

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER
 Today: Mostly to partly cloudy.
 Spotty showers possible in the morning and late afternoon.
 Tonight: Mostly cloudy.
 HIGH: 73 LOW: 62



Reaching New Heights

Freshmen dive into higher education opportunities at IU Kokomo

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corp.

Hamilton Heights High School's freshman class (Class of 2029) recently embarked on an exciting visit to IU Kokomo, immersing themselves in a true college-campus experience.

Throughout this past quarter, students have been exploring post-secondary pathways as part of the Explore section of Heights' Portrait of a Graduate curriculum and Freshman Seminar. Every freshman participated in this visit through Guaranteed Experiences, a key component of the Reaching New Heights Initiative.

During their time on campus, students engaged with professors, toured facilities, and discovered the wide range of academic and career opportunities IU Kokomo offers. Special thanks to IU Kokomo for welcoming these students and providing such an up-close, meaningful experience for the freshman class.



Photos provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation
 As part of Hamilton Heights' Reaching New Heights Initiative, the freshman class spent the day at IU Kokomo exploring pathways, opportunities, and their future potential.

When Spring arrives in colors that connect us

There is something magical about a festival that gives you permission to color outside the lines.

Holi, the Indian Festival of Colors, arrives just as winter loosens its grip.

It is a spring festival, yes. But it is also a festival of belonging:

a festival that gently reminds us that even if you don't look like me, eat like me, pray like me, or speak like me, you can still stand beside me, laugh with me, and walk home with your cheeks stained pink and yellow.

Because when you're holding a handful of color, you don't discriminate. You don't ask questions. You simply reach forward and say, "Happy Holi" or "Burra mat Mano, Holi Hai!" which means, "Don't get offended, it's Holi time!"

See Colors . . . Page 2



Sheridan Main Street launches campaign for its first Art Alley

Submitted

Sheridan Main Street, Inc., a 501(3)(c) Indiana Main Street organization, has announced its next phase for investment in Sheridan's downtown, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The organization has qualified for a CreatINg Places grant that would provide \$100,000 to complete an Art Alley as a public space, enhancing the quality of life in the community.

The organization, in partnership with town leadership, is in year three of a matching grant façade program supporting the owners of 38 historic buildings. To date, \$800,000 has been invested in securing sustainability and protecting the historic integrity of those valued buildings. That work continues.

An extended phase for resto-

ration of the Sheridan community is to enhance public spaces and to connect downtown with the northernmost trailhead on the popular Monon Trail through a stunningly unique Art Alley. The Art Alley will be located at 5th and Main streets between the Sheridan Fire Department and Kever's Hardware.

The Alley is designed around a mural being developed in partnership with the Basile Center for Art, Design, and Public Life at the Herron School of Art. The mural will be enhanced by three arches, benches, and plantings to create a welcoming gathering space drawing visitors and residents to the heart of the community.

The Art Alley isn't just about beautification; it's about preserving the history while remaining connected to a place



Photo provided
 Retired Sheridan teacher Kim Hogge created this sketch of the town's new Art Alley.

where people want to gather, shop, and dine.

Enhancing public spaces in Sheridan has always been at the

forefront of desired enhancements of the downtown area.

See Art Alley . . . Page 2

Health Dept. warns of measles exposure during spring break

The REPORTER

As families prepare for spring break trips, the Hamilton County Health Department is urging residents to make sure they are fully vaccinated against measles before they travel.

Measles cases are rising sharply across the country. So far in 2026, 976 confirmed measles cases have been reported across 26 states. All states surrounding Indiana are reporting cases, increasing the risk of exposure for travelers.

"Measles is one of the most contagious viruses known," Health Department Administrator Jason LeMaster said. "Spring break travel increases the likelihood of exposure, especially in crowded airports and vacation destinations. The best protection is to make sure you and your family are fully vaccinated before you go."

Measles spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can linger in the air for up to two hours after that person has left the area. That means you could potentially be exposed in airports, hotels, theme parks – or even from someone seated near you on a plane.

See Measles . . . Page 2



LeMaster



VanMetre

Belfry Theatre presents bittersweet story of friendship across time

Submitted

The Belfry Theatre invites audiences to experience *Vanities* by Jack Heifner, a poignant and humorous exploration of friendship, ambition, and growing up. Directed by Jen Otterman, the production runs March 6 to 15 at The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel.

Set in 1963, 1968, and 1974, *Vanities* follows Joanne, Kathy, and Mary from vivacious Texas high school cheerleaders to a revealing reunion years later in New York. As their lives unfold, the play captures the shifting dynamics of lifelong friendship and the choices that shape who we become.

"*Vanities* will resonate with audiences because it feels deeply personal," said Ka'Lena Cuevas, who plays the role of Kathy and is also the producer for the show. "It reminds us how our friendships evolve as



Photo by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com
 (From left) Cara Olson as Joanne, Ka'Lena Cuevas as Kathy, and Becca Bartley as Mary.

we grow, and how time can both strengthen and challenge those bonds."

Performances are sched-

uled for 8 p.m. on March 6 and 13, and 2 p.m. on March 7, 8, 14, and 15. All performances take place at The Cat. Tickets

are \$20 for adults and youth, and \$15 for seniors (aged 64 and over) and are available at TheBelfryTheatre.com.



Don't forget to change your clocks!

The REPORTER

Once again, it's time "Spring Forward" for Daylight Saving Time, so before you head to bed Saturday night, set your clocks forward one hour.

This weekend is also the perfect time to check your smoke detectors. Did you know working smoke alarms can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by half? That's why it's critical to take that lifesaving step to keep you and your family safe from home fires – the country's most frequent disaster. So don't forget: "Turn and Test!"

ART ALLEY

from Page 1



Photo provided

Jennifer Miller, Director of Planning and Development for Sheridan, meets with community members and master students from the Basile Center to discuss the mural design.

The CreatiNg Places grant works through a Patronicity crowdgranting process and with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA), assuring that the alley becomes a reality.

Sheridan Main Street's goal is to raise \$50,000 so in order to receive a matching \$50,000 from IHCDA. Giving levels are such that everyone can be a part of this

exciting project.

Support this community-powered project and unlock the full match. Just go to Patronicity.com/SheridanArtAlley. Find your level of giving and give something to continue the transformation of Sheridan, the hometown we love.

Learn more about Sheridan Main Street, Inc. and its work at SheridanMainStreet.org.

MEASLES

from Page 1

The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is highly effective. One dose provides approximately 93 to 95 percent protection against measles. A second dose boosts measles protection to roughly 97 percent and helps ensure long-lasting immunity.

"Many adults assume they're protected, but if you don't have written documentation of vaccination or proof of immunity, it's worth checking," Director of Nursing Janice VanMetre said. "Measles can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia, brain swelling, hospitalization, and in rare cases, death. It's not worth taking the risk."

Residents who are unsure of their vaccination status can check their records through the Indiana Department of Health's MyVaxIndiana portal at in.gov/health/immunization/myvaxindiana.

Most adults born in 1957 or later need at least one dose of MMR vaccine if they have not been vaccinated or do not have proof of immunity. A second dose is recommended for children

and higher-risk groups, including healthcare workers, international travelers, and college students.

"If you're planning to travel for spring break, now is the time to act," VanMetre said. "It takes about two to three weeks for your body to build maximum protection against measles after vaccination. Waiting until the last minute may leave you vulnerable. Getting vaccinated now helps ensure you and your family are protected before you board that plane."

The MMR vaccine is safe and effective for most people. However, it is not recommended for:

- Pregnant women or women planning to become pregnant within the next four weeks
- People with weakened immune systems due to illness, chemotherapy, HIV, or other conditions
- Individuals with severe allergies to vaccine components

For more information, contact the Hamilton County Health Department or speak with your healthcare provider.

HOLI

from Page 1



Photos provided

Growing up in India, Holi was not just a day. It was a feeling that stretched across two full days and filled the entire neighborhood.

The first night is Holika Dahan – the lighting of the sacred bonfire. As children, we would gather barefoot around towering flames. Families formed circles, moving slowly around the fire, offering prayers and gratitude. Someone carried a jug of water and gently poured it along the circular path. We offered patasa – tiny sugar sweets – along with dates (khajur) and roasted pops of grain called dhani into the holy fire.

I remember watching elders stretch their hands and feet toward the warmth. "Take the blessings of the fire," they would say. "It will keep your joints strong all year." As a child, I didn't question it. I simply believed in the glow.

When a new baby was born into the family, that first Holi was especially sacred. The mother's brother would carry the baby and walk in a circle around the fire. The girl's family brought special sweets and gifts for the newborn. It was more than ritual; it was the community announcing, "We see this new life. We welcome it."

The fire burned for hours. And somehow, in that orange glow against the night sky, winter truly felt finished.

The next morning was pure joy.

We woke early and prepared natural colors. We soaked jaasood (hibiscus) flowers in water to create bright hues. We filled our pichkaris – water pumps that looked like playful water guns – and stepped into the streets. Neighbors became targets.

Friends became artists. Children, grandparents, teenagers – everyone joined in.

The streets transformed into moving rainbows. Laughter echoed from balconies. And by midday, you couldn't recognize anyone – which, in a way, was the point.

For one day, identity blurred. Differences dissolved. Color made us equal.

By afternoon, exhausted and drenched, we returned home for the reward: sweet seviyan, cool saffron-scented shrikhand made from yogurt, Thandai-Holi special drink, fluffy puri, and curry. After hours of running wild, we earned every bite. The food tasted like celebration itself.

Fast forward to Indiana.

Every year, rain or shine, I take my girls to the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana for Holika Dahan. The bonfire glows against a Midwestern sky. Families circle it just as we did back home. The traditions are lovingly recreated. The prayers feel the same. The warmth feels the same.

We may not drench entire streets the way we once did in India, but we still smear a little pink across each other's cheeks. We still say, "Happy Holi." We still belong.

Last year, Holi gave me another unexpected way to share its colors.

Instead of holding a pichkari, I stood between bookshelves.

I was invited to read aloud about Holi at two wonderful local bookstores: The Whispering Shelf in Indianapolis and Curious Squirrel Books in Zionsville. In both places, I chose a Holi book they already had on their shelves. I wanted to begin with what the community



could physically hold in their hands.

I opened the pages and started reading.

But somewhere between the printed lines, my own memories spilled out.

I paused to explain what Holika Dahan feels like when the fire is taller than you. I described streets in India turning pink and yellow by noon. I told them about jaasood flowers soaking in buckets, about pichkaris aimed at unsuspecting cousins, about shrikhand waiting at home after hours of play.

The book gave the outline. The lived experience gave it breath.

Many in the audience had never heard of Holi before. Some only knew it as "the color festival." They didn't know about the bonfire, the symbolism of good over evil, the welcoming of spring, the way neighborhoods come alive.

While turning a book pages, I witnessed the curiosity bloom in a room full of strangers. And yet they leaned in. They asked questions. We laughed. They

imagined.

It was beautiful to witness a community craving diversity – not quietly, but openly. Wanting to learn. Wanting to celebrate. Wanting to understand traditions beyond their own.

In those moments, I realized something powerful: Holi is not just about powders and water.

It is about stepping out of winter – literal and emotional. It is about knocking on a neighbor's door. It is about recognizing that under layers of identity, we are all human canvases waiting to be brightened.

If Holi is about spreading color, then perhaps stories are another form of it. Both felt just as meaningful.

And every year, whether around a bonfire, inside a temple, or between the shelves of a bookstore, I am reminded that belonging is the brightest color of all.

Happy Holi!

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



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**CARMEL
DADS' CLUB**

Now Hiring

Business Manager/Bookkeeper

Location: Carmel, Indiana
Status: Full-time, available immediately

Carmel Dads' Club is seeking a dependable and highly organized **Business Manager/Bookkeeper** to support the financial and administrative operations of our long-standing youth sports organization. This role is essential to our daily operations and requires professionalism, discretion, and a strong commitment to accuracy and integrity.

Position Overview

The Business Manager oversees all financial records and accounting functions for Carmel Dads' Club, including recreational and travel sports programs, facilities, concessions, and corporate financials. This position reports directly to the President and plays a key role in ensuring smooth operations across the organization.

Key Responsibilities

- Manage all accounting and bookkeeping functions, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, deposits, check writing, and refunds.
- Maintain accurate and comprehensive financial records across all sports and departments.
- Perform monthly bank reconciliations and prepare monthly financial reports, including budget-to-actual summaries.
- Oversee accounting software updates, filings, and year-end reporting (including 1099s).
- Support sport commissioners with financial processes, budgeting, reimbursements, and reporting.
- Assist concession administrators with budgeting, deposits, and financial procedures.
- Manage hardware and software needs related to computers and phone systems.
- Assist with purchasing and vendor relations for office equipment, including copiers and postage meters.
- Prepare materials for monthly Board meetings and annual budget presentations.
- Provide administrative and financial support for special events, including the annual golf outing.

Core Competencies

- Strong integrity and ethical judgment
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently and manage multiple priorities
- Proven problem-solving skills with minimal supervision
- Highly organized, detail-oriented, and reliable
- Ability to handle confidential and sensitive information appropriately

Required Qualifications

- Prior experience managing all aspects of business and financial operations
- Strong knowledge of basic accounting and bookkeeping principles
- Proficiency in QuickBooks and Microsoft Excel
- Demonstrated administrative and organizational skills
- Experience conducting presentations
- Ability to build and maintain professional relationships internally and externally
- Reliable transportation

Work Schedule

Standard business hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
This position is fully in person at the Carmel Dads' Club office located at 5459 East Main Street in Carmel.

Benefits

- Long-term, stable employment
- Competitive compensation
- Health, dental, and vision benefits

• Meaningful impact on the Carmel community through youth sports

How to Apply

The position is available immediately. Interested candidates should send their resume to: mtrent@carmeldadsclub.org by **March 16**
The position is full-time, year-round, with a very competitive wage and full benefits package.

Spartz introduces bills aimed at reducing costs for farmers & consumers

Submitted by Office of Rep. Victoria Spartz

Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) introduced a set of bills on Thursday, March 5 ahead of the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization aimed at lowering costs for farmers and consumers, improving equipment safety, and increasing transparency.

- **The Farm Freedom to Repair Act** would ensure farmers have the right to repair the digital agricultural equipment they own, helping reduce costly delays and dependence on manufacturers for basic repairs.
- **The Farm Equipment Safety Act** would exempt off-road farm

equipment from burdensome emissions regulations that have increased costs and complexity for producers, making it easier and more affordable for farmers to operate and maintain the equipment essential to their work.

- **The Checkoff Transparency Act** would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to publish audits, budgets, and activities of commodity checkoff programs on its website, increasing transparency and accountability for programs funded by fees farmers are



Spartz

forced by Congress to pay.

"We have been losing small farm operations at a rapid pace, with more and more market power accumulating in the hands of a few oligopolies which, in some sectors like meat processing, are even using farmers' own money - such as checkoff fees - to lobby against smaller farmers," Spartz said. "Unreasonable government regulations add further burdens, especially on smaller farmers and consumers. We have to start applying some common sense."

Carmel mayor announces new Transportation Committee

Submitted by City of Carmel

Demonstrating a continued commitment to transparency, accountability, and fiscal stewardship, Mayor Sue Finkam has signed an executive order establishing the Carmel Transportation Committee.

The newly formed committee will review and provide expert commentary on the city's forthcoming Capital Improvement Plan and Program. By integrating resident expertise and legislative oversight, the Committee will ensure that the city's long-term infrastructure investments align with the community's needs and fiscal goals.

"The Transportation Committee, led by City Engineer Bradley Pease, will provide a vital layer of review for our infrastructure strategy," Mayor Finkam said. "This initiative ensures that we publish our Capital Improvement Plan with a precise focus on transparen-

cy and the responsible management of taxpayer dollars."

The Committee is comprised of five Carmel residents, each bringing a diverse range of professional backgrounds and community perspectives. Joining these residents are two members of the Carmel City Council, President Matthew Snyder and Councilor Jeff Worrell, ensuring a direct link between the advisory body and the city's legislative process.

"Bringing together technical leadership and resident voices allows us to vet our transportation priorities more effectively," Pease said.

Committee members are:



Finkam



Pease

- Bradley Pease, City Engineer, Committee Chair
- Jamie Ford-Bowers, Founder, JFB LLC
- Jeff Hill, Vice President and Partner, A&F Engineering
- Ruth Hook, Environmental Section Director, Burgess & Niple
- Jarvis Jointer, Founder and CEO, IQOL
- Lyndsay Quist, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Transportation
- Matthew Snyder, President, Carmel City Council
- Jeff Worrell, Councilor, Carmel City Council

Details regarding meeting schedules and opportunities for community involvement will be shared in the coming weeks.

AG Rokita applauds Gov. Braun signing FAIRNESS Act into law

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita issued the following statement on Thursday, March 5:

"This new law makes it easier for local law enforcement to do the right thing: remove criminal illegal aliens from our communities. It makes clear that state and local governments may not adopt policies that restrict cooperation with federal immigration authorities, and it requires law

enforcement to comply with federal immigration detainer requests.

"The FAIRNESS Act will give my office stronger enforcement authority by allowing us to bring actions against local politicians who violate Indiana's anti-sanctuary law and to seek both injunctive relief and civil penalties for violations.

"In addition, the law



Rokita

authorizes our office to pursue penalties against employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens, and it enhances the State's ability to track the use of public benefits, including Medicaid, by non-citizens.

"Together, these reforms help advance our mission of combating illegal immigration in Indiana and protecting Hoosiers."

One Impact Foundation launches \$10K fundraising effort

Submitted

The One Impact Foundation, the 501(c)(3) non-profit arm of OneZone Chamber of Commerce, has announced a new fundraising effort with a goal of raising \$10,000 to expand programs that strengthen local nonprofits, support small businesses, and invest in the future of the region's workforce and leadership development initiatives.

The One Impact Foundation exists to turn collective community success into meaningful impact across Hamilton County and beyond. Through scholarships, leadership programs, workforce and talent initiatives, and direct support for non-profit organizations and small businesses, the Foundation helps ensure opportunity is accessible to those working to strengthen the region.

"This effort is about investing directly into people

and programs that move our communities forward," said Jack Russell, President & CEO of OneZone Chamber and Board Member of The One Impact Foundation. "Every contribution helps expand access to leadership development, provides resources to organizations doing critical work, and ensures our region continues to grow stronger together."

Funds raised through this campaign will support:

- Leadership and professional development initiatives
- Workforce and talent

attraction programs

- Scholarships and access opportunities for small businesses and nonprofits
- Community-focused research and resources that drive regional progress

Community members, business leaders, and partners are encouraged to support the campaign and help the Foundation reach its \$10,000 goal.

Interested in donating? Go to OneZoneChamber.com, click on the Programs & Initiatives tab, and then click on the One Impact Foundation tab.



Russell

Thanks for reading The Reporter!

Sarah Cox Dedrick launches Compass Public Relations

Submitted
Sarah Cox Dedrick of Fishers recently launched **Compass Public Relations**, a consultancy that offers media relations, content creation, thought leadership, and event strategy/support services to brands in Indiana and beyond.



Photos provided

Inspired by her family, Sarah Cox Dedrick has launched her own consultancy.

Compass PR is built on the belief that the best stories are guided with both strategy and heart. As a mother of two little boys (Cameron, 3, and Connor, 1), Cox Dedrick knows a thing or two about balance, patience, and navigating any situation with a goal in mind.

Cox Dedrick grew up in Winchester, Ind., and fell in love with journalism during her English class at Winchester Community High School. She then went on to Ball State University where she graduated with a degree in public relations and a minor in travel and tourism. The travel and tourism add-on was an intentional focus as she has always loved traveling, meeting new people, and sharing stories based on places she's visited. During her time at Ball State, she studied abroad in London and realized then and there that the "people business" was where she

was meant to be.

Cox Dedrick brings more than 15 years of experience in the communications and media relations industry securing local, trade, and national stories for a variety of industries. She's a storyteller and writer at heart, and always finds a way to shine a light on incredible people doing incredible work. She's also a regular guest speaker at Ball State University's journalism program and enjoys mentoring students and encouraging them to go after their own dreams.

While work, travel, and life in general looks a little different now with two little boys, the boys have

COMPASS PUBLIC RELATIONS

been the biggest motivator for her to launch Compass PR. She has spent years helping other organizations elevate their brands, so it's been fun for her to spend time with her own.

The "C" in Compass is a nod to Cameron and Connor, and the name Compass truly encompasses everything Cox Dedrick brings to the table: helping brands navigate their storytelling. Compass is also directly aligned with Sarah

and her husband Kevin's shared love of adventure and traveling.

"My biggest piece of advice to anyone, especially moms, is to go after the things that make your heart happy and light," Cox Dedrick said. "Life is short, and it's our job to make sure the stories that fill the chapters of our lives are ones that truly matter. This was the year I knew was right to launch Compass PR, and I'm grateful I did."

From the desk of Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update No. 168

Northern Hamilton County Community Partners are working to better understand the child-care and out of school needs of families across the Hamilton Heights School District.

As part of this effort, we are inviting parents and caregivers to share their experiences related to child-care (ages 0 to 3), preschool (ages 3 to 5), and before and after school care and out of school opportunities (ages 5 to 18).

To ensure accuracy and allow for follow up if needed, the survey requests basic contact information; however, this information will remain confidential and will not be shared outside of this project. Your participation is completely voluntary, but your feedback will play an important role as we explore how to expand support and opportunities for Heights families. Access the survey at [this link](#).

This work also comes at a meaningful moment for our community. This year marks the Boys & Girls Club's 75th anniversary, a milestone that carries deep personal significance for me. The Boys & Girls Club shaped my own family's story and has touched generations of young people

COLUMNIST



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Heights Superintendent

in northern Hamilton County. Its legacy of mentorship, belonging, and opportunity continues to inspire the partnerships we build today to support children and families across our district.

Speaking of celebrations, March gives us a special opportunity to pause and recognize the extraordinary role the arts play in the lives of our students. National organizations have designated this month as Youth Art Month, Music in Our Schools Month, Theatre in Our Schools Month, and Dance in Our Schools Month, a collective reminder of how essential the arts are to a well rounded education.

At Heights, this isn't just a national celebration; it reflects what we believe at our core. The arts are part of our identity as a public school district. They give every student, regardless of background, ability, or experience, the chance to discover their voice, express their creativity, and connect with others in meaningful ways. These opportunities are possible because of the unique promise of public education: that every child deserves access to experiences that help them grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Every day, I see the impact of the arts in our schools. I see it in the confidence of a student stepping onto a stage for the first time, in the focus of a young musician learning a new piece, in the imagination captured on a canvas, and in the teamwork that unfolds during rehearsals and performances. These moments are not small – they shape who our students become.

Our arts educators are at the heart of this work. Their passion, creativity, and commitment create spaces where students feel safe to take risks, try new things, and discover talents they may not have known they had. Their influence extends far beyond the classroom, and I am deeply grateful for the way they enrich the lives of our students and strengthen our school community.

We are also fortunate to live in a community that

values the arts and understands their importance in a child's development. Your support – showing up to performances, celebrating student artwork, and encouraging participation – helps create an environment where creativity thrives. It reinforces the message that every student's artistic journey matters.

As we join schools across the country in celebrating the arts this month, I am reminded of how proud I am of our students, our educators, and our community. The arts are alive and thriving at Hamilton Heights, in our classrooms, our hallways, our stages, and our hearts. They enrich our district in ways that are visible every day, and they remain one of the most meaningful ways we help prepare our students for bright, successful futures.

#WeAreHuskies

Learn about at Hamilton County's architecture at Historical Society event

Submitted
The Hamilton County Historical Society will hold a series regarding noted Hamilton County architecture at various locations throughout the county this year.

On Thursday, March 12 from 6 to 8 p.m., the first of these discussions will be held at Noblesville City Hall with the topic, "Historic architecture + Historic paint colors – with a Victorian focus." Speakers for the evening will be Darren Peterson, Owner of Peterson Architecture, City Council

Kurt Meyer, a longtime Noblesville resident, Realtor, and promoter of all things Noblesville. It should be an enjoyable evening full of interesting information and engagement.

The Hamilton County Historical Society is a non-profit organization with a mission to preserve and share the stories of Hamilton County, Indiana. Please visit the museum located in the Old Sheriff's Residence & Jail next to the Historic Courthouse located on the Square in Downtown Noblesville.



Peterson



Meyer

Member and the Architect for the Noblesville Architectural Review Board, and

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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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These students served as pages for State Sen. Scott Baldwin: (from left to right, top to bottom): Cooper Black, Aiden Chapin, Jackson Edwards, Luke Habel, Jonas Harley, Hadden Irwin, Liam Nguyen, Prudence Peng, Julia Salib, Sophia Salib, Amelia Smith, and Jack Trusty. *Not pictured: Kingsley Southard.*

State Senator Baldwin welcomes local students to Statehouse as Senate pages

Submitted by Office of State Sen. Scott Baldwin
 State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) welcomed the following local students to the Statehouse who served as Senate pages:

- Cooper Black, Noblesville, attends Noblesville West Middle School
- Aiden Chapin, Noblesville, attends Noblesville

West Middle School

- Jackson Edwards, Noblesville, attends Noblesville High School
- Luke Habel, Noblesville, attends Noblesville High School
- Jonas Harley, Noblesville, attends Noblesville High School
- Hadden Irwin, Noblesville, attends Noblesville

High School

- Liam Nguyen, Carmel, attends Park Tudor School
- Prudence Peng, Carmel, attends Carmel High School
- Julia Salib, Carmel, attends Carmel High School
- Sophia Salib, Carmel, attends University High School
- Amelia Smith, Noblesville, attends Fishers Junior

High School

- Kingsley Southard, Noblesville, attends Acellus Academy
- Jack Trusty, Noblesville, attends Noblesville West Middle School

Pages spend a day at the Statehouse touring the historic building, observing debates from the Senate floor and interacting with their

state senator.

“The page program is a great way for young people to get a glimpse of state government,” Baldwin said. “I enjoy having so many students at the Statehouse on session days who are curious about what goes on in the Senate.”

Students in grades 6 through 12 participate in the page program on Mondays,

Tuesdays, and Thursdays during the legislative session.

The 2026 Senate Page program has now ended. Parents interested in learning more about the program should visit IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program. Applications for the 2027 program will be available at the end of 2026.

Got the moves? Fever Inferno Hip-Hop Squad auditions coming to Gainbridge Fieldhouse March 24

Submitted
 The Indiana Fever are searching for the next members of the Fever Inferno Hip-Hop Squad and will host auditions March 24 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

The Fever Inferno serve as the official dance team of the Fever, bringing high-energy performances

to every home game while engaging fans and representing the organization at community events.

“We’re excited to welcome a new group of talented performers who bring energy, personality and passion to Fever basketball,” Indiana Fever Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Amber Cox said. “The Inferno are an important part of our game-day experience, and they play a great role connecting with fans and representing our team in the community.”

Interested candidates must first go online and complete the registration form located at fever.wnba.com/fever-inferno-auditions.

Previous dance experience is helpful but not required, and tumbling or other unique performance skills are considered a bonus.

Candidates must be at least 18 years old by March 24, 2026, and able to commit to twice-weekly rehearsals beginning in April, as well as all Fever home games during the 2026 WNBA season, including preseason and postseason. Selected dancers will join the team beginning in mid-April and serve through the post-season.

Additional information about auditions, registration details and an FAQ are available at fever.wnba.com/fever-inferno-auditions.

On March 24, in-person registration begins at 5:15 p.m. followed by auditions at 5:45 p.m. at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, located at 125 S. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis. Participants should be prepared to learn choreography and demonstrate their personal style, including freestyle elements.

Additional information about auditions, registration details and an FAQ are available at fever.wnba.com/fever-inferno-auditions.

Additional information about auditions, registration details and an FAQ are available at fever.wnba.com/fever-inferno-auditions.

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Don't miss final Nickel Plate Express Trivia Nights

Submitted

March is your final chance to hop aboard for Trivia Nights on the Nickel Plate Express (NPX).

Themed trivia rides have quickly become guest favorites, combining a scenic two-hour train ride, hosted multi-round trivia, and a relaxed social atmosphere aboard NPX's vintage passenger cars. If you've been meaning to book, now is the time. These are the last trivia events of 2026.

Schitt's Creek Trivia Night

Friday, March 13

Bring your best "fold in the cheese" energy and join us for a nostalgic night inspired by the Emmy-win-

ning comedy.

This two-hour experience features:

- Hosted, multi-round Schitt's Creek trivia
- An individual charcuterie box included with each ticket
- A playful, costume-friendly atmosphere
- A one-of-a-kind social setting aboard a historic passenger train
- Beverages will be available for purchase on-board (credit card only; no cash accepted).

[Click here](#) for tickets.

Gilmore Girls Trivia on the Tracks

Friday, March 20 & Saturday, March 21

Grab your friends and

step into a cozy evening inspired by Stars Hollow. This fully hosted trivia experience includes multiple rounds ranging from "easy-peasy Luke's Diner" to "deep cut Yale years," all while the train rolls through the countryside.

Each ticket includes:

- A two-hour train ride
- Hosted, multi-round trivia plus a tiebreaker
- An individual charcuterie snack box
- Access to onboard drink service (cocktails, mocktails, and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase)
- Costumes are encouraged (but optional), and this is an all-ages event.

[Click here](#) for tickets.

Good to know

• Seating is assigned and located on the second level of the train.

• Guests wishing to sit together should book in one order.

• NPX's vintage equipment includes narrow aisles and stairs and is not wheelchair accessible.

• Please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to departure; trains leave promptly and cannot be held for late arrivals.

These evenings consistently sell out, and once March passes, trivia nights won't return until next year.

Find more great rides at NickelPlateExpress.com.

IU Health's Mobile Lung Unit coming to Tom Wood Volkswagen Indianapolis

The REPORTER

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

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

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

Details

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

The screening is covered by most insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid. IU Health will cover the cost for those without insurance.

Date & Time

• Tuesday, March 10 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Tom Wood Volkswagen, 4545 E. 96th St., Indianapolis

Why it matters

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

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

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

County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt re-elected to IMPO Executive Committee

Submitted

Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt has been elected to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (IMPO) Executive Committee.

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (IMPO) is central Indiana's federally designated regional planning agency. The IMPO develops short- and long-range plans to support local governments and advance the region's goals in transportation, economic development, housing, safety, sustainability, and other quality of life issues.

"Commissioner Heirbrandt has been a long-standing member of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization, and I am happy to see him re-elected to another term," IMPO Executive Director Anna Gremling said. "His steady, consistent leadership and presence has

helped shape the IMPO."

The Executive Committee is a small, elected group of policy members that oversee the operations of the IMPO. In addition to Commissioner Heirbrandt, the IMPO Executive Committee is composed of Greenwood Mayor Mark Myers, Todd Wilson (City of Indianapolis), Franklin Mayor Steve Barnett, Ryan Cannon (Town of Avon), Beech Grove Mayor James Coffman, Andrew Klinger (Town of Plainfield), Eric Wathen (Hendricks County), and Jennifer Pyrz (IndyGo).

Currently, all members are elected from the Transportation Policy Committee, consisting of elected officials and town managers who vote to approve all



Heirbrandt

federally required IMPO transportation actions.

"I am honored to be elected by my peers to continue the important work of this organization," Commissioner Heirbrandt said. "Collaboration is paramount to the progress and success of our region, and I am excited to continue to represent Hamilton County on the IMPO Executive Committee."

In addition to his work with the IMPO, Commissioner Heirbrandt is also a member of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Transportation Steering Committee. This committee is responsible for all matters pertaining to federal transportation legislation, funding and regulation, and its impacts on county government.

Thanks for reading THE REPORTER

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Two local students make University of Central Oklahoma President's Honor Roll

The REPORTER

Adriana G. Hogan of Noblesville and Cadence D. Schrock of Westfield have been named to the University of Central Oklahoma President's Honor Roll for their work in the fall 2025 semester, a distinction given

to those who achieve the university's highest academic standards.

To be included on the President's or Dean's Honor Roll, a student must be enrolled full time. For the President's Honor Roll, a student must record a

"straight-A" or 4.0 grade-point average, while Dean's Honor Roll must earn a 3.5 GPA or better for the semester and no grade lower than a B.

Electric bills in Indiana jump 17 percent since 2019

Submitted

The cost-of-living continues to rise across the United States, and energy bills are increasingly putting pressure on household budgets. A new study from [iSelect](#), an energy comparison service, highlights which states are experiencing the greatest financial strain from electricity costs.

The United States Energy Affordability Index combines electricity prices, income levels, and price trends to identify areas where energy costs take the largest share of household income.

The data found in Indiana:

- Rank: 18th
- Average monthly electricity bill: \$146
- Average monthly in-

come: \$5,790

- Electricity bill as a percent of income: 2.5 percent
- Electricity price increase since 2019: 17.7 percent

• Switch Pressure Index Score: 51.83

When it comes to energy bill anxiety in the U.S., a recent study found that Indiana ranked 12th nationwide. The study measured online search activity related to energy awareness, financial strain, and emotional anxiety, and the data for Indiana showed:

- Energy awareness searches per 100,000: 39.1
- Financial strain searches per 100,000: 178.4
- Emotional anxiety searches per 100,000: 41.2
- Total Score: 37.67 out of 100

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Songbook Academy extends application deadline as stage & screen stars join faculty

The REPORTER

Broadway stars Mandy Gonzalez and Telly Leung will serve as Guest Mentors for the Songbook Academy® 2026, the Great American Songbook Foundation's annual summer intensive for high school performers.

In addition to Songbook Foundation Founder Michael Feinstein, an impressive group of performers and entertainment professionals is being assembled to guide the 40 student participants at this year's Academy, taking place July 11 to 18 at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. Additional Guest Mentors will be announced in the lead up to Songbook Academy Week.

In response to growing interest, the application deadline has been extended to March 29.

Gonzalez is widely recognized for her roles in *Hamilton*, *In the Heights*, and *Wicked*, as well as recurring television appearances in the hit series *Madam Secretary*, *Bull*, *Quantico*, and *Only Murders in the Building*, alongside Steve Martin, Martin Short, and Selena Gomez.

Leung is a Chinese American performer, recording artist, director, producer and performing arts teacher best known for his Broadway performances in *Aladdin*, *In Transit*, *Allergiance*, *Rent*, *Pacific Overtures*, and *Flower Drum Song*. His television credits include recurring roles on *Warrior* (HBO/Netflix) and *Glee* (Fox).

With the extended deadline, high school vocalists nationwide have an additional opportunity to apply for the prestigious program, which accepts just 40 students each year. The Songbook Academy provides intensive training, mentorship from top industry professionals, and lifelong connections with peers who share a passion for America's musical heritage.

In addition to working with these and other yet-to-be-announced Guest Mentors, students will collaborate throughout the week with an esteemed



Gonzalez



Leung



Feinstein

faculty. Collectively, this accomplished team includes award-winning composers, Broadway performers, educators from top collegiate performing arts programs, and leading professionals across the music industry.

Serving as Music Directors are:

- **Caelan Cardello** – Jazz pianist who has performed with artists including Christian McBride, Jimmy Cobb, and Cécile McLorin Salvant, a finalist in the 2023 American Pianists Association Jazz Piano Competition and a graduate of The Juilliard School.

- **Jeff Harris** – Pianist, composer and conductor who has collaborated with artists including Bernadette Peters, Maureen McGovern, and Chaka Khan, and has served as pianist-conductor on Broadway productions including *Chicago*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *On the Town*.

- **Beckie Menzie** – Acclaimed cabaret performer hailed by WGN Radio as “indispensable to Chicago cabaret,” with appearances at Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Birdland, and the Chicago Humanities Festival.

- **Mel Shore** – Pianist, Hammond B3 organist, composer and arranger who has performed with artists including Chuck Berry, Kristin Chenoweth, and GRAMMY® winner Nicole Zuraitis, and currently tours with the national tour of *Wicked*.

- **Kate Skinner** – Jazz pianist, vocalist, composer, DownBeat Award winner for Outstanding Vocal Performance, Jazz Education Network award winner for composition, and Associate Professor of Jazz Piano at the University of Idaho.

Serving as Vocal Coaches are:

- **Shereen Ahmed** –

Broadway and touring performer whose credits include *My Fair Lady* and Arena Stage's *The Age of Innocence*, with additional appearances at Carnegie Hall, the Boston Pops and the opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum.

- **La Tanya Hall** – Jazz vocalist and educator who has worked with artists including Diana Ross, Quincy Jones, Aretha Franklin and Patti LaBelle, and whose album *Say Yes* was named one of the top vocal jazz releases of 2020.

- **MaryAnn Hu** – Broadway veteran whose credits include *Frozen*, *My Fair Lady*, *The King and I*, and *Miss Saigon*, and who serves as a teaching artist with YoungArts and the Jimmy Awards.

- **Melvin Brandon Logan** – NYC-based performer, director, educator, and Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at Marymount Manhattan College with national tour credits including *The Book of Mormon*.

- **Alysha Umphress** – Stage and screen performer recently seen in the pre-Broadway run of *Damn Yankees*, with Broadway credits including *On the Town* and *Bring It On*; and recipient of a Chita Rivera Award and the 2023 American Traditions Vocal Competition Gold Medal.

For more information on the 2026 Songbook Academy faculty, visit TheSongbook.org/Faculty.

Now in its 17th year, the Songbook Academy is the flagship education program of the Great American Songbook Foundation. The program includes workshops, masterclasses and performance opportunities designed to help participants refine their vocal and stage skills, particularly in song interpretation, while building friendships and

professional connections that last a lifetime.

Applications for the 2026 Songbook Academy are open to high school vocalists through March 29. Every applicant receives personalized feedback from an experienced screening panel. For more information on how to apply, visit TheSongbook.org/Songbook-Academy.

The Songbook Academy is made possible in part by generous support from Traditions Senior Communities.

Guest Mentor support is provided by generous contributions from individual donors, including Libby and Randy Brown, Michael and Margie Draper, Peggy Ford, The Fuller Family, and Tim and Karyl McGeath.

Support for the core program faculty is provided by generous contributions from the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation Mentor Champions, including Diane and John Abrams, Ann and Kenneth Dee, Stan and Sandy Hurt, Paul R. Sabol, and anonymous donors.

About the Great American Songbook Foundation

The mission of the Great American Songbook Foundation, founded in 2007 by five-time GRAMMY® Award nominee Michael Feinstein, is to inspire and educate by celebrating the foundational era of American popular music. Headquartered at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, the Foundation advances this rich legacy by curating physical artifacts of its creators, performers and publishers in the Songbook Library & Archives; operating a multimedia exhibit gallery; overseeing the Songbook Hall of Fame; offering programs for the public and research opportunities for scholars and artists; and providing educational opportunities for student musicians, including the annual Songbook Academy® summer intensive. The Foundation is a Cultural Affiliate of the Los Angeles-based GRAMMY Museum®. More information is available at TheSongbook.org.

Small Indiana distilleries: West Fork

“Whiskey is by far the most popular of all remedies that won't cure a cold.” – Jerry Vale

Missed last week. My apologies. I was on a little trip with the Mrs., and doing a little research for this column. More

on that soon. For now, I'm going to continue with my discussion on Indiana bourbons with a look at a great little distillery right here in the Indianapolis area.

West Fork Distillery got its humble beginnings in 2015 in a tiny little building near downtown Indianapolis. In 2020-2021, they moved to a multi-million-dollar facility in Westfield called “The Mash House at West Fork.”

The “new” place is beautiful, shiny, and sleek with a restaurant/bar and lovely tasting room. They also have an even newer, smaller, yet equally shiny and sleek, facility on Shelby Street in Fountain Square (West Fork Social House). Both places make wonderful cocktails.

In honesty, I miss the quainter, older, original place. Suppose that's because I'm quainter and older. It was a great place to have a craft cocktail. I digress – time and change march on.

They make two lines of bourbons: The West Fork-labeled brand and their “crown jewel”: the Old Hamer/Hugh Hamer offerings. The West Fork bottlings are, simply put, good, solid, whiskeys. At the moment, I only own one bottle (I know! What's wrong with me?!) – their Double Oaked Bourbon. Registering a potent nearly 119 proof, this is a delightfully potent whiskey. Double oaked, yet not too oaky it has a pleasurable balance of sweetness, oak, and high-proof zing. A very nice bourbon.

I would have to say that their Old Hamer bottlings are the stars of the show.



JON SMYRNIS
Bourbon Psychosis

I have a few different bottles of their juice. All of their products have a high-corn mashbill and are solidly good. Their special offerings are outstanding. Two swiftly come to mind. Their

Straight Bourbon Whiskey finished in Port Wine barrels is wonderful. Picture a 118-proof bourbon with the luxurious hint of a fine port. It doesn't get much better than that! Unless ... you happen to try their Straight Bourbon finished in Cherry Brandy barrels – rich, dark, decadent, and, yes, definite notes of cherries, this 124-proof whiskey is a real gem.

As far as their “special bottlings” go, they might not have the bourbons I've described above available at this time. If you find them, grab them! However, they've always got something special up their sleeves, and what goes around comes around, so keep an eye open on their site or at your local liquor store for their special stuff.

The best part about West Fork? Their whiskeys come at a down-to-earth price. Their West Fork line ranges from \$30 to \$45. Their Hamer line goes from \$30 up to the \$80 range for some of their special bottlings such as the ones described above. Great prices for great bourbons from an awesome little distillery. Give it a try.

One other refreshing thing about West Fork is their unabashed relationship with MGP. What is MGP and why would they possibly be abashed? Well that was part of my research and the topic of next week's column. Got to leave ya hanging.

Until then ... cheers!

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

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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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Our Assembly times:

Sunday Bible Study | 10:00 AM

Sunday Worship | 11:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 PM

Carmel Clay Parks & Rec to present original inclusive theater performance

The REPORTER

An original story filled with humor, heart, and unexpected twists will take the stage this March at the Monon Community Center. Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) presents *Fireside Mysteries*, an original play created through CCPR's Adaptive Inclusive Theater Program and performed during Disability Awareness Month.

Performances will be held on **Saturday, March 14, at 6 p.m.** and **Sunday, March 15, at 2 p.m.**, in the Multipurpose Room at the Monon Community Center East building. An American Sign Language interpreter will be provided for the Saturday, March 14 per-

formance. Sensory-friendly areas will be available during each performance to support audience members who prefer a low-sensory environment.

Inclusive Theater brings individuals with and without disabilities together to develop and perform an original production. Participants take part in the full creative process, including character development and scriptwriting, resulting in a one-of-a-kind performance created by the cast.

Fireside Mysteries is a comedy-drama about a group of family members and longtime friends from Indianapolis who reunite to bury a time capsule. When several sentimental items



mysteriously go missing, the group sets out to find them.

"This program is about much more than the finished production," CCPR Inclusion Program Supervisor Kelvin Solares said. "Participants build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and explore self-expression while working together in a supportive, inclusive environment."

The performance will conclude with a post-show question-and-answer session, giving audience mem-

bers the opportunity to hear directly from the cast about their experience.

Pre-registration is required. Tickets are \$10 and may be **purchased online** through Friday, March 13. Any remaining tickets will be available for purchase at the door on the day of each performance.

For more information about Inclusive Theater or adaptive programming, contact Kelvin Solares at ksolares@carmelclay-parks.com.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

KORAH, DATHAN AND ABIRAM

Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites—Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—became insolent and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?"

When Moses heard this, he fell facedown. Then he said to Korah and all his followers: "In the morning the Lord will show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. The man he chooses he will cause to come near him. You, Korah, and all your followers are to do this: Take censers and tomorrow put burning coals and incense in them before the Lord. The man the Lord chooses will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far!"

Numbers 16:1-7 (NIV)

Meeting Notices

The Westfield Washington Public Library Board of Trustees will meet in an executive session at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B) Discussion of strat-egy with respect to initiation of litigation or litigation that is pending or has been threatened in writ-ing. A regular board meeting will follow at 7 p.m. at the library, located at 17400 Westfield Blvd., Westfield.

The Sheridan Community Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 9, 2026, in the Board Room at Sheridan High School, 24185 Hinesley Road, Sheridan.

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

Westfield city officials to introduce draft Comprehensive Plan for public review

Submitted by City of Westfield

The City of Westfield will introduce its draft Comprehensive Plan, "Advancing Westfield: Looking to the Horizon," during the City Council meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, March 9, beginning a public review and consideration process that will take place over the coming weeks.

The Comprehensive Plan is a long-range policy document that helps guide how Westfield grows and invests over the next 20 years. It brings together planning for land use, transportation, utilities, economic development, and quality of life into a single framework so future decisions are coordinated and consistent.

"This plan sets a clear vision for Westfield's future and a framework to guide smart decisions over time," Mayor Scott Willis said. "By growing with purpose, and not just reacting to growth, we can strengthen our tax

base by bringing more commercial investment alongside housing and remain a world-class, sustainable community for generations to come."

Development of the draft plan began in 2024 and followed an 18-month process that included extensive research, data analysis, and public engagement. More than 6,000 people – representing roughly 10 percent of Westfield's population – participated through public meetings, surveys, focus groups, steering committee work, and online workshops. City officials emphasized that the plan was intentionally built over time to ensure it reflects community input and long-term needs.

The plan introduces updates to the placetype map, which is used to describe the general character and



Willis

function of different areas of the city over the long term. These updates reflect changes that have occurred since the city's previous comprehensive plan and are intended to improve coordination between land use, transportation, and infrastructure planning. Placetypes do not change zoning, approve development, or establish timelines for when development may occur.

City officials also emphasized that the Comprehensive Plan is designed to be a living document. After adoption, the city will conduct annual reviews to report on progress and ensure the plan continues to align with community priorities. More detailed updates may occur approximately every five years, with a full plan overhaul anticipated every 20 to 25 years.

The draft Comprehen-

sive Plan is currently under review and will move through the public process, including additional discussion and consideration by City Council, before any action is taken.

Public Process Schedule

- March 9 at 7 p.m.: Introduction at City Council
- March 11 at 7 p.m.: Special Plan Commission Meeting with Public Hearing
- March 16 at 7:30 p.m.: APC Meeting for formal recommendation
- March 23 at 7 p.m.: Adoption Consideration at City Council

All meetings will be located at Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn St.

Residents are encouraged to learn more, review the draft plan, and follow along as the public process continues by visiting westfieldin.gov/2045, which will serve as the city's primary source of information throughout the review period.

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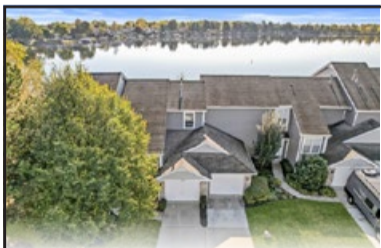
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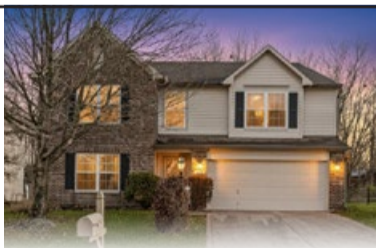


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Men's Basketball

Romack having a 'good ride' at Colorado School of Mines

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

If it was possible to rank someone's college athletic experience, Alex Romack's basketball career at the Colorado School of Mines would have to be high on the list.

Romack has played every game during his three years with the Orediggers, experienced NCAA Division II post-season success, won several awards and is getting a good education as well.

"It's been a good ride so far," said Romack, a junior at Mines.

Romack played high school basketball at Westfield, where he was an integral part of the Shamrocks' first-ever sectional championship team in 2022. Romack graduated from Westfield the next year and was looking for a school that combined basketball and mechanical engineering.

He found it at Mines, a public research university located in Golden, Colo., a few miles west of Denver.

Mines primarily offers degrees in STEM (science, technology and mathemat-

ics) with a focus on the environment and energy.

"It's very engineering-heavy here," said Romack. "Balancing a really tough academic schedule with trying to perform at your highest basketball level can be hard at times. I think it's helped me grow as an individual."

Romack reached out to Mines coach Pryor Orser, and the veteran coach liked the young Westfield star immediately. "He's my type of guy," said the coach.

"The first thing, he was just a tremendous competitor," said Orser. "That's what we're looking for. We want tough guys, we want competitors. We want guys that will stick their nose in it and fight. Right away, he beat guys out and he won a spot. We just love having him, we love coaching him."

Romack has played all 99 of the Orediggers' games since his freshman season began in 2023. He started his very first game, against Bentley, scoring four points.

"I was just excited to play," said Romack. "The opportunity to go play from the start was really exciting



Westfield graduate Alex Romack has put together a successful basketball career at the Colorado School of Mines. The junior Romack has played every game of his career, cleared the 1,000-point milestone and won numerous Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference awards.

Photo courtesy Mines Athletics

for me."

Romack would go to average 8.9 points and 6.8 rebounds during his freshman season, where he started 32 of his 33 games. He was named the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) Freshman of the year and won the confer-

ence's Defensive Player of the Week award on Dec. 18.

"I think I just brought my physicality and athleticism," said Romack. "Some of the good basketball we played in Indiana just helped me play right away."

In his sophomore year, Romack split time between

starter and reserve, with 19 starts in 34 games. His numbers remained solid at 9.1 points and 5.0 rebounds per game. He was named Honorable Mention All-RMAC.

Romack got even better during his junior year. So far, he's averaging 14.7 points and 8.8 rebounds

per game and cleared the 1,000-point milestone during the season. Romack won the RMAC Defensive Player of the Week award twice on Jan. 5 and Feb. 10 and was named to the First Team All-RMAC.

See Romack . . . Page 11

Girls Basketball

HSE's Holman among IBCA Supreme Senior 15

The REPORTER

Hamilton Southeastern's Kennedy Holman was among the girls basketball players named to the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association's Supreme 15 Senior All-State team.

The IBCA also named Large School All-State teams (15 seniors, 15 underclass) and Small School All-State teams (15 seniors, 15 underclass).

The "Supreme 15" is the top honor awarded, and players were voted to that group without regard to school size. The Large School and Small School all-state teams are secondary accolades -- the Large School group including players from Class 3A and Class 4A schools and the Small School group including players from Class A and Class 2A schools. Players who make the Supreme 15 are not considered for Large School or Small School honors.

In addition, 95 more seniors and 95 more underclass players were selected honorable mention all-state. The honorable mention laurels are awarded without regard to school size. In total, 280 players -- 140 seniors and 140 underclass players -- were recognized on the 2026 IBCA girls' basketball All-State teams. In total, 646 players were nominated (233 seniors, 413 underclass) from 286 schools.

Holman, a University of Florida recruit, led the Royals in every category during her senior season. She averaged 17.6 points, 7.6 rebounds, 3.1 assists, 2.5 steals and 1.4 blocks. Holman played on a Southeastern squad that went 89-13 over her four years, won two sectionals, one regional and reached the final four in 2025.

Noblesville's C.C. Quigley was named to the Senior Large School All-State, while Southeastern's Kayla

Stidham was named to the Senior Honorable Mention All-State.

Quigley has committed to play at Lipscomb University. She led the Millers with 16.8 points and 8.5 rebounds per game, along with 1.2 blocked shots per contest. Quigley played varsity all four years, helping Noblesville to sectional and regional championships and a final four appearance in 2024.

Stidham is a Bowling Green State University recruit. She averaged 14.6 points and 6.1 rebounds per game and was a consistent outside shooter, making 45 3-pointers. Stidham, like Holman was a four-year varsity player.

Underclass honors

Two Hamilton County freshman players earned a place on the Underclass Large School All-State team: Westfield's Lillian Clark and Hamilton Heights' Riley Suarez.

Both players finished



Joshua Herd / File photo

Hamilton Southeastern's Kennedy Holman was named to the IBCA's Supreme 15 Senior All-State team. Holman, a Florida recruit, averaged 17.6 points and 7.6 rebounds for the Royals and helped the team to two sectional titles, one regional championship and a final four appearance in 2025.

their first high-school season as their respective team's leading scorers.

Clark averaged 14.4 points and collected 2.8 rebounds per contest. Suarez poured

in 21.6 points per game and led the rebounds at 5.4 per contest.

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WISH-TV Athlete of the week: Carmel's Evan Harrell

By **JOSH BODE**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Carmel boys basketball tips off its postseason on Friday, looking to win its first state championship in five seasons.

Carmel had itself a good regular season, going 16-5 and is ranked No. 10.

A key reason for Carmel's success this season is senior forward Evan Harrell. Harrell led Carmel in scoring with over 16 points per game and in rebounding with nearly eight boards per game.

Harrell is excited to get on the floor and try to bring another state championship back to Carmel.

"It would mean a lot to this school, get Carmel back on the map is really what we're looking forward to

and I think it would mean a lot to me. Last couple seasons haven't been the best so I think leading this team into a deep tournament run will be really cool."

"Evan has a lot of experience. He's played with us a little bit since his freshman year all the way up to his senior year. To watch him mature, he's versatile in his skill. Letting the game come to him a little bit more, not forcing the issue, playing with better pace, making better decisions."

"Before the season started, and probably last year as well, I wasn't really a leader at all. I wasn't vocal around guys as much."

Harrell is committed to play at Bellarmine next season.

Harrell and the Grey-



Photo provided by WISH-TV
Carmel boys basketball's Evan Harrell is The Zone Extra Athlete of the Week of March 5.

hounds are scheduled to tip off against Noblesville in the sectional semifinals on Friday at 6 p.m.

This story original-

ly appeared on WISH-TV at wishtv.com/sports/the-zone-indiana-high-school/athlete-of-the-week-carmels-evan-harrell.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, March 6

BOYS BASKETBALL

Sectional 8 at Noblesville

Carmel vs. Noblesville, 6 p.m.

Fishers vs. Hamilton Southeastern, 7:45 p.m.

Sectional 24 at New Castle

Connersville vs. Yorktown, 6 p.m.

Delta vs. Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.

Sectional 25 at Frankfort

Lebanon vs. Brebeuf Jesuit, 6 p.m.

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

Sectional 38 at Elwood

Sheridan vs. Taylor, 6 p.m.

Elwood vs. Lapel, 7:30 p.m.

Sectional 42 at Cardinal Ritter

Covenant Christian vs. University, 6 p.m.

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

GYMNASTICS REGIONAL

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

Saturday, March 7

BOYS BASKETBALL

Sectional 8 at Noblesville

Championship, 7 p.m.

Sectional 24 at New Castle

Championship, 7 p.m.

Sectional 25 at Frankfort

Championship, 7 p.m.

Sectional 38 at Elwood

Championship, 7 p.m.

Sectional 42 at Cardinal Ritter

Championship, 7 p.m.

GYMNASTICS REGIONAL

Westfield at Portage, noon

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

Men's Basketball

Shorthanded Boom drops home matchup to Skyhawks

Keion Brooks Jr. shines in 40-point debut

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom (14-14) fell to the College Park Skyhawks (8-20), 140-121, on Thursday night at The Arena at Innovation Mile.

In his Boom debut, Keion Brooks Jr. recorded a career-high 40 points on 14-of-22 shooting from the field, including 6-of-11 from beyond the arc, along with eight rebounds to lead the way for the Boom. Dakota Mathias made his season debut after returning to the team earlier today, finishing with 27 points, six assists, and four rebounds. M.J. Iraldi added 16 points and five assists.

Isaih Moore lifted the

Skyhawks with a team high 26 points on 12-of-13 shooting from the field, along with eight rebounds. RayJ Dennis (17 points, 11 assists) and Asa Newell (17 points, 13 rebounds) both notched double doubles, while Keshon Gilbert posted 20 points, nine assists, five rebounds, and three steals.

In a back-and-forth opening period that saw eight lead changes, the Skyhawks managed to edge out a four-point advantage (38-34) after shooting 65.4 percent from the field. Mathias made an immediate impact in his return after a perfect start to the game, scoring 10 of his 27 points on 4-of-

4 shooting, including two made threes to keep things close heading into the second. After falling behind by seven early in the second period, the Boom responded with an 18-6 run to pull in front by six, their largest lead of the game, with 5:17 remaining in the half. College Park closed the second period with a run of its own to reclaim a six-point advantage (68-62) at the halfway point, despite a 13-point frame from Brooks Jr.

Things remained close coming out of the break until the Skyhawks closed the third quarter with a 25-8 burst to seize control and take a 17-point lead (112-

95) into the fourth. Brooks Jr. continued his strong play in the final frame with 15 more points. Despite his effort, the Skyhawks stretched their lead to as many as 21 points to cruise to their eighth win of the regular season.

Next up

The Boom hit the road for a two-game set against the Motor City Cruise, beginning on Tuesday at Wayne State Fieldhouse in Detroit, Mich. Coverage will stream live on ESPN+, tipping off at 11 a.m. Tickets and team updates are available at Noblesville-Boom.com, and fans can stream every game live at NBAGLeague.com.

Men's Basketball

Boom reacquires Dakota Mathias

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom, the NBA G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers, has reacquired guard Dakota Mathias, Boom General Manager Chris Taylor announced today.

Mathias, a four-year NBA G League veteran, returns to the Boom after beginning the 2025-26 season playing internationally with the Brisbane Bullets of the National Basketball League. In eight games with the Bullets, he averaged 11.8 points and 3.4 rebounds per game.

He spent the 2024-25 season with the Boom, appearing in 31 games (25 starts) and averaging 17.3 points, 4.9 rebounds, and 3.4 assists per game while shooting 43.6 percent from

the field.

Across his G League career, Mathias has appeared in 108 games (98 starts) with the Texas Legends, Memphis Hustle, and the Boom, holding career averages of 17.0 points, 4.7 rebounds, and 3.0 assists per game while shooting 43.6 percent from the field, 39.0 percent from three, and 87.6 percent from the free throw line.

Mathias also spent time in the NBA with the Philadelphia 76ers (2020-21) and Memphis Grizzlies (2021-22), where he averaged 3.9 points and 1.0 assists in 10.0 minutes per game across 14 career appearances.

In corresponding roster move, the team waived Jamal Bieniemy and Garrett Denbow.

ROMACK

"His skill set's getting better and better too," said Orser. "He's got a turnaround jump shot in the post, not just a hook. Not only does he compete well, he continues to improve. He's very committed to his strength and conditioning and keeping in great shape. And on top of that, he's a great student."

One of Romack's best memories was last season, when the Orediggers played St. Mary's (Texas) in the Round of 32 of the NCAA Division II tournament. With Mines down by one point, Romack took a pass and scored the go-ahead layin to give the Orediggers the win.

"That was pretty awesome," said Romack.

Off the court, Romack is succeeding academically with his major of mechanical engineering. "The material can be pretty hard to wrap your mind around sometimes, but it's definitely doable," he said.

Romack already has an internship lined up next summer in Houston with an oil and gas company.

"All of our guys, when they graduate, they get great jobs," said Romack. "I'm pretty confident that I'll be able to find something."

Romack said the academics program at Mines "sets you up really well



Photo courtesy Mines Athletics

for life after basketball. At some point the basketball's going to stop, and

this place sets you up well after that."


from Page 10




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