

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly to mostly cloudy.

Tonight: Showers and storms.
Some could be severe.

HIGH: 74 LOW: 63



Heights names February Coffee Bean Award recipients

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corp.

Hamilton Heights High School recognizes the following students who were named Coffee Bean Award recipients for the month of February. They include Jackson Cantlon, James Lawton, Juan Ortiz, Averie Scott, Alivia Simpson, and Luke Sullivan.

The name and award, inspired by *The Coffee Bean*, a book written by Jon Gordon and Damon West, delivers a simple, yet powerful message on positive change. All students nominated receive a certi-

cate of recognition. At the end of the month, the names of the students who were nominated during the month are included in a drawing where the first five to seven names drawn are called down to the office to enjoy a hot chocolate or coffee and a donut.

The monthly award objective is to encourage more acts of kindness, positivity, school spirit, and help foster a closer sense of community at the high school. Students and staff can nominate students. You can send a nomination by visiting the Student Services page at hs.hhschuskies.org.



Photo provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation
(From left) Averie Scott, Alivia Simpson, Jackson Cantlon, James Lawton, and Luke Sullivan. Not pictured: Juan Ortiz.

A mild case of the dot-dot-dots

Winter can be rough. I know we don't get 158 feet of snow here in Fishers like they do north of us, but still, it can be rough. After the craziness of Christmas in December, January is brutal. Sure, it's a bit slower-paced than December, but after 31 days and four total hours of daylight, I'm usually getting a little stir-crazy for spring.

My wife, Megan, and I and our two kids have one saving grace for light at the end of the winter tunnel. And that is, we have several events in the month of February for us to look forward to. We have several family members' birthdays, Valentine's Day, and best of all, Megan's birthday. By the time all of that is over, it's almost spring!

This past January was the same gray, dreary month as it always is, but we knew February was coming fast. And then there it finally was. The cruel turd of a month that never ends is finally over, and now it's ...

I'm sure you're wondering why I ended that last paragraph with a dot-dot-dot instead of the word "February." Well, that's because the millisecond February rolled in, my four-year-old mobile germ unit, Pat, started throwing up all over our house. After a couple days of keeping him home from school, my 6-year-old daughter, Mary, also became a human faucet. This was not how we wanted the month of hope to arrive.

The good news is we were able to get them over the norovirus in a few days' time. Thank goodness! Now, on with the month.

We were thankfully able to have a nice, peaceful Valentine's Day dinner at home, filled with ribeye steak and lobster. Now we're talking! Now let's just get through the next 10 days to Megan's birthday without the kids getting ...

See Case ... Page 2

The REPORTER

As winter wanes and signs of spring start to bloom, Nickel Plate Express (NPX) is kicking off its 2026 season with a full schedule of train rides. The lineup includes returning favorites along with several new themed experiences designed for families, trivia lovers, and those simply looking for a unique night out.

The Easter Express returns March 28 and 29 and April 3. This 75-minute train ride features a lighthearted story with the Easter Bunny and a stow-away farmer searching for his missing eggs. Guests can enjoy bunny punch and bunny grahams while taking in the spring scenery along the historic route.

Reading lovers can also look forward to the return of Read and Ride experiences throughout March and April. These relaxed evening rides invite guests to bring a favorite book, settle into comfortable coach seating, and unwind aboard the vintage train. Most rides will take place on Friday evenings, with a few select Saturdays available as well.

"Read and Ride has been one of my favorite experiences we offer," Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad Executive Director Emily Reynolds said. "As an avid reader who believes in the

importance of youth literacy, I have loved seeing hundreds of readers onboard this year. It is also a simple way to support mental well-being, because it gives people a chance to relax, unwind, and take a real break from technology while enjoying the feel of traveling on a classic 1950s train."

For those who prefer a little friendly competition, trivia nights are back. Fan favorites such as Gilmore Girls Trivia return this spring, joined by new themes including Schitt's Creek Trivia. These interactive evenings combine pop culture, teamwork, and the nostalgic setting of classic dining cars for a lively and memorable experience.

A highlight of the season takes place on April 26 when NPX celebrates its iconic 1953 Nickel Plate Road No. 426 locomotive. To mark the occasion, \$5 caboose rides will run throughout the day from the Forest Park depot in Noblesville into downtown Noblesville and back. The special pricing offers the community an accessible way to experience a short excursion behind this historic engine.

The spring season concludes with two rides inspired by food, culture, and community. Fiesta on the Rails offers a family-friendly celebration featuring Loteria, churros, horchata, and



Photo by Drake Lockwood

The Easter Bunny needs your help to find the farmer's eggs, so get your tickets now for the popular Easter Express.

a hands-on craft. Agave Express provides an adults-only evening with light snacks and a guided tequila tasting.

"Our team had a lot of fun designing these new experiences," NPX Events Director Camden Oslund said. "Fiesta on the Rails is all about bringing

families together for something playful, interactive, and full of flavor, while Agave Express is a great option for adults who want a relaxed evening with something a little different than the usual night out."

Tickets are on sale now at NickelPlateExpress.org.

Get your Peonies in the Park tickets now

By KELLY McVEY

President, Indiana Peony Festival, Inc.

The Indiana Peony Festival is delighted to announce Church Church Hittle + Antrim as the presenting sponsor for our 2026 Peonies in the Park fundraising event.

CCHA Law, a comprehensive law firm with offices in Noblesville, Westfield, Fishers, Carmel, Zionsville, and more locations, is committed to families and has a strong history of community involvement in the areas where their attorneys reside, work, and serve.

Together with CCHA Law, we will host our festival weekend kick-off event, Peonies in the Park, under the stars at Seminary Park, amidst stunning floral displays. This year's event will feature floral backdrops, award-winning chef creations, a classic cakewalk, fine spirits, and a chance for the community to celebrate Indiana's state flower, the peony.

We have partnered with



Photo provided

The team at Church Church Hittle + Antrim is pleased to be this year's presenting sponsor of the Indiana Peony Festival.

James Beard nominee, Chef Samir Mohammad & wife Rachel Firestone Mohammad, from 9th Street Bistro, to present an evening of exquisite cuisine and handcrafted refreshments. Enjoy tastings from

some of Indy's top chefs while sipping beverages from a local brewery, distillery, or winery.

Join us the evening before the Festival on May 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. for our fifth annual VIPP celebration. Tickets for

this year's event are now available! More details will follow, but be sure to secure your ticket now before they sell out via the link below.

[Click here](#) to secure your tickets.

Get your tickets for White River Chamber Orchestra's Spring Concert in Fishers

Submitted by Nancy Matt

The White River Chamber Orchestra will present its Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at Legacy Bible Church, 13490 Howe Road, Fishers.

The theme of the concert is "An Evening with Bach and Handel."

Featured music will include Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3*, selected movements from Handel's *Water Music*, arias from Handel's *Messiah* (with special soloists Mindy Root and Shockley Flick), plus other orchestral music by these two great masters of the Baroque era.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and free for those under 18 years and can be purchased at FishersMusicWorks.org.

About the composers

1685 was a great year for music in Germany, as both masters were born there in the same year. However, their lives went in very different directions.

Bach spent his entire life in Germany, composing mostly for the church, and in his lifetime, he was more known for his virtuoso mastery of the organ than for his compositions. He even said at one point that playing the organ was easy: "You have only to press down the right key at the right time, and the instrument plays itself!" It wasn't until well after his death that others, especially Felix Mendelssohn, recognized the genius in his music.

Handel spent a great deal of time in Italy composing opera, and then later lived in England where he composed many oratorios, the most famous of which is *Messiah*.

Despite being born in the same country in the same year, there is no evidence that the two men ever met.



ANGELA

SWENSON

FOR

JUDGE



4

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Thanks for reading
The Reporter!

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.

Secretary of State Morales barred from Marion County election services center

By MICHAELA SPRINGER
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales has been barred from the nonpublic areas of the Marion County election services center.

The Marion County Election Board confirmed this to News 8's Garrett Bergquist on Friday, March 6.

The board's vote came

after Morales' re-election campaign used a video of him speaking with a Marion County election worker on Nov. 5, 2024, as part of a campaign ad released the following May. In a lengthy statement in response to the board, Morales' campaign said the video was shot during a visit he made in his official capacity as the state's chief election officer.

Marion County Clerk Kate Sweeney Bell, a Democrat, told News 8 on Friday afternoon the election workers never consented to being filmed. Moreover, she said reusing video shot in an official capacity for political purposes violates election regulations. Bell said the whole situation could have been avoided if Morales had



Morales

where that is allowed. You can't use the government's equipment for your own political purposes."

Bell said the board voted to refer the matter to the state Office of the Inspector General and the State Ethics Commission. She said the board does not have the authority to levy any further punishments. The board consists of one Republican and one Democrat, plus Democrat Bell. She said all of the board's votes on Friday concerning Morales were unanimous.

Morales called the move "meritless" and accused the election board of acting outside its jurisdiction.

Statement from the Diego for Indiana campaign

"Secretary Morales will not be intimidated by a local board's attempt to exceed its statutory authority and conduct a taxpayer-funded political fishing expedition. The law is clear, the facts are undisputed, and neither supports the Board's position."

"For these reasons, Secretary Morales respectfully requests that the Marion County Election Board terminate this matter immediately and refrain from further proceedings outside its lawful jurisdiction."

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/sec-of-state-morales-barred-from-marion-county-election-services-center.

Westfield Chamber opens scholarship application for high school seniors

The REPORTER

Do you know a Westfield High School senior looking for scholarship opportunities to continue his or her educational journey? The **Westfield Chamber Academic Scholarship application** is open now.

During the Westfield Chamber's 45-year history, the Chamber has awarded tens of thousands of dollars to deserving individuals in the community, and the tradition continues this year. The 2026 scholarships have been made possible because of the generous support from Westfield in-

dividuals and businesses, including sponsors from the annual Lantern Awards ceremony.

About the Scholarship

The Westfield Chamber offers three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. The scholarships are awarded to Westfield High School graduating seniors who plan to further their education. The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. Friday, April 17.

Each candidate must write and submit a 500-word minimum, 1,000-word maximum essay. The scholarship writing prompt is listed in the scholarship

application form. All essays must be submitted via on-line application form to be considered for these awards. The student's information must accompany essays.

A sub-committee of the Westfield Chamber Board of Directors will review all submitted applications after the April 17 deadline. The judges will not see the applicant's name or personal information. They will only be provided with the essay responses.

Please reach out to info@westfieldchamber-indy.com with any questions.

CASE

from Page 1

... sick again. Sh#%!! It's only the 15th and now Pat has a fever. After a couple days at home with him, he couldn't shake the fever, so we took him to the doctor, and he was diagnosed with a double ear infection. Well at least we knew the problem and had a path forward. So, we got him started on his antibiotic, but a couple days later the he still had a fever. So, I took him back to the doctor and he was diagnosed with influenza A, plus the antibiotic didn't seem to be working very well on the ear infection. So, with new medication and a couple days later, he is much better! Thank goodness! Now, on with ...

... AARRGGHH! Now our six-year-old daughter, Mary, has a high fever. This

is getting ridiculous.

Two days passed and Mary still had a fever. Off to the doctor we go again. She was then diagnosed with an ear infection plus she caught that flu. It was a sequel to Pat's story. Well, at least we once again had a light at the end of the tunnel. Now on with ...

... really??? Just as Mary was starting to feel a little better, Megan and I started feeling flu symptoms. It was at least a couple days until we were feeling better. Megan's actual birthday came and went, but we were mostly better by the weekend after. So, now, finally on to her birthday celebra ...

... tion. Stupid dot-dot-dots!! Just as we were about to have a nice dinner, Megan

had stabbing ear pains. Yep, you guessed it. Ear infection.

It was quite the February. We did eventually get to celebrate Megan, several days into March. Aside from the residual coughs and the mountain of work that was piled up on our desks (thank God we work at wonderful and understanding jobs), the Rathz family is back in action!

The moral of the story is ... (this is my normal closing dot-dot-dot, not another ear infection) Thank the good Lord February is the shortest month. I think next year we'll go directly from Christmas to St. Paddy's Day.

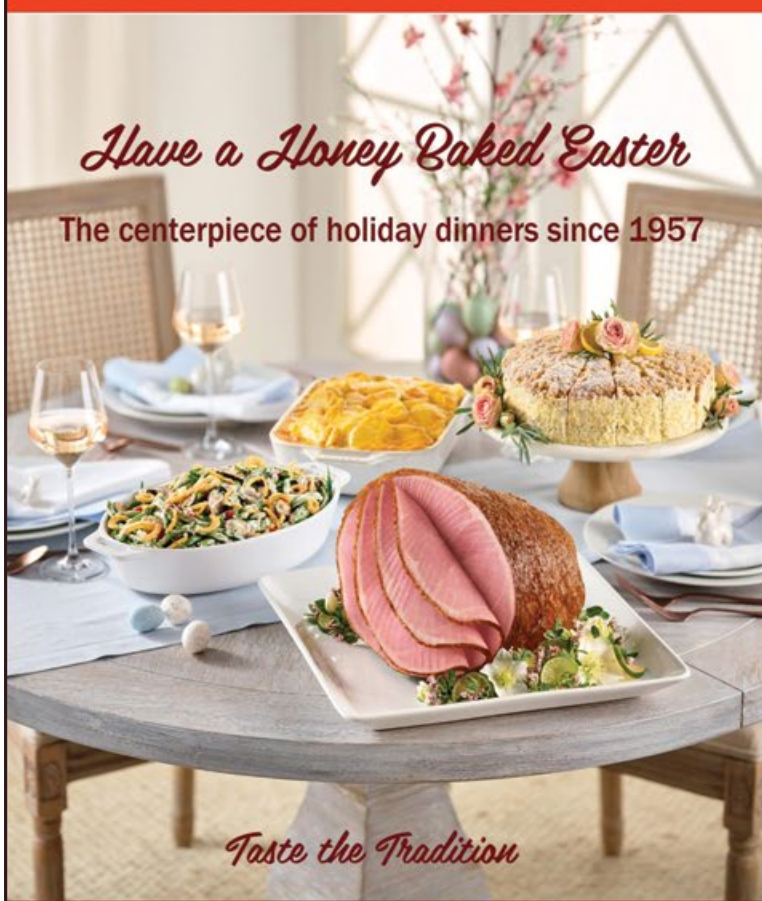
Tim Rathz can be reached at 40somethinginfishers@gmail.com. Follow on Facebook or Instagram.

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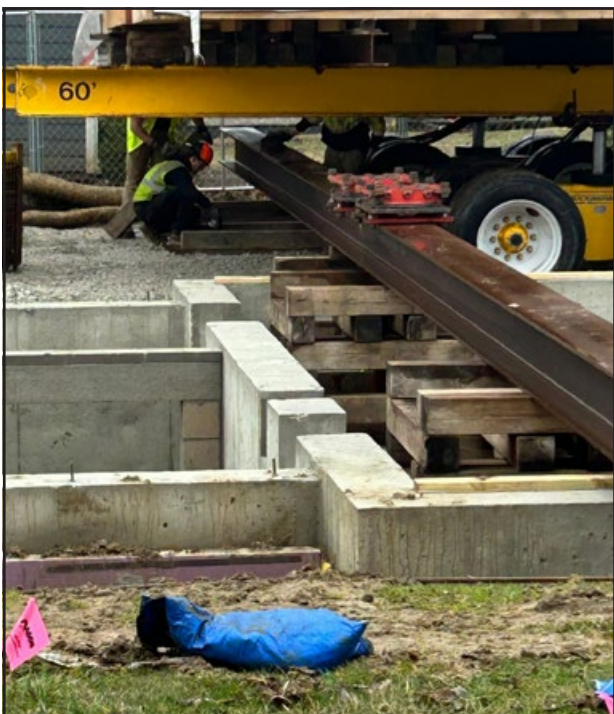
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That’s not something you see every day

It all started in July 2024 when “The Green Building” moved next door to its original location and sat on blocks ... until Friday, March 6, 2026. In September 2025, the Westfield Board of Public Works approved a contract with Brandt Construction to relocate and restore the “Green Building,” the city’s oldest commercial building. The historic landmark, which has housed many businesses over the centuries, was constructed in 1837. (Photos by Mandy Grover, unless otherwise credited)



US 31 in Carmel voted Indiana’s ‘angriest’ morning commute

Submitted by Munley Law

There’s tired, there’s stressed, and then there’s weekday-morning-traffic stressed – a uniquely American condition that can turn even the calmest commuter into someone muttering at brake lights.

For millions of workers, the drive to the office isn’t a simple A-to-B trip; it’s a slow-moving pressure cooker of tailgaters, sudden stops, bottlenecks, and the nagging fear that you’re about to miss a meeting because someone three cars ahead couldn’t merge.

Road rage, of course, rarely explodes out of nowhere. It accumulates ... one abrupt lane-cut, one cryptic detour sign, one inexplicable slowdown at a merge until the entire stretch of road becomes emotionally charged.

To map out these everyday flashpoints, **Munley Law**, a personal injury law firm, surveyed 3,015 U.S. workers who drive to work, asking them which roads they associate most with stress, frustration, and aggressive driving.

Here are the three angriest commutes among Hoosier drivers:

No. 1: U.S. 31, Carmel to Indianapolis

Modernization brought numerous roundabouts to the U.S. 31 corridor, improving safety but creating new patterns that take time for drivers to adjust to. During peak periods, the high volume of vehicles entering from cross streets can create significant

delays. The stretch through Carmel, in particular, sees steady congestion tied to regional growth.

No. 2: I-65/I-70 Downtown Split, Indianapolis

The downtown split sees multiple major traffic flows converging into a tight corridor. Lane changes, close-spaced exits, and steady commuter demand contribute to regular congestion. Any breakdown or collision can quickly cause backups extending across the city’s interstate loop.

No. 3: I-465 at I-70 East, Indianapolis

This east-side interchange blends airport-bound traffic, commuters, and long-haul trucking in a configuration that often results in slowdowns. The cloverleaf design requires significant weaving between lanes, and growing logistics activity in the region has increased truck volumes substantially. Even off-peak, the interchange can feel crowded.

“A lot of these rush hour frustrations will sound painfully familiar to anyone who drives regularly,” Jack Cartwright of Munley Law said. “We hear these stories all the time from people involved in collisions - not because they were doing anything reckless, but because the road itself had become a pressure point. When traffic is unpredictable, and everyone’s on edge, small mistakes can snowball quickly. Understanding where those tensions build helps explain the kinds of cases we see every week.”

Westfield Community Development launches new permitting portal

Submitted by City of Westfield

The City of Westfield has officially launched the Citizens Portal, its new services platform that will streamline permitting, inspections, petitions, licensing, and code enforcement for residents and businesses. The platform went live on March 2 and is now open to the public.

“Navigating permitting processes can be challenging, especially if you don’t do it often,” Mayor Scott

Willis said. “The Community Development Department’s goal of modernizing our system is to make the process faster, more efficient, transparent, and user-friendly.”

The transition to the Citizens Portal marks a significant shift from previous processes. Previously, documents were submitted via email or in-person using a paper application. Moving forward, the portal will serve as the required method for submissions.



Willis

The Citizens Portal will be used for all permit applications, inspection requests, petition submittals, licensing processes, and code enforcement submissions and case-related items. By consolidating these services into a single digital system,

the city aims to improve efficiency, enhance the user experience, and modernize service delivery. Residents will benefit from a more intuitive online experience, improved application and case tracking, faster communication, and updates, and 24/7 access to submit requests and manage their development-related needs.

To learn more about the portal or to view instructions on how to submit, visit westfieldin.gov/communitydevelopment.

Happy Hour at Firebirds Wood Fired Grill

Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, located at 9611 N. Meridian St. (on the northeast corner of 96th and Meridian in Indianapolis), holds Happy Hour (HH) every Monday to Friday from 3 to 6 p.m.

The restaurant is a beautifully styled space, with a large fireplace in the lounge area and lots of high-seated tables arranged near a three-sided bar.

Our friendly bartender/server Madison came by soon after we found our seats and took our drink order. HH drink prices range from \$7.95 Classic Cocktails to \$5 Well Drinks. I took to the HH wine list and ordered a Canyon Road Chardonnay (\$6 for a five-ounce pour) while Mrs. K ordered off the menu and asked for the Rodney Strong Chardonnay – one of her favorite labels which was \$8 for five ounces. (The filled glasses came and looked more like six ounces to my eye.)

Seven items are offered



KEN KLINGENMEIER
A Seat at the Table

on the HH Shared Plates menu, which you can view at firebirds-restaurants.com/carmel/menu/firebar. My wife had been to Firebirds before with her ladies' HH group and had ordered the Fired

Up Shrimp (\$9.75), which we thought might be a little “too Sriracha” for me. We were tempted by both Sliders on the list, Prime Rib (2 for \$11.75) and Beef (2 for \$6.95) but opted for the Prime since they sounded so good. We added the Chicken Chile Nachos (\$5.25) on top of the sliders.

The bar at Firebirds is really a popular stop. We got there a bit after 4 and it already had a good number of patrons, which only grew as we sat through our meal. The bar was almost full by the time we left; this kind of following tells me that good food and good drinks regularly happen here.

Our plates came and we each started in on one of the Prime Sliders. It



Photo provided

Firebirds’ Chicken Chile Nachos.

was tender and juicy with a good amount of shaved prime rib and onions, plus a dollop of horseradish sauce was served beside each sandwich. Quite a good selection on our part, I think. Very tasty!

The Chicken Chile Nachos came piled high with lots of cubed grilled chicken, corn salsa, goat cheese, and a generous serving of crisp corn tortilla chips doused with a creamy cheese sauce. It was very delicious and very filling. A bargain for the price.

We decided to end our meal with a dessert: the Chocolate Brownie Sundae,

a two-person, absolutely delicious brownie topped with vanilla bean ice cream with a small pitcher of caramel sauce on the side. OMG!

Our tab came to just under \$50 plus tip. Firebirds is a very welcoming place and I would hope we come back some time to try the Beef Sliders and the Steak Tacos (3 for \$9.95).

Ken Klingenmeier 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.

ReadTheReporter.com





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Police apprehend six juveniles for reckless e-bike riding in McCordsville

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Six juveniles from ages 13 to 17 were taken into custody Thursday afternoon, March 5 after allegedly riding electric bikes recklessly through rush-hour traffic in the Hancock County town, the McCordsville Police Department said in a social media post.

Hancock County 911 Center in Greenfield received calls around 4:45 p.m. Thursday regarding a

group of riders in the area of County Road 600 West and County Road 900 North. Callers said the juveniles were performing wheelies, passing vehicles on the shoulder, and disregarding traffic signals while traveling at high speeds. No injuries were reported.

A McCordsville patrol officer in a marked vehicle located the group as it turned westbound onto Broadway from County Road 600 West. The officer saw the juveniles riding

across multiple lanes of traffic, with at least one rider performing a wheelie while passing the police vehicle. The group was traveling about 40 mph.

The group continued to ride after the officer activating emergency lights and a siren to make a traffic stop. The bicyclist traveled for about three-quarters of a mile, passing motorists and going into oncoming traffic before turning into a Meijer department store parking lot. The juveniles continued

riding both on and off the roadway through the parking lot toward Carroll Road. Due to the risk to public safety, the pursuing officer terminated the pursuit.

Police later caught up with the six riders and took them into custody without incident.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/crime-watch-8/police-apprehend-6-juveniles-for-reckless-e-bike-riding-in-mccordsville.

Student musicians from across America to perform at Music for All National Festival

The REPORTER

The 33rd Music for All National Festival presented by Yamaha will take place March 26 to 28 in Indianapolis and Carmel.

One of the largest gatherings of student musicians in America, the festival will fill the city with concerts from 54 ensembles representing 14 states. Both high school and middle school concert bands, orchestras, and percussion ensembles, selected following a rigorous and highly selective audition process, will grace stages across Indianapolis.

Concerts will take place in four locations throughout Indianapolis and Carmel:

- Howard L. Schrott Center for the Arts, Butler University
- Clowes Memorial Hall, Butler University
- Warren Performing Arts Center
- The Payne & Mencias Palladium at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts, Carmel

In addition to the 52 scholastic ensembles, two national honor ensembles will come together at this festival. The Honor Band of America will perform at

Clowes Memorial Hall and Jazz Band of America at Schrott Center for the Arts, both on Saturday, March 28 at 8 p.m., with students from across the country selected by audition. Summer Camargo, member of the Saturday Night Live house band and Jazz Band of America alumna, will perform with the Jazz Band of America.

“What makes this festival especially meaningful is its spirit of shared learning,” Music for All CEO and President Dr. James Weaver said. “Rather than competition, this event emphasizes collaboration, growth, and inspiration. Students perform not only for audiences but for one another, gaining new perspectives, forging friendships across the country, and experiencing the transformative impact of music at the highest level. In doing so, they demonstrate what is possible when communities invest in the arts and when schools prioritize opportunities that nurture both excellence and community.”

Tickets & how to attend

All scholastic ensemble performances are free and

open to the public. All concerts will be live streamed free; go to festival.musicforall.org during the event to access the live stream.

For a full schedule of Music for All National Festival performing ensembles, locations, and times, please visit festival.musicforall.org.

The experience

During the festival weekend, students receive evaluation and feedback after their performance from world-class educators and clinicians. They also participate in music education and life-skills workshops. Students and directors get the opportunity to celebrate with their fellow performers during evening receptions, socials, and banquets.

The impact

The Music for All National Festival has a notable economic impact on Indianapolis, with more than 3,000 people attending the multiple day event that takes place in several downtown hotels and concert halls across the greater Indianapolis area. Music for All is a nonprofit whose programs include the Bands of America Grand National

Championships, also held in Indianapolis each November at Lucas Oil Stadium.

You can keep up with the latest information for Music for All online at musicforall.org.

Sponsors

Music for All efforts are supported through sponsorships, including current partnerships with National Presenting Sponsor: Yamaha Corporation of America; Official Instrument Rental Partner: Sweetwater; Official Uniform Sponsor: Fred J. Miller, Inc.; Official Student Travel Partner: Music Travel Consultants; Official Spirit Wear Sponsor: Pep-Wear; Corporate Sponsors: Ball State University and Visit Indy; and Associate Sponsor: StylePlus. Music for All is also supported by the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the City of Indianapolis; Ball Brothers Foundation; Lilly Endowment Inc.; George and Frances Ball Foundation; Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc.; Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr., Memorial Foundation, Inc., the Arthur Jordan Foundation, The Indiana Arts Commission, and The NAMM Foundation.

Six illegal aliens sentenced to federal prison

Submitted by U.S. Attorney's Office

Six illegal immigrants, all convicted felons with numerous and wide-ranging convictions, have been sentenced to federal prison after pleading guilty to illegal reentry in the Southern District of Indiana.

The prosecutions, which involved defendants arrested in Bartholomew, Hamilton, Henry, and Marion counties, stemmed from separate investigations. Each case was handled independently.

• Francisco Cervantes-Venegas, 36, of Mexico, was sentenced to four years, nine months' imprisonment with two years of supervised release. He was previously removed from the United States in January 2015 and April 2017.

• German Lazo Mendez, 36, of Honduras, was sentenced to four years, three months' imprisonment with two years of supervised release. He was previously removed from the country in September 2015 and May 2019.

• Giovanni Ramirez-Soto, 33, of Mexico, was sentenced to two years, six months' imprisonment with two years of supervised release. He was previously removed from the country in April 2013 and September 2020.

• Bonifacio Ortiz-Pena, 40, of Mexico, was sentenced to one year, six months' imprisonment and two years of supervised release. He was previously removed from the country in June 2005, February 2020, and March 2020.

• Nelgio Tovas DeLeon-Perez, 46, of Mexico. He was sentenced to one year, two months' imprisonment with three years of supervised release. He was previously removed from the country in April 2008 and April 2014.

• Mauricio Toto-Xolo, 32, of Mexico. He was sentenced to time served (11 months). He was previously removed from the country at November 2011 and March 2016.

At the time the defendants entered their guilty pleas, they acknowledged that upon completion of their sentence, they will be subject to removal from the United States. Conditions of supervision require the defendants to surrender to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement upon release from federal custody.

“Violent criminal aliens who repeatedly violate our immigration laws and endanger our communities must face real consequences,” said Tom Wheeler, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. “Through Operation Take Back America, we are unleashing the full force of the Department of Justice to repel the invasion of illegal aliens and ensure that those who threaten our security face swift and decisive justice.”

The Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Removal Operations investigated these cases. The sentences were imposed by U.S. District Judges Matthew P. Brookman, Jane Magnus-Stinson, and Chief Judge James R. Sweeney II.

U.S. Attorney Wheeler thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Adam Eakman, Carolyn Haney, MaryAnn Min drum, and Meredith Wood, who prosecuted these cases.

These cases are part of **Operation Take Back America**, a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Department of Justice to repel the invasion of illegal immigration, achieve the total elimination of cartels and transnational criminal organizations

(TCOs), and protect communities from the perpetrators of violent crime. Operation Take Back America streamlines efforts and resources

from the Department's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDEF) and Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

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Indiana Right to Life president responds to judge’s court order

Submitted by Indiana Right to Life
Indiana Right to Life President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Fichter issued this statement Friday, March 6 on Thursday’s late-day decision from the Marion County Superior Court, ruling that abortion is a religious right.

“For the court to rule that taking the life of an unborn child is an exercise of religious freedom is deeply distressing – and a perversion of the law’s intent. “Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act was never intended to equate taking the life of an unborn child with religious expression in our

state. While this current injunction is limited to the plaintiffs in the case only, if it withstands challenge, it will be exploited so anyone claiming a spiritual belief, even if personal and non-theistic, can justify taking a child’s life. “We are encouraged by Attorney General Todd Rokita’s immediate move

to appeal this injunction and pray it will be stayed during the appeal process. “Indiana Right to Life will continue in its work to make Indiana a model state in providing compassionate support for pregnant moms and protections for their unborn babies.” *A copy of the ruling can be found at [this link](#).*

AG Todd Rokita appeals abortion ruling allowing religious exceptions

By TIM SPEARS
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](#)

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has appealed a Marion County court decision granting religious exceptions to the state’s near-total abortion ban.

Last Thursday’s order creates an exception to Indiana’s abortion restrictions if terminating a pregnancy aligns with a woman’s “sincere religious beliefs.” The Republican attorney general’s filing to appeal the order looks to bypass the Indiana Court of Appeals and take the issue to the Indiana Supreme Court.

“Disappointed and sad by it because I thought we were headed in the right direction,” Noblesville mother Kim Wright said outside an Indianapolis Planned Parenthood.

Wright is one of a handful of anti-abortion protesters

with Sidewalk Advocates for Life, who demonstrate outside the building every week because of their religious views that abortion is murder.

“I believe that all human beings are created in the image of God and thus have the right to be born,” Wright said.

The state’s **abortion law that passed in 2022** already provided exceptions in situations of rape, incest, when it’s necessary to avoid a “serious health risk” to the mother, and when there’s a diagnosed “lethal fetal anomaly” that would lead to the child’s death within three months of birth.

“Using religion as a reason [to access abortion] is almost mind-boggling,” Larry Kunkel of Sidewalk Advocates for Life said.

The Marion County judge, Christina Klineman, concluded in her ruling that if Indiana provides any ex-

ceptions to its abortion law, it can’t avoid providing religious exceptions:

“The state’s articulated interest is in ‘protecting prenatal life.’ The fact that the abortion law expressly allows for abortion in other circumstances ... demonstrates the lack of a compelling interest in ‘protecting life’ under all circumstances.”

The ACLU of Indiana filed the class-action lawsuit leading to the new religious exception, which also covers women who do not follow an organized religion.

Legal Director Ken Falk of the ACLU told News 8 that abortion providers will need to figure out a way to certify religious exceptions. It could be similar to the way some jurisdictions evaluate religious exceptions for certain vaccines.

“This is hardly something unusual,” Falk said. Stevie Pactor, the se-

nior staff attorney at the ACLU of Indiana, said in a statement that Thursday’s “ruling is a recognition that religious freedom protects people of many faiths and beliefs, not just those favored by the state.”

Outside the Planned Parenthood, surrounded by her three children, Wright did not understand how any religion would sanction abortions.

“If people are using religion to get an abortion, then they are not following a religion,” Wright said.

Even as faith drives Wright to protest, faith may be the reason others can access the thing she’s protesting.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/i-team-8/indiana-attorney-general-appeals-abortion-ruling-allowing-religious-exceptions](#).

Tallian applauds court order limiting abortion ban

Submitted by Indiana Democratic Party
Indiana Democratic Party Chair Karen Tallian released the following statement on Thursday, March 5 on a state court blocking Indiana’s abortion ban (SEA 1, 2022) for those with a religious exemption to the law.



“No one should support forced pregnancy,” Tallian said. “Countless Hoosier women have had to cross

state lines to receive care or risk their lives and religious beliefs because of Indiana’s extreme abortion ban. This court order is a positive step for women across Indiana – but this ban remains in place outside of religious exemptions. Indiana’s near-total abortion is completely out of step with everyday Hoosiers and I encourage the General Assembly and AG Rokita not to appeal this decision.”

Priests for Life director: religious freedom ruling on abortion will fall

Submitted
Priests for Life National Director Frank Pavone issued the following statement Friday, March 6 in reaction to an Indiana judge’s ruling that religious freedom includes the right to abort a child.

“Religious freedom has limits, as does any fundamental right when the state preserves a compelling interest with the least restrictive means,” Pavone said.

“You can’t fly an airplane into a building

while crying out in prayer to God. And as courts in the United States have already pointed out, the state would not be infringing on the freedom of religion if it prohibited child sacrifice on the altar or restricted the handling of poisonous snakes by Christians who want to take Jesus’ words literally about handling poisonous snakes.

“The state can act to protect the health and lives of citizens. This ruling will not stand.”

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Powell meets with President Trump in the Oval Office

Submitted

Tracey Powell, Tipton County Commissioner and candidate for Indiana State Senate District 21, visited the White House on Wednesday, March 4 and met with President Donald J. Trump in the Oval Office.

The visit comes on the heels of President Trump's endorsement of Powell and signals strong momentum heading into the May 5 Republican primary.

According to Powell, Indiana's 21st Senate District is ready for new conservative leadership, and President Trump's support makes clear that he is the candidate to deliver it.

"Walking into the Oval Office and sitting down with President Trump was one of the greatest honors of my life," Powell said. "President Trump is fighting for the American people every single day, and I am going to bring that same fight to the Indiana State Senate. I am MIGA – Make Indiana Great Again – and I am MAGA – Make America Great Again. District 21 is getting a state senator who will work



hand-in-hand with President Trump to deliver real results for Hoosier families."

Tracey Powell is a businessman, chiropractor, farmer, and Tipton County Commissioner who has spent his career serving his

community. His campaign is focused on cutting taxes, supporting Indiana agriculture, and keeping Indiana a strong conservative state.

For more information, visit PowellForIndiana.com or email tracey@powellforindiana.com.

FINAL DAY for WYAP's Summer Camp supplies drive

The REPORTER

The Westfield Youth Assistance Program (WYAP) **needs your help** sending local youth to camp this summer.

WYAP works to connect as many youth as possible with summer camp opportunities, knowing that summer camp can be an empowering and life-changing experience for youth. Many of the youth connected with camps need help obtaining necessary camp supplies. These supplies range from smaller items like sunscreen and bug spray to larger items like sleeping bags and duffels.

From one WYAP youth: "Camp was so much fun! I didn't want to leave, but I did want to see my mom every day, or I would have lived there! At camp, I learned a lot about horses. I got to feed them, brush them, and wash

them. But the best part was riding them!"

In 2025, WYAP connected youth with 320 unique camp and enrichment opportunities. These connections are all made possible thanks to the generosity of donors, sponsors, and partner agencies.

The deadline for camp supplies is TODAY, Tuesday, March 10 in order to ensure the items arrive with plenty of time before Westfield youth attend camp. To support WYAP by purchasing camp supplies, please **visit the Amazon Wishlist**.

Are you looking for a different way to support youth attending summer camp? You can donate to WYAP's "Mayor Andy & Barb Cook WYAP Camp Fund." To ensure your donation goes to the correct fund, please select this campaign in the dropdown on the **donation page**.

One Impact Foundation surpasses \$10,000 fundraising goal

Submitted

The One Impact Foundation, the 501(c)(3) non-profit arm of OneZone Chamber of Commerce, has officially surpassed its \$10,000 fundraising goal, demonstrating the strong commitment from local businesses, community leaders, and residents to invest in programs that strengthen Hamilton County and the surrounding region.

The fundraising campaign was launched to support initiatives focused on leadership development, workforce, and talent attraction, and expanding access to opportunities for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Thanks to the generosity of donors and community partners, the Foundation reached and exceeded its goal faster than anticipated.

"This incredible response shows just how committed our community is to investing in the future," said Jack Russell, President & CEO of OneZone Chamber and

ONE IMPACT FOUNDATION

Board Member of the One Impact Foundation. "Surpassing our goal so quickly reinforces that when business leaders, nonprofits, and community members come together, we can create meaningful impact that strengthens our region for years to come."

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

The One Impact Foundation exists to turn col-

lective community success into meaningful impact across Hamilton County and beyond. Through scholarships, leadership programs, workforce initiatives, and direct support for nonprofit organizations and small businesses, the Foundation helps ensure opportunity is accessible to those working to strengthen the region.

While the initial fundraising goal has been met, contributions will continue to support expanding programs and increasing the Foundation's impact across the community.

Interested in donating? Visit OneZoneChamber.com, click on the Programs & Initiatives tab, and select the One Impact Foundation.



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Indiana State Police Alliance endorses Dr. Juanita Albright for State Senate District 31

Submitted

The Indiana State Police Alliance has endorsed Dr. Juanita Albright for Indiana State Senate District 31.

The endorsement highlights Albright's commitment to supporting law enforcement and strengthening public safety across Indiana communities.

Albright leads the primary field with major endorsements, including the Indiana State Police Alliance and Americans for Prosperity.

Dr. Juanita Albright is a Fishers Republican who has practiced medicine in Hamilton County for more than 20 years and previously served as President of the Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) School Board. She

is running on a platform focused on promoting public safety, lowering the cost of living, improving access to affordable healthcare, ensuring quality education, and maintaining fiscal responsibility.

"I am honored to receive the endorsement of the Indiana State Police Alliance," Dr. Albright said.

"Public safety is essential to strong communities, and I deeply respect the men and women who serve and protect our state every day. I look forward to working with law enforcement to ensure they have the support and resources they need to keep Hoosier families safe."

Learn more about the candidate at AlbrightForIndiana.com.



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Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab. But they said, “We will not come! Isn’t it enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness? And now you also want to lord it over us! Moreover, you haven’t brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Do you want to treat these men like slaves? No, we will not come!”

Numbers 16:8-14 (NIV)

In honor of Deborah's wishes, no services will be held.
Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 681405, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1405 (cancer.org/about-us/local/indiana.html).
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Each year, the Hamilton County Reporter requests government entities to notify us of public meetings as their Open Door Law notification under I.C. 5-14-1.5-5. The Reporter publishes these notices as a public service in our Tuesday through Friday digital editions. Meeting notices for Open Door Law compliance can be sent to PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com

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REPORTER SPORTS TUESDAY

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

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

Boys Basketball Sectional Championship

Hounds tame Tigers to win title

By **RICHARD TORRES**
For The Reporter

NOBLESVILLE – Every loss this season was a lesson learned for the Carmel Greyhounds.

On Saturday, March 7, during the Class 4A Sectional 8 title game inside Noblesville's Mill, the 10th-ranked Hounds put their wisdom and toughness on display to pull off the biggest upset the program has seen in five years.

Picked to lose against top-ranked and previously unbeaten Fishers (24-1) – a state finalist the past two seasons – Carmel (18-5) believed when many didn't and halted the Tigers' perfect run at 24 games with an intense, down-to-the-wire, 50-49, victory for the sectional championship.

"It took a few plays at the very end, but I think a lot of winning plays were being made in the second and third quarters as well that really affected the game," Carmel senior Evan Harrell said. "Those big plays early on in the game really solidified us moving forward in the game."

In a back-and-forth battle highlighted by six ties and 12 lead changes, every situation dominated upon each other and some boiled over, particularly in the second quarter.

The game's tone was set from the opening tip, as the sold-out gymnasium's crowd played a role and fueled both teams with chants, cheers and boos.

A heated county rivalry already, the stakes were raised for the coveted Sectional 8 title, and with Carmel up 25-20 and 1:16 remaining in the first half, emotional hard play led to a double technical foul and the ejection of Greyhound junior Cash Daniels.

Fishers junior Cooper Zachary and Carmel junior Vince Nover tussled for possession as the Tigers tried to claw back before halftime. However, a scrum for the ball led to a brief scuffle, and Daniels, who was on the bench, rushed onto the court as officials attempted to calm the situation.

Zachary and Nover were

called for offsetting technical fouls, while Daniels, one of Carmel's top scorers, was ejected for leaving the sideline. Daniels' night ended with six points.

Carmel went into the break leading 25-22, but the loss of Daniels didn't deter them.

"In the locker room, we just gathered together and just told each other to power through it, just forget about it and move on," Harrell said. "Toughness was the driving factor in that game."

Efficiency was another. Carmel out rebounded Fishers 25-20, and the Greyhounds' "pack the paint" defense led to 2 of 12 shooting for the Tigers from beyond the arc and 41 percent from the floor overall.

"They killed us on the offensive glass. Any screen we did didn't work because they were very physical and the refs were allowing it to be physical on both ends," Fishers coach Garrett Winegar said. "They did a better job playing physical and being tougher. That's a hard pill to swallow when you just got out-toughed."

Harrell had a team-high 18 points for the Greyhounds and nine rebounds followed by senior Julian Vogt with 9 points and six rebounds. Fishers' junior Jason Gardner had 13 points and six rebounds in just his second game back from an 18-game absence due to injury.

An and-1 dunk by senior Kai McGrew (game-high 22 points) late in the third quarter put Fishers ahead 40-38 entering the fourth quarter, but nothing was settled until the final 55.7 seconds.

But the Hounds believed.

Zachary, who had eight points, buried a 3-pointer to give Fishers a 49-47 lead with 55.7 remaining.

On the next possession, Carmel senior Ben Bremer (eight points) stepped up and dropped a dagger 3-pointer to put the Hounds in front 50-49 with less than 30 seconds left.

"We had a play. It was a flare on the other side. Vince Nover caught it, drove it, kicked one more. He got my



Photos by Joshua Herd

(ABOVE) The Carmel boys basketball team won its first sectional championship since 2021 Saturday, March 7. The Greyhounds held off No. 1-ranked Fishers 50-49 at The Mill in Noblesville. (BELOW LEFT) Ben Bremer scored eight points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer that put Carmel ahead in the final 30 seconds of the game. (BELOW RIGHT) Fishers' Kai McGrew (left) scored 22 points for the Tigers, while Carmel's Evan Harrell scored 18 points.



man, so I just hit the shot, go up one," Bremer said. "This is amazing."

The Hounds' defense shut down four Tigers' inbound attempts (two timeouts, one block) in the final 19.6 seconds. McGrew went for the win on the final shot,

but the ball rimmed out.

"The kids deserve all the credit. Just happy to be along for the ride and being able to have an impact," Carmel Coach Ryan Osborn said. "They're not satisfied. We'll continue that process over perfection."



With everything to gain and nothing to lose, the Greyhounds (18-5) relied on their physicality, defensive muscle and composure to knock off a No. 1 team for the third time during state tournament play since 2012.

Previously, Carmel eliminated No. 1 Hamilton Southeastern during the 2012 sectional final and No. 1 Homestead during the regional semifinal in 2021.

Now, they can add Fishers (24-1) to the list.

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Photo by Joshua Herd
Hamilton Southeastern's Varschon Clark (left) shoots the ball during the Royals' sectional game with Fishers on Friday, March 6. Pictured at right is the Tigers' Cooper Zachary.

Tigers cool off Royals in semis

By **RICHARD TORRES**
For The Reporter

NOBLESVILLE – For 18 minutes, the 12th-ranked Class 4A Hamilton Southeastern Royals didn't just challenge top-ranked Fishers, they stole the show. That was until the unbeaten Tigers mounted a ferocious second-half comeback inside Noblesville's Mill to cool off the red-hot Royals, 75-65, during the Sectional 8 semifinals on Friday, March 6. HSE entered the Mud-sock rematch winners of eight straight games, and with an 18-17 lead after the first quarter and a 35-29 advantage at halftime, a ninth-straight seemed feasible. During the regular season, HSE (15-10) lost to Fishers, 68-61, at the Fishers Event Center on Dec. 19.

However, HSE's 7 of 13 shooting from 3-point range in the first half and 13 points off seven Tigers' turnovers at sectional gave the Royals early momentum. "In the first half, even though we still made some mistakes, the confidence that we had was just incredible. We've seen it for the past few weeks," HSE coach Bobby Allen said. "We hung with them. We kept fighting." Seniors Luke Weemer and Landon Osswald were the Royals' driving force, combining for 4 of 7 treys, as HSE erased three first-half deficits. Fishers' slow start (2-for-11 3-point shooting) opened the door, but a decisive 20-2 run in the third quarter flipped the game.

See *Cool . . .* Page 11

Huskies fall to Delta

The **REPORTER**

Hamilton Heights lost in the semifinals of Sectional 24 at New Castle Friday, March 6, falling to Delta 70-61. The Eagles led 15-12 after one quarter, then surged ahead 29-18 at halftime. Delta increased its lead to 48-34 after three periods, which allowed it to hold off a 27-point fourth quarter from the Huskies. Rees Knapp and Jack Kakasuleff both scored 18

points for Heights, with Will DeStefano and Jackson Mikesell both adding nine points. Knapp made four 3-pointers, followed by three triples from both DeStefano and Mikesell. Kakasuleff dished out eight assists, while Mikesell pulled six rebounds. Drew Woodruff collected five rebounds. The Huskies finished their season 14-10, recovering from an 0-7 start to win 14 of their last 17 games.

Hounds beat Millers in defensive semifinal

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

NOBLESVILLE – The first semifinal game of Sectional 8 featured a battle between two defensive teams. Carmel, a team that gives up 49.3 points per game, took on host Noblesville, which allows only 46.0 points per contest, at The Mill on Friday, March 6. The Greyhounds played a near-perfect defensive first quarter and used that momentum to score a 44-30 game that sent Carmel into the championship.

The Hounds didn't get their first basket until the 5:15 mark of the first quarter, when Ben Bremer drained a 3-pointer. Bremer would make another 3, then Cash Daniels scored on a jump shot to put Carmel up 8-0. "They made everything tough for us early, but we lean on our defensive ability and made some things tough for them," said Carmel coach Ryan Osborn. Baron Walker spared Noblesville a first-quarter shut-out by hitting a 3 with five seconds left in the period, then opened the second quarter with a basket off a steal. That kept the Millers within 8-5. But Carmel took off after that, using a 13-2 run to increase its lead to 21-7. Julian Vogt, Aiden Dickerson and Vince Nover all drained 3s during the run. Vogt hit another triple to push Carmel ahead 24-10 before Max Flanagan made a traditional three-point play to finish the half. The Hounds led 24-13 at the break. Carmel's lead reached



Photo by Joshua Herd
Noblesville's Adam Fine looks inside while being guarded by Carmel's Cash Daniels during the Millers-Greyhounds Sectional 8 championship game on Friday, March 6.

30-17 during the third quarter. Noblesville made a push after that, scoring 10 unanswered points to get within 30-27. Walker led the way by nailing back-to-back 3s, then Adam Fine made two free throws and Evan Magsamen scored to get the Millers within three. But Carmel responded, making a 14-1 run that took up nearly the remainder of the game. Nover and Daniels both scored to finish the third period, so the Greyhounds entered the fourth quarter up 34-27. The score stayed the same well into the quarter until a Daniels floater pushed Carmel ahead 36-27. The Hounds slowly added to their lead, with Evan Harrell scoring four points to give his team a 40-28 advantage. Carmel held on from there. Osborn credited his team's maturity for handling

Noblesville's run. "A couple weeks ago, we played into it and then we would shoot it quick and then before you know it, it's tied," said Osborn. Daniels led the Greyhounds with nine points and four assists, while Vogt and Bremer each scored eight. Nover made two more free throws with 46.2 seconds left to finish with seven points. "They are really locked into doing what it takes to win, and so the locker room is fun. Practices are fun," said Osborn. "They're locked in together. That's what you ask for in high school basketball, is just a team that's cohesive and they play hard." Walker, a strong candidate for Indiana All-Star, completed his Noblesville career with 19 points. The Butler University recruit finished his career with 1,001

points as a Miller. "Special young man, terrific basketball player, terrific role model for our program," said Noblesville coach Scott McClelland. "To see him play like he has the last month is just a real testament to who he is, because he's getting everybody's best every night." Magsamen scored six points, while Luke Fogg pulled five rebounds. Noblesville finished its season 13-11, showing toughness during the season despite dealing with injuries, including one to Valparaiso recruit Justin Curry II, a star since his freshman year. Fine and Max Flanagan were also seniors on the team. McClelland said his seniors have been "good basketball players and they've been great role models and great leaders for our basketball program."

Gymnastics Regionals

Millers gymnastics heads to state

Three Westfield individuals also qualify

The **REPORTER**

The Noblesville gymnastics team is vaulting back to the state finals. The Millers placed third at the Franklin Central regional, which took place Friday, March 6 at The Gymnastics Company. The top three teams at each regional advance to the state meet, which takes place this Saturday, March 14, at Ball State University's Worthen Arena. New Palestine won the regional with 108.55 points, followed by Columbus North in second with

108.25 points. Noblesville's score was 106.55 points, which sets a new school record. The previous record was 106.45, set by the Millers in 2001. Hailey Nobbe also set a new Noblesville record while placing fourth in the floor exercise. Nobbe totaled a 9.50, resetting her own record of 9.425 that she set earlier in the year. Valorey Bittles had the highest placing by tying for third in the balance beam. Her score was 9.05. Bittles also placed fifth in the vault with a 9.00.

The Millers will return to state for the first time since 2008. Noblesville scores, including all top-10 finishes, now follow. **All-around scores:** 5. Bittles 36.175, 6. Nobbe 35.75, Leckrone 33.975, Deichman 33.60. **Vault:** 5. Valorey Bittles 9.00, 7. Hailey Nobbe 8.95, Emmerson Leckrone 8.425, Vera Deichman 9.375. **Uneven bars:** 4. Bittles 8.875, 17. Nobbe 8.725, Leckrone 8.05, Deichman 7.50. **Balance beam:** T3. Bittles 9.05, 5. Deichman 8.95, Nobbe 8.575, Leckrone 8.30. **Floor exercise:** 4. Nobbe 9.50, Bittles 9.25, Leckrone 9.20, Deichman 8.775.

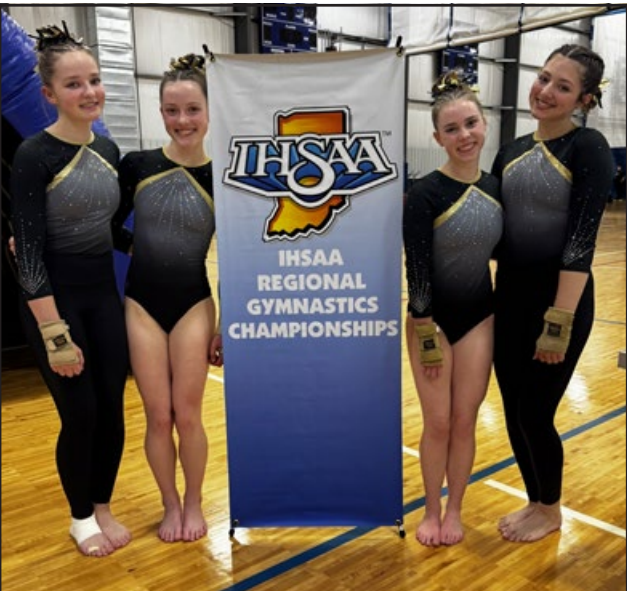


Photo provided
The Noblesville gymnastics team finished third at the Franklin Central regional on Friday, March 6. The Millers qualified for the state finals and will make their first appearance at state since 2008.

Westfield competed at the Portage regional on Saturday, March 7 and qualified three gymnasts as individuals. Sonoma Fischer scored 35.60 in the all-around to advance to state. The top six gymnasts, plus the next three not on an advancing team qualify for the state meet. Fischer placed ninth overall. The Shamrocks qualified two more gymnasts in the balance beam event. Both placed in the top 10: Kelsey Atkinson tied for seventh with 9.175, while Madie Doran placed ninth with 9.10. As a team, Westfield placed fourth with 103.75 points. Valparaiso won the regional (110.40), followed by Portage (108.00) and Lake Central (107.525); all three advance to state as teams. Westfield scores, including all top-10 finishes, now follow. **All-around scores:** 9. Sonoma Fischer 35.60, Kelsey Atkinson 33.85, Hallie Walther 33.125. **Vault:** Hallie Walther 8.80, Sonoma Fischer 8.70, Kelsey Atkinson 8.65, Avery Mason 8.40. **Uneven bars:** T8. Fischer 8.85, Walther 7.925, Atkinson 7.90, Kaleia Cole 7.725. **Balance beam:** T7. Atkinson 9.175, 9. Madie Doran 9.10, Fischer 8.95, Walther 8.475. **Floor exercise:** Fischer 9.10, Doran 8.475, Atkinson 8.125, Walther 7.925.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 10 GIRLS LACROSSE Cathedral at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m. Westfield at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 11 BOYS LACROSSE Noblesville at Fishers, 6 p.m. North Central at Westfield, 6 p.m. Hamilton Southeastern at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
TRACK AND FIELD Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet, 6 p.m. at Brownsburg Sheridan at University of Indianapolis, 6 p.m.
<i>Please email schedule changes or corrections to sports@readthereporter.com.</i>

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Boys Basketball Sectional Championships

Blackhawks fall to Lapel in championship

By **RICHIE HALL**
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ELWOOD – Sheridan’s spectacular season came to an end on Saturday, March 7. The Blackhawks played Lapel in the championship game of Sectional 38 at Elwood. Sheridan did its best to stay with the Bulldogs before they pulled away in the third quarter and rode the momentum to a 77-54 win.

Lapel won its first sectional title in eight years, while the Blackhawks finished with a 19-5 record, easily their best mark in decades.

The Bulldogs led 25-16 after one quarter. Sheridan got as close as two points twice during the second quarter. The Hawks went on a 7-0 run to get within 25-23, with Desh Donathan scoring four points and Devon Hamilton the other three.

Liam Ko scored Lapel’s first basket of the second quarter with 4:20 left, but Page answered that with a layin, keeping Sheridan within 27-25. But the Bulldogs went on a 7-0 run, which Hamilton ended with two free throws right before halftime, making the score 34-27 at the break.

Page scored five points to start the third quarter, including a triple to keep the Blackhawks within 41-32. After that, Lapel went on a 17-3 run to take control of the game. The Bulldogs led 58-35 before Hamilton made a jump shot right before the end of the quarter.

“They are really good,”



Sheridan coach Bill Bowen talks with his team during a timeout at the Blackhawks’ sectional championship game with Lapel Saturday, March 7 at Elwood.

said Sheridan coach Bill Bowen. “They’re good in every phase of the game.”

Lapel entered the fourth period ahead 58-37 and the margin stayed around 20 points for the entire quarter. Page added seven more points during the fourth.

Page finished the game with 23 points, including five 3-pointers. Hamilton added 12 points, with Jax Peerman scoring 10 and dishing out six assists.

“Super proud of the Blackhawks,” said Bowen. “We didn’t play our best game, but again, that has a lot to do with the opponent. Our kids battled, they gave effort, just wasn’t enough tonight. That’s a really good team.”

Semifinal game

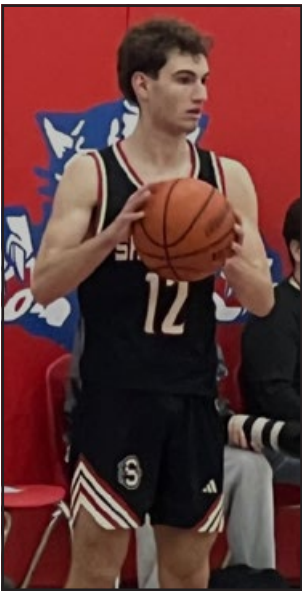
Sheridan held off Taylor 67-66 in an overtime

semifinal game on Friday, March 6.

The Titans led 13-12 after one quarter and 28-27 at halftime. Taylor jumped ahead 43-35 midway through the third quarter and led 50-45 going into the fourth.

Chance Spencer scored back-to-back baskets in midway through the fourth to push Sheridan ahead 54-52. Taylor came back to lead 58-54, but Page’s 3-pointer tied the game at 59-59 with under a minute left. Sheridan took the lead in the overtime and Hamilton made a layin to help seal the win.

Page scored 20 points, draining six 3-pointers. Hamilton had 19 points and five rebounds, with Donathan scoring 11 points. Peerman dished out seven



Sheridan’s Chance Spencer prepares to inbound the ball.

assists, while Spencer finished with 10 rebounds and seven assists.

Braves edge out GC in championship

The REPORTER

Guerin Catholic’s three-year sectional championship streak came to an end at the hands of Brebeuf Jesuit.

The Circle City Conference rivals – soon to be Hoosier Heritage Conference rivals – played in the final of Class 3A Sectional 25 Saturday, March 7 at Frankfort’s Case Arena. The Braves, coached by Sheridan graduate Allen Glunt, won 48-47 to claim their first sectional since 2022.

The Golden Eagles led 15-11 after one quarter before Brebeuf blasted ahead 28-17 during the second period. Guerin Catholic went on a 7-0 run to cut the Braves’ lead to 28-24 by halftime.

The Golden Eagles moved ahead 36-35 after three quarters. The teams were tied at 47-47 when Austin Ford made a free

throw with 1.5 seconds left in the fourth to clinch the game.

Jake Grissom led the GC scoring with 15 points, followed by Carter Murans with 14 points. Grissom also collected seven rebounds while Murans pulled five.

In the Friday, March 7 semifinal, Guerin Catholic beat Danville 56-34. The Golden Eagles outscored the Warriors in all four quarters, leading 13-9 after one and 27-21 at halftime.

Grissom poured in 24 points, with Murans adding 14 points and eight rebounds. Alex Wall collected five rebounds. Hayden Rogers dished out eight assists.

Guerin Catholic finished the season 21-6, its first under new coach Sam Gardner. The Golden Eagles cleared the 20-win mark for the fourth consecutive season.

COOL

from Page 10

“Took too many quick shots first half, didn’t make them work,” Fishers coach Garrett Winegar said. “We felt they were really good at first-side defense. If we did not shift the ball to the other side, they were really good. When we would make them scramble and get multiple sides of the floor, we could be effective.”

The Tigers welcomed back junior star Jason Gardner, who came off the bench, in his first game since suffering a hand fracture against HSE more than two months ago.

Gardner converted his first bucket from the free-throw line in the first quarter and later helped facilitate Fishers’ run in the third en route to a game-high and career-high 24 points (8 of 12 shooting) and five rebounds.

second half after Fishers surged ahead 49-37 late in the third quarter.

Weemer had a team-high 17 points, followed by 13 points and eight rebounds for Osswald. Sophomore Varschon Clark had 12 points and drilled a 3-pointer before the buzzer to give HSE the lead to end the first quarter.

HSE’s winning streak was its longest since the program rattled off 13 straight in 2019-20.

“Fishers made plays to finish the game when they had to. They just know how to win,” Allen said. “I’m taking away from this first year that there are committed kids at Hamilton Southeastern that are willing to sacrifice for what’s best for the team. That’s what we did over the past seven weeks.”

HSE’s previous loss occurred on the same court against Noblesville, 56-49, on Jan. 30, before they climbed the 4A state rankings and produced the program’s third consecutive winning season.

“The locker room after the game, we could have sat there and complained and been upset and blamed, but there was none of that. Our seniors were grateful for the year, and the underclassmen were grateful for the seniors,” Allen said. “I just hate it for our seniors, who really were the engine that made this kind of team go. We had confidence, and it’s fun to watch a group do that on their own. They’re out there playing together, making the right plays, and again, showed that we belong.”

Trailblazers fall in championship

The REPORTER

University came up short in defense of its Sectional 42 championship falling to Cardinal Ritter 71-56.

The Trailblazers never led in the game as Ritter scored the first six points. University trailed 8-7 before Ritter scored the next five points. Jaxen Bennett’s tip in at the buzzer cut the lead to 13-9. The Raiders scored the first seven points of the second quarter to open up a 20-9 lead. University closed to 22-17 after a Blake Gray three pointer and a Faisal Mohamud bucket off a Noah Cortez steal. Ritter closed the half on a 8-2 run to open up a 30-19 halftime lead.

Ritter continued to take control by scoring the first seven points of the half and held a 46-27 lead with 52 seconds left in the third quarter. University scored 10 points in the last 44 seconds

to cut the lead to 46-37. Gray made a foul shot, Cortez had a three pointer and added two foul shots. Josh McGee added a free throw and added a three-point play off a Bennett steal.

After a Raider basket, Cooper Cammack scored to cut the lead to 48-39, but Ritter scored the next ten points. The Trailblazers made one more run. Mohamud scored and Gray converted a steal before Mohamud’s basket and a Cortez foul shot made it 62-52 before Ritter closed it out.

McGee led University with 21 points before fouling out. Mohamud added 15.

University made just 2 of 23 three-point attempts, well below their season average of 35 percent.

Cammack had a team-high eight rebounds with McGee pulling in five and Cortez four. Mohamud had a team-high four steals.

Semifinal win

University advanced to the championship with a 66-55 win over Covenant Christian. The Trailblazers trailed for only 24 seconds of the contest but were unable to put the Warriors away until the final two minutes.

Mohamud led a balanced attack with 16 points while Cortez, McGee and Gray each scored 15. University made 22 of 25 free throws, including 14 of 16 in the fourth quarter. Cortez and McGee each made all eight of their foul shots.

University led 28-23 at halftime with McGee leading with nine points. A Mohamud three pointer opened up an eight-point lead at 31-23, but the Warriors battled back to take a 39-38 lead. Gray’s three-point play put the Blazers back on top for good at 41-39 with 3:24 left. University led 46-40 after three quarters.

Two Mohamud free

throws and a Cortez basket put the lead at 50-40 before six straight Warrior points. Mohamud scored off Gray steal and University led 53-46. The teams went scoreless for nearly two minutes before Cortez made two free throws at the 2:33 mark as the Blazers closed out the game at the line.

Cammack had 12 rebounds, McGee had seven and Gray five. McGee, Gray and Mohamud each handed out four assists.

Seniors Cammack and Gray left their mark on University’s all-time lists. Cammack is second in career rebounds with 465. Gray finishes in the top four of four categories: third in points (883), fourth in assists (197), second in steals (135) and second in three pointers made (465).

University finished the season with a 17-9 record, the Blazers 14th winning record in the last 15 seasons.

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