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THE HAMILTON COUNTY
REPORTER
Your Hometown Newspaper

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER
Today: Mostly sunny. Clouds increase in the late afternoon.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy.
HIGH: 47 LOW: 41




Sheridan community comes together for Family Game Night

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

On March 5, Sheridan Elementary School (SES) welcomed students and families for another exciting Family Game Night. This annual evening is focused on bringing together families for a night of fun learning within a relaxed atmosphere. The night brought educational games and laughter together.

All evening long, families rotated through the variety of game stations. These games encouraged teamwork and connected to the educational focus of PBL (Project-Based Learning). "Old-school" board games and other interactive "games" provided an opportunity to play together while reinforcing the academic skills that SES drives home every day.

There was also a new feature: literacy-based games. These "games" highlighted the



Photo provided by Sheridan Community Schools
There's nothing like an intense round of Hungry Hippos! More photos on Page 3.

importance of reading at home. Another new feature was the free book giveaway. Students were able to choose books to

take home and add to their home libraries. Activities like this help encourage reading beyond the classroom and help

SES students build strong literacy habits.

See Game . . . Page 3

Dog walking ballet

Ever since I was a teenager, I've loved to walk my dogs. Seeing our pets' joyful faces and furiously wagging tails, along with hearing their barks of excitement when I say, "Wanna go for a walk?" is the best feeling. And the walk itself is something I look forward to every day.

Walking gives dogs great exercise and mental stimulation. It strengthens the bond between them and humans. And it's good for people, too. Fellow columnist Sharon McMahon has written about the benefits of walking over the years.

As my dogs and I stroll (and stop . . . and stroll . . . and stop) in nature, I often get inspiration for books, these columns, and other areas of life. The exercise is wonderful for us all, including the special "ballet" maneuvers we must incorporate when my husband John joins us.

Let me explain. When I walk Elli and Sasha by myself, I use a "splitter" so they're connected and I have only one leash versus two. This makes things simpler, especially when it's time for poo pickup.

See Ballet . . . Page 2



Tipton awarded \$6.6 million for Jefferson Street reconstruction

Submitted by City of Tipton

The City of Tipton has been awarded \$6,642,282 in federal transportation funding through the Indiana Department of Transportation's Local Public Agency (LPA) program to complete the full reconstruction of Jefferson Street through downtown.

The funding, provided through the Federal Highway Administration and administered by INDOT, will support the second phase of the Jefferson Street reconstruction project, allowing the city to complete improvements from Independence Street east to State Road 19.

The first phase of the project – already funded through a



Schmicker



Ankrum



Dietrick

previously awarded LPA grant – will reconstruct Jefferson Street from Buck Creek on the west side of town to Independence Street. With this newest award, the city will now be able to complete the full corridor reconstruction across Tipton.

"Securing funding to reconstruct Jefferson Street through town has been a high priority since day one," Mayor Kevin Schmicker said. "We know from INDOT's engineering assessment and their own project plans that Jefferson Street re-

quires reconstruction to ensure its reliability and safety into the future. This funding will ensure that Jefferson Street through town is constructed with modern practices and infrastructure to support the city's growth."

The reconstruction will include a full-depth reconstruction of the roadway, along with major upgrades to the buried utilities running beneath Jefferson Street through the project area. Replacing and modernizing this underground infrastructure will help ensure the corridor can serve the community reliably for decades.

See Tipton . . . Page 2

Thank veterans with tax relief, not just empty words

The 2026 Indiana General Assembly just ended after passing **House Bill 1210: Department of Local Government Finance.**

Any Disabled Veteran who is "totally disabled" and has an honorable discharge is eligible for a 100 percent tax credit on their property tax bill. Indiana will be the 23rd state to offer this benefit.

Congratulations to the thousands of Veterans who will qualify; they have earned this credit. These Disabled Veterans have already paid more than their fair share with their bodies, health, and future employment. Expecting them to fund state budgets through property taxes adds an unfair financial burden to those who can least afford it. This was long

See Relief . . . Page 2



WHS Service Over Self Club & Westfield Lions teaming up to feed you pancakes

All proceeds will go to Miracle League of Westfield

Submitted by JEFF LARRISON

Westfield Lions Club

On Saturday, March 28, the Westfield High School (WHS) Service Over Self (SOS) Club, along with support from the Westfield Lions Club and the Westfield Lions Foundation, will hold their second annual pancake breakfast.

This year's fundraiser will be at the WHS cafeteria and will raise money for the Miracle League of Westfield. The breakfast will run from 8 to 10 a.m. and will feature pancakes, sausage, donuts, milk, juice, and coffee. The cost of the breakfast is \$8 for adults, children under 12 years old \$5, and children 2 years and under are free. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted. Also, businesses and in-



dividuals interested in being "placemat sponsors" can help support this event. Anyone who would like to be a sponsor can contact Westfield Lions Club for more information. You can email them at info@westfieldlions.org, or call them at (317) 416-8330. The cost for a sponsorship is \$50.

All donations for the breakfast will be accepted by Westfield Lions Foundation Inc., which is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charitable organization.

Checks can be made out to the Westfield Lions Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 545, Westfield, IN 46074. Please note on the checks that they are for the pancake breakfast.

The Miracle League of Westfield is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe, successful, and enjoyable baseball experience for children and adults with disabilities or special health care needs. The committee that runs the program is 100 percent vol-

unteer-led and offers "adaptive baseball" with an accessible stadium at the Roundtripper Academy.

The SOS Club's members are committed to serving others, like the Westfield Lions Club, and it has conducted various service projects, fundraising events, and volunteer efforts. This group of committed students is dedicated to helping make the community a better place. The Westfield Lions Club recognized the SOS Club's similar interests and goals and enthusiastically came alongside them to help fund their projects and assist with their service work.

For more information on the Miracle League of Westfield and the amazing project the organization has developed, go to MiracleLeagueOfWestfield.com.

Former Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard to start new Lincoln Party

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wistv.com

Former Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard's campaign said Wednesday he's starting a new party so like-minded future candidates can avoid signature requirements.

Ballard, who served two terms as mayor as a Republican, is running for secretary of state as an independent. Any political party that gets at least 2 percent of the vote in the secretary of state's race automatically qualifies for the ballot, meaning its candidates, once nominated, do not have to collect signatures.

Ballard will still be considered an independent candidate for official purposes but would appear under the Lincoln Party label if he collects enough signatures to appear.



Ballard

See Ballard . . . Page 2

BALLET

When John walks with me, however, he uses one leash for Elli, and I use one for Sasha. This creates more fun, conversation, laughter, and ... challenges.

The girls don't walk nice and straight when we go on our little adventures. Their noses lead them to sniff all kinds of objects along and outside the sidewalk or trail, which typically means they're zigging and zagging

along. The next thing we know, we have a Leash Entanglement Situation. This happens at least three to four times per walk.

When we encounter a Leash Entanglement Situation, we must do one of three things:

1. Pause and pirouette to untangle said leashes, hoping we don't trip and fall flat on our faces.
2. Perform a plié to un-

cross the leashes, which sometimes works and sometimes doesn't.

3. Keep walking despite the tangles until we get to a good stopping point or one dog decides to investigate something or we stop at a crosswalk. At this point the leashes are so tangled that we must unclip the girls and figure out what to do.

These situations give us quite a chuckle, and I'm

sure people walking or driving by give us some strange looks as we wriggle and perform our "Dog Walking Ballet." Sometimes it moves into Breakdance territory – as in, we may break something during this dance.

I bet we're not alone with our special dance, with 40 to 50 percent of our country's population owning dogs.

The "ballet" does help my flexibility, problem-solving capabilities, and patience. The four of us love spending time together on these adventures, and we look forward to more walks as the weather continues to warm up.

Amy Shankland is an empty-nester, writer, and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John and two dogs. You can reach her via email at amys@greenavenue.info.

TIPTON

from Page 1

"Tipton Municipal Utilities (TMU) is pleased to participate in another signature City project," TMU General Manager Jim Ankrum said. "For the past few years TMU has collaborated with the City of Tipton on various infrastructure projects. These projects give TMU the opportunity to replace aging water, sewer, and stormwater piping systems at the same time roadway work is underway. It makes total economic sense for our ratepayers that we would continue this partnership on this recently awarded LPA project."

In addition to roadway and utility improvements, the project will include construction of a 10-foot multi-use path designed to connect the west side of Tipton to the east side of town, creating a safer and more accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists.

"Receiving this award to rebuild Jefferson Street is more than an investment in asphalt and concrete – it's an investment in safer travel and a future where our infrastructure truly serves the people who depend on it every day," Tipton Municipal Services Superintendent Dylan Dietrick said. "Not only will this funding allow the city to complete the second phase of Jefferson Street, it will create the vital infrastructure needed to continue future development and growth across the city."

The project funding includes allocations for utility work, construction, and construction engineering phases. Construction of the second phase is expected to follow completion of the first phase of the Jefferson Street project and is currently anticipated to occur around 2031.



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.

RELIEF

from Page 1

overdue. Thank you to state legislators for passing it!

The current law allows a Disabled Veteran who is at least 10 percent disabled and less than 100 percent disabled to deduct \$24,960 from the assessed value of their taxable home (not rental). The Disabled Veteran must be honorably discharged and provide to their County Assessor evidenced by: (A) a pension certificate, an award of compensation, or a disability compensation check issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or (B) a certificate of eligibility issued to the individual by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

Also, a surviving spouse of an individual who receives this deduction even after the Disabled Veteran dies is also eligible for this deduction if the surviving spouse remains in the same dwelling and doesn't remar-

ry. The law was changed to eliminate this deduction on Jan. 1, 2028.

The \$14,000 assessed value deduction which had a \$240,000 cap is eliminated. Starting in January 2028, this same Disabled Veteran, Surviving Spouses, and any new Disabled Veteran or Surviving Spouse as described above will receive a \$350 tax credit off their property tax bill.

This will be a financial loss to about 80 percent of the Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses.

Any of these Disabled Veterans or Surviving Spouses who are over 62 will be eligible for an additional \$250 tax credit regardless of the value of their taxable home. However, they may not be eligible for the \$100 senior tax credit that all other homeowners are eligible for because of the 2025 property tax changes. This is new

and will minimally offset the losses cited above.

I find it difficult and disturbing that all the Disabled Indiana Veterans do not receive a property tax credit equal to their VA Disability rating. Indiana has a moral and economic incentive to have each veteran join this property tax credit, equal to their VA Disability Rating. It's a matter of parity, fairness, and honoring service.

Let's make our gratitude tangible. Words like "thank you for your service" ring hollow without action. Let's get this done!

We need to get our priorities in order. Wars eventually end, but the wounds our veterans carry can last a lifetime. Taking care of them should never be optional; it should be our nation's priority.

Let's keep working together for help, aid, and hope for our Veteran Community.

BALLARD

from Page 1

Statement from Ballard for Secretary of State campaign

"Mayor Greg Ballard is running for Secretary of State as an independent, but due to Indiana law, the only way for his candidacy to unlock ballot access for other good people like him in the future – without the onerous signature requirements currently imposed on independent candidates – is to list the name of a party on the petition forms used to collect signatures.

"Such a party does not exist right now and would not be established unless the campaign meets the le-

gal threshold after the November election results are certified. Indiana ballots have previously included candidates who were not affiliated with the major parties but appeared with a party name listed next to their candidacy. For example, in 2024 an independent candidate for president appeared on the ballot in Indiana with the name of a party listed next to their name.

"Given that Abraham Lincoln spent his boyhood in Indiana, where he learned the values of unity, integrity, and bringing people together, the campaign felt 'Lincoln Party' was an

appropriate name for this effort."

The Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian parties are the only parties that currently qualify to appear on the ballot in Indiana. Parties must hold primaries if they receive at least 10 percent of the vote in the secretary of state's race. Otherwise, they must nominate candidates for all offices through party conventions, as in the case of the Libertarians in Indiana.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/greg-ballard-lincoln-party.

Thanks for reading The Reporter!

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GAME

from Page 1

“Our Family Game Nights are a wonderful opportunity for families to come into the school, spend time together, and see how learning can happen through fun activities,” SES Principal Valerie Roberts said. “Seeing our students excited about the games, reading, and working alongside their family makes these events all the more worth it.”

This event, along with

countless others, provides SES students, families, and staff a unique opportunity to spend quality time together in a fun, engaging, and collaborative way. With the continued success of events like Family Game Night, SES looks forward to hosting more opportunities that bring everyone together while supporting the education and growth of the students.



Photos provided by Sheridan Community Schools

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Community News

The Easter Bunny is on his way to Sheridan Public Library!

The annual Indoor Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Visit will return to the Sheridan Public Library from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 21. Hunts will begin every 15 minutes.

This event is for kids aged 10 and under. Children are encouraged to bring baskets or bags to carry eggs.

For more information on upcoming events, please visit sheridan.lib.in.us.



Photo provided

Branford Marsalis Quartet returns to Carmel next week

The REPORTER
Drewry Simmons
Vornehm Jazz Series
Branford Marsalis Quartet

Friday, March 20 at 8 p.m.
Payne & Mencias
Palladium

Saxophonist Branford Marsalis is a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master, Grammy Award winner, Tony Award nominee, and one of the most influential figures in contemporary music.

For more than three decades, the core of his musical universe has been the Branford Marsalis Quartet, an ensemble celebrated for its uncompromising interpretation of both original compositions and jazz and popular classics.

Following up on the Grammy-nominated albums *Upward Spiral* and *The Secret Between the Shadow*, the group's new debut release on Blue Note Records is *Belonging*, a complete interpretation of Keith Jarrett's 1974 album of the same name.

Click here for tickets.

Hannah Eggert named assistant principal of Carey Ridge Elementary

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

Westfield Washington Schools (WWS) announces that Hannah Eggert has been named the next Assistant Principal of Carey Ridge Elementary School.

Eggert currently serves as a second-grade teacher at Oak Trace Elementary School, where she has been an educator for the past nine years. Throughout her time in the classroom, she has been recognized for her commitment to student learning, collaboration with colleagues, and strong partnerships with families. She has also taken on leadership roles within the school community, including mentoring a student teacher and serving as a representative in the district's Professional Learning Community Academy.

In addition to her classroom leadership, Eggert gained administrative experience as the Summer School Administrator for WWS in Summer 2025, where she co-ordinated programming, supported staff, communicated with families, and ensured students received targeted academic support aligned with IREAD expectations. She also completed multiple semesters as a principal intern at Oak Trace Elementary and Westfield High School, supporting school leadership teams with professional development, student data analysis, safety planning, and student support initiatives.

Eggert earned her Master's Degree in Educational



Eggert

Leadership with Administrative Licensure from Purdue University and her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Indianapolis, where she was also a member and captain of the university's women's soccer team.

"I am so excited and honored to join the team at Carey Ridge," Eggert said. "I look forward to partnering with our wonderful students, families, and staff to support all of our learners reach their full potential."

Outside the classroom, Eggert has been deeply involved in student activities and athletics. She served as the Westfield High School Girls Varsity Soccer Coach

from 2018 through winter 2025, building strong relationships with student-athletes and families while leading the program for seven seasons.

Carey Ridge Elementary Principal Scott Chambers expressed enthusiasm for Eggert joining the leadership team.

"I am honored to welcome Mrs. Hannah Eggert to her new role as Assistant Principal at CRES. I look forward to partnering with Hannah to continue to offer Carey Ridge the love and care we provide for our students and staff."

Westfield Washington Schools is excited to welcome Hannah Eggert to Carey Ridge Elementary and looks forward to the leadership, energy, and dedication she will bring to the school community.

Westfield Washington school board approves transition to semester schedule

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

The Westfield Washington Schools (WWS) Board of Trustees voted Tuesday evening, March 10 to approve a transition from a trimester academic calendar to a semester calendar for Westfield schools, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year.

The 2026-2027 school year will remain on the trimester schedule, allowing time for planning, collaboration, and preparation ahead of the transition.

The move follows more than a year of research and discussion by the Westfield High School (WHS) Schedule Task Force, a group of educators who studied scheduling models, gathered feedback from stake-



WESTFIELD WASHINGTON SCHOOLS

holders, and evaluated how scheduling impacts student learning, course opportunities, and district operations.

"One of the things I would want our stakeholders to know is just how thorough of a process we went through as a scheduling task force," said Alexandra Mailloux, instructional coach at WHS. "As a team, we had a wide variety of educators from across the building that brought different experiences, different backgrounds, and expertise so that we really could consider all of the different

variables that are impacted by a schedule."

For many educators involved in the process, the research and analysis helped clarify the benefits a semester model could bring to students.

"At first I was not fully on board for the change because I love trimesters," said Emily Wetzel, a teacher at WHS. "But once we did some research and started digging in with the sizes of classes and the size of the building, it made more sense to have longer classes with longer passing periods."

The new structure is also expected to strengthen opportunities for deeper learning in the classroom while improving alignment with outside partners.

"Going to semesters for Westfield High School would be a huge advantage for our teachers from the standpoint of having more time in the classroom to go a lot deeper," said Eric Rauch, instructional coach at WHS. "The extended time to get to know students and build relationships ultimately helps set our kids up for success."

The change will also support WWS' commitment to preparing students for life beyond graduation.

"The new schedule will allow us to better align with

See Semester . . . Page 5

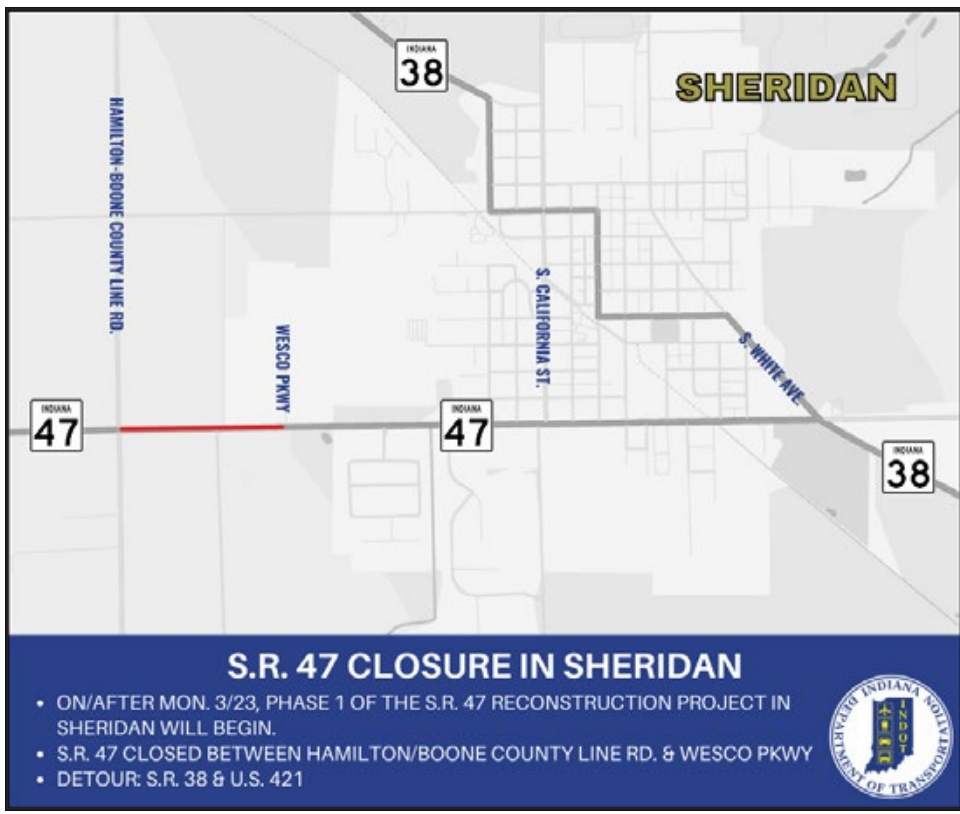
ANGELA SWENSON FOR JUDGE
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Thanks for reading The Reporter!

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225 S. Union Street

Strike gold with more details at westfieldin.gov/shamrockdrop



Graphic provided by INDOT

State Road 47 reconstruction project to begin in Sheridan

The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Transportation announces that Phase 1 of the State Road 47 Reconstruction Project in Sheridan is set to begin on or after Monday, March 23.

During the first phase of construction, SR 47 will be closed between Hamilton/Boone County Line Road and Westco Parkway. This

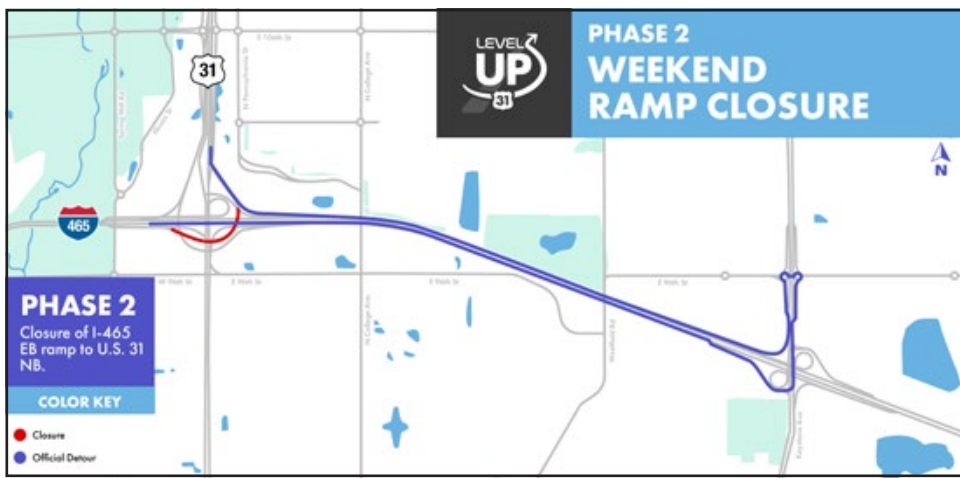
closure is scheduled to remain in place for approximately one month.

Sections of SR 47 are scheduled to be closed through the middle of 2027, as crews work to reconstruct the road between the Hamilton/Boone county line and State Road 38. You can learn more about the SR 47 Reconstruction Project [here](#).

During Phase 1, drivers

are encouraged to follow the official detour of SR 38 and U.S. 421. Access for local traffic will be maintained throughout construction.

INDOT reminds drivers to slow down, avoid distractions, and use extra caution while traveling in and around work zones. All work is weather-dependent, and schedules are subject to change.



Graphic provided by INDOT

I-465 eastbound ramp to U.S. 31 northbound to close for weekend work

The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) announces that a closure is planned for this weekend on the Interstate 465 eastbound ramp to U.S. 31 northbound. The ramp closure will begin around 9 p.m. on Friday, March 13, and remain in place until reopening Monday, March 16 around 6 a.m.

A signed detour will be available. Motorists can access northbound U.S. 31 from I-465 eastbound by using the Keystone Avenue exit, traveling north onto Keystone, turning west at

the East 96th Street exit and taking the roundabout back to southbound Keystone Avenue. They can then exit onto I-465 westbound and take the exit on to U.S. 31 northbound.

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

Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead, follow posted signage, and allow additional travel time this weekend while this work is underway.

An updated traffic overview of current Level Up 31 impacts is available

at [LevelUp31.com](#). Subscribe to Level Up 31 text and email updates at [alerts.indot.in.gov](#) to receive the latest traffic alerts, construction updates, and project progress.

Ascension St. Vincent Carmel first in Indiana to earn international accreditation for robotic surgery program

The REPORTER

Ascension St. Vincent Carmel has earned a first-in-Indiana accreditation from **Surgical Review Corporation (SRC)**, an internationally recognized nonprofit organization that accredits hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers for excellence in robotic surgery and patient safety.

The accreditation recognizes Ascension St. Vincent Carmel's commitment to standardized, evidence-based processes that improve patient outcomes, enhance operational performance, and reduce complications.

"Robotic surgery is not simply about advanced technology – it is about delivering safer, more precise care for our patients," said Dr. Peter Bustamante, Chief

Medical Officer with Ascension St. Vincent North Region. "This accreditation affirms the disciplined processes, teamwork and physician expertise that define our program."

SRC accreditation standards are directly tied to measurable improvements in patient safety and quality outcomes. In a recent survey, accredited designees reported:

- 71 percent improved patient safety
- 65 percent decreased complications
- 53 percent improved patient satisfaction
- 53 percent higher patient volume
- 47 percent improved efficiency and efficacy

The designation reflects the work of Ascension St. Vincent's robotic surgeons

in Carmel, including:

- Peter J. Davis, MD
- Stefanie A. Flora, MD
- Christine E. Gupta, MD
- Maram A. Said, DO
- Andreina Zambrano, MD

Robotic-assisted procedures allow surgeons to perform complex operations using minimally invasive techniques, often resulting in smaller incisions, less pain, shorter hospital stays, and faster recovery times for patients.

Ascension St. Vincent continues to invest in advanced surgical capabilities across Indiana, expanding access to high-quality specialty care close to home.

For more information about robotic surgery at Ascension St. Vincent Carmel, [click here](#).

SEMESTER

from Page 4

local businesses, more job training, getting our students ready to be life ready," said Natalie Messmore, a teacher at WHS.

In addition to deeper instructional opportunities, the semester model will provide continuous learning in core subjects (no more trimester gaps between subjects like math and English) and better align Westfield schools with other local similarly-sized schools, career and technical education programs, and college-level

course partnerships.

WHS and district leaders emphasize that the transition will be carefully planned over the next two school years, with continued collaboration among teachers, administrators, students, and families.

WWS will share additional updates regarding bell schedules, course planning, and the finalized 2027-2028 academic calendar with students, staff, and families as the transition process continues.

Meet *New York Times* bestselling author Kwame Mbalia at Fishers Library

The REPORTER

The Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) will welcome *New York Times* bestselling author Kwame Mbalia to the Fishers Library at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 24.

Mbalia is a husband, father, writer, publisher, and former pharmaceutical meteorologist (in that order). He is the author of the bestselling *Tristan Strong* series, the first installment of which received a Coretta Scott King Author Honor.

Mbalia is also the co-author of *Last Gate of the Emperor* with Prince Joel Makonnen, published by Scholastic, and the editor of the No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling anthology *Black Boy Joy*, published by Delacorte Press.

In addition to his writing, Mbalia serves as a publisher for Freedom Fire, his imprint created in collaboration with Disney Books. His newest middle grade adventure, *Jax Freeman and the Phantom Shriek*, a Freedom Fire title, was released in October 2024. A graduate of Howard University and a Midwesterner now living in North Carolina, Mbalia says

he survives on dad jokes and Cheez-Its.

"We are excited to host Kwame Mbalia at the Ham-



Mbalia

ilton East Public Library," HEPL Systemwide Program Coordinator Allison Kartman said. "Kwame's works mainly focus on middle grade readers, and his *Tristan Strong* and *Jax Freeman* series will please any *Percy Jackson* fan who enjoys tales of gods, legends, and mythical tales! Author visits are always a great way for kids and families to connect with the people behind their favorite stories and learn more about the process of writing and becoming a published author."

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required but is highly encouraged to help staff prepare for attendance. Following the program, Mbalia will be available to sign books. LoudMouth Books will be onsite beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a selection of titles available for purchase.

For more information about Kwame Mbalia's author visit, please visit hamiltoneastpl.org.

Welcome to The Timesheet. This column is a report of work done on behalf of the people of Hamilton County. It's to be informative, too – a place to learn about projects and how our county government works.

As your employee, it's important to me that you know what is being worked on as transparently as possible in county government. You hired me as your County Councilman, and my hope is that you will choose to be informed by regularly reading this column, getting involved, considering volunteering, and by asking questions.

Council meetings are at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center in downtown Noblesville. Meetings are also available to watch online for those unable to attend in person.

Here is where my time this past month has been spent.

In addition to the County Council public meetings, February work included: watching Board of Commissioners' public meetings, meeting with the interim CEO of Riverview from Parkview Health, a review of the Council website updates, a meeting with Carmel City Council member Rich Taylor, a meeting with Jackson Township Board candidate Eric Scherer, and a Council Caucus session.

The in-person February personnel committee meeting was canceled in lieu of



MARK HALL
The Timesheet

a poll of the voting committee members. The poll addressed five position requests for reclassification from the Auditor's Department and one reclassification from the Community Corrections department.

All requests were approved after committee members reviewed the supporting documentation which included studies from our outside vendor. Interestingly, one reclassification resulting in an expense reduction of over \$7,000. The requests were moved on to the full council for a final approval vote.

The finance committee did not meet this past month. The insurance committee did not meet this past month.

During February I received eight constituent service requests and communications. Several families living near the intersection of Pleasant Street and Cherry Tree Road contacted me regarding the speed limit along Cherry Tree Road and its intersection with the new Pleasant Street Parkway. After driving through the area myself, I contacted Brad Davis of the Highway Department to discuss both issues. The area is on a list of county roads that will undergo a formal speed test. There are no immediate plans to resurface Cherry Tree that I could discover (City of Noblesville or Hamilton County).

A constituent reached out asking me a question about the HCRUD (Ham-

ilton County Regional Utility District). He was under the impression that the county was spending \$50,000 a month on dog food using it as a biological agent in the facility while HCRUD awaits enough connections to no longer need any additive. After researching the question and speaking with the Auditor's Office to verify expenses and with the head of the HCRUD, the county is using an additive named Smart B.O.D. which is used to feed and support the biological floc (biomass in activated sludge systems). For 2025 and so far in 2026 the district has spent \$18,600 in total.

Another constituent reached out asking if he could connect to the HCRUD. After researching the location, I connected him to the head of the Utility District where they planned for his connection as the lines come through his area.

A family reached out asking for advice on an issue with their HOA. They feel as though their HOA was selectively enforcing rules rather than universally applying them to all homeowners in their Noblesville neighborhood. Specifically, they asked about county or city zoning overriding the HOA and about litigation.

Lastly, it was an honor to represent you this month at the Pizza and Punchlines event produced by Crossroads Church.

Of special note this month was the briefing that council received from John Bowen, the interim CEO of Riverview Health. As a

reminder, the county purchased property from Riverview for \$17 million and created a secured debt refinancing package that allowed Riverview Health to continue operations.

Turning around a county hospital is an enormous challenge, and I'm happy to report that the new leadership has made and continues to make substantive improvements to operations, personnel, reimbursements, and processes. As my grandpa used to say, "It ain't soup yet," but I can tell you that the changes made so far have the confidence of many that the team brought in from Parkview to consult is well on the way to ensuring Riverview will be healthy for a long time to come.

This is my timesheet. This is where my time went during February 2026. While my job is primarily the financial oversight of the county budget, it is important that I understand the Board of Commissioners' priorities and balance them with the stewardship of taxpayer dollars. That is the job, and I am excited to do the people's business.

As a taxpayer myself, and listening to so many of you, our employers, it's important for the taxpayers to have access to all the information you want. I work for you, and although you may not choose to do a deep dive into what your County Council does, it's important that you can always do so.

Feel free to contact me at (317) 832-1104 or mark.hall@hamiltoncounty.in.gov with questions, feedback, or if you would like to talk about county business.

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\$17 adoption fee set for select pit bulls at Humane Society in Fishers

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
WISH-TV | wistv.com

The Humane Society for Hamilton County and two sponsors are offering \$17 adoption fees for select pit bull dogs as part of **Pit Bull Education Month**.

The initiative has focused on educating people about a breed that has faced nearly 40 years of discrimination and abuse after once being considered "America's Dog." According to a news release from the shelter at 10501 Hague Road in

Fishers, pit bulls make up the majority of the population in U.S. shelters due to issues such as backyard breeding, dog fighting, and frequent breed misidentification in media reports.

Emma Nobbe, community engagement manager for the society, said in a statement in the release, "Every day, our front desk staff are faced with more and more visitors requesting to see any dog except a pit bull. Most of these folks have never actually met a pit bull, but rather,

have been negatively influenced by inaccurate media reporting and a lack of understanding about the dozens of dog breeds, let alone mixes thereof, who have similar physical characteristics to the American Pit Bull Terrier."

J.C. Hart Apartment Communities and PODS Moving and Storage are the sponsors of the initiative. The \$17 adoption fee incentive is available for dogs older than 6 months. These fees include services such as spay or neuter surgeries,

microchipping, and age-appropriate vaccinations. Adopters also will receive a free wellness exam from a participating veterinarian, a bag of dog food, and discounts from local sponsors.

Adoption hours are from noon to 5 p.m. every day except Wednesdays, which are reserved for appointments.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wistv.com/news/local-news/17-adoption-fee-set-for-select-pit-bulls-at-humane-society-in-fishers.

Hamilton County native gains experience while interning during 2026 session

Submitted by Office of State Rep. Danny Lopez

Carmel High School graduate August Miller gained experience as an intern with State Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel) and his fellow members of the Indiana House of Representatives during the 2026 legislative session.

Miller is the son of Jennifer and Jerid Miller. He recently graduated Indiana University Indianapolis with a major in political science.

"I love being able to help the people of Indiana by supporting policy," Miller said. "Connecting with constituents also plays an important role in ensuring their state government is working for them."

As a legislative intern, Miller corresponds with constituents through phone calls, letters, and emails while also staffing committee hearings and floor proceedings.

"August is a promis-



Photo provided by Office of State Rep. Danny Lopez

August Miller (left) confers with State Rep. Danny Lopez on the House floor.

ing young leader from our community," Lopez said. "It's encouraging to see interns like him demonstrate a commitment and willingness to serve."

Each year, the Indiana House offers paid, full-time,

spring semester internship opportunities to college students, recent graduates and students in graduate and law school during the legislative session.

Learn more about the House Republican intern-

ship program by visiting IndianaHouseRepublicans.com/internship.

State Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel) represents House District 39, which includes a portion of Hamilton County.

Carmel opens poster contest for America 250 celebration

Submitted by City of Carmel

Mayor Sue Finkam invites Carmel residents to submit a poster for America's Semi-centennial – the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in collaboration with the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM). In addition to this milestone, the City of Carmel is celebrating its 50th anniversary, making this contest extra special.

The **America 250 Poster Project** aims to create visual representations (posters) that celebrate local history and inspire hope for the future.

Artists of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to participate and submit their work. Design submissions are limited to two entries per individual. Poster designs should convey civic pride, historical connection, and optimism for the next 250 years (please see Illustrative Themes). Each poster should incorporate the name of the city, "Carmel," and "America 250" into the design.

"What better way for our arts-loving residents to celebrate our nation's founding than by sharing their talents," Mayor Finkam said. "In addition to recognizing this national milestone, the

City of Carmel is celebrating its 50th anniversary, making this contest extra special."

Mayor Finkam and the **Carmel Arts Council** will select a winner from each of the four submission categories. The winning poster among the four that best exemplifies the theme will then be selected for submission to the USCM for display at USCM's 94th annual Meeting this June in Long Beach, Calif.

Contest timeline
 • Monday, April 20: Deadline for submissions (5 p.m. for in-person City Hall drop-off)

• June 4 to 6: Winning poster displayed at the 94th annual USCM Meeting in Long Beach, Calif.

How to submit your poster

• Drop off in person: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square, first floor reception desk

• Mail in: Carmel poster and a completed submission form to: Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square, Carmel, IN 46032

• All submissions must include a submission form
 • Submissions will not be returned to you



Finkam

Illustrative themes (must be non-partisan)
 • America's 250th Anniversary
 • Carmel's 50th Anniversary (Get inspired! Visit Carmel History Museum's website)

Clay History Museum's website
 • Patriotism/community pride
 • United States and/or Carmel history
 • Civic life and engagement
 • Independence Day
 • Unique characteristics of Carmel

Winners selected in four categories
 • Youth (Age 11 years and under)
 • Middle school/high school students (Age 12 to 17)
 • Amateur adult (Age 18 and up)
 • Professional adult (Age 18 and up, currently or previously working in paid capacity as an artist)

Submission requirements & rules

City of Carmel America 250 Poster submissions must be:
 • Original work and not previously exhibited
 • Suitable for public display, reproduction, and

large-scale exhibition
 • Keeping with the suggested or similar themes
 • From a resident of Carmel

• Any visual art medium that meets the size layout requirements outlined below (digital, illustration, painting, mixed media, collage, etc.) no greater than 24 inches wide by 36 inches high

Artificial intelligence (AI) & original work requirement
 For this contest, submissions must be original works created by a human artist and may not include generative AI content. This includes but is not limited to text-to-image, image-to-image, generative fill/expand, style transfer and automated "create an image/design" function. The use of standard digital design software for non-generative functions such as, color correction, layering, vector drawing, and typography is still permitted.

General

The City of Carmel reserves the right, at any time and without prior notice, to cancel, modify or suspend the contest and amend any rules, terms, and conditions.

To access the contest submission form and view the contest guidelines, [click here](#).

The H-C Tavern + Kitchen, located at 9709 E. 116th St., holds HH every Sunday through Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. The menu is short, but the place is comfortable and inviting. This restaurant has two levels – I know because we were asked at the hostess desk if we wanted to sit upstairs – we chose the lower level, which was fine.

Our server Kristin was with us shortly after we sat down, discussed the HH menu a bit, and left to get our waters while we made some decisions. The HH menu, which you can see by scrolling down on their web page – atthehc.com/location/fishers/#happy-hour – has four food items and several drink specials. Mrs. K's Chardonnay choice was slim, so it was the Iconoclast (\$12 with the \$5 off HH price) and I decided on a \$5 off draft beer, selecting Rhinegeist.Cincy.Light Lager.

For our plates we decided to try both of the \$10 Flatbreads that were listed: a Sausage and a Pepperoni variety.

H-C Tavern is an upscale place, a part of the Huse Culinary lineup which includes St. Elmo's, Harry and Izzy's, and the 1933 Lounge. It has



Photo by Ken Klingenmeier

Flatbreads at H-C Tavern + Kitchen.

Happy Hour at H-C Tavern + Kitchen

Sometimes Happy Hour (HH) happens when you aren't even expecting it. That was the case last Sunday as Mrs. K and I looked for somewhere to grab a bite after attending a matinee in Carmel. We wound up at a place we never had seen or heard about in Fishers.



KEN KLINGENMEIER
A Seat at the Table

a beautiful dining area, with a long bar, a few TVs, and several dining rooms. There are windows everywhere to provide a nicely lit environment. Also, I noticed lots of young people, high school age,

neatly attired in shirt and tie, working as bussers and food deliverers. I thought that was good, letting these young people get a start.

A young man brought out our flatbreads on wooden carving trays. They smelled so good on arrival and were perfectly hot and covered with plenty of sauce and cheese. We both enjoyed the saucy flavor and I liked the pepperoni variety a bit more – for its zestier taste. Each flatbread was cut into 10 pieces and I did notice that there was a good deal of empty crust around the edges, so that the corner slices were almost all bread.

It was an enjoyable meal in very comfortable surroundings. Kristin was a very attentive server and we enjoyed chatting with her on her visits to our table. She made us feel welcome.

Our tab came to right at \$40 plus tip, and we had plenty to eat and drink. This was a very pleasant stop on a beautiful winter day.

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.

Young & colleagues introduce Fiscal Commission Act

Submitted by U.S. Senator Todd Young

U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) joined Senators John Curtis (R-Utah) and Angus King (I-Maine) to introduce the Fiscal Commission Act, legislation to strengthen America's fiscal health. The bill would create a bipartisan, bicameral fiscal commission tasked with finding legislative solutions to stabilize spending and decrease the national debt, which now exceeds \$38.8 trillion.

"Our nation's finances must be stabilized for future generations," Sen. Young said. "I've long been a supporter of creating a fiscal commission to examine federal spending in a non-parti-

san way. We must identify areas for meaningful reforms and then enact real change to get our budget and debt under control."

U.S. Senators Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), and Mark Warner (D-Va.) also joined the legislation.

Background
 The national debt now exceeds \$38.8 trillion, which is approximately 124 percent of the entire



Young

U.S. economy. It's projected that the federal government will spend more than \$1 trillion on interest on the debt alone in 2026, making it a larger expenditure than Medicare and national defense, and second only to Social Security.

How it works
 • The legislation would establish a 16-member bi-

partisan, bicameral commission consisting of 12 elected officials and four outside experts. The Speaker of the House, House Minority Leader, Senate Majority Leader, and Senate Minority Leader each appoint four individuals to the Commission, of which three must be members from their respective chambers and one must be an outside expert.

See *Fiscal* . . . Page 8

Banks introduces Health Care for Homeless Veterans Act

Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Jim Banks

On Tuesday, March 10, U.S. Senators Jim Banks (R-Ind.) and Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) introduced the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Act.

The bill would permanently codify VA's authority for the Health Care for Homeless Veterans program, which provides outreach, treatment, rehabilitation services, case management, and permanent housing. This would eliminate the need to continually reauthorize the authority and prevent it from ever expiring again.

"Every veteran who served this country deserves a roof over their head," Sen. Banks said. "This bill makes sure the VA can always help homeless veterans get the support they have earned without the program being at risk of expiring."

Key provisions of the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Act:

• Make VA's authority at 38 U.S. Code § 2031 permanent to care for veterans suffering from serious mental illness or who are homeless.

Background
 Veterans struggle with

homelessness and mental illness at higher rates than other Americans. Roughly **10 percent of veterans** experience homelessness

at some point in their lives, and **31 percent of veterans** receiving care from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have at least one confirmed mental health condition.

To address this problem, Congress granted VA authority in 1997 to treat, rehabilitate, and house veterans experiencing homelessness and serious mental illness. VA used this authority to establish the Health Care for Homeless Veterans program. Under the program, VA provides short-term case management and conducts street outreach to homeless veterans and connects them with treatment, rehabilitation services, and permanent housing.

Congress has repeatedly extended this authority in one or two-year increments, but during the fall 2025 government shutdown VA's authority to operate the Health Care for Homeless Veterans program expired. Short-term extensions and the risk of expiration undermine this program's stability and efficacy.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

KORAH, DATHAN AND ABIRAM

But Moses and Aaron fell facedown and cried out, "O God, the God who gives breath to all living things, will you be angry with the entire assembly when only one man sins?"

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to the assembly, 'Move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.'"

Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. He warned the assembly, "Move back from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins." So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram had come out and were standing with their wives, children and little ones at the entrances to their tents.

Numbers 16:22-27 (NIV)

Heartland Film Festival ranked No. 1 by USA TODAY readers

Submitted

The Indianapolis-based Heartland Film Festival received the No. 1 ranking for the 2026 Best Film Festival by USA TODAY 10BEST Readers' Choice Awards.

The award program's panel of experts nominated 20 film festivals from around the country. Readers were then asked to vote for these nominees from Feb. 2 through March 2, and the top 10 festivals were announced by rank on Wednesday, March 11. The Heartland Film Festival held the No. 1 spot on the list for all 28 days of voting. [Click here](#) to read the story from USA TODAY.

"It is hard to put into words what it means for the Heartland Film Festival to be recognized as the No. 1 Best Film Festival by USA TODAY 10BEST Readers' Choice Awards," Heartland Film President Michael Ault said. "This honor is especially meaningful because we received it thanks to the unwavering support of our community. For 35 years, we have felt their love, and now the entire country can see the dedication of the Heartland Film Festival community."



Photo illustration provided

This year marks the 35th Anniversary of the Heartland Film Festival hosted by the non-profit arts organization, Heartland Film. The October festival has grown from a five-day event to an 11-day internationally-recognized film festival that annually showcases more than 200 film screenings and welcomes more than 100 independent filmmakers from all over the world. Over the years, Heartland Film has presented \$4 million in cash prizes – the largest total amount awarded by any film festival in North America.



heartlandfilm

The folks at the Heartland Film Festival say they are thrilled to add this honor to the list of recent accolades. For the last three years in a row, the Heartland Film Festival has also been included on *MovieMaker Magazine's* Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World and Top 50 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee lists. Heartland Film's mission is to curate, promote and celebrate thoughtful and

engaging films. The organization uplifts films that do more than entertain through the Indy Shorts Film Festival (July 21 to 26, 2026), the Heartland Film Festival (Oct. 8 to 18, 2026) and other year-round community screenings and events.

You can learn more about Heartland Film at HeartlandFilm.org.

Meeting Notice

The Hamilton Heights School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2026, in the Board Room at the Hamilton Heights Student Activity Center, 420 W. North St., Arcadia.

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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The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

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

FISCAL

- The Commission would produce a report and propose legislation aiming to improve the long-term fiscal condition of the Federal Government, stabilize the ratio of public debt to GDP within a 15-year period, and improve the solvency of Federal trust funds over a 75-year period.
- The Commission would be required to vote on approval of the report and legislative language by May 17, 2027.
- Any report or legislative language produced by the Commission must

- be approved by a majority of the 12 elected official members, with at least two being from each party.
- If the Commission approves proposed legislative language, it would receive expedited consideration in both chambers.
- While 60 votes would

from Page 7

- be required to invoke cloture prior to final passage in the Senate, only a simple majority would be needed for the motion to proceed, which would be privileged.
- [Click here](#) to read one-pager on the legislation.
- [Click here](#) to read the full text of the bill.

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<p>PENDING!</p> <p>7389 E 209TH STREET NOBLESVILLE</p> <p>Fantastic waterfront condo on Morse Reservoir's secluded Waterscape side! 3BR/2BA, boat dock #104, fireplace, and deck offer year-round fun, relaxation, and scenic waterfront living with beaches and kayak storage.</p> <p>Improved Price \$484,900</p>	<p>SOLD!</p> <p>11405 Haverstick Road CARMEL</p> <p>This immaculate ranch in Carmel boasts hardwood floors, crown molding, a stone fireplace, and a relaxing sunroom. It sits on .37 acres, a four-minute walk to Woodbrook Elementary. Spotless basement and garage.</p> <p>Listed at \$409,900</p>	<p>SOLD!</p> <p>875 S 9th street NOBLESVILLE</p> <p>Located in downtown Noblesville, this beautiful 1912 Craftsman perfectly blends historic charm (original trim, staircase) with modern updates, including a remodeled kitchen, finished outbuilding, and fenced yard.</p> <p>Listed at \$430,000</p>	<p>SOLD!</p> <p>1307 CLIFF VIEW DRIVE WESTFIELD</p> <p>This 4BR/2.5BA home with a 3-car garage offers a covered front porch overlooking a pond. Flexible living spaces, a 2-story great room with fireplace, and a spacious kitchen. Primary bedroom features a spa-like bath.</p> <p>Improved Price \$479,900</p>	<p>SOLD!</p> <p>18826 LONG WALK LANE NOBLESVILLE</p> <p>This fantastic 4BR/3BA, nearly 3,000 sq ft home in Woods at Prairie Crossing is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac. It offers a den, loft, and wooded views. It's freshly updated and ready for new owners.</p> <p>Improved Price \$379,900</p>
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REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

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

Fishers announces investment in athletic fields

Hamilton Southeastern Schools' Jim Self named City-District Athletic Director

The REPORTER

The City of Fishers and Hamilton Southeastern Schools announced a significant public investment in local athletic facilities and youth sports programming through a new interlocal agreement designed to expand access, enhance facilities, and strengthen alignment across school and community athletics.

The interlocal agreement was approved unanimously at a joint meeting for the Fishers City Council and the Hamilton Southeastern Board of Trustees held on Wednesday.

"Sports are part of the fabric of our community," said Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness. "From youth leagues to high school athletics, these programs help make Fishers one of the best places in the country to live. This investment builds upon our longstanding collaboration with HSE Schools and ensures our facilities can keep up with the incredible growth and participation we're seeing in youth sports."

Fishers will invest approximately \$3.6 million in improvements to athletic fields at Fishers High School and Hamilton

Southeastern High School to benefit student-athletes, youth sports organizations, and the broader Fishers community.

"Our partnership with the City of Fishers has always focused on finding ways to better serve students and the community, and we are thankful for the City's continued desire to partner with us," said interim superintendent Dr. Matt Kegley of Hamilton Southeastern Schools. "This initiative will help align school athletics, youth programs, and community resources while expanding opportunities for young athletes."

The improvements are designed to support increased participation, improved field conditions, and expanded opportunities for competitions and tournaments. These improvements are part of an overall reinvestment in athletic fields throughout Fishers, including those at park properties.

The interlocal agreement creates a new administration-level position at HSE Schools to implement a citywide strategy and manage all athletic fields. The City & District Athletic Director position

Improvements to HSE Schools' high school athletic facilities

Fishers High School

- One new artificial turf field with lighting
- Upgrades to four existing natural grass fields through aeration and top dressing
- Construction of a pedestrian crosswalk connecting Sand Creek Intermediate School to Fishers High School

Hamilton Southeastern High School

- One new artificial turf field with lighting
- Upgrades to existing plateau fields through aeration and top dressing

will strengthen coordination between the city, the school district, and local sports organizations while helping maximize the use of athletic facilities throughout the community. Longtime Hamilton Southeastern High School Athletic Director Jim Self will be appointed to this position, effective May 1, 2026.

Self told The Reporter that Fadness had approached him about working for the City in a new role to coordinate athletics.

"I'm a school guy. I wanted to stay with the schools," said Self. "He and [Superintendent] Pat Mapes put their heads together on what would be best in this position, and

here we are. He has a vision and it's about quality of life and opportunity and experiences for young people in the Fishers area. Athletics and sports play a role in that experience and he wants someone to help oversee that, not only in the schools, but in the city."

Self will still work for the HSE school district, overseeing athletics for both high schools and the district's four junior high schools. He also will work directly with Mudsock Youth Athletics. Self became the Hamilton Southeastern athletics director starting with the 1999-2000 season and has been with the school for 32 years.



Graphic provided

The City of Fishers and Hamilton Southeastern Schools announced a new interlocal agreement for a significant public investment in local athletic facilities and youth sports programming. Hamilton Southeastern High School Athletic Director Jim Self will take on the new role of City & District Athletic Director.

"I wasn't looking for a new job, but I see this as an opportunity to impact a lot of people," he said.

Self had kind words to say about everyone he worked with at HSE athletics, including former athletic directors Ken Seitz, Greg Habbeger, Drew Tower and current AD Tilmon Clark.

"I owe Ken Seitz a

great deal and working with Greg Habbeger was like working with my best friend," said Self. "Ken Seitz taught me what it means to be a Royal."

Improvements for Hamilton Southeastern High School and Fishers High School will begin in late spring and are anticipated to be completed by late summer.

Track & Field

County track teams compete at HCC Indoor meet

The REPORTER

The Hoosier Crossroads Conference indoor track and field meet took place Wednesday at Brownsburg.

The Bulldogs won both the boys and girls team competitions. Hamilton Southeastern's boys team had the best county finish, scoring 87 points to place second.

The Royals won the 4x800 relay to help elevate them to a runner-up finish. The team of Omar Elsayed, Liam McNiven, Andrew Butler, and Will Henning finished the race in 8 minutes, 3.24 seconds.

Fishers' Konrad Hayden was the only local boys individual event winner. He won the high jump with a best leap of 6 feet, 7 inches.

In the girls meet, Southeastern won two relays. The 4x200 relay team of Cianna Cunningham, Chloe Senefeld, Kaleah McCarter and Anissa Lammie paced the field in 1:44.67. Later, the Royals' 4x400 re-

lay squad of Ava Kashani, Senefeld, Evelyn Gerig and Lammie won that race in 4:06.17.

The other three county schools each had one event champion. Fishers' Caitlin Hawkins was first in the 3200 run with a time of 11:06.47. Westfield's Ella Jenkins claimed the pole vault, tying the meet record with a top vault of 12 feet, 6 inches.

Noblesville's Nyla Gisele Young won the shot put with a top throw of 38 feet, 10.5 inches.

Complete county results now follow.

GIRLS MEET

Team scores: Brownsburg 119, Avon 79, Westfield 77, Franklin Central 73, Noblesville 66, Hamilton Southeastern 65, Fishers 52, Zionsville 52.

3200 run: 1. Caitlin Hawkins (F) 11:06.47, 3. Zoe Gebhart (HSE) 11:32.91, 5. Isabelle Salinas (N) 11:54.96, 7. Gianna Ferreri (W) 11:57.26, 8. Lilah Gunn (F) 11:57.88, 10. Ella Bozarth (W) 12:07.38, 11.

Aubrey Berger (HSE) 12:07.90, 15. Haylen Kaiser (N) 13:35.06.

60 hurdles - Finals: 3. Chloe Senefeld (HSE) 8.95, 4. Jenna Rhodes (W) 9.51, 5. Katelyn Eblen (W) 9.56, 6. Micahiah Bullock (HSE) 9.65, 8. Devyn Day (F) 9.88. **Prelims:** 9. Meredith Dyar (N) 10.07, 11. Eugena Wilson (N) 10.33, 15. Taylor Tarter (F) 10.88.

60 dash - Finals: 5. Ainsley Meinerding (N) 7.80, 6. Kaleah McCarter (HSE) 7.94. **Prelims:** 9. Zinnia Pineda (F) 8.10, 10. Kylee Black (F) 8.15, 11. Laila Ehrigott (HSE) 8.22, 13. Aleigh Heavey (N) 8.30, 14. Izzy Brady (W) 8.33, 16. Melody Lowry (W) 8.39.

4x800 relay: 3. Westfield (Jenna Burns, Mackenna Condon, Samantha Foster, Jordyn Landrum) 9:33.06, 4. Fishers (Aaliyah Hayes, Riley Teurman, Abby Lotter, Allie Belush) 9:59.16, 7. Noblesville (Nelani Render, Kate Mumaw, Gretchen Graham, Addison Scott) 10:14.57, 8. Southeastern (Raegan Hissong, Ali Johnson, Anna Irish, Avery Francis) 10:30.28.

4x200 relay: 1. Southeastern (Cianna Cunningham, Senefeld, McCarter, Anissa Lammie) 1:44.67, 4. Westfield (Lowry, Eblen, Gracie Czubik, Ella Jenkins) 1:47.31, 5. Fishers (Day, Black, Ava Underwood, Pineda) 1:47.40, 6. Noblesville (Heavey, Rylan Bell, Alyssa Lahee, Meinerding) 1:47.68.

Distance medley relay: 4. Noblesville (Render, Graham, Mumaw, Applegate) 12:47.22, 5. Westfield (Ella Lidskin, Chloe Stuart, Maggie Naas, Emma Pitney) 12:50.46, 6. Fishers (Hawkins, Brianna Geren, Belush, Mia Quagliaroli) 12:50.89, 7. Southeastern (Kate Lux, Evie Patch, Kherington Patton, Gebhart) 13:11.47.

4x400 relay: 1. Southeastern (Ava Kashani, Senefeld, Evelyn Gerig, Lammie) 4:06.17, 4. Westfield (Jordyn Landrum, Naas, Jenna Rhodes, Addy Busch) 4:12.78, 6. Noblesville (Graham, Bell, Olivia Seefeldt, Lahee) 4:14.40.

Pole vault: 1. Jenkins (W) 12-6, 4. Madyson Reeder (N) 9-0, 6. Elise Beckner (N) 9-0, 8.

Eleanor Henry (HSE) 8-6.

Shot put: 1. Nyla Gisele Young (N) 38-10.5, 3. Mia Tobias (F) 38-0.5, 6. Amelia Kring (N) 33-7.5, 10. Zoe Burgei (W) 30-7.5, 11. Maggie Harder (F) 30-6.5, 12. Fiona Farrar (W) 28-9, 13. Christina Mimche (HSE) 28-3.25, 14. Bella Arthur (HSE) 28-0.

High jump: 2. Czubik (W) 4-6, 3. Eblen (W) 5-5, 7. Charlotte Lawrence (F) 5-0, 8. Elise Beckner (N) 4-10, T9. Aspen Rollins (N) 4-10; Charlotte Huffman (F) 4-10, 13. Azenwi Ndofo (HSE) 4-6, 14. Avery Francis (F) 4-6.

Long jump: 3. Meinerding (N) 16-7, 4. Brianna Geren (F) 16-1, 5. Bell (N) 15-9, 6. Hillary Donzeu Sen (F) 15-8, 7. Czubik (W) 15-5, 11. Brady (W) 15-0, 12. Natalie Arnold (HSE) 14-9, 14. Emerson Tackett (HSE) 13-7.

BOYS MEET

Team scores: Brownsburg 130.33, Hamilton Southeastern 87, Avon 79, Noblesville 74, Franklin Central 72, Westfield 61.33, Fishers 54, Zionsville 27.33.

3200 run: 2. Liam Powers (HSE) 9:17.04, 3. Isaac Smith (HSE) 9:22.77, 5. Isaiah Vohs (N) 9:43.44, 6. Cooper Click (N) 9:55.22, 7. JP Mikels (W) 9:58.86, 12. Bryce Pittman (W) 10:09.57, 13. Kale Ormes (F) 10:11.72, 15. Braylen Floyd (F) 10:23.08.

60 hurdles - Finals: 3. Sam Long (HSE) 8.14, 5. Sam Irish (HSE) 8.71, 7. Khamari Ramsey (N) 8.83. **Prelims:** T9. Jackson Dukes (W) 8.95, 11. Kortez Foster (F) 9.95, 12. Zaythen Spears (N) 9.07, 15. Joel Leo Prakash (F) 9.45, 16. Caleb Rasche (W) 9.72.

60 dash - Finals: 3. Maïson McCray (W) 7.00, 4. Angel Wilson (N) 7.02, 6. Shawn Campbell (HSE) 7.09, 8. Kayden Myers (F) 7.26. **Prelims:** 10. Dryden Moore (HSE) 7.35, 11. Paul Stanley (N) 7.39, 13. Rylan Reed (W) 7.45.

4x800 relay: 1. Southeastern (Omar Elsayed, Liam McNiven, Andrew Butler, Will Henning) 8:03.24, 2. Westfield (Donovan Ledford,

See Track ... Page 10

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Noblesville girls lacrosse starts season



The Noblesville girls lacrosse team began its season Tuesday by hosting Brebeuf Jesuit. The Braves won 17-1; Molly Smock (pictured) scored the Millers' goal. Noblesville plays tonight at Bishop Chatard.

Photo by Mike Navarro

Basketball



Richie Hall / File photo

Carmel's Sydney Bonds was named to the IBCA's Girls First Team Academic All-State.

IBCA announces Academic All-State awards

Seven county programs earn Team Award

The REPORTER
Eighty-seven Indiana high school seniors – 44 boys and 43 girls – have been chosen as first-team Academic All-State for 2026 by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association, it was announced Wednesday.

In addition, 233 more boys and 181 more girls were recognized as honorable mention Academic All-State for 2026, IBCA executive director Marty Johnson said. In total, 501 players received some level of recognition in this year's IBCA Academic All-State program.

Among local schools, Carmel's Sydney Bonds was named to the Girls First Team Academic All-State.

The following players were named honorable mention:

BOYS: Will Bach, Guerin Catholic; Drew Burnett, Guerin Catholic; Cooper Cammack, University; Jackson Cantlon, Hamilton Heights; Austin Day, Hamilton Heights; Brock Detamore, Westfield; Adam Fine, Noblesville; Wyatt

Freehauf, Westfield; Sawyer Holman, Guerin Catholic; Ryan Hunsucker, Westfield; Jack Jacobs, Hamilton Southeastern; Kian Kelly, Hamilton Southeastern; Rees Knapp, Hamilton Heights; Josh McGee, University; Harris Nachlis, University; Chance Spencer, Sheridan; Julian Vogt, Carmel.

GIRLS: Dana Dues, Guerin Catholic; Nicole Ellison, Fishers; Mackenzie Feeney, University; Anya Hicks, University; Alyssa Hutchinson, Noblesville; Devyn Johnson, Noblesville; Ava Kashani, Hamilton Southeastern; Akya Koenig, Fishers; Lauren Linville, Westfield; Natalie Thomas, Fishers; Jacobi Warren, Carmel.

The IBCA Academic All-State program is one where academic prowess and athletic prowess both are considered in the selections. Items such as grade-point average, academic class rank and SAT or ACT scores are considered along

See *IBCA* . . . Page 11

TRACK

Luke Moulder, Carson Ackley, Caleb Haney) 8:04.64, 5. Fishers (Reece Torres, Mason Lapp, Brady FitzGerald, Declan Mohr) 8:09.57, 7. Noblesville (Cohen Baumer, Parker Applegate, Gavin Flynn, Kolten Simpson) 8:28.45.

4x200 relay: 3. Fishers (Josh Jenkins II, Vincent Rozzi, Emil Lincey, Rocky Duplessis) 1:32.40, 4. Noblesville (Stanley, Nathaniel Leach, Cody Prater, Wilson) 1:32.71, 5. Southeastern (Nathan Zakrzewski, Kerry Snow, Connor Gorman, Campbell) 1:33.672,

6. Westfield (McCray, Cayden Gearhart, Ryd Wallerstedt, Kaleb Johnson) 1:33.675.

4x400 relay: 3. Westfield (Wallerstedt, McCray, Haney, Chase Thompson (W) 3:30.71, 4. Fishers (Darnell, Mitchell, Torres, Mohr, Jenkins) 3:33.45, 5. Southeastern (Charles Blackburn, Weston Kopeck, Liam Sayers, Connor Gorman) 3:36.97, 6. Noblesville (Leach, Austin Donahoe, Hudson Wells, Preston Wells) 3:37.36.

Distance medley relay: 2. Noblesville (Vohs, Josh Moller, Click, Jack Rush) 10:42.52, 3.

Southeastern (Smith, Elsayed, Drew Cole, Powers) 10:49.44, 7. Westfield (Ledford, Chase Thompson, Brandon Encinia, Graham Hoffman) 11:21.25, 8. Fishers (Grant Fasnacht, Hudson Welu, Ajuna Muzoora, Kale Ormes) 11:22.36.

Pole vault: T2. Lux Foster (N) 13-0; Andrew Krohn (HSE) 13-0, 4. Hudson Rose (N) 12-6, 8. Elliot Six (F) 9-6.

High jump: 1. Konrad Hayden (F) 6-6, T2. Johnson (W) 6-2, 8. Chris Beck (HSE) 6-0, 9. Julian Wilder Jr. (HSE) 5-10, 10. Christian Faleke (W)

5-10, 13. Adam Hill (N) 5-8.

Shot put: 2. Mason Cantwell (F) 52-10, 3. Mason McDermott (N) 51-0, 4. Jack Eberhart (W) 49-7, 5. KJ Mallett (HSE) 48-4.5, 11. Tyler Maynard (F) 41-0, 13. Jack Johnson (N) 37-10, 14. Will Lohmeyer (W) 36-5.

Long jump: 3. Austin Donahoe (N) 20-8.25, 5. Jay Crumedy (W) 20-3.5, 7. Braxton Gardner (F) 19-9.5, 8. Will Biondich (N) 19-3.5, 10. William Tschida (HSE) 19-0.75, 11. Olu-mide Fapetu (W) 18-9.5, 12. Andre Gholston (HSE) 18-8, 13. Kaiden Gardner (F) 18-6.25.

from Page 9

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Motorsports

Noblesville native Conor Daly back for 13th Indy 500

By JOSH BODE
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Conor Daly is driving for Dreyer & Reinbold Racing for the Indianapolis 500, and will drive the No. 23 DRR Chevrolet car.

Daly will have the chance to race in his 13th Indianapolis 500. Daly has finished in the top 10 in each of the last four years. He led for 13 laps in 2025 and for 22 laps in 2024. His best finish was in 2022, where he finished sixth.

"Having a chance to go racing at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway again at Indy 500 with DRR means the world to me," Daly said

in a news release. "I love this event. I can't wait to get back in the car, and I appreciate the chance that Dennis and everyone at Dreyer & Reinbold Racing has given me to do the job I enjoy. We've set some high goals with the No. 23. We want to win this race together, and I appreciate that Kingspan has come on board for the biggest race in the world. We appreciate their support for this effort to chase after that nice cold glass of milk in the winner's circle."

Daly will be teammates with Jack Harvey with Dreyer & Reinbold Racing for the Indy 500.



Photo courtesy Penske Entertainment: James Black
Conor Daly at Indy 500 practice on May 20, 2025.

The 110th running of "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" is scheduled for Sunday, May 24.

This story originally

appeared on WISH-TV at wishtv.com/sports/indy-500/noblesville-native-conor-daly-back-for-13th-indy-500.

Iconic blue envelopes containing Indy 500 tickets mailed to fans across globe

Submitted by IMS

Indianapolis 500 fans will watch their mailboxes after the highly anticipated blue envelopes featuring Race Day tickets were mailed Wednesday, March 11 from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Ticket Office.

AJ Foyt Racing's Caio Collet was on hand to assist with the initial mailing, which included shipments to all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and 32 countries around the world as race fans eagerly await the 110th Running of the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge on Sunday, May 24.

"It's really impressive," Collet said. "To connect the drivers and make them closer to the public is unique and something that only INDYCAR does."

Collet also took time to write notes and signatures on a few envelopes, with these special messages going to ticket buyers from his native country of Brazil. In addition, 26 signed Parkside trading cards were randomly placed in envelopes as a unique surprise for ticket buyers.

It takes approximately nine weeks to package all pre-ordered tickets for mail-

ing, from orders the day after the previous year's race up to current orders. Hard work from employees in the Ticket Office and other Penske Entertainment Corp. departments ensures the ticketing process runs smoothly and on schedule.

A few facts and figures about this year's initial ticket mailing:

- **Number of tickets sent:** More than 225,000 items (includes 173,000 Indy 500 Race Day tickets, parking, qualification and practice tickets, concert tickets, etc.)

- **Number of blue envelopes sent:** More than 33,000

- **Number of U.S. Postal Service trays to accommodate envelopes:** More than 720

- **Weight of all ticket envelopes and trays in first mailing:** More than 6,800 pounds

- **Hours needed to fill envelopes by hand:** More than 1,100 person-hours

- **Number of working days to package envelopes:** 44

- **Number of Penske Entertainment employees who fill envelopes:** 68

- **Number of states distributed:** 50

- **Number of countries distributed:** 32 (including United States)

Fans who have purchased Miller Lite Carb Day tickets will receive their blue envelopes once the concert artists have been announced.

Federal postal inspectors came to IMS with a large truck for the first mailing. Collet joined IMS and INDYCAR President J. Douglas Boles and several IMS employees in helping to load the trucks.

"This is, if not the most important day of the year, certainly one of the most important as our fans can expect their Indy 500 tickets to show up in the mail," Boles said. "Most people want that ticket because it means so much to them."

Receiving an eagerly awaited blue envelope in the mail is a rite of spring for thousands of fans of "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing." But why are the envelopes blue?

In the 1970s, Indianapolis 500 tickets were mailed in brown envelopes with the IMS return address in the upper left corner. In the 1980s, a heavier-stock, gray-colored envelope was introduced to mail the tickets, with just the IMS Post

Office box number in the upper left corner. A computerized printer also was used for the first time in the 1980s to print ticket customers' name and address on each envelope.

When the NASCAR Cup Series was added to the IMS schedule in 1994, the Ticket Office needed a way to distinguish between the envelopes containing tickets for the Indianapolis 500 and the annual NASCAR race, especially if the Postal Service returned the envelope as non-deliverable.

So, the IMS Ticket Office decided to color-code the ticket envelopes for each event. Indianapolis 500 ticket envelopes became blue, Brickyard Weekend envelopes became purple, Sorsio Grand Prix envelopes became green, and ticket envelopes for other IMS events use a variety of colors, including red, cream, gray and yellow.

Tickets for the 110th Running of the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge on Sunday, May 24, the Sorsio Grand Prix on Saturday, May 9 and all other Month of May events are available at IMS.com/Tickets or via the IMS Ticket Office at 317-492-6700.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 12

GIRLS LACROSSE

Carmel at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
Center Grove at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
Fishers at Brebeuf Jesuit, 7:30 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Hamilton Heights vs. West Lafayette, 5 p.m. at Purdue

Friday, March 13

BOYS LACROSSE

Bishop Chatard at Westfield, 6 p.m.
South Oldham (Ky.) at Hamilton Southeastern, 6 p.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Carmel at Kentucky Country Day School, 6 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Guerin Catholic at HSR Qualifier #2, 6 p.m. at University of Indianapolis

Saturday, March 14

BOYS BASKETBALL

Regional at New Castle

Carmel vs. Fort Wayne Snider, 4 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE

Fishers at Evansville Reitz, noon

Fishers at Gibson Southern, 4 p.m.

Hamilton Southeastern at Cincinnati St. Xavier, 5 p.m.

Guerin Catholic at South Bend St. Joseph, TBD

GIRLS LACROSSE

Hamilton Southeastern at Brebeuf Jesuit, 11:15 a.m.

Hamilton Southeastern at Guerin Catholic, 1:45 p.m.

Guerin Catholic at South Bend St. Joseph, TBD

GYMNASTICS

Noblesville, Westfield at IHSAA state finals, 11:30 a.m. at Ball State

TRACK AND FIELD

Carmel, Hamilton Heights, Westfield at HSR Qualifier #3, 10 a.m. at Indiana Wesleyan

University at McCutcheon HSR Qualifier, 10 a.m. at Purdue

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

IBCA

from Page 10

with athletic performance in areas such as points per game, rebounds per game and assists per game.

"The quality of these student-athletes shows that success in academics and success in athletics are not separate entities," Johnson said. "Rather, in many cases, a player's success in the classroom directly contributes to his or her success on the floor."

IBCA-member head coaches from schools across the state may nominate their senior student-athletes who meet criteria that include a 3.50 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale, a class rank in the upper 25 percent of one's class and either an SAT score of 1100 (on the reading and math sections) or an ACT composite score of 24. Once nominations were received, an IBCA committee reviewed the information and determined awards for first team and honorable mention.

The IBCA has selected an individual Academic All-State team for boys since 1973. The program was

expanded to include a girls' individual Academic All-State team in 1980.

A new award in 2026 is an IBCA Team Academic Award, for which 128 teams qualified. The IBCA firmly believes that academics are an essential component of developing well-rounded basketball players and that outstanding academic achievement deserves recognition.

Inaugural winners of the IBCA Team Academic Award – 29 boys' teams and 99 girls' teams – are teams that demonstrate the same commitment to excellence in academics as they do in athletics. To qualify, each team listed had a cumulative team GPA of 3.50 or better when averaging the first-semester GPAs of all players on its 2026 sectional roster.

Four county girls teams are among the first Academic Award winners: Carmel, Fishers, Guerin Catholic and Sheridan. Among boys teams, Hamilton Heights, Hamilton Southeastern and Noblesville won the Academic Award.

Men's Basketball

Noblesville Boom falls to Cruise, 135-128

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom (14-16) fell on the second night of their back-to-back against the Motor City Cruise (17-12), 135-128, on Wednesday at Wayne State Fieldhouse.

Cameron Hildreth led the Boom for the second straight game, finishing with 28 points, six rebounds, three assists, and two steals. Keion Brooks Jr. added 23 points and 10 rebounds for his second consecutive double-double, while Dakota Mathias contributed 22 points.

For Motor City, Tolu Smith (27 points, 12 rebounds) and Drew Peterson

(19 points, 11 assists) each recorded a double-double, while Isaac Jones delivered another strong outing with 26 points, five rebounds, three steals, two assists, and a block.

In a back-and-forth opening period, the Boom jumped out to a 13-4 start to claim a nine-point lead - their largest of the night - before the Cruise responded with a 21-4 run to go up by eight. Noblesville's efficient shooting kept things tight, closing the quarter at 60.0 percent from the field to cut the deficit to one (33-32) heading into the second. Motor City seized control in the second quarter, erupting

for 46 points, powered by 12 points from Tolu Smith in the frame, helping the Cruise stretch their lead to 79-63 at the half.

The Cruise continued to control the pace in the third, pushing the lead to as many as 23. Motor City shot 65.0 percent from the field and 50.0 percent from deep in the quarter, maintaining a 113-91 advantage heading into the fourth. Down 22 with 9:08 remaining, the Boom mounted a final push, using a 17-4 run to pull within single digits in the final minutes. Brooks Jr. fueled the surge, scoring 12 of his 23 points in the fourth, but Noblesville ultimately couldn't complete

the comeback, dropping its seventh straight contest.

Next up

The Boom return home for a two-game series against the Westchester Knicks, beginning Saturday at The Arena at Innovation Mile. Coverage will stream on Prime Video, with tipoff set for 6 p.m.

Tickets and team updates are available at NoblesvilleBoom.com, and fans can stream every game live at NBAGLeague.com.

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