

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

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



**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Today: Showers and storms. Some could be severe in the morning. Afternoon temps fall into the 50s.  
 Tonight: Partly cloudy.  
 HIGH: 67 LOW: 31



# Carmel High School Girl Scouts to host Summer Badge Camp

*Weeklong camp helps younger Scouts earn five badges in a week*

**The REPORTER**

Girl Scout Troop 1887 from Carmel High School will host a Summer Badge Camp for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors.

The weeklong, half-day camp is scheduled to take place June 1 to 5 at the Carmel Lions Club, 141 E. Main St., from 8 a.m. to noon each day. The camp is a fundraiser for the troop's Gold Award projects, the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve.

"These girls, many of whom have been Girl Scouts since kindergarten, have a deep appreciation of scouting," Troop Leader Tammy Sander said. "They're natural leaders and compassionate mentors who can't wait to share their love for scouting with younger girls."

Campers will earn five badges during the week: Animals, First Aid, Craft & Tinker, Healthy Living, and Entrepreneurship. Activities are hands-



Photo provided

Registration is open through May 1 for the five-day Girl Scout Summer Camp in Carmel.

on, creative, and designed to inspire curiosity and confidence. The camp is open to all girls, regardless of whether they're enrolled in Girl Scouts.

"Last year was our very first Summer Badge Camp, and

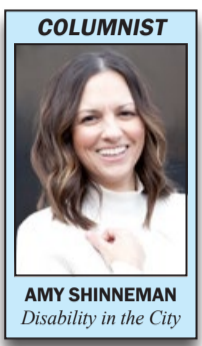
it was even more fun than we imagined," Senior Girl Scout Roxy Stock said. "We loved getting to plan activities that made learning fun. Now word is spreading, and camp is filling up quickly because families

heard how much fun it was. It's really special to be part of that."

Registration is open now through May 1, with a discounted rate of \$200 per participant. Learn more at [girl-scout-badge-camp-2026.cheddarup.com](http://girl-scout-badge-camp-2026.cheddarup.com).

## The golden key

For as long as I can remember, I have gone out of my way to make myself feel small. I have shrugged things off around others that are tearing my insides apart. I have tried to make myself appear less disabled than I am, often causing immense internal stress.



COLUMNIST

AMY SHINNEMAN  
 Disability in the City

It was a way I could help ease the stress of those around me. My needs often make things feel chaotic.

It has not been that long since I have allowed a true depiction of myself to emerge.

I never want my needs to disrupt others. That is one of the things I despise most about my disability. Especially because it is the last thing I want but is a big part of my reality.

Society often views disabilities as an inconvenience or a disruption to the "normal" flow. This is not speculative, but rather a lived observation. For some, that will sound dramatic. If you have lived a similar experience to mine, or been with someone who has, you get it.

Today felt heavy. Today the lights were out. Thinking all these thoughts caused me to spiral. It is so easy to be swept up in the negative merry-go-round of thoughts, thinking about how I did it all wrong, and knowing there are no do overs.

Beating myself up for still struggling to show my true colors at times, continuing to make myself small in certain environments.

When the lights go out and darkness takes over, I am never sure how long darkness will linger. I have had periods of darkness that have lasted for years. Thinking of those times terrifies me.

An unspoken fear is that the lights will never come back on.

See Golden Key . . . Page 2

# Kiwanis Club of Cicero invites community to join Avenue of Flags

By TODD CLEVENGER  
 Kiwanis Club of Cicero

There are few sights more stirring than the American flag waving proudly in the morning breeze. It reminds us of who we are, what we stand for, and the generations who built this nation.

This year, as our country celebrates 250 years of independence, the Kiwanis Club of Cicero is inviting residents to show their patriotism in a meaningful way by joining the **Avenue of Flags program**.

The program is simple but powerful. On designated patriotic holidays (Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day, and Veterans Day), Kiwanis volunteers place a

beautiful American flag in front of subscribers' homes and return a week later to respectfully collect it. The result is a breathtaking display of red, white, and blue throughout the community, an "avenue" of flags that reminds everyone of the pride we share in our country.

But the Avenue of Flags is about more than patriotic spirit. Every subscription helps fund programs that directly benefit children in our communities.

One of the most meaningful is the club's Books for a Bright Future program. Through this effort, every elementary school student in our communities receives a brand-new book to call their very own. For many children, it's the first book they've ever owned. The joy on their



Graphic provided

faces when they open that book is something Kiwanis members never forget.

Reading is the foundation for learning, imagination, and opportunity. Thanks to the com-

munity's support of the Avenue of Flags, hundreds of local children are discovering the magic of reading.

See Kiwanis . . . Page 2

## Legislature cuts property taxes for Veterans . . . sort of

This year the Indiana General Assembly changed how property tax relief for disabled veterans works, shifting it from a deduction on the value of a home to a tax credit on the final bill. On paper, that may sound like a simple adjustment.



GUEST COLUMNIST

LISA WILKEN

In reality, it may leave many disabled veterans paying more.

Under the current system, a veteran who is at least 10 percent disabled, honorably discharged, and served during wartime is eligible for a \$24,900 deduction from the assessed value of their home before taxes are calculated. Veterans who are totally disabled or those who are at least 10 percent disabled and age 62 or older with wartime service can receive an additional \$14,000 deduction, provided their home is valued at less than \$240,000.

The new system replaces those deductions with fixed credits. Veterans rated 10 percent to 90 percent disabled who were honorably discharged will receive a \$350 credit on their property tax bill. Once they reach age 62, they can receive an additional \$250 credit. The credit will also apply to veterans in that disability range even if they did not serve during wartime.

Meanwhile, totally disabled veterans will now receive a 100 percent exemption from property taxes, with no limit on the value of the home.

At first glance, this may appear to be an expansion of benefits. But for many veterans with 10 to 90 percent disability ratings, the math tells a different story. For a significant number of them, the new credits will not equal the value of the deductions they previously received, meaning their property taxes will actually increase, not decrease.

There is another change that may go unnoticed. Under the previous system, any unused portion of the deduction could be applied toward certain Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles fees, such as vehicle registration. With the shift to credits, that option disappears.

See Taxes . . . Page 2

## Get your tickets to see local high schoolers perform at Indiana Show Choir Championships



Photos courtesy noblesvilleshowchoirpics

The public is invited to a full day of singing and dancing fun at the Indiana Show Choir Championships, presented by Gaylor Electric. The event will be at Noblesville High School on Saturday, March 21. Enjoy award-winning performances by Noblesville, Carmel, Westfield, Ben Davis High School, and more. Tickets can be purchased at the door. [Click here](#) for more information.

# Community News

## Blythe Potter to join HamCo Dems for breakfast

Blythe Potter, the Democratic candidate for Indiana Secretary of State, will join the Hamilton County Democrats for a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 14.

The breakfast will take place from 9:30 to 11:30, and the cost is \$5 per plate.

Come to the HamCo Dems Office at 7050 E. 116th St., Suite 100, Fishers, to support local Democratic candidates and Blythe Potter for Secretary of State.

## Fishers GOP Candidate Forum

The Fishers GOP will hold a Candidate Forum on Tuesday, March 24, at Gaylor Electric, 10405 Crosspoint Blvd. Come meet the 2026 Republican primary candidates.

The gathering begins at 6 p.m., and the event starts at 6:30. Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to Tiffanie Ditlevson at [tiffanie@hamiltoncountygop.org](mailto:tiffanie@hamiltoncountygop.org) or to John Weingardt at [john@psw-cpa.com](mailto:john@psw-cpa.com).

# Westfield Mayor's Youth Council applications open this afternoon

## Submitted by City of Westfield

Today, March 11, at 3 p.m., the City of Westfield opens its application portal for the 2026-2027 cohort of the Westfield Mayor's Youth Council (WMYC).

WMYC is a leadership development program designed for local high school students eager to make a positive impact in their community.

"This year's Youth Council cohort set the bar for what our incredible students can achieve," Mayor Scott Willis said.

"I'm excited to see how the next group of young leaders can continue to build

upon the success of our inaugural group."

The 2025-2026 cohort is finalizing details on their civic project: solar-powered picnic tables at Grand Junction Plaza. Information about a public ribbon cutting ceremony planned by the students will be announced soon.

WMYC gives high school students hands-on experience in local government, community engagement, and project management. To ensure each participant has a mean-



Willis

ingful experience, space in the Council is limited, and selection will be based on the strength of each student's application and interview process.

The online application will remain open until 3 p.m. Friday, April 17. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a resident of Westfield (at least one parent or legal guardian residing in Westfield)
- Be a current or incoming high school student (public, private, or home-schooled)
- Be self-motivated

and committed to fulfilling their responsibilities

• Be able to dedicate approximately five to 10 hours per week to WMYC activities

All submissions will be reviewed by the WMYC advisor and two independent community members after the application deadline closes.

Students from all backgrounds and life experiences are strongly encouraged to apply; a student's grade-point average is not a determining factor in the selection process.

Students may learn more about the WMYC or apply by visiting [westfield.in.gov/YouthCouncil](http://westfield.in.gov/YouthCouncil).

## GOLDEN KEY

from Page 1

That thought pins me down by my throat. I am breathless at the thought of forever darkness. In times like these, I cannot pray or reach out to anyone. Forced into silence by the darkness.

It is so true that the world marches on when the lights are out for some. I think of someone having their best day on one of my worst. I feel guilty for doing the exact same thing on my better days.

Life is never in perfect balance.

I try all the mind tricks I have learned over the years to cope. Tools to keep me calm when my mind is hijacked with worry of my future. The coping skills are not coping today.

Like my disease, darkness is unpredictable.

There is a golden key that can unlock the dungeon of darkness. When plunged into darkness, I forget the key even exists.

In my many years of therapy, I was repeatedly told to make a gratitude list. I was not even able to pick up my pen, how could I write the list? When I envisioned my gratitude list, it was blank.

Writing this column is one of the greatest joys of my life. In many ways, it has healed broken parts of me that I did not know existed.

As I told my Word Warriors group last Friday at our monthly get together, the hardest part of writing

about my disability is walking that oh so fine line of speaking my truth without it reading as a plea for pity. I fear my truth will become distorted.

Today, I was able to get my hands on that golden key by the end of the day. And that gratitude list? It is not blank anymore.

Until next time ...

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

## KIWANIS

from Page 1

And the Kiwanis Club has an even bigger dream.

With continued support from the community, the club hopes to expand the Books for a Bright Future program into the middle school, putting even more books into the hands of students who need them. Every flag subscription helps make that goal possible.

That's why the Kiwanis Club has opened its second subscription opportunity for the Avenue of Flags

program. The club hopes more residents will take part in this patriotic tradition, filling our neighborhoods with flags while investing in the future of our children.

Imagine driving through town on a summer holiday and seeing flag after flag lining the streets. It's more than decoration. It's a statement about who we are as a community, patriotic, generous, and committed to our children.

The Kiwanis Club of Cicero is inviting everyone to be part of that vision.

Subscribe to the Avenue of Flags today and help bring pride to our streets and books to our children.

Visit the Kiwanis Club of Cicero online at [CiceroKiwanis.org/programs/flags](http://CiceroKiwanis.org/programs/flags) and sign up for your flag subscription today. Your flag will stand as a symbol of patriotism, and a promise to the next generation.

## TAXES

from Page 1

This raises an important question: did lawmakers strengthen a long-standing benefit meant to support disabled veterans, or did they unintentionally shift resources away from veterans with partial disabilities to fund a stronger benefit for those

who are totally disabled?

No one would argue that totally disabled veterans deserve strong support. But the program has existed in Indiana for more than 50 years to recognize the service and sacrifices of many veterans with varying levels of dis-

ability. Any change should lift them all, not leave some paying more than they did before.

Veterans deserve clarity about whether this legislation truly expands support or simply redistributes it. When it comes to those who served our country, the difference matters.

*Lisa Wilken is a U.S. Air Force Veteran from Westfield. She is a 2023 Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame Inductee.*

**Thanks for reading The Reporter!**



# 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](mailto:mtrent@carmeldadsclub.org) by **March 16**  
**The position is full-time, year-round, with a very competitive wage and full benefits package.**



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# We are wonderfully made, so let's treat our bodies like it

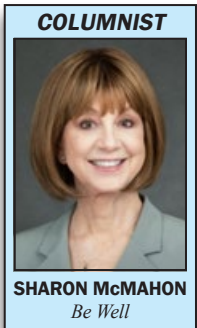
"I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." – Psalm 139:14, NIV

Show of hands ... how many reading this feel "fearfully and wonderfully made" today? Thought so. You

can include me in that most days! I would like to explore some ways in which most of us can truly believe that we are part of that sentiment.

To review some of my comments regarding the recent Olympic athletes' remarkable feats, it is amazing what the human body can do and will do if we just give it a chance.

Case in point as I write this: the Paralympics are in full swing, and WOW, these athletes can certainly work within their challenges to find the place of success and fulfillment most of us can only imagine. It is exhilarating to watch them work despite their physical challenges to show us what we are ALL "fearfully and wonderfully made" regardless of what our bodies and society's expectations tell us.



**COLUMNIST**  
**SHARON McMAHON**  
*Be Well*

Let's time travel here just a bit and review what we – and others – expect from us as we go through the various stages and ages of this life.

As children we are fearless and open about trying new things and enjoying life. The doubts can begin to surface as we go through puberty and begin what is often a life-long odyssey of comparing ourselves to others. Personally, I did not feel so "wonderful" in glasses and braces! Breakouts and hormones – mercy!

As we move into adulthood, we have an opportunity to seriously appraise our health, appearance, and physical stamina. Unless you are challenged with a chronic disease or a specific disability, you have many options in how you wish to move forward, and many times those who face disease and disability are more active and fulfilled than those who do not face those issues.

In evaluating how these amazing bodies of ours can

work for us, let's begin not at the top but at the bottom – our feet and ankles. When you think about how hard they must work to keep us upright it is pretty amazing. Taking time to keep our tootsies dry and free from bacteria and our ankles flexible and strong will help us with our balance and stamina.

Moving on up ... how about those knees? Yikes! One of the biggest mistakes I see for folks is when they stand with their knees hyper-extended back. Not only does this strain the muscles around the knees but also strains the lower back. Be sure to bend those knees!

Ah yes ... those pesky back muscles; usually the lower back which is easily strained when one 1) lifts objects too heavy and/or 2) does not bend properly. Use a squat position instead of bending forward from the waist. Our shoulders tighten up when we tend to carry stress and squeeze them upward and combining that with constant phone/computer surveillance only exacerbates the matter. Drop those shoulders down!

We are a mechanical masterpiece, "fearfully and wonderfully made" even

when these joints and ligaments do not cooperate fully. The science of exactly how our important internal functions are set in place is a miracle, indeed. Our hearts pump an average of 60 to 100 beats per minute, our livers and kidneys detoxify and cleanse, our digestive processes use our nutrition to keep us going, and the remarkable brains of ours are gifts beyond compare. Aren't we something?!

Although the quote used above is from Biblical text, you may choose to meditate, journal, or otherwise consider and remember that we are far more than what we may glimpse in the mirror or even feel on any particular day.

We are unique and complex. We are works of art, we are amazing "machines" and we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" dear readers!

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

## Letter to the Editor

### Republican reader ready to vote for Greg Ballard for Secretary of State

Dear Editor:

In recent months, I have been struggling with who to vote for in the Indiana Secretary of State Primary Election. I cannot in good conscience cast one more vote for our current Secretary of State, Diego Morales.

The office of Secretary of State should be one of the most steady and professional roles in Indiana government. It oversees elections, business filings, and important public records. It is fundamentally an administrative job, and it should be run that way.

Unfortunately, this office is currently filled to the brim with corruption and political incompetence.

But Beau Bayh isn't the answer, either. This ultimately left me with the decision to abstain, which leaves me yet again disappointed in our state government.

But then it happened. Former Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard announced his campaign for Indiana Secretary of State as an Independent.

At a time when trust in our government is strained, we don't need theatrics in election oversight. We need professionalism. We need predictability. We need someone who understands that this office should operate calmly and competently, regardless of which party is in power.

Like many others, I have never split my ticket in my life. But Greg Ballard brings steady leadership. For an office this important, that's exactly what Indiana should expect. Join me in splitting your ticket to cast an important vote for Integrity. Let's set the standard for what Indiana deserves.

**Anthony Cook**  
*Noblesville*

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

## Still time to register for Janus Developmental Services' Create Connect Commit breakfast

### The REPORTER

Janus Developmental Services' annual Create Connect Commit (CCC) Fundraising Breakfast is set for Tuesday, March 24 at 502 East Event Centre, 502 E. Carmel Drive, Carmel. The breakfast will

take place from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

The doors will open at 6:30 a.m. with a coffee bar, and the breakfast buffet opens at 7 a.m.

There is still time to get your tickets for this impactful event. RSVP by

Friday, March 13 to Julie Dereka at [jdereka@janus-inc.org](mailto:jdereka@janus-inc.org).

Hear the Janus Choir, watch the brand-new Family Impact Video starring James, and learn



about all the great changes happening at Janus this year.



**SATURDAY, MARCH 14**  
**JOIN US FROM 12–3 P.M.**  
**GRAND JUNCTION PLAZA**  
225 S. Union Street



Strike gold with more details at [westfieldin.gov/shamrockdrop](http://westfieldin.gov/shamrockdrop)

## Three cheers for Belfry's *Vanities*

Jack Heifner's poignant comedy *Vanities* opened off-Broadway in 1976 and continued there for 1,326 performances with Kathy Bates (as Kathy) in her first NYC role. The



**COLUMNIST**  
**KEN KLINGEMEIER**  
*A Seat on the Aisle*

play tells the story of three friends at three different stages in their lives: as high school cheerleaders, as college sorority sisters, and as women who have fully ventured into their lives.

Jen Otterman directs a top-tier trio of actresses for her Belfry Theatre production: Ka'Lena Cuevas as Kathy – the level-headed leader/organizer, Becca Bartley as Mary – the impatient free spirit, and Cara Olsen as Joanne – the strait-laced follower.

The script introduces some nuanced differences in the three personalities in the first act, and car-

ries out on the various struggles of sustaining a friendship through life's many changes in the second and third acts. Ms. Otterman's cast does a wonderful job portraying Heifner's stages of female development as each lady's journey steadily separates them from the others. In the end, the shattered remains become cynical and hurtful. At the end the ladies close by drinking "to forget" their "bygone days."

Ms. Cuevas' Kathy has perhaps the widest arc – going from confident to unsure, sure-footed to misdirected. It's a complex conversion that Ms. Cuevas handles well. Conversely, Joanne covers the least ground in her evolution. Ms. Olsen creates a lovable narrow-mindedness in her character, and pro-



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

vides much of the show's humor. Ms. Bartley's feisty Mary blossoms into a very different woman from her friends and leaves a trail of extinguished feelings in her wake in this strong performance.

**Bottom line:** This ensemble totals greater than the sum of its parts and the show is a very entertaining one, full of factors that mirror our own foibles. It plays very well on The Cat's

smallish stage, with a clean set design by Director Otterman. Recommended.

The Belfry Theatre's *Vanities* continues at The Cat Theatre, 254 Veteran's Way, Carmel, through March 15. Ticket information can be found online at [thebelfrytheatre.com/index.php/purchase-tickets-belfry-theatre](http://thebelfrytheatre.com/index.php/purchase-tickets-belfry-theatre).

Read more great play reviews from *A Seat on the Aisle* at [asota.wordpress.com](http://asota.wordpress.com).



Photo by Max Crace

The talented Christopher Cross will make his debut at the Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts on June 21.

## Christopher Cross coming to Carmel

### The REPORTER

Known for timeless hits like "Sailing" and "Ride Like the Wind," singer, songwriter, and guitarist Christopher Cross will make his debut appearance at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in June.

The performance is set for 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 21, at the Payne & Mencias Palladium, 1 Carter Green, Carmel. Tickets are on sale now at [TheCenterPresents.org](http://TheCenterPresents.org), by phone at (317) 843-3800, or in person at the Payne & Mencias Palladium's Fifth Third Bank Box Office.

The concert is part of the Printing Partners Encore Series and the 2025-2026 *Center Presents* Season sponsored by Allied

### Solutions.

Cross burst onto the music scene in 1980 with his self-titled debut album, which featured the No. 2 single "Ride Like the Wind" and won five Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year and Best New Artist as well as Record of the Year and Song of the Year for the No. 1 single "Sailing." He co-wrote "Arthur's Theme" for the movie *Arthur*, another No. 1 hit that won the Academy Award for Best Song.

Since 2007, Cross has released eight albums of new material, marking his 40th anniversary in 2020 with *The Complete Works*, a collection of all 12 previously released CDs with bonus tracks.

## Ivy Tech Community College names Sejal Vaishnav Chief Information Officer

### The REPORTER

Ivy Tech Community College has named Sejal Vaishnav as Chief Information Officer (CIO). She will start her new role on Monday, March 30.

Vaishnav will have responsibility for technology strategy, operations, cybersecurity, data, and digital transformation across Ivy Tech's 19 campuses and more than 40 sites, ensuring technology enhances the student and employee experience across the College.

She most recently served as CIO at Illinois Institute of Technology (Illinois Tech) in Chicago. Vaishnav has more than two decades of higher education technol-

ogy leadership experience, spanning enterprise systems, cloud infrastructure, cybersecurity, analytics, AI-enabled process redesign, and service delivery.

"Sejal is an experienced technology leader who understands the complexity of a multi-campus environment,"

Ivy Tech President Marty Pollio said. "We are thrilled to have her join our team and shape our technology to meet the evolving needs of



Vaishnav



our institution."

Previously, Vaishnav was associate chief information officer for Enterprise Solutions and director for Information Technology and Audio-Visual Services, as well as holding other technology leadership roles at Illinois Institute of Technology since joining the institution in 2003.

"Ivy Tech has long been a catalyst for opportunity across Indiana," Vaishnav said. "I am honored to join

an institution so deeply committed to transforming students' lives and I look forward to helping strengthen the college's impact on communities across the state."

Vaishnav holds master's degrees in business administration and computer science from Illinois Institute of Technology and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology in Surat, India.

Vaishnav replaces Thomas Riebe, who served as Interim CIO since January and will return to his role as Chief Technology Officer.

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# Sheridan gets 'HELP' with skid steer purchase

Submitted by Office of Indiana Treasurer Daniel Elliott

Indiana Treasurer of State Daniel Elliott has announced that the Indiana Bond Bank assisted the Town of Sheridan with financing a skid steer loader through its Hoosier Equipment Lease Purchase (HELP) Program.

The \$110,207.68 purchase of essential equipment was made possible through this program.

"The HELP Program is super simple with just a one-page form, helping cities and towns score great rates with flexible terms," Treasurer Elliott said. "Without it, many places might not afford the gear they need to keep things running smoothly."

The HELP program assists Indiana communi-

ties in obtaining essential equipment through a standardized and efficient lease-purchase process. It provides standard-term leases with flexible repayment options at competitive rates. By effectively securing competitive bids from various financial institutions statewide, the program ensures the lowest financing costs, thereby saving taxpayer money.

Since its inception, the HELP program has financed over \$471 million in essential equipment for Indiana communities.

**About the Bond Bank**  
The Indiana Bond Bank (IBB) was established as a self-supporting quasi-gov-



Elliott

ernment entity by the State Legislature in 1984. A seven-member board oversees the Bond Bank, with the Treasurer serving as the chair of the board, the Public Finance Director of the Indiana Finance Authority is statutorily appointed, with the remaining five members being appointed by the Governor. The Bond Bank assists local governments in the process of issuing debt and provides the following programs: the Advance Funding Program, Community Funding Resource Program, Hoosier Equipment Lease Purchase (HELP) Program, Fuel Budgeting Program, and Interim Loan Program.

# Dylan Kohler of Fishers graduates from UW-Madison

**The REPORTER**  
A total of 2,151 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Dec. 14,

2025. Dylan Kohler of Fishers earned a Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering and Engineering Physics.

The university held its Winter 2025 Commencement ceremony for undergraduates and graduates at the Kohl Center in Madison, Wis.

# Four local students make Marquette University Dean's List

**The REPORTER**  
The following students have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis.

- Elena Harrie of Carmel, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Brooks Holtkamp of Noblesville, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy
- Lily Varga of Fishers, who is pursuing a Bachelor

of Science in Exercise Physiology

• Tommy Van Woerkom, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Bioelectronics

To make the Dean's List, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the fall 2025 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The grade-point average threshold varies by college: for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, under-

graduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean's List.

The undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering, and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

# AARP Indiana applauds new law protecting Hoosiers from crypto kiosk scams

**The REPORTER**

AARP Indiana expressed its support on Monday, March 9 for Governor Mike Braun's signing of **House Enrolled Act 1116** (HEA 1116), landmark legislation designed to protect Hoosiers from cryptocurrency kiosk scams.

Cryptocurrency kiosks, also known as "crypto-ATMs," can be found in supermarkets, convenience stores, and gas stations. Today, there are more than 45,000 crypto ATMs nationwide, with nearly 900 located across the state. Increasingly, criminals have been using the machines to quickly extract money from their victims, who disproportionately are older adults.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Internet Crime Complaint

Center (IC3) 2025 Annual Report, fraudsters used virtual currency kiosks to steal more than \$333 million in 2025 alone. These financial losses are mounting, and many incidents go unreported.

HEA 1116 bans the operation of these machines in Indiana, representing a major step forward in consumer protection.

"Indiana families deserve strong protections from fraud, especially as criminals adapt their tactics to new technologies," AARP Indiana Legislative Director Ambre Marr said. "When it comes to these kiosks, Indiana now has the strongest protections in the country. We greatly appreciate the work of Rep. Wendy McNamara, Sen. Scott Baldwin, and the rest of the Indiana General Assembly



for their commitment to making it harder for scammers to take advantage of Hoosiers, and we want to thank Governor Braun for signing the bill into law.

"This legislation also wouldn't have been possible without the local work of Sergeant Detective Nathan VanCleave of the Evansville Police Department and the Evansville City Council. The 2025 ordinance that the city passed played a key role in building momentum for this statewide law."

To learn more about AARP Indiana's work across the state, visit [aarp.org/IN](http://aarp.org/IN), and for more information about AARP Fraud Watch Network, visit [aarp.org/fraudwatch](http://aarp.org/fraudwatch).

**Thanks for reading!**

# INDOT seeks public comment on Draft Active Transportation Report

**The REPORTER**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is advancing active transportation toward the goal of providing all Hoosiers and visitors access to healthy, active transportation opportunities enabled by quality pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

This comprehensive active transportation network complements the overall performance of Indiana's transportation system across all modes of transportation. Sound mobility options for pedestrians and bicyclists are vital to advancing the economic status and quality of life for Indiana communities statewide.

The State of Indiana benefits from increased economic competitiveness (retaining existing businesses, attracting new enterprise, and sustaining property values); growing tourism and

recreation; and becomes known for its exceptional active transportation network.

This **Draft Active Transportation Report, "Toward an Active Indiana,"** is a living enterprise that is continuously growing through the review of feedback from the public, local planning partners, regional stakeholders, and elected officials. With a focus on data-driven planning, the INDOT Technical Planning and Programming Division is committed to fostering a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative (3C) planning process with partners on local, regional, and state levels. Unique perspectives offered by innovative and multidisciplinary partnerships allow INDOT to be poised and proactive in championing active transportation statewide.

[Click here](#) to submit a comment on the report.

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## Keep the blood supply stable: give blood or platelets with Red Cross

## The REPORTER

This month, the American Red Cross urges donors to help the national blood supply recover following a severe shortage and empower their health by making an appointment to give blood or platelets. Donors of all blood types remain critical to keeping momentum up and the blood supply steady headed into spring.

Some parts of the nation are still clearing snow, but the threat of severe spring weather is already growing. Now is the time to book a blood or platelet donation appointment to help prevent any future disruption to patient care.

Help is needed right

now — and a simple act of donating blood or platelets can be the lifesaving gift people are counting on. Book a time to give blood or platelets now by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

The Red Cross will perform A1C testing on successful blood, platelet, and plasma donations made through March 31 (one result in 2026). Those who come to give blood, platelets, or plasma through March 31 will receive a \$15 Amazon Gift Card by email. Details on both offers can be found at [RedCrossBlood.org/March](http://RedCrossBlood.org/March).

## Upcoming Donation Opportunities

## Carmel

- March 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at IU Health North Hospital, 11700 N. Meridian St.
- March 16 from noon to 5 p.m. at Cool Creek Nature Center, 2000 E. 151st St.

## Fishers

- March 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Heartland Church, 14900 126th St.

## Noblesville

- March 12, 19, 26 from noon to 6:30 p.m. at the Noblesville Blood Donation Center, 14765 Hazel Dell Crossing, Suite 700
- March 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31 from 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the Noblesville Blood Donation Center
- March 18 from noon to 6 p.m. at World Mission Society Church of God, 1700 Cicero Road
- March 18 and 25 from noon to 6:15 p.m. at the Noblesville Blood Donation Center

## Fortville

- March 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Gateway Fortville Community Church, 125 E. Staat

## CSO welcomes spring with Nordic Nights

## The REPORTER

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) will welcome spring with a fresh program of classical masterworks.

CSO's *Nordic Nights*, sponsored by Pedcor Companies, will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 21 at the Payne & Mencias Palladium at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts. The symphony will be under the direction of Conductor Kelly Kuo.

The program includes

pieces by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. His *Karelia Suite* opens the program and personifies the beauty of Finnish folk themes. This piece was inspired by his honeymoon to Karelia and remains one of his most beloved works.

Enhancing this program is Thomas Adès' *Air – Homage to Sibelius*. This is another work with organic and expanding themes, featuring a solo on violin by CSO's concertmaster, Davis Brooks.

## Rounding

out the program will be Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*, op. 43, written during his time in Italy. The boisterous ending to the Second Symphony elicited a positive response from the general public. Finns nicknamed the work "Symphony of Independence" as the ending bore a triumphant tone which gave them hope for



Kuo



Brooks

their future as an independent nation.

To select your seats, call the Fifth Third Bank Box Office at (317) 843-3800 or [click here](#).

## Gov. Mike Braun's energy affordability strategy delivers early results for ratepayers

## Submitted by Office of Governor Mike Braun

Governor Mike Braun's energy affordability priorities are delivering early wins for ratepayers. The governor recapped Indiana's new approach to lowering energy costs and strong commitment to affordability.

"Utility rates are too high, and my actions to stand up for ratepayers on appointments to the regulatory commission, bring new power to the grid, and overhaul how utilities are regulated to lower Hoosiers' bills is starting to pay off," Gov. Braun said. "There is

still more to do, but these early successes and recognition on the national stage are proof that our energy affordability strategy is delivering results for Hoosiers."

Last week, Indiana Michigan Power announced it will propose a base rate deduction for customers due to increased revenue generated by large new electricity users, including data centers in Indiana. This is a significant payoff for Gov. Braun's ratepayer-focused strategy on data centers. The governor has declared that data centers coming to Indiana need to bring their own

power to the grid, and that data center can be partners in lowering ratepayers' bills by supplying more power to the grid than they need.

Gov. Braun appointed three ratepayer-focused nominees to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), now constituting a majority, to make decisions in the public interest to ensure utilities provide service at just and reasonable rates.

Last month, the IURC announced an investigation into the state's investor-owned utility companies. A public hearing on

their affordability will be held later this month.

During the 2026 legislative session, the governor worked with the Indiana House of Representatives to pass **House Enrolled Act 1002**, a major reform designed to modernize how Indiana regulates electric utilities.

Historically, the system guaranteed utilities a return on equity for both operations and capital investments, creating incentives for over-investment that could increase costs.

See *Energy* . . . Page 7

## Kroger brings back Customer Appreciation Week with special savings

## The REPORTER

The Kroger Co. has announced the return of its mega-sales event honoring customers with the retailer's hottest deals and exclusive savings during Kroger's Customer Appreciation Week running March 11 to 17.

"Customer Appreciation Week is one of our biggest savings events of the year, featuring can't-miss deals, special offers, and exclusive discounts for our customers," said Mary Ellen Adcock, Kroger Executive Vice President and Chief Merchant and Marketing Officer. "Whether families are preparing for spring celebrations or stocking up for spring break, Kroger is committed to helping them save on items they enjoy most."

During Customer Appreciation Week, customers can enjoy the low prices on seasonal favorites and great deals on Kroger's Our Brands favorites and popular national brands across the store. In addition to great savings, each day from March 11 to 17, Kroger will reveal new Daily Deal Drops, available to clip for one day only at [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com), in the Kroger app, or by requesting the discount at checkout through March 17. All offers must be redeemed by March 20. Visit [kroger.com/appreciation](http://kroger.com/appreciation) to save big and learn more.

## How to participate

• Visit the Kroger app or website each day from March 11 to 17

• Log into your digital account

• Clip the featured digital coupons each day

• In store, customers must enter their Rewards Card number at checkout to ensure the deal is applied to their purchase or simply ask for the Customer Appreciation Week offer at checkout.

• Redeem all participating digital coupons by March 20

Customers will find special savings on items such as:

• All two-liters – only 99 cents

• All bagged salads – buy one get one free

• Simple Truth and Private Selection products – 10 percent off

For a complete list of overall savings and deals, [click here](#) today, March 11. Daily Deal Drops will remain a surprise until the day-of.

At Kroger, customers do not have to choose between a good meal and a good deal, no matter how they shop. They can get these deals and more in store or at [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com), offering the same fresh items at the same low prices for pickup at a convenient store location or delivery in as little as 30 minutes.

For even more convenience, Kroger's full product assortment is available on demand at DoorDash and Uber Eats marketplaces, shopped from your local store and delivered directly to your door.

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PREVIEW DAY: Thursday, March 12th, Noon - 6pm  
PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, March 16th, Noon-6pm  
Tuesday, March 17th, Noon - 6pm

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**TODAY'S BIBLE READING**

**KORAH, DATHAN AND ABIRAM**

*Then Moses became very angry and said to the Lord, "Do not accept their offering. I have not taken so much as a donkey from them, nor have I wronged any of them."*

*Moses said to Korah, "You and all your followers are to appear before the Lord tomorrow—you and they and Aaron. Each man is to take his censer and put incense in it—250 censers in all—and present it before the Lord. You and Aaron are to present your censers also." So each of them took his censer; put burning coals and incense in it, and stood with Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the tent of meeting. When Korah had gathered all his followers in opposition to them at the entrance to the tent of meeting, the glory of the Lord appeared to the entire assembly. The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Separate yourselves from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once."*

*Numbers 16:15-21 (NIV)*

**Linda Isabel Villegas**

**March 22, 1948 – March 8, 2026**

Linda Isabel Villegas, 77, Fishers, passed away on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at IU Health Fishers. She was born on March 22, 1948, to Atanacio and Isabel (Quiroga) Villegas in Toledo, Ohio.



Linda was an attorney with the Attorney General's Office. She enjoyed ballroom dancing, traveling, yoga, and Pilates.

Linda is survived by her husband, Richard Eilar; children, Anthony (Mollie) Cable, Nichole Olivero, Kristi Eilar, and Laura (Mark) Ward; grandchildren, Cody (Brittney) Cable, Ashley (Brandon) Gray, Zach Cable, Savana Olivero, Rodney Olivero Jr., Isabel Olivero, Mathew Amerman, Zach Amerman, Bruce Ward, Audrey Ward, Mary Ward, Luke Ward, Dean Ward, Joy Ward, and Iris Ward; great-grandchildren, Payton Gray, Brody Gray, Briggs Gray, Baylor Gray, Cooper Cable, and Christopher Amerman; and her siblings, Deloris Brown, David Villegas, and Sandy Villegas.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Susan Villegas.

A Celebration of Linda's life will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers.

Memorial contributions may be made to Briggs & Brody's battle with Batten Disease CLN2 at [facebook.com/p/Briggs-Brodys-battle-with-Batten-Disease-CLN2-61562282956394](https://www.facebook.com/p/Briggs-Brodys-battle-with-Batten-Disease-CLN2-61562282956394) or [gofundme.com/f/help-brody-battle-batten-disease](https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-brody-battle-batten-disease).

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](https://www.randallroberts.com)

**Gov. Braun chooses not to rule out tax suspension amid gas prices surge**

By **GARRETT BERGQUIST**  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](https://www.wishtv.com)

On Monday, Gov. Mike Braun said he might consider suspending Indiana's gas sales tax if the war with Iran lasts longer than a few weeks.

The governor's comments came as the statewide average hit \$3.49 per gallon, up 59 cents from one week ago, according to data from GasBuddy. Braun said he first wants to see how long the war lasts.

"It's only been a little more than a week. If we had not done this at this time, it probably would have been worse in the mid- and long-term," Braun said. "Just like the stock market can go up and down, you can't dismiss it, but you've got to give it time to play out."

Gas prices are rising because all shipping has been halted through the Strait of Hormuz due to the war. Barely 25 miles wide at its narrowest point, well within range of rockets and some conventional artillery, the

strait separates Iran and the United Arab Emirates at the entrance to the Persian Gulf. Twenty percent of the world's oil is shipped through it and Braun said the key to bringing gas prices down will be securing the strait.

Indiana levies a 7 percent use tax on gasoline on top of the gas excise tax. Braun said he doesn't currently plan to suspend it but indicated he might change his mind later.

"If the thing gets belabored beyond what most think will be two and a half to three weeks, I think the administration is coming there, I don't expect Iran to just roll over," he said. "If we completely hamstring them with the two main threats, their nuclear long-term plans and their missile production, it'll be different. And once you secure the supply coming through the Strait of Hormuz, you're going to see it go down, ideally



**Braun**

as much as it went up. And if not, everybody will have to use the tools in their own tool chest to make sure you mitigate it."

Indiana Democrats have long pressed for repealing the gas use tax. Rep. Carey Hamilton, D-Indianapolis, who serves on the House Utilities Committee, said that's her preference now.

"Certainly, I think (suspending the gas tax) is what we've supported in the past and I think we'd support that now," he said.

Indiana's gas use tax has come up before when gas prices spiked due to international crises. When oil prices rose following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Democrats unsuccessfully pressured then-Gov. Eric Holcomb to temporarily waive it.

Discussions around gas price relief also are happen-

ing at the national level. On Monday, energy ministers from the **G-7 countries**, which include the United States, met to discuss the possibility of releasing some crude oil from strategic reserves to boost the supply and stabilize prices. The U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve **currently holds 414 million barrels**, a roughly four-month supply. President Donald Trump has not yet said if he plans to release any.

Sen. Jim Banks, R-Indiana, told News 8 Monday afternoon that Trump is currently negotiating with partner countries in the Middle East to increase their oil production. "I'm concerned about that. That's another reason why I hope that this war will be over in a very short period of time, that it won't drag out for months or, certainly, for years," Banks said.

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/politics/gas-prices-iran-war](https://www.wishtv.com/news/politics/gas-prices-iran-war).*

**ENERGY**

from Page 6

HEA 1002 introduces performance-based rate-making, which requires utilities to meet measurable benchmarks for affordability and reliability through performance incentive mechanisms. Returns are no longer guaranteed, and utility companies now must be accountable for affordability.

Indiana's policy changes to lower energy costs for Hoosiers are drawing national attention. U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright last Wednesday,

March 4 highlighted Indiana as an example of how states can bring down utility costs and improve affordability for families on *The Ingraham Angle* on FOX News.

In Northwest Indiana, NIPSCO has now announced additional short-term relief measures for customers through March 31, including waived late fees and reconnect fees, a pause on service disconnections for nonpayment, and reduced reconnect deposits for gas customers.

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

Submit obituaries under 500 words online at [ReadTheReporter.com/obitform](https://www.ReadTheReporter.com/obitform).

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# REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

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## Girls Track & Field Preview

# Carmel going for repeat performance

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

The Carmel girls track and field team would like to see history repeat itself this season.

The Greyhounds broke a 26-year drought by winning the IHSAA team state championship last year. Carmel's previous state title came in 1999, which was a defense of its first-ever state title in 1998.

Can the Greyhounds repeat this year? They do have several members back from last season, including several solid seniors and juniors that have been varsity runners for years.

"We're excited," said McRill. "We got to find some points, but we got some great things to work with. I know repeating is super hard, especially in track. Winning in track is hard, but we're going to best to see if we can do it."

The Greyhounds are also coming off a cross country state championship this past fall, with some of those runners making an impact in both sports.

Senior Sadie Foley, an Indiana University recruit, placed fifth in the 1600 run and was a part of the Hounds' runner-up 4x800 and 4x400 relays. She finished third in the state cross country meet last November.

Foley's three other fellow 4x800 runners are

also returning for the Greyhounds. Kaitlyn Oshimura is a senior, while Larkin Taylor and Annabelle Pollert are both juniors.

Taylor placed fourth in the open 800 run at state last year, while Pollert finished third in the 3200 run. Both were also All-State honorees for cross country, with Taylor taking 10th at state and Pollert finishing 23rd.

Another returning senior is Gabriela Grande Rosas. At last year's state meet, she was on the runner-up 4x400 relay and the only junior on Carmel's third-place 4x100 relay team. Grande Rosas also qualified for state in the open 400, placing 15th.

"Her personality is fantastic," said McRill. "Always upbeat, always excited about the meets, always wants to compete, always has a smile, which is fantastic. The great thing about her is, between practice time and then, she works very, very hard and leads by example more than anything."

A key contributor in the field events is sophomore Amaya Holder. As a freshman, Holder qualified for state in the discus, where she placed 15th. Holder was one of only two freshmen to reach the state finals last year.

Livi Miller and Kate Hammond, both juniors, have shown improvement



Photos provided

Carmel's Sadie Foley (left) and Gabriela Grande Rosas (right) were key runners on the Greyhounds' state champion track and field team last season. Both are back for their senior seasons.

in the pole vault. Both advanced to the regional last year, with Hammond clearing 10 feet and Miller clearing 9 feet, 6 inches. McRill said both girls vaulted 10 feet, 6 inches over the summer, "so we're excited about that."

Freshman Molly Foley (Sadie's sister) is a potential new star. McRill said Molly Foley ran the open 800 in 2:19 as an eighth-grader.

"She could be a contributor, if not in the open [800, then] in the 4x8 or 4x4,"

said McRill.

The Greyhounds began their season at Indiana Wesleyan University for the Hoosier State Relays Qualifier #2, which took place Saturday, March 7. Carmel swept four relays at the meet.

Grande Rosas and Miller teamed with sophomores Kalinda Lee and Jenna Harris to win the 4x200 relay in 1:47.52. Harris is the sister of Kelsey and Haley Harris, who were track and cross country stars for the

Greyhounds, graduating in 2015.

Carmel won the 4x400 relay; the team of Miller, Molly Foley, Oshimura and Grande Rosas finishing that race in 4:01.02.

The Greyhounds were victorious in the 4x800 relay; Sadie Foley, Oshimura, Anna Yoon and Halle clocked in at 9:15.89. Yoon was part of the cross country team.

Finally, Carmel claimed the distance medley relay after Sadie Foley, Grande

Rosas, Oshimura and Margo Halle finished in 12:02.40. Halle, another runner on the cross country team, also won the 3200 run in 11:09.70.

The Hounds return to IWU this Saturday for the HSR Qualifier #3. Another qualifier takes place March 21 at Brownsburg before the Hoosier State Relays meet on March 28 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Carmel's first outdoor meet takes place on April 14 at Ben Davis.

## Boys Basketball

# HCC announces all-conference boys basketball team

### The REPORTER

The Hoosier Crossroads Conference released its All-Conference Boys Basketball team this week.

Here are the honorees from Hamilton County.

#### FIRST TEAM

**Varschon Clark, sophomore, Hamilton Southeastern** – Youngest player on the First Team list. Averaged 12.3 points, 5.0 rebounds and 3.1 assists per game. Made 47 percent of

his field goals.

**Justin Curry II, senior, Noblesville** – Averaged 16.7 points, 5.0 rebounds and 1.5 assists per contest. Made 44 percent of his field goals.

**Brock Detamore, senior, Westfield** – Averaged 12.3 points, 4.4 rebounds and 2.7 assists.

**Jason Gardner Jr., junior, Fishers** – Averaged 21.2 points, 5.0 rebounds and 3.2 assists. Made 60 percent of his field goals.

**Drew Haffner, senior, Westfield** – Averaged 20.6 points, 3.4 rebounds and 2.0 assists.

**Kai McGrew, senior, Fishers** – Averaged 15.1 points, 6.6 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.4 blocks.

**Landon Osswald, senior, Hamilton Southeastern** – Averaged 13.5 points and 5.3 rebounds. Made 54 percent of his field goals.

**Baron Walker, senior, Noblesville** – Averaged 17.5 points, 5.9 rebounds and 3.9 assists. Made 48 percent of his field goals.

**Luke Weemer, senior, Hamilton Southeastern** – Averaged 13.9 points and 5.0 rebounds. Made 54 percent of his field goals.

**Cooper Zachary, junior, Fishers** – Averaged 15.0 points, 5.3 assists and 2.9 steals. Made 92 percent of his free throws.

**Out-of-county honorees:** Brandon Addison, Brownsburg; Jedidiah Minnet, Avon; Camden Moore, Zionsville.

#### SECOND TEAM

**Max Flanagan, senior, Noblesville** – Averaged 10.0 points and 3.4 rebounds. Made 78 percent of his free throws and 50 percent of his field goals.

**Ethan Hillsman, senior, Fishers** – Averaged 12.2 points, 3.2 rebounds, 1.4 assists and 1.0 steals.

**Levi Walker, junior, Fishers** – Averaged 9.1 points, 3.9 rebounds and 1.6 assists. Made 42 percent of his 3-point attempts.

**Out-of-county honorees:** Tyrone Elmore, Avon; Rylon Gore, Zionsville; Raymond Hayes, Franklin Central; Brandon Sharpe, Brownsburg; Chrishon Woodward, Brownsburg.



Richie Hall / File photo

Westfield's Brock Detamore was one of the Hamilton County basketball players named to the Hoosier Crossroads Conference First Team.

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## Girls Basketball

# 2026 Indiana Girls Junior All-Stars named

### The REPORTER

Nineteen players have been selected to the *IndyStar* Indiana girls' Junior All-Stars for 2026, All-Stars games director Mike Broughton announced Monday.

Those selected to the seven-player Core Group include Lillie Graves of McCutcheon, Adah Hupper of Pendleton Heights, Claire Larrison of Greensburg, Hannah Menser of Plainfield, Kylah Patterson of Hammond Morton, Paige Schnaus of Gibson

Southern and Lily Scholl of Northridge.

In addition to the core group, six players each were chosen for squads labeled Red Group and Blue Group.

The Red Group players are Te'Asia Briscoe of Purdue Poly-Englewood, Alaina Diamond of Loo-gootee, Kendal Hill of South Knox, Chesley Jackson of Charlestown, Saniya Smith of Pike and Etta Young of Jennings County.

See *All-Stars* ... Page 9

# Lacrosse begins in Hamilton County



Photos by Mike Navarro

It's time for lacrosse season across Indiana. Hamilton County teams, both boys and girls, have already begun their seasons. Westfield's girls hosted Zionsville on Monday, with the Eagles winning 16-5. Sophia Merriman scored three goals for the Shamrocks, while Ella Schaefer scored the other two goals. Pictured are Schaefer (left) and her Westfield teammate Jade Keefer. Be sure to read The Reporter for lacrosse coverage throughout the spring.

## Men's Basketball

# Noblesville Boom's second-half comeback falls short in Detroit

*Hildreth scores 30 in return; Brook Jr. flirts with triple-double in loss*

### The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom (14-15) dropped their sixth consecutive game on Tuesday, falling to the Motor City Cruise (16-12), 135-131, at Wayne State Fieldhouse.

After missing the last two games, Cameron Hildreth returned with a game-high 30 points on 12-of-16 shooting, including 3-of-4 from beyond the arc. Keion Brooks Jr. followed his Boom debut with a near triple-double, finishing with 19 points, 10 assists, and nine rebounds. Dakota Mathias added 25 points, four steals, and three rebounds.

For Motor City, Isaac Jones (25 points, 10 rebounds) and Tolu Smith (14 points, 10 rebounds) each

recorded a double-double. John Ukomadu contributed 19 points, five rebounds, and three assists off the bench, while Jaden Akins added 18 points, five assists, four rebounds, and four steals.

The Cruise built an early eight-point lead (37-29) after the first 12 minutes, powered by several runs and strong bench production. Motor City's reserves accounted for 17 of their 37 first-quarter points, compared to just four from the Boom bench. The Cruise caught fire in the second quarter, knocking down their first seven three-pointers of the frame to stretch their lead to 22 - their largest of the game. Noblesville briefly swung momentum with a 9-0 run to cut the

deficit to 13, but the Cruise responded to take a 20-point lead into halftime. Seven players reached double figures in the opening half, including four Cruise players, led by a 17-point first half from Isaac Jones.

Noblesville flipped the script in the second half, igniting a 31-12 run out of the break to pull within one with 5:08 left in the third quarter. Hildreth fueled the surge with 16 third-quarter points, helping the Boom take their first lead since early in the opening period. Despite being limited to 22 points in the quarter, the Cruise held a 101-99 edge entering the fourth. Motor City regained control early in the fourth, using a 24-4 run to reestablish an 18-point cushion

with 3:15 remaining. With a lineup featuring four bench players, the Boom mounted one final rally, responding with a 20-3 run to pull within one down the stretch. Trailing by two with 16 seconds remaining and a chance to tie, Noblesville committed a costly turnover on the inbounds play. The Cruise converted two free throws on the other end to secure the 135-131 victory.

### Next up

The teams meet again Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Wayne State Fieldhouse. Coverage will be available on ESPN+.

Tickets and team updates are available at [NoblesvilleBoom.com](http://NoblesvilleBoom.com), and fans can stream every game live at [NBAGLeague.com](http://NBAGLeague.com).

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### 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.

Please email schedule changes or corrections to [sports@readthereporter.com](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).



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## Motorsports

# Park, bike or ride: travel options for Indy 500 Race Day

*On-site parking, camping sold out for Race Day*

### Submitted by IMS

Race Day parking and camping at Indianapolis Motor Speedway are sold out for the 110th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge almost a month ahead of last year, another indication of a historic crowd anticipated for Sunday, May 24.

With phenomenal Race Day ticket sales trending ahead of 2025, when all reserved seating sold out, fans should remember to plan ahead and arrive early for "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing."

"The momentum continues to build as we lead into the 110th Running of the Indianapolis 500, and the fans who make this event so special are once again going to make the race the world's largest single-day sporting event," IMS and INDYCAR President J. Douglas Boles said. "Even though IMS parking is sold out, there are still many great options, including our shuttles and one of the great Race Day traditions of parking – and camping – in the yards and driveways of so many Town of Speedway residents."

Alternative options for fans to ensure a successful Race Day experience include the following:

#### Speedway & Neighborhood Parking

A significant number of fans have made it a tradition to park in the areas surrounding IMS. The residents and businesses of Speedway and other communities welcome these visitors and open their yards and lots to those looking for alternate parking options. This Hoosier hospitality is key to hosting the world's largest single-day sporting event at the Racing Capital of the World.

#### Bike to the 500 & Bike Parking

The **BodyArmor Flash I.V. Bike to the 500 presented by Central Indiana Cycling** is back for its 11th year, offering race fans a safe and healthy way to commute to the track on Race Day. The escorted, five-mile commute starts at the AMP at 16 Tech, and riders can choose from two departure times, 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Cyclists will then park outside the famed Gate 1 at IMS.



Graphic provided by IMS

Central Indiana Cycling will offer a limited number of pre-sold and on-site valet bike options at Gate 1 and 2 for those not participating in Bike to the 500.

Bike parking is available for all cyclists at Gates 1, 6, and 9.

#### Rideshares

Race fans who are not planning to park at the track should consider using a rideshare service, such as Uber or Lyft, when traveling to or from the facility on Race Day. Guests using rideshare services like Uber, Lyft or taxis will be dropped off at the corner of 10th and Polco Streets. Guests also will be picked up at this location after the race.

#### Race Day Shuttles

IMS also offers a round-trip shuttle service for fans.

The school busses depart from either the Indianapolis International Airport or downtown Indianapolis locations and arrive at the Main Gate parking lot (between Oval Turns 1 and 2) located across from Gate 2 on 16th Street. Shuttle tickets are still available [here](#).

## ALL-STARS

The Blue Group players are Payton DuVall of Franklin Central, Kenzie Koch of Eastern Hancock, Elliot Leffler of Roncalli, Courtney Mathew of Rensselaer Central, Carlee Schrader of Northview and Hallie Schwieterman of Jay County.

Lisa Finn of Cathedral will be the head coach and Andy Heim of Class 3A state champion Bellmont will be the assistant coach for the 2026 Indiana girls' Junior All-Stars.

The Junior All-Stars will play one game against the Kentucky Junior All-Stars on Sunday, May 31 at

Charlestown High School. The Junior All-Stars also will play one game against the Indiana All-Star senior girls on Wednesday, June 3 at a site to be announced. Both games will be double-headers with the 2025 Indiana boys Junior All-Stars, who will be chosen later.

The players listed as Core Group players each will play in two games. The players listed in the Red and Blue groups each will play in one game, the Red Group on May 31 against the Kentucky Juniors and the Blue Group on June 3 against the Indiana Seniors.

The Indiana senior All-

Stars will play the Kentucky senior All-Stars on June 5 at a site to be announced. The Indiana senior All-Stars will play Kentucky's seniors again on June 6 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

The fourth annual *IndyStar* Indiana All-Star "Futures Games" doubleheader will be played on June 1 at a site to be announced. The Futures Games will be a girls-boys doubleheader with Indiana-only squads of sophomores and freshmen in a North vs. South format. The Futures Games rosters will be announced later.

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