:41.99, 14. Caden Askren (F) 1:43.64, 15. Landon Wendel (W) 1:44.04.

Prelims: 17. Carter Schultz (F) 1:43.78.

200 individual medley

"A" Final: 1. Zheng (C) 1:43.92, 5. Noah Moeller (C) 1:49.05, 8. Cory Han (C) 1:50.09.

"B" Final: 9. G. Thomas (W) 1:51.18, 12. Naas (N) 1:53.22, 14. Fishman (F) 1:53.99.

Prelims: 18. Upshaw (F) 1:55.61, 22. Barents Froman (W) 1:57.03, 27. Aiden Clarke (Hamilton Heights) 1:58.41.

See Results . . . Page 12

Koo wins butterfly, helps Tigers to fifth place

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

INDIANAPOLIS — After a second-place finish in the 50 freestyle at the IH-SAA state meet, Alex Koo wanted more for his other individual race.

Koo got what he wanted. The Tigers junior won the butterfly state championship Saturday, Feb. 28. Koo held off Center Grove's Evan Lyness to finish first, with a time of 48.15 seconds.

"I was really tired at the end of the first 50, but I didn't want my season to end in another second," said Koo. "I really pushed myself on that second 50."

Koo trailed Lyness by a third of a second after the first 50, but swam the second leg three-quarters of a second faster to get the win.

"It felt really good," said

Koo. "I wanted to go faster than what I did. Before the season started, I wanted to go 47 towards the end of it. I still won, so I'm really happy with that."

Koo's state championship win was the centerpiece of a solid day for Fishers. The Tigers finished fifth as a team with 166 points.

Fishers' divers were a significant part of the Tigers' team score. Mason Lawson finished second with 539.75 points, while Kirby Dangle placed third with 518.80 points. The two were involved in a battle with eventual champion (and Mental Attitude Award winner) Ian Parrott; the Warsaw senior scored 556.60 points.

In addition to his two sprint finishes, Koo joined Qwinton Upshaw, Dylan Geesaman and Elijah Fish-

man to place fifth in the medley relay. Koo and Upshaw later teamed with Caden Askren and Carter Schultz for a fourth-place 200 free relay result.

Askren also made the podium on his own, taking fifth in the 500 free.

"The guys did awesome," said Fishers coach Joe Keller. "Last year, three of these guys swam at this meet. We had a huge class graduate and so you're learning every step."

Keller used Brody Chop as an example. The senior had never made the sectional roster until this season, then swam in the 500 free with a "B" Final qualifying time of 4 minutes, 42.99 seconds. Chop improved on that time in the finals, placing 12th in 4:41.75.

See Koo . . . Page 12



Reporter photo by Julie Brown

Fishers' Alex Koo won the butterfly event at the IHSAA state meet. Koo earned four medals at state, also placing second in the 50 free and making the podium on two relays.

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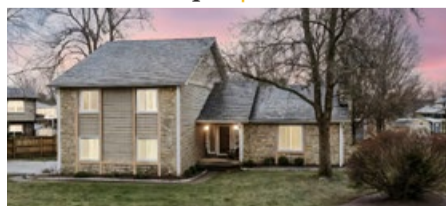


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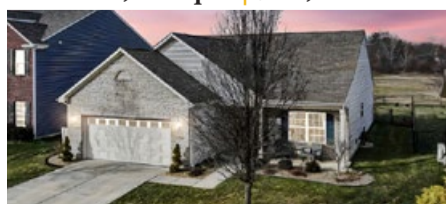
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Koo

from Page 11

“Great swim last night, goes faster today,” said Keller. “That’s pretty awesome when you can see those kinds of things happen.”

Two medals for Westfield’s Welch

Westfield scored 69 points to place 10th at state.

Junior Zach Welch had a fine meet, making the podium in both distance events. Welch finished seventh in the 200 free, then finished his day with a fourth-place result in the 500 free, swimming the longer race in 4:30.49.

Noblesville’s medley relay also got on the podium, placing eighth. The team of Jackson Teske, Joshua Naas, Liam Hayward and Brayden Wright clocked in a 1:34.97.



Fishers’ Mason Lawson (above left) placed second in diving, with his teammate Kirby Dangle (above right) finishing third.

The Millers also had three “B” Final swims and placed 12th with 55 points.

Hamilton Southeastern had six “B” Final swims, finishing 17th with 37

points. Zachary Marchisin and Bryce Salvadori went 1-2 in the 500 free consol-

ation race, officially placing ninth and 10th for scoring purposes.

Guerin Catholic’s Sam Holl competed in the 500 free, finishing 15th.

Reporter photos by Julie Brown



Reporter photos by Julie Brown

(ABOVE LEFT) Westfield’s Zach Welch finished fourth in the 500 free and seventh in the 200 free. (ABOVE RIGHT) Noblesville’s Joshua Naas swam on the Millers’ eighth-place medley relay.



Reporter photos by Julie Brown

(ABOVE LEFT) Guerin Catholic’s Sam Holl finished 15th in the 500 free. (ABOVE RIGHT) Hamilton Southeastern’s Bryce Salvadori placed 10th in the 500 free.

HOUNDS

Allen, Zheng and Carter Hadley all finished the meet as three-event champion. Both swam on the 400 free relay with Carter Hadley and Zhang that cruised to victory in 2:57.63. The relay team sliced over eight and a

half seconds from its prelim time and improved from a fourth seed to first.

Zheng, also a junior, began the meet by joining Hadley, Jack Street and Donald Zhao to win the medley relay. Carmel

took that event in a time of 1:29.24.

“We’ve ran through relay starts, all that, the timing, mock meets, dual meets,” said Zheng. “We’ve ran through that so many times. I think I’m used to transi-

tioning between those.”

Hadley, a senior, picked up a victory in the backstroke, winning that race in 48.41 seconds. It was Hadley’s first individual state title.

“I had to do my favorite thing in the world, which is racing,” said Hadley, who is committed to Southern

Methodist University. He said he had been racing against opponents he had been competing against for “three, four years and at the end of the day, I just try to be my best self.”

Plumb said that his swimmers will “speak their mind,” but at the same time, the Hounds will do whatever

is needed for the team.

“And that speaks to the brotherhood they’ve created and the culture,” said Plumb. “That’s all these guys. They love each other and they’re willing to go to work every day. They battle each other in practice, but they love each other outside the pool deck.”

from Page 11




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RESULTS

from Page 11

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>50 freestyle
“A” Final: 1. Peter Kovacs (Bloomington South) 20.12, 2. Koo (F) 20.21.
“B” Final: 11. Zhao (C) 21.16.
Prelims: 18. Lukas Biller (C) 21.32, 29. Drew Setmeyer (N) 21.75.</p> <p>One-meter diving
Finals: 1. Ian Parrott (Warsaw) 556.50, 2. Mason Lawson (F) 539.75, 3. Kirby Dangle (F) 518.80.
Prelims: 22. Alrik Mansberger (C) 161.25.</p> <p>100 butterfly
“A” Final: 1. Koo (F) 48.15, 4. Street (C) 49.20.
“B” Final: 10. G. Thomas (W) 50.18, 11. Zhu (C) 50.41, 13. Moeller (C) 50.52.
Prelims: T26. Zachary Marchisin (HSE) 51.44.</p> <p>100 freestyle
“A” Final: 1. Kovacs (BS) 43.79, 2. Hadley (C) 44.22, 6. Biller (C) 45.85.
“B” Final: 9. Lathrop (C) 46.28, 12. Bailey (HSE) 46.91.
Prelims: 20. Setmeyer (N) 47.24.</p> | <p>500 freestyle
“A” Final: 1. T. Allen (C) 4:20.02, 2. Zhang (C) 4:26.51, 3. Austin Bruford (C) 4:29.64, 4. Welch (W) 4:30.49, 5. Askren (F) 4:32.51.
“B” Final: 9. Marchisin (HSE) 4:39.32, 10. Bryce Salvadori (HSE) 4:39.52, 12. Brody Chop (F) 4:41.75, 13. Wendel (W) 4:44.18, 15. Sam Holl (GC) 4:46.86.
Prelims: 18. Clarke (HH) 4:45.18.</p> <p>200 freestyle relay
“A” Final: 1. Homestead 1:22.41, 3. Carmel (Zhao, Biller, Zhang, T. Allen) 1:23.52, 4. Fishers (Koo, Upshaw, Askren, Schultz) 1:24.60.
“B” Final: 9. Noblesville (Setmeyer, Naas, Wright, Hayward) 1:26.16, 13. Southeastern (Bailey, Marchisin, Jagger Chan, Nolan Pugh) 1:28.13.
Prelims: 23. Westfield (Barents Froman, Roussel, Wendel, Welch) 1:28.68.</p> <p>100 backstroke
“A” Final: 1. Hadley (C) 48.41, 6. Andrew Allen (C) 50.57.</p> | <p>“B” Final: 9. Street (C) 50.05.
Prelims: 17. Teske (N) 51.46, 20. Logan Senior (F) 51.84.</p> <p>100 breaststroke
“A” Final: 1. Lucas Ackermann (Franklin Community) 53.23, 2. Zheng (C) 54.19, 8. Han (C) 57.16.
“B” Final: 10. Upshaw (F) 57.59, 11. Luke Feller (C) 57.86, 13. Barents Froman (W) 58.06, 15. Chan (HSE) 58.33.
Prelims: 18. Naas (N) 58.30, 22. Geesaman (F) 58.93.</p> <p>400 freestyle relay
“A” Final: 1. Carmel (T. Allen, Hadley, Zhang, Zheng) 2:57.63.
“B” Final: 10. Westfield (Welch, G. Thomas, Wendel, A. Thomas) 3:10.00, 12. Noblesville (Setmeyer, Teske, Collin Monger, Hayward) 3:11.40, 14. Fishers (Schultz, Askren, Senior, Hagen Lee) 3:12.24.
Prelims: 21. Southeastern (Bailey, Marchisin, Salvadori, Josh Lawrence) 3:14.32.</p> |
|--|--|---|

Gymnastics

Westfield wins first-ever sectional

Rocks triumph at Harrison, Millers advance from Franklin Central

The REPORTER

The Westfield gymnastics team claimed the program's first-ever sectional championship on Saturday, Feb. 28.

The Shamrocks triumphed at the Harrison sectional, which took place at Elite Gymnastics Facility in Lafayette. Westfield won with a team score of 105.225 points, followed by runner-up Northwestern with 102.525 and the third-place host Raiders with 101.975.

The top three teams advance to the Portage regional, which takes place this Saturday, March 7.

Sophomore Sonoma Fischer led the way for the Rocks, winning the all-around with a score of 36.45. (She was Westfield's only all-around competitor.) Fischer won three events, including a tie for first in the floor exercise. Fischer and Logansport senior Rylee Zimmerman both scored 9.45 to share the top of the podium.

Fischer outright won the vault with a mark of 9.20 and took the uneven bars event with 9.05. She tied for fifth on the balance beam, scoring 8.75.

Sophomore Hallie Wal-

ther made it 1-2 in the vault for the Rocks by scoring 9.075. Senior Madie Doran finished third on the floor with a mark of 9.225. Freshman Kaleia Cole also earned a top-five place, taking fourth in the uneven bars with 8.35.

Individual event scores now follow:

Vault: 1. Sonoma Fischer 9.20, 2. Hallie Walther 9.075, 10. Kelsey Atkinson 8.675, T14. Madie Doran 8.55.

Uneven bars: 1. Fischer 9.05, 4. Kaleia Cole 8.35, 9. Walther 8.10, 13. Avery Mason 7.825.

Balance beam: T5. Fischer 8.75, 17. Atkinson 8.375, T24. Doran 8.05, T27. Walther 7.85.

Floor exercise: T1. Fischer 9.45, 3. Doran 9.225, T10. Atkinson 8.95, 13. Mason 8.90.

Noblesville placed second at the competitive Franklin Central sectional, which took place Friday, Feb. 27 at The Gymnastics Company near the high school.

The Millers totaled 104.000 to punch their ticket to the regional, which is scheduled for this Friday, March 6, also at The Gymnastics Company. Colum-



Photos provided

(ABOVE LEFT) The Westfield gymnastics team won its first-ever sectional title on Saturday, Feb. 28. The Shamrocks won the Harrison sectional and advance to the Portage regional this Saturday. (ABOVE RIGHT) Noblesville's gymnastics team placed second at the Franklin Central sectional on Friday, Feb. 27. The Millers advance to this Friday's regional, also hosted by Franklin Central at The Gymnastics Company.

bus North won the sectional by scoring 104.75, while Roncalli scored 103.575 to place third and round out the team qualifiers.

Noblesville had all four of its gymnasts place in the top 15 in the all-around competition. Hailey Nobbe scored 35.575 for fourth place, while Valorey Bittles was sixth with 34.825. Em-

merson Leckrone finished eighth with 33.45 and Vera Deichman tied for 14th, scoring 31.95.

Nobbe was an individual champion, winning the vault with a score of 9.20. Bittles tied for second in the vault with 9.05 and also earned a 9.20 on the balance beam, placing her third in that event.

Nobbe finished fourth in the uneven bars with 8.65, while Leckrone took fifth in the floor exercise with 9.00.

Individual event scores now follow:

Vault: 1. Hailey Nobbe 9.20, T2. Valorey Bittles 9.05, T10. Vera Deichman 8.50, T15. Emmerson Leckrone 8.35.

Uneven bars: 4. Nobbe 8.65, 12. Leckrone 7.825, 14. Bittles 7.725, 17. Deichman 7.525.

Balance beam: 3. Bittles 9.20, T9. Nobbe 8.80, 16. Leckrone 8.275, 28. Deichman 7.675.

Floor exercise: 5. Leckrone 9.00, T7. Nobbe 8.925, 9. Bittles 8.85, 20. Deichman 8.25.

Basketball

Hamilton County Huskers bring pro basketball locally

By CRAIG ADKINS

For The Reporter

ARCADIA – The Hamilton County Huskers hosted their inaugural The Basketball League (TBL) game at the SAC Arena, the former home of Hamilton Heights Husky basketball. Family and friends of the Huskers and Lebanon Leprechauns saw the Leprechauns spoil the first TBL game for Hamilton County, 125-111.

"With the people in this community, I'm being reintroduced to the nicest people in the world. To come back here, they're just wonderful," said Doug Mitchell, team owner and general manager. "I almost forgot how genuinely and sincere they are."

Lebanon got eight into double figures, including 2018 Warren Central grad Antwaan Cushingberry scoring 13 and grabbing seven rebounds. The Huskers had four scoring in double digits with Justin Williams' game-high 28 leading. Hamilton Heights alum (2015) Grant Weatherford scored two off the bench in his homecoming.

On Saturday night, it all came to fruition. Former Hamilton Heights (1975) and Butler Bulldog (1979) standout Doug Mitchell has brought professional hoops back to where it all began for the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Famer (2022).

As a player at Heights, Mitchell scored 1,167 points. He led the Huskies to a sectional championship in 1975 and he was named Hamilton County Player of the Year. He then went on to a four-year career at Butler University.

"It's an entirely different experience not coaching, being a team manager and owner. It's been so rewarding and being back here is

special," added Mitchell.

Mitchell made his mark on Indiana High School basketball from 1992-2018 at North Central in Indianapolis, winning 428 games and capturing two Class 4A state titles (1999, 2010) and a runner-up in 2007. He coached nine Indiana all-stars and four all-Americans, including two McDonald's All-Americans. And now as team owner, it's time to give back to the community.

The idea came in October and Mitchell has been hard at work to put the product together for the community where he grew up. The Huskers are the third team in Indiana. Along with Lebanon in its fourth season, the Kokomo Bobkats are in their sixth season. There was a fourth team in Medora, but that team no longer exists due to team issues.

League owner and CEO Evelyn Magley said The Basketball League's main intentions are to bring a world class basketball experience to communities and their fans.

"Dr. James Naismith said that basketball was invented and played in Kansas, but it was reared in Indiana," said Magley. "This state is amazing for basketball. The communities understand the game and they also have a great understanding of community and family. This is a great place to bring in another team into the TBL."

The reach of each game being broadcast is available in 145 countries around the world. With that being said, players can be evaluated quickly and be on their way to another team in another city or country in a matter of hours or days.

"We have agents and scouts, along with the G League and the NBA that



Reporter photo by Craig Adkins

Professional basketball came to Arcadia on Saturday, Feb. 28 with the debut of the Hamilton County Huskers. The team is part of The Basketball League (TBL) and played its first-ever game against the Lebanon Leprechauns at the SAC Arena.

are looking at our players," Magley said. "You just never know with it going out to 145 countries, it takes this community around the world, giving everyone an opportunity to go to the next level."

The objective is to grow to even more teams in Indiana. There is plenty of talent out there.

"I think we can grow Central Indiana," said Mitchell. "Why not. Where are all of the players? I've seen them. They made me not sleep at night, gave me many sleepless nights."

The TBL allows players the opportunity to make a living playing the game they love, while also working in youth clinics, non-profit organizations and so many other areas in the local community.

"They are intricately involved in the communities that they're playing in," added Magley. "To have these local stars come out and be a part of it just means even more."

The more word gets out

about the Hamilton County Huskers and the TBL, the more basketball fans will

head to Arcadia to see this team.

"People are coming out

to the game and it's bringing communities together," said Evelyn Magley.



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IBCA boys basketball poll – Week of March 1

Note: This is the final poll of the season.

Rank	School	Points	Record
1	Fishers (22)	440	23-0
2	Silver Creek	410	25-1
3	Pike	380	21-3
4	Crown Point	376	20-1
5	Plainfield	351	22-2
6	Mt. Vernon	328	22-3
7	Northridge	275	22-1
8	Carmel	264	16-5
9	Terre Haute North	260	21-3
10	Lawrence North	249	18-5
11	South Bend St. Joseph	199	19-4
12	New Albany	197	18-5
13	Ben Davis	171	15-6
14	Cathedral	157	18-5
15	South Bend Riley	140	19-4
16	Chesterton	99	19-4
17	Penn	69	17-6
18	Hamilton Southeastern	66	14-9
19	Princeton	56	20-3
20	Brebeuf Jesuit	20	15-6

First place votes are in parentheses.

Other schools receiving votes, with records

Barr-Reeve (21-1), Blackhawk Christian (17-7), Bloomfield (15-8), Brownsburg (13-9), Centerville (22-2), Columbia City (19-4), Crispus Attucks (14-8), Evansville North (18-5), Fort Wayne Snider (17-7), Fort Wayne South Side (18-4), Homestead (17-6), Lawrence Central (11-11), Liberty Christian (15-7), Northview (19-5), Oak Hill (21-1), Paoli (23-0), Pendleton Heights (17-5), Parke Heritage (20-4), **Westfield (13-8)**, Westview (22-1), Yorktown (14-8), Zionsville (13-10), 21st Century Charter School – Gary (14-6).

SPORTS SCHEDULE

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.

Wednesday, March 4

BOYS BASKETBALL

Sectional 25 at Frankfort

Danville vs. Crawfordsville, 6 p.m.

Guerin Catholic vs. Frankfort, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 6

BOYS BASKETBALL

Sectional 8 at Noblesville

Carmel vs. Noblesville-Zionsville winner, 6 p.m.

Fishers vs. Westfield-Hamilton Southeastern winner, 7:45 p.m.

Sectional 24 at New Castle

Connersville vs. Jay County-Yorktown winner, 6 p.m.

Delta vs. New Castle-Hamilton Heights winner, 7:30 p.m.

Sectional 25 at Frankfort

Lebanon vs. Tuesday winner, 6 p.m.

Wednesday winners, 7:30 p.m.

Sectional 38 at Elwood

Sheridan vs. Tipton-Taylor winner, 6 p.m.

Elwood vs. Lapel-Frankton winner, 7:30 p.m.

Sectional 42 at Cardinal Ritter

Covenant Christian vs. University-Monrovia winner, 6 p.m.

Park Tudor vs. Cardinal Ritter-Riverside winner, 7:30 p.m.

GYMNASTICS REGIONAL

Noblesville at The Gymnastics Company, 6:30 p.m.

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

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Men's Basketball

Boom drops two close games

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom was dealt two close losses over the weekend.

The Boom, the NBA G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers, fell in overtime to the Rio Grande Valley Vipers, 135-133, on Friday, Feb. 27 at Bert Ogden Arena.

M.J. Iraldi erupted for a career-high 36 points on 12-of-21 shooting from the field, along with three rebounds and three assists. Jalen Slawson (30 points, 11 assists) and Omar El-Sheikh (10 points, 10 rebounds) both recorded double-doubles. It was Slawson's fourth 30-point game of the season, while El-Sheikh notched his first career double-double. Cameron Hildreth added 24 points and five assists.

Noblesville found itself in a 14-point hole (32-18) after early struggles in the opening period. The Boom shot 6-of-17 from the field and 0-of-5 from beyond the arc while committing eight turnovers during the span.

The Boom posted their highest-scoring quarter (45) of the regular season, led by Jamal Bieniemy, who scored all 12 of his points in

the period on 4-of-8 shooting from deep to keep the Boom within striking distance at halftime (74-63).

In a quarter that saw eight lead changes, the Boom took their first lead of the game early in the fourth but couldn't extend their advantage by more than two points. The Vipers created separation with a 15-6 run to build a nine-point cushion with under five minutes left in regulation. The Boom refused to go away, delivering a slew of clutch baskets - highlighted by a heavily contested step-back three from Slawson to tie the game with under 10 seconds remaining - before forcing a turnover on the ensuing possession to send the game into overtime.

In the overtime session, the Boom pulled within two points of the target score of 135 after Samson Johnson converted a three-point play - his first points of the game - and Slawson knocked down a free throw. Iraldi drove to the rim for a potential game winning layup, but the attempt was blocked, leading to a transition corner three for the Vipers to seal the game.

The Boom (14-12) suf-

fered a 118-114 defeat to the Mexico City Capitanes (17-8) on Sunday, March 1 at Arena CDMX.

Slawson stuffed the stat sheet, securing his second consecutive double-double and finishing with 24 points, 11 rebounds, seven blocks, five assists, and two steals. His seven blocks marked both a career high and the most by a Boom player this season. Hildreth and Garrett Denbow each scored 19 points, with Hildreth adding six assists and four rebounds. DaJuan Gordon contributed 17 points and six rebounds, while Iraldi added 13 points and 11 rebounds, notching the second double-double of his career.

Despite six early turnovers as a team, RJ Felton kept the Boom afloat with eight first quarter points, sending the game into the second tied at 25-25. Noblesville broke the game open in the second quarter, putting together a 14-2 run that grew into a 28-9 surge. The Boom caught fire, shooting 63.6 percent from the field and 77.8 percent from deep in the frame. Denbow led all scorers at halftime with 14 points on 5-of-6 shooting, including

4-of-5 from three, helping the Boom take a 62-42 lead into the break.

After falling behind by 22, the Capitanes stormed back in the third quarter with a 23-9 run to pull within eight with under five minutes left in the period. Mexico City continued to apply pressure, cutting the deficit to six, before the Boom ended the quarter ahead 84-75.

Mexico City carried its momentum into the fourth, opening the quarter with 11 straight points to take its first lead since the 2:32 mark of the opening frame. Wade Taylor IV powered the comeback, scoring 13 of his 26 points in the fourth as the Capitanes built their lead to as many as 11. The Boom mounted a late push, but could not complete the comeback, dropping the first game of the two game series.

The teams will meet again on Tuesday at Arena CDMX to conclude the series. Coverage will stream live on ESPN+, with tipoff scheduled for 9 p.m. Tickets and team updates are available at NoblesvilleBoom.com, and fans can stream every game live at NBAGLeague.com.

Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame to honor Matt Asen "The Pacer Guy" in SuperFan Exhibit

Submitted by Pacers Sports & Entertainment

The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced the addition of longtime Indiana Pacers SuperFan Matt Asen, known to fans as The Pacer Guy, to its James F. Goldstein SuperFan Gallery beginning this August.

A courtside fixture for nearly four decades, "The Pacer Guy" is one of the franchise's most recognizable and beloved supporters, known for his unwavering enthusiasm, signature inflatable flamingo, and spirited signs. Asen has not missed a home playoff game in more than 20 years, traveling from his home in Florida to sit under the basket for the team's biggest moments. His devotion began in 1987 following a chance meeting with Pacers owner and Hall of Famer Herb Simon and has included traveling to Paris in January 2025 to support the team abroad.

"We are proud to honor The Pacer Guy in our SuperFan Gallery," said John L. Doleva, President and

CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "For more than three decades, his passionate support has embodied the spirit and loyalty of basketball fans everywhere. Alongside James F. Goldstein, we look forward to celebrating his story and sharing his memorabilia with our guests."

Asen's recognition in the SuperFan Gallery will be highlighted during Enshrinement Weekend on Aug. 14 to 16 with a SuperFan Ceremony held in his honor. In addition, a video tribute to Asen will be featured within the SuperFan Gallery.

"Matt has been part of our Pacers family for decades," said Mel Raines, Pacers Sports & Entertainment President and CEO. "Whether it's his handmade signs, hard hats, or infamous pink flamingo on the baseline, he continues to bring his passion and energy to our home games. He represents what our fans are all about, and we're proud to see him honored by the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame."

The Pacer Guy will join a group of basketball fans who have made a profound impact on the game through their loyalty, passion, and dedication. The Hall of Fame has also honored James F. Goldstein, the gallery's namesake, along with SuperFans Penny Marshall,



Photo provided by Pacers Sports & Entertainment

Nav Bhatia, Jack Nicholson, Billy Crystal, Alan Horwitz, Spike Lee, and Bruce and Judy Reznick, "Mr. and Mrs. Whammy."

Established in 2018, the SuperFan Gallery was created to recognize and celebrate some of the most iconic and dedicated fans in basketball history. SuperFans are selected by the Hall of Fame's SuperFan Committee based on several criteria, including:

- A proven history of attending games for a particular team or teams
- A genuine love for basketball, demonstrated by

their deep knowledge and passion

- A recognizable and respected reputation within the basketball community

- A profound respect and appreciation for the history of the game

The James F. Goldstein SuperFan Gallery, located on the second floor of the Hall of Fame Museum, showcases the unique stories, memorabilia, and apparel of these passionate fans. Visitors can learn about the inspiring journeys of these individuals and their connection to the sport.

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