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TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly to mostly cloudy.
 Tonight: Mostly cloudy.
 Spotty snow showers after midnight.
 Little or no accumulation.
HIGH: 27 LOW: 24



Fighting the good fight against food insecurity

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank (HCHFB) 2026 Annual Meeting took place Monday morning, March 16 at the Delaware Township Community Center, 9094 E. 131st St., Fishers.

HCHFB is looking for ways to get more people involved, and this event was no exception. There were do-it-yourself stations to make a mocktail, build a bouquet, and start your own backyard garden. That last one was rather clever, as Executive Director Suzanna Hobson pointed out that you may accidentally grow more vegetables than you need. If that were to happen, guests were encouraged to give the extra fresh produce to neighbors or to donate it to HCHFB at their

warehouse located at 89 Byron St., Cicero – right behind the Dairy Queen.

Along with updates on the work HCHFB has done in the last year, what they plan to do this year, and the growing need for organizations and individuals to help fight food insecurity in Hamilton County, there were also some outstanding volunteers who were honored.

With the retirement of Founding Executive Director Anita Hagen last year, HCHFB has created a new annual award: the Hagen Harvest Hero Award. This year, that award was given to an entire group of volunteers. Additionally, certificates of appreciation were presented to Rod Howard and Mike Cahill.

Last year, HCHFB distributed over 221,000 pounds of



Reporter photo
HCHFB Executive Director Suzanna Hobson with volunteers Rod Howard and Mike Cahill, who were each given Certificates of Appreciation.

food, which totaled just over \$800,000 of their \$944,000 in operating costs. During that same year, 505 volunteers gave 5,468 hours of their time to HCHFB.

See Fight . . . Page 2

Recipes

In my last column, I wrote about my grandmother's china cabinet and all her crystal. It truly is an heirloom and one that will forever hold a place in my home and heart.

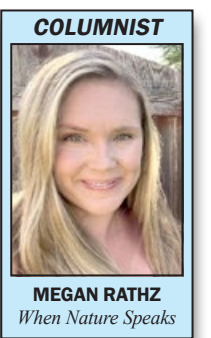
In the last few months, we have had many family heirlooms as my mom has gone through my grandmother's house and consolidated things to sell this spring. Heirlooms have been on my mind, and I came across this quote from Stanley Tucci the other day that read, "But perhaps the most precious family recipes . . . they remind us from whom and where we came."

So often when we think of heirlooms we think of tangible items, but the truth is that recipes are particularly special because they are so often associated with moments or from a screenshot in time that you'd love to go back to relive for a bit.

I started thinking about various recipes in our family and why they're special. My husband begins our year with a beautiful prime rib dinner on New Year's evening. He makes the best garlic mashed potatoes and Yorkshire pudding. Whenever I think about a cozy New Year's, I think of this meal. There is my Nana's coffee cake recipe that is also a staple in our family and used at various events like Easter and Christmas. My mom's chicken enchiladas will forever be the ultimate comfort meal for me.

That brings me to my next comfort food, which is chili. Everyone's favorite version of chili is the one that they're used to having, most often the kind that you grew up with. My husband thought it was so odd that my family would have chili served over pasta. I love all the various toppings and hot sauces and jalapenos on my chili, but he just wants his to be simple.

See Recipes . . . Page 2



COLUMNIST

MEGAN RATHZ
When Nature Speaks

Hamilton County Parks & Rec awarded for Bell Ford Bridge

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department (HCPR) was honored with a Great Lakes Park, Facility, or Program Award at the annual Great Lakes Park Training Institute (GLPTI) conference.

Held at Pokagon State Park in Angola, Ind., GLPTI is the longest-running conference dedicated to parks and recreation professionals. The award recognizes recently completed projects that demonstrate innovation, cost-effective design, meaningful community engagement, and enduring impact. HCPR earned the award for the restoration and installation of the Bell Ford Bridge, a singular piece of Indiana engineering history. The restored bridge is now a defining feature of Geist Park, serving as a pedestrian

See Bridge . . . Page 2



Photo provided
(From left) Robbie Ping, Skilled Trades Specialist; Benjamin Taylor, Construction Project Manager; Steve White, Skilled Trades Specialist; Kyle Stocks, HCPR Facilities and Grounds Manager; Chris Stice, HCPR Director; Drew Bender, Chief Operating Officer at VS Engineering, Inc.; and Kerry Graham, Heavy Equipment Operator.

Oak Trace teachers lead "Screen-Free" Week to encourage outdoor play & family connection

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

Westfield Washington Schools (WWS) is highlighted the efforts of Oak Trace Elementary teachers who are encouraging students and families to unplug from screens and reconnect with the world around them through a special Screen-Free Week initiative.

Fourth-grade teacher Lucy Grenda and second-grade teacher Jaclyn Helman have challenged their students to collectively spend 1,000 hours outdoors while reducing recreational screen time leading up to spring break. The effort aims to promote healthier habits by encouraging child-led play, family time, outdoor activity, and meaningful social interaction.

"This is my fourth year of challenging students at the start of January until right before spring break to get 1,000 hours outside while also setting a maximum limit of screens as

a class," Grenda said. "The goal is to increase our outdoor time in the winter when it is harder to want to go outside and easier to stay in and use our screens. I was so excited when more teachers joined the challenge this year! I got this idea from the 1000 Hours Outside organization, who tries as a family to get 1,000 hours outside in a year."

The initiative also includes a Screen-Free Week at Oak Trace, March 16 to 22, designed to help students and families explore fun alternatives to digital entertainment. Activities throughout the week encourage students to swap screen time for creative, social, and outdoor experiences.

The week will feature two family-focused events:

- **Family Scavenger Hunt:** Tuesday, March 17 from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Oak Trace Elementary, where families will explore

See Screen-Free . . . Page 2

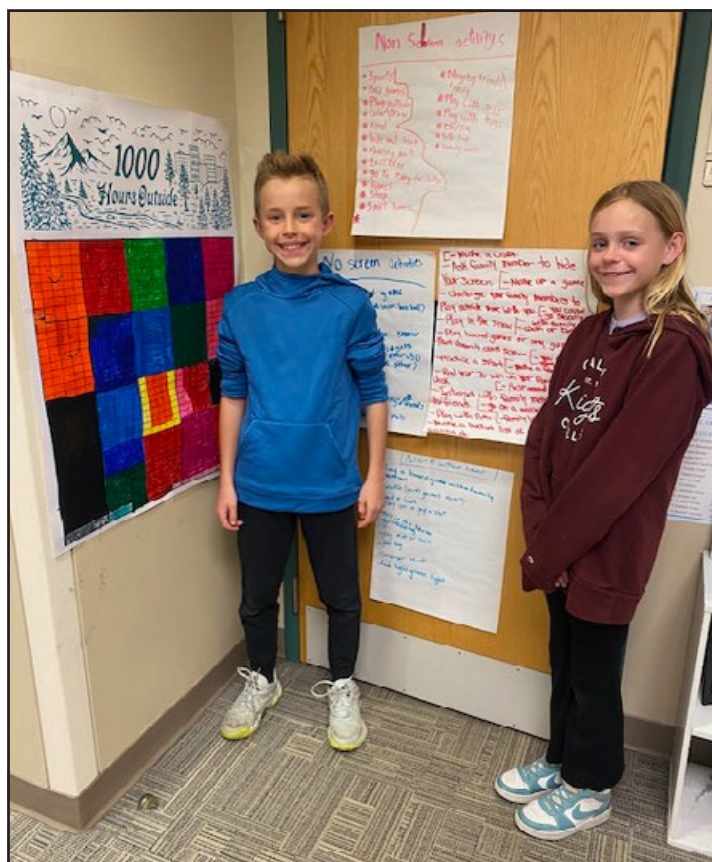


Photo provided by Westfield Washington Schools



KEEP NOBLESVILLE BEAUTIFUL

KNB receives grant from Hamilton County Tourism to enhance Midland Trace Trailhead

The REPORTER
 Keep Noblesville Beautiful (KNB) announces that it has received a \$1,500 grant from Hamilton County Tourism to support improvements to the swale garden area at the Midland Trace Trailhead along the Midland Trace Trail.

The Midland Trace Trail runs east and west through Hamilton County, connecting Westfield and Noblesville and serving as a popular destination for walkers, runners, and cyclists. The trailhead located along Hazel Dell Parkway provides parking, seasonal bike rentals, and public restrooms for visitors using the trail.

KNB works alongside the Noblesville Parks and Recreation Department to help maintain and beautify the trailhead landscape. In 2020, KNB installed a bicycle sculpture and surrounding landscape to highlight the trailhead as a welcoming gateway for trail users. Since then, volunteers have continued to care for the area through regular workdays focused on weeding, plant care, and refreshing mulch.

The newly awarded grant will help fund improvements to a stormwater swale located near the sculpture. The swale functions as a retention and filtration area for runoff, though over time the vegetation has become overgrown with invasive plants. A controlled burn is planned this spring, followed by the installation of native pollinator plants that will restore the space and improve its environmental benefits.

See Beautiful . . . Page 2

BEAUTIFUL

from Page 1

The upgraded garden will provide habitat for birds, butterflies, and pollinators while also creating an educational experience for trail visitors. A new bench will allow people to relax and enjoy the space, and plant identification signage with QR codes will help visitors learn more about native plants and their importance to local ecosystems.

Another feature of the project will be the installation of a webcam that will

live stream the garden during the spring, summer, and fall seasons on the Keep Noblesville Beautiful website. Visitors will be able to observe pollinator activity in real time and learn more about the habitat from anywhere.

Keep Noblesville Beautiful extends its sincere thanks to Hamilton County Tourism for helping make this project possible and for supporting community enhancements that benefit residents and visitors alike.

RECIPES

from Page 1

Nobody makes chocolate chip cookies better than my mom. I have tried and they're never as good as hers. My husband has absolutely perfected the HC Tavern appetizer called lobster corgot. You take lobster tail and place in an escargot dish with butter, lemon, and garlic and bake it with Havarti cheese on top. This is served on top of a crusty baguette. Whenever I think of a nice night at home, this is what I think of.

I make the best meatballs, and my husband makes the best sauce. The combination of this paired with his homemade pasta is one that I know our kids will grow up remembering. There is no way you can have his homemade pasta and watch him go to the trouble to make it and not taste it as you think about it. On that note, my husband also makes the best lasagna.

There's nothing better than a nice night on the patio with the Blackstone grill. My husband can rival any hibachi chef in all their glory. I long for the days of the back patio lights on and the smell of whatever he's making wafting through the yard as the dogs and kids run around playing.

My husband can also smoke any meat like nothing I've ever had before. I love finding huge cuts of meat like a brisket and bringing it home to tell him to make it for me.

One of the best foods ever served with brisket is my baked beans. Nobody makes them as good as mine. It's not arrogant, it's just the truth. Anyone who has my baked beans loves them.

My homemade salsa is also one of my favorite snacks. It is delicious. I'm a bit of a salsa snob, so I don't say it lightly when I say how good mine is. Again, maybe arrogant, but if it's true, it's true. I would admit if someone else's was better than mine, but so far it has not happened.

I also love my ham. Everyone else in my family thinks their ham is better, but it isn't. I love sweet ham with a nice glaze. Ham should be

sweet. Period. Also, there is nothing better than smoked turkey. In fact, my husband's smoked turkey on Thanksgiving. Roasted turkey is one of the most boring meats on the planet. Smoked turkey is incredible.

Another item that pairs well with this food and has been a source of controversy in my family for many years is deviled eggs. My mom and husband have a throwdown over this fairly frequently. Both of their eggs are good – they each think theirs are superior and try to rally the troops to their side. They also both independently try to get me to agree without the presence of the other that their eggs are better. I honestly like both. They are both completely different and I refuse to choose.

On the note of family controversy, my sister and I are very critical of each other's appetizers. My sister thinks I'm too heavy on the dips and bread, while I think she puts way too much corn in her pinwheels. In fact, you could sink a ship with the amount she puts in, but to each his own. She can set a table like nobody else's business, so I will give her that.

I also love a warm batch of homemade chicken tortilla soup. It is the same one my mom has made since I was a kid. I follow the same recipe but make it spicier now. When I think of that, I think of being comfortable at home.

The bottom line is, the memory and feelings attached to various recipes is what makes it special. That's why you can still taste your childhood comfort food when you think about it. These foods can take us back to a place that we long for. It is also nice when you marry someone who enjoys cooking and happens to be amazing at it.

Yes, I know this was obnoxious, but I feel strongly about these things and I'm not wrong.

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

FIGHT

Those numbers are impressive, but the need for HCHFB's services continues to outpace the ability to meet it.

Despite its reputation for affluence, food insecurity throughout Hamilton County is a persistent challenge. The reality of food insecurity is stark: approximately 33,666 residents, including 7,136 children under 18 years old, grapple with the uncertainty of where their next meal will come from.

You can learn more about HCHFB online at hch-foodbank.org. While you're there, click on the "Donate" like and do your part to fight food insecurity in our community. There are also plenty of volunteer opportunities.



Reporter photos

BRIDGE

from Page 1

thoroughfare and connecting visitors to a unique piece of local history.

"We are truly honored to receive this award," HCPR Director Chris Stice said. "The restoration of the Bell Ford Bridge represents an extraordinary collaborative effort and reflects our department's commitment to historic preservation, innovation, and delivering meaningful experiences for our community. We are proud to see this project recognized by our peers across the Great Lakes region."

Constructed in 1869 to cross the East Fork of the White River in Jackson County, the Bell Ford Bridge is the only known Combination Post Truss Bridge remaining in the world. After collapsing in 2006 as a result of storm damage, the structure was carefully disassembled and placed into storage while preservation options were explored.

In 2018, Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt and the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department reached an agreement with

the Jackson County Commissioners to acquire the bridge through a \$25,000 donation to the Jackson County Round Barn Restoration Fund.

Once the bridge was acquired by Hamilton County, the project was led by HCPR and the County Highway Department. Completion of the project was made possible through a unique collaboration with Jackson County, the City of Fishers, INDOT, Fall Creek Township Trustee Doug Allman, and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), who provided \$2.77 million in funding. Despite the complex nature of the restoration – including the reuse of 90 percent of the original cast iron components – the team overcame significant engineering and logistical challenges to bring the bridge back to life.

The bridge also connects with the new Geist Greenway, a federally supported pedestrian trail that links neighborhoods from 96th Street to 131st Street in Fishers. The joint planning effort ensures both infrastructure



Photo provided

The Hamilton County Commissioners were presented with the 2026 Great Lakes Park, Facility & Program Award. (From left) Brad Davis, County Highway Director; Chris Stice, County Parks Director; Commissioner Christine Altman; Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt; and Joel Thurman, County Highway Engineer.

and recreation are enhanced for future generations.

"We're incredibly proud to give the Bell Ford Bridge a new home at Geist Park," Stice said. "It's rare that a

park feature can offer beauty, function, and historical significance all in one. We look forward to welcoming the public to walk across this one-of-a-kind bridge."

SCREEN-FREE

from Page 1

the school grounds together and complete interactive challenges. Westfield Mayor Scott Willis will participate as one of the community stations during the event.

Family Playground Night: Friday, March 20 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., students, families, and staff are invited to gather for music, outdoor play, and time to connect.

Students are also invited to participate in Screen-Free Bingo, a challenge featuring activities such as reading a book, discovering a new park, playing a board game, writing a letter, or spending extended time outdoors.

Students who participated last year shared:

"I have noticed that I have been going outside more and less time on the screens and more time outside, like playing catch with my football and playing with friends."

"I noticed a big change from the outdoor challenge and screen time challenge by sleeping better because I've been going outside and reading instead of being on screens."

"I used to always want to just be on my screens. I'd also make excuses for not going outside. But now, I love going outside, even if it's just to watch my little brother and now sometimes I avoid doing any screen time!"

The goal of Screen-Free Week is not to eliminate technology entirely, but to help families reflect on their relationship with screens and discover enjoyable alternatives. The program encourages participants to reduce entertainment screen use for the week while strengthening connections with family, friends, and their community.

"We hope this week will spark conversations about the impact of screens in the classroom and our lives," Helman said. "Also, this week will give us time to reflect on how we can support each other in an ever-evolving digital world."

This initiative was made

possible through a teacher grant from the Westfield Education Foundation (WEF), which supports innovative classroom ideas and learning experiences for students across the district. WEF is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. This grant is just one of many activities made possible by the foundation for the education and well-being of Shamrock students.

By encouraging families to step away from screens and spend time together, Oak Trace teachers hope to spark conversations across the community about finding balance with technology and prioritizing real-world connection.

Thanks for reading!

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* APY is Annual Percentage Yield. APY is effective as of 3/13/2026 and is subject to change without notice. Minimum balance to open account and obtain APY is \$1,000.00. Early withdrawal may be subject to penalty. Fees may reduce earnings on the account. Other standard and special rate maturity terms are available. Member FDIC

Already low, criminal activities further decline in Carmel

Submitted by City of Carmel

The result of hard work and commitment to the Carmel community recently unveiled crime statistics show a decrease for the city in nearly every category.

The 2025 National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) by the city includes detailed data across 46 specific crime categories.

Overall, the city once again boasts remarkably low crime rates. Property crime rates are at 7.15 per 1,000 residents, with violent crime rates at .553 per 1,000 residents – both well below the national and comparative averages.

Carmel saw significant reductions in several key crime categories including:

- Theft (excluding shoplifting): down 23 percent
- Theft from motor vehicles: down 25 percent
- Motor vehicle theft: down 21 percent
- Burglary: down 55 percent
- Aggravated assault: down 18 percent

According to Carmel Police Department (CPD) Chief Drake Sterling, the positive declines are the result of focused enforcement, proactive policing,

strong investigative work, and the daily professionalism its officers bring to the department.

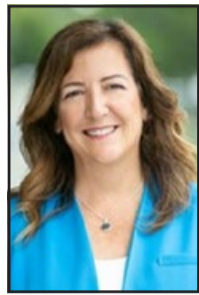
“The strong commitment shown by our officers has been the single most important factor in the declines we’ve seen,” Chief Sterling said. “Thanks to Mayor Sue Finkam and our City Council, we have been able to hire and train more officers, bringing both our functional and authorized strength to the highest levels in the city’s history. We have more officers on shift, and our officers are active; stopping cars, conducting vacation checks and directed patrols, and just being visible, which is a great deterrent.”

Chief Sterling additionally credited the strong support from the Hamilton County Prosecutor’s Office, Carmel police officers feeling empowered to do their jobs and bad actors knowing that if they commit crime in Carmel, they will be held accountable.

Technology plays a key role in the department’s success, with initiatives such



Sterling



Finkam

as the Drones as First Responder program and the Hamilton County Real-Time Information Center proving instrumental in improving officer response times. Additionally, the Carmel Police Department has deployed 911 streaming technology, routing emergency calls directly through the patrol car, further expediting emergency response.

Chief Sterling said community engagement continues to support the reduction in crime.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have a community that holds the department to high expectations and practices good vigilance,” he said. “I encourage them to continue to call when something doesn’t seem right.”

Sterling emphasized that online fraud continues to be an area calling for citizens to remain vigilant toward.

“Techniques used by fraudsters continue to evolve. Without a keen eye toward fraudulent activity, it is easy to become a victim,” Sterling said. “Criminals posing as local officials of-

ten attempt to extort money by way of threats, creating a sense of urgency in resolving a financial debt like warrants, tax payments, etc. It is best to simply not engage with these bad actors, and verify directly with proper authorities immediately.”

Sterling added that the department is addressing this type of behavior by assigning two detectives to the FBI Financial Crimes Task Force.

“Working with the FBI enhances our ability to track down suspects well outside of our jurisdictional authority, which is where many of the suspects reside,” he said.

Noting that safety is a key priority for Carmel residents and business leaders, as well as for those aspiring to live in Carmel, Mayor Finkam expressed appreciation for CPD’s impressive progress over the past year.

“We have a strong and well-deserved reputation for safety in our community, and this data demonstrates our investment and expertise are paying dividends that our residents truly value,” she said. “I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Carmel Police Department. Their hard work and dedication help keep Carmel special.”

Carmel’s crime statistics and related information can be found [here](#).



Photo by Ken Klingenmeier

Chicken Taquitos and Sweet Corn Tamale Cakes.

Happy Hour at The Cheesecake Factory Deux

When Mrs. K and I first tried The Cheesecake Factory’s Happy Hour (HH) last November, we became aware that the restaurant had the largest HH selection we had seen by far.

Their HH menu, available here: menu.thecheesecakefactory.com/in/indianapolis-37/happy-hour, has 13 Appetizers, all priced at \$10.95 and 15 “Small Plates and Snacks” at \$9.95. That’s an unusually large selection for Happy Hour. So when we were deciding on which HH to cover last week, we remembered the large number of untested dishes at the Factory.

Conveniently located in the Fashion Mall at Keystone on 86th Street, parking is never a problem. In fact, since it was a rainy night, we used the covered parking at the eastern end of the mall. In the restaurant, the hostess directed us to the bar area and we were soon greeted by April, our server for the evening. Drink orders came first, as usual – Mrs. K asked for her house Chardonnay (6.5 ounces for \$8.50) and I went with a bottle of Coors Light (\$3.95).

We had looked at the HH menu online before we left home so we had a pretty good idea of what we wanted, but when we asked April what she liked best, she told us the Sweet Corn Tamale Cakes (\$10.95) were her favorite so we ordered those along with the Chicken Taquitos (\$9.95). We had no idea what either of these dishes were, but the descriptions sounded interesting.

Sweet Corn Tamale Cakes: *Topped with Sour Cream, Salsa, Cilantro, Avocado and Salsa Verde*

Chicken Taquitos: *Crispy Corn Tortillas Filled with Grilled Chicken, Green Chile, Corn, Onion, Cilantro and Cheese. Served with Avocado Cream and Salsa Verde*

Sounds good, no?

While we waited, we enjoyed a piece or two of the warm pumpernickel loaf that April brought by with a plate of soft butter. It really wasn’t as crowded as last time we had been there. The bar/lounge at Cheesecake Factory is not large, but it can accommodate a lot of people with small booths along three walls, eight or so tables inside that radius, and a long bar that seats about 12.

Our food came out and it was a terrific surprise. The Tamale Cakes looked great, lined up on a banana leaf, stacked with tomatoes and sour cream. They were our first choices to sample and we both thought that they were very different from anything we knew. They had a great mix of flavors with a slight snappy kick from the salsa verde, all piled on top of corn bread tamales. So flavorful – April was right to suggest them.

The Taquitos were crunchy bundles filled with chicken pieces, corn, onions, and cheese. A bed of creamy avocado and salsa added heat and tang. They were small in size – finger-food tidbits – and easy to eat.

We really enjoyed trying new foods we weren’t familiar with. We often go with what we know, but this time we took a little chance and were definitely rewarded. Great food at a great price – our tab came to just under \$40 plus tip. We’ll have to come back sometime; there are so many other tempting things to try at The Cheesecake Factory!

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.



KEN KLINGENMEIER

A Seat at the Table

Carmel Small Business Network meeting returns March 24

The REPORTER

The Carmel Small Business Network (CSBN), sponsored by State Bank, is entering a new chapter this year. The Carmel Redevelopment Commission (CRC) will now be hosting the CSBN meetings, bringing a refreshed format to the long-standing community staple while maintaining its core mission of connecting local entrepreneurs.

The first meeting of 2026

will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 24 at the Carmel Fire Department Headquarters, 210 Veterans Way. Come to network, connect directly with Mayor Sue Finkam and City staff, listen to speakers relevant to small business owners, and enjoy free lunch provided by State Bank.

There is no cost to attend, but registration via Eventbrite is required.

“Small businesses are



Photos provided

the heartbeat of Carmel’s economic engine,” CRC Executive Director Henry Mestetsky said. “By hosting these meetings, we aim to provide a more robust networking and informational experience.”

This month, CSBN will welcome Don Wettrick, CEO of the STARTedUP Foundation. He will detail how innovation at Carmel High School is preparing students for the future – and how early engagement plays

a critical role in long-term business succession planning right here in Carmel.

About the Carmel Small Business Network

The CSBN was created to foster a strong relationship between the City of Carmel and its small business community. Through regular meetings, the network ensures that local owners are the first to know about infrastructure projects, marketing initiatives, and economic growth strategies.

Hamilton County Reporter

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Central Indiana Chick-fil-A restaurants present Foster Success with \$20,000

Submitted

Central Indiana Chick-fil-A restaurants presented nonprofit Foster Success with \$20,000. The money was raised during a fund-raising campaign late last year at 22 participating restaurants.

A portion of the proceeds from every Chocolate Chunk Cookie and Chocolate Fudge Brownie sold at participating locations during October 2025 will ensure teens and young adults transitioning out of foster care have the resources, support, and encouragement they need to thrive.

"Hoosiers stepped up to support the young people we work with by buying a sweet treat at the 22 central Indiana Chick-fil-A locations," Foster Success Chief Development and Communications Officer Travis Tester said. "It is so important to organizations like ours to have corporate partners, like Chick-fil-A who are committed to giving back to the communities they serve. We are grateful to the Chick-



Photo provided

fil-A Operators who chose Foster Success and to everyone who bought a cookie or brownie for supporting this vulnerable and overlooked population at a critical point in their lives."

Chick-fil-A presented the check during Foster Success's Works Wonders® program graduation.

The Works Wonders® Workforce Readiness program provides job readiness skill building for teens and young adults (ages 18 to 25) who have experienced foster care. Through the pro-

gram, young professionals are supported in discovering and pursuing career pathways for meaningful employment. Foster Success engages with Central Indiana employers to engage and provide internships and externships with program participants throughout the program.

Works Wonders® involves a rigorous combination of a 16-hour job readiness skill-building class, followed by six career coaching appointments for each participant to receive

personalized support in the pursuit of their career goals.

"At Chick-fil-A®, we believe in serving more than just chicken; we believe in serving the people in our communities," Chick-fil-A West Carmel Owner-Operator Evan Williamson said. "We are so happy to serve up a brighter future to the young people that Foster Success supports and thank all Hoosiers who helped make this donation possible."

For more information about Foster Success, visit FosterSuccess.org.

BlackRock wants Indiana's power grid. Here's why I object.

BlackRock, along with EQT, the Qatar Investment Authority, and CalPERS, have announced a \$33 billion deal to acquire AES Corp., the parent company of AES Indiana.

GUEST COLUMNIST



DANIEL ELLIOTT

real interest in the lives of everyday Hoosiers.

When it comes to Wall Street proxy fights, corporations can argue it out in boardrooms. But when the asset at issue

is Indiana's power grid, the stakes are different – and the people paying the bill don't get a vote. Gov. Mike Braun, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, the Indiana General Assembly, and leaders from both parties have stated that affordability is a key policy priority and that lowering costs for Hoosiers should be a primary concern for state government. Hoosier leaders have shown their willingness to tackle affordability and security. A few years ago, when another private equity firm, Blackstone, purchased a stake in NiSource subsidiary NIPSCO – the utility that provides energy to north-west Indiana – customers soon found themselves facing a significant rate hike. In 2024, my office investigated and placed BlackRock on a watch list. Upon my recommendation as state treasurer, the INPRS board voted unanimously to remove BlackRock as a major asset manager for Indiana's public pensions. We are now faced with a consortium that not only includes BlackRock but also CalPERS, an agency funded below the national average and facing a congressional probe for losing more than \$300 million in pension funds due to mismanagement and poor leadership; the Qatar Investment Authority; and a European private equity firm with no

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A few years ago, when another private equity firm, Blackstone, purchased a stake in NiSource subsidiary NIPSCO – the utility that provides energy to north-west Indiana – customers soon found themselves facing a significant rate hike. Will this consortium do the same? Will it prioritize a European ESG framework over grid reliability? Will it use Indiana's infrastructure to advance an agenda that Hoosier ratepayers never voted for and cannot afford?

These are not hypothetical questions. They are the logical extension of a track record BlackRock has already established – in Indiana.

As Indiana's state treasurer, I manage more than \$16 billion on behalf of Hoosier taxpayers and retirees. I know what it looks like when a financial institution prioritizes its own agenda

See Power . . . Page 5

Kroger brings Zepbound KwikPen to pharmacy, expanding access & savings for self-pay patients

Submitted

The Kroger Co. and The Kroger Family of Pharmacies have announced that as part of its continued commitment to expanding access to high-demand GLP-1 therapies, Zepbound® KwikPen – the newly launched, multi-dose delivery option of Eli Lilly's weight-management medication – is now available at participating Kroger pharmacies, bringing patients a more convenient option for obtaining their medication.

Savings at the pharmacy counter
The Kroger Family of Pharmacies honor manufacturer-sponsored programs,

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Photo provided by Eric Halvorson

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Inside the Sound: a groundbreaking immersive musical event in Fishers

The REPORTER

The Fishers Event Center invites you to prepare for a sonic experience that defies expectations.

Two of the most popular and celebrated ensembles in the marching arts, The Cavaliers and Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps, are coming indoors for a first-of-its-kind joint venture titled "Inside The Sound: An Immersive Musical Experience," presented by Paige's Music live at the Fishers Event Center on Saturday, June 27.

This event offers a departure from the traditional stadium setting of drum corps. Scheduled just days before both groups launch their competitive summer tours, "Inside The Sound" strips away the distance of a football field to provide an exclusive, up-close look at the raw power and technical mastery of these world-class performers.

Tickets for this premiere, one-of-a-kind event are on sale now at [Fishers EventCenter.com](#).

For the Fishers community and those new to the activity, this is far from a traditional indoor concert. "Inside The Sound" is a



Graphic provided

high-octane, professional-grade display of brass and percussion that vibrates through the floorboards and demands to be felt as much as heard. Each group features more than 80 brass performers and 35 percussionists, creating a massive, high-impact wall of sound specifically designed to fill the theater with incredible intensity. The acoustics of the Fishers Event Center will place the audience at the heart of an intense, precision-driven performance.

This event brings together two legendary organizations that represent the absolute pinnacle of their

craft. The Cavaliers, based in Rosemont, Ill., are one of the most recognizable names in the world with seven DCI World Championship titles to their credit. Joining them is Carolina Crown from Fort Mill, S.C., a fan-favorite powerhouse that has achieved the remarkable feat of placing in the top five globally every year since 2008.

The performers of both groups are talented young adults showcasing elite athleticism and top-tier musicianship. Members of each corps undergo a rigorous winter audition process and a grueling training sched-

ule, coming together once a month from December until May, and then moving in together to rehearse daily. More than 12-hour rehearsal days in the summer allow these groups to achieve a level of synchronization and musicality that rivals professional orchestras and Broadway productions. "Inside The Sound" is the culmination of thousands of hours of preparation, brought into an intimate, high-energy indoor setting just before the groups begin their national travels.

For more information on the performing ensembles, visit [cavaliers.org](#) and [carolinacrown.org](#).

Carmel government condemns antisemitic comments on post about Holocaust event

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](#)

The **Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council** says it's been working with the Carmel city government after it received antisemitic comments on a social media post Thursday, March 12 about an upcoming Holocaust remembrance event.

A statement from the Jewish relations council said it worked with the city government to understand the First Amendment constraints it is under.

The Jewish relations council's statement continued, "Carmel has decided it will not give into hate and will continue to promote and uplift survivor voices and this year's observance. We also agree that we cannot give in to hate. These comments exemplify why it is more important than ever that they continue to promote this program and

draws further attention to the desperate need for continued Holocaust education. We appreciate Carmel's engagement with us on this issue."

The Jewish relations council said the Carmel government's social media post and the comments it generated came amid Thursday's shooting at a West Bloomfield, Mich., synagogue. An attacker armed with a rifle **rammed his vehicle** into one of the nation's largest reform synagogues, driving through a hallway as security opened fire, fatally shooting him, The Associated Press said.

The Indianapolis council's statement said it's monitoring events at Temple Israel while working with the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis on security measures for local synagogues and schools. The Indianapolis council's statement said no congregants or visitors were injured at Temple Israel.

The Indianapolis council's statement read, "We will work to make sure we are always able to come together as a community, attend our Jewish schools and worship at our synagogues and temples free from the fear of these types of violent attacks."

The Carmel city government's **post made on Facebook**, made just before 12:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, gave details on the city's event.

Alex Kor, the son of American-Romanian Holocaust survivor Eva Mozes Kor, will speak at the Carmel event at noon April 24 at The Tarkington Theater. Eva Kor and her husband, American citizen Michael Kor, raised their children in Terre Haute. She died July 4, 2019, in Krakow, Poland.

The Carmel city government added this comment to its post: "Some comments made below on the Carmel Holocaust Remembrance

Day post have sought to degrade rather than celebrate this important community event. These comments are offensive and do not reflect Carmel. As a public entity, we are constrained in our ability to remove comments. However, we do report comments that violate the terms and conditions of the social media platform.

"These comments remind us that there is still work to do. Please join in on April 24th to do it together."

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/local-news/carmel-government-condemns-antisemitic-comments-on-post-about-holocaust-event](#).

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from Page 4

POWER

over the people it's supposed to serve. I think of the family in Indianapolis watching their electric bill creep up every month. I think of the farmer in Hendricks County who cannot afford to have his power bill become a political statement. I think of the small-business owner in Avon who cannot pass a rate increase on to her customers.

These Hoosiers don't have a lobbyist in Washington. They don't have a seat at the table when a \$33 billion deal gets signed.

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what it could do for our people. But welcoming investment has never meant surrendering accountability. It has always meant holding every investor to the same standard: Prove you are here for Indiana.

The burden of proof is on them. Hoosiers are watching. Until then, I cannot support this deal.

from Page 4

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Noblesville High School to host 13 choirs for third annual competition on March 21

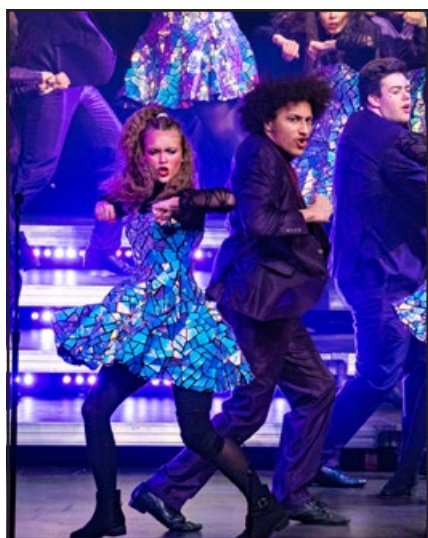
Submitted

Noblesville High School (NHS) Choral Department will serve as host for Noblesville High School's third annual Indiana Show Choir Championships on Saturday, March 21, to be held at NHS.

The community can join these choirs for an exciting day celebrating the excellence of high school show choir in the state that started it all. For the uninitiated, show choir combines choral singing with dynamic choreography, and each school performs a set lasting about 20 minutes.

NHS choir directors John Neubauer and Claire Rancourt say they are excited to bring this Championship to NHS where 13 choirs from eight area schools will compete all day long with awards in the evening. Plus, three NHS show choirs will perform exhibition shows at various times throughout the day, which runs from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Awards will be at 9 p.m.

"It is wonderful for the choir community in Noblesville to host this event gathering great choirs from all over the state," Neubauer said. "We share our hospitality and show them the community and class that encompasses the musical community in Noblesville."



Photos courtesy Jeremy Fisk

Noblesville High School NHS Singers large mixed-division show choir (left), New Dimension large univoice show choir (center), and Sensation small univoice show choir (right) will perform an exhibition show during the school's third annual Indiana Show Choir Championships on March 21. The event is open to the public.

NHS expects more than 500 high school students, plus an additional more than 1,200 adults from around Indiana and the Indianapolis area to attend. Plus, a lot of show choir singers who still live in the area and folks in the community who are interested in watching these show choirs are expected to attend. The show choir event is open to the public.

There will be a pancake and sausage breakfast made by Noblesville Kiwanis Sunrisers and served up by NHS choir volunteers. The Sunrisers are celebrating their 50th anniversary in March. A variety of food – roast beef, chicken, pizza,

hot dogs, baked potatoes, and more – will also be available for sale during the day and evening.

Descending upon NHS will be small univoice, large univoice, small mixed and large mixed show choirs that hail from Ben Davis High School, Bishop Dwenger High School, Bishop Luers High School, Carmel High School, Franklin Community High School, New Castle High School, Warren Central High School, and Westfield High School.

NHS show choirs – Sensation at 9:35 a.m., New Dimension at 5:30 p.m., and NHS Singers at 8:25 p.m., (all approximate times) –

will perform exhibition shows during the Indiana Show Choir Championships at NHS. The NHS Singers, the school's oldest show choir, has been a key component of the NHS Choral Music community since the 1970s.

Gaylor Electric stepped up again for the third year as Indiana Show Choir

Championships' Presenting Sponsor. Noblesville's George Kristo is a sponsor for the third year, as is Logan Street Signs & Banners and Noblesville Trophies. Other returning sponsors for all three years are Amazing Athletes & Jump Bunch, T&T Sales and Promotions, CSO Architects, First Merchants Bank, Noblesville

Elks, Pathways to Healing Counseling, Ayer's Real Estate, Clancy's Hospitality and Grand Global Vacations. There are many other returning and new sponsors and supporters for this event.

Tickets are \$20 for the day at the door. Full-color souvenir programs are \$5.

For more information visit NoblesvilleChoirs.org.

The Bacon Brothers to headline Sept. 19 gala

The REPORTER

Roots-rockers The Bacon Brothers, featuring composer Michael Bacon and actor Kevin Bacon, will deliver the headline performance at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts' annual fundraiser, the Center Celebration 2026 presented by Ice Miller.

Hosted by Artistic Director Michael Feinstein, the Sept. 19 gala at the Payne & Mencias Palladium will include cocktails, dinner, a live auction, and two after-parties following The Bacon Brothers' set. All proceeds support Allied Solutions Center's performance programming and its wide array of education and enrichment opportunities for people of all ages. Information on table reservations, sponsorship opportunities and more are available at TheCenterPresents.org/Gala.

Kevin Bacon, of course, is the A-list Hollywood star known for roles in classic films including *Footloose*, *National Lampoon's Animal House*, *JFK*, *A Few Good Men*, *Apollo 13*, and *Mystic River*. Michael, an associate professor at New York's Lehman College, is a multi-instrumentalist and the Emmy-winning composer of hundreds of film and television scores.

The Philadelphia natives have spent nearly three decades creating an original mix of folk, rock, soul, and country music – "forosoco," they call it – and sharing it around the world, from headlining gigs in Japan to performances at iconic venues like Carnegie Hall and the Grand Ole Opry. In 2024, they released their 12th album, *Ballad of the Brothers*. They have visited once before, performing in



Photo by Jeff Fasano

If you attend this show, you can reduce your own Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon number to 1, or be the reference for your friends, whose Bacon numbers then become 2.

October 2011 during Allied Solutions Center's first full season.

Programs supported by Center Celebration proceeds include the Peanut Butter & Jam performance series for families with young children; the Prism Project, a performing arts summer camp for youth with disabilities; free matinee performances and science presentations for school groups; a donor-funded Transportation Grant Program that reimburses transportation costs for school groups attending events; and arts classes for adults, including two levels of stand-up comedy instruction and three levels of ukulele instruction.

The gala revenue is generated through table reservations, corporate sponsorships, direct donations, and

the auction for prize packages including luxury getaways and VIP professional sports experiences, donated by Allied Solutions Center supporters. This year's Gala Steering Committee is led by Carmel residents David and Annette Greene, now serving their second year as co-chairs, and Carl Butler and Jeffrey Goens, serving the first of two years in the role.

Last year's Center Celebration 2025 presented by Ice Miller, with rocker Richard Marx as the headliner, generated a record \$708,000 in support of Allied Solutions Center's mission "to inspire and engage the Indiana community with enriching arts experiences."

Other past headliners have included Chris Botti, Amy Grant, Straight No Chaser, Chris Isaak, and Dionne Warwick.

SkyView Advisors facilitates sale of Spring Valley Storage in Cicero

Submitted

SkyView Advisors has arranged the sale of Spring Valley Storage, a well-established self-storage facility located at 21335 State Road 19 in Cicero.

The transaction reflects continued investor demand for high-occupancy assets in supply-constrained suburban markets with clear rent-growth potential.

Spring Valley Storage totals 55,050 net rentable square feet across 390 units and was operating at approximately 99 percent physical occupancy at the time of sale. Originally built in 1992 and expanded in



Photo provided

the early 2000s, the facility benefits from strong local demographics, no new self-storage developments within a five-mile radius, and meaningful upside as

rental rates trend toward market levels.

The transaction was brokered by Hunter Sells and Keith McCoy of SkyView Advisors.

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Reitenour campaign expands leadership team, calls for media accountability in Secretary of State race

Submitted

Republican candidate for Indiana Secretary of State Jamie Reitenour announced the expansion of her campaign leadership team while continuing to call for fair and equal media access for all candidates in the statewide race.

Reitenour announced the appointment of Jacque Cansler as Communications Director and Danessa Mortenson as Campaign Director for the Reitenour for Secretary of State campaign as the statewide effort continues expanding grassroots engagement with delegates and voters across Indiana.

"Jacque Cansler will help ensure our campaign communicates directly with the press and with delegates and voters across Indiana," Reitenour said. "Hoosiers deserve to hear from every candidate seeking statewide office, and fair access to information is essential to the integrity of our elections."

Danessa Mortenson will serve as Campaign Director, overseeing campaign operations, grassroots mobilization, and organizational development as the campaign continues its outreach across Indiana.

"Danessa Mortenson brings strength, organization, and dedication to the mission of empowering Hoosiers," Reitenour said. "Our campaign is focused on engaging the people of Indiana directly, and Danessa's leadership will help ensure we continue building a strong grassroots movement across all 92 counties."

The campaign also raised concerns about uneven media coverage in statewide races. Reitenour pointed to her experience during the 2024 Republican gubernatorial primary, when she says she was excluded from debates while other candidates were allowed to participate.

"When a ballot-qualified candidate is excluded from debates, surveys, or public communications distributed to voters, it raises serious concerns about fairness and transparency for communications that reference candidates or influence election outcomes under the Federal Election Campaign Act (52 U.S.C. §30101), including reporting requirements for public communications and related expenditures," Reitenour said.

Reitenour stated that her campaign will continue monitoring media coverage and any communications that intentionally misconstrue the facts.

"As a candidate for Secretary of State – the office given the title 'chief election officer' – I will not run for that office and ignore conduct that interferes with fair elections or denies voters full information about their choices," Reitenour said.

Reitenour also noted that in 1995 Indiana law shifted significant election authority away from the duly elected Secretary of State to the Indiana Election Commission and the Indiana Election Division. These two quasi-governing bodies now exercise substantial authority over Indiana elections – including administration, certification, rulemaking, enforcement actions, and the adjudication of election disputes – while the elected Secretary of State has limited authority to alter or overrule those determinations. Members of these entities are appointed by the governor.

Reitenour said the structure raises a fundamental constitutional question: can the legislature delegate core election authority away from an elected constitutional officer to unelected bodies that are not directly accountable to the electorate?



Reitenour

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Reitenour said the structure raises a fundamental constitutional question: can the legislature delegate core election authority away from an elected constitutional officer to unelected bodies that are not directly accountable to the electorate?

"Elections are a fundamental right," Reitenour said. "When authority over the administration and adjudication of elections is delegated to unelected bodies

insulated from voters, Hoosiers deserve to ask whether that structure respects the spirit and accountability required by our Constitution."

"The people believe the Secretary of State's office has been given the authority to protect the integrity of Indiana's elections," Reitenour added. "That integrity begins with transparency, equal access, and respect for the Rule of Law – also known as the Supreme Law – which is our Constitution."

Reitenour has told delegates she is committed to restoring confidence in Indiana's election system and giving elections back to "We the People."

"Models for precinct-level hand counting of paper ballots have been developed by organizations such as Indiana First Action and have also been reflected in proposed legislation before the Indiana General Assembly calling for secure hand-marked, watermarked paper ballots counted at the precinct.

"No more expensive machines with third parties holding the source code in escrow. We want paper ballots with watermarks, precinct voting, and precinct-level hand counting," Reitenour said. "Paper ballot systems are widely used in states like Missouri, which uses paper ballots with manual audits, and in countries such as France, where national elections are conducted with paper ballots that are counted by hand in a single night. Hoosiers being involved in their elections is healthy and wise."

The Reitenour campaign continues traveling across the state, meeting with grassroots organizations, delegates, and community leaders, and will announce upcoming town halls as Hoosiers prepare to elect Republican delegates in the May primary ahead of the June 19 and 20 Republican State Convention, where the Republican nominee for Secretary of State will be chosen.

U.S. Senator Jim Banks endorses Dr. Juanita Albright for State Senate

Submitted

Momentum continues to build for Dr. Juanita Albright's campaign for State Senate District 31 as U.S. Senator Jim Banks announced his endorsement.

Senator Banks joins a growing coalition of support behind Dr. Albright, including endorsements from Americans for Prosperity, the Indiana State Police Alliance, and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Albright brings a unique background to the race as both a physician and education leader, giving her firsthand experience with two of the most important issues at the Statehouse: healthcare and education. Her extensive career caring for patients within the community and her leadership as multi-year President of the Hamilton Southeastern School Board has provided her with real-world insight into the challenges Indiana families face every day.

"Dr. Juanita Albright is committed to strengthening education, improving healthcare, and bringing conservative leadership to the Statehouse," Sen. Banks said. "She has my full support and endorsement."

Throughout her time in public service, Dr. Albright has consistently stood for academic excellence for students, parents' rights in education, responsible government, and policies that

strengthen Indiana families and communities.

"I'm honored to have the support of Senator Jim Banks," Dr. Albright said. "Senator Banks has been a tireless advocate for Indiana's families, our military, and our conservative values. I'm grateful for the growing support of our campaign as we work to bring practical leadership and real-world experience to the Statehouse."

Dr. Albright is running for Indiana State Senate District 31 to bring her experience in healthcare, education leadership, and community service to the Indiana Senate and to ensure Indiana remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Learn more about the candidate at AlbrightForIndiana.com.



Albright

Paul C. Sweeney receives endorsement from Carmel Professional Fire Fighters Union

Submitted

Paul C. Sweeney, Republican candidate for Hamilton County Superior Court 9, has earned the endorsement of the Carmel Professional Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 4444. The endorsement was formally extended on March 6 by Sean Sutton, President of the Carmel Professional Fire Fighters Union.

In the endorsement letter, Sutton noted that the organization rated Sweeney "well qualified" to serve in the office he seeks, citing his leadership and commitment to public service.

Sweeney is a Hoosier by choice, having lived in Car-

mel for the past 40 years, with more than 35 years of volunteer service in our community, and 29 years of trial and litigation experience. He currently serves as Senior Counsel at Ice Miller LLP, where he focuses his practice on commercial, wage and hour, non-compete and employment litigation. A graduate of Carmel High School, Indiana University, and the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, magna cum laude, Sweeney has handled more than 60 bench and jury trials and arbitrations nationwide.

"I am honored to receive the support of the Carmel Professional Fire Fighters," Sweeney said. "These men and women put their lives on the line every day to protect our community. Their endorsement reflects a shared commitment to public safety and service, and I will carry that with me to the bench."

Sweeney is a Hoosier by choice, having lived in Car-



Sweeney

mel for the past 40 years, with more than 35 years of volunteer service in our community, and 29 years of trial and litigation experience. He currently serves as Senior Counsel at Ice Miller LLP, where he focuses his practice on commercial, wage and hour, non-compete and employment litigation. A graduate of Carmel High School, Indiana University, and the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, magna cum laude, Sweeney has handled more than 60 bench and jury trials and arbitrations nationwide.

Sweeney is running to bring servant leadership, fairness, and extensive legal experience to Hamilton County Superior Court 9, which will begin operations on Jan. 1, 2027. He supports expanding problem-solving courts in Hamilton County, including a mental health court.

Learn more about the candidate at SweeneyForJudge.com.

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NEWS

Machinal is a mystery-less murder humming with unsettling relevance

By DANIEL SHOCK
A Seat on the Aisle

She did it.
Not much of a spoiler. In Sophie Treadwell's 1928 expressionist drama *Machinal*, the murder is never the mystery. The real question, one that feels eerily contemporary nearly a century later, is how an ordinary woman becomes so suffocated by the machinery of work, marriage, and social expectation that violence begins to look like freedom.

I'll confess: the first half left me uneasy, and not in the good way. The dialogue felt mechanical, the pacing relentless, the repetitions almost unnatural. Then the second half began, and suddenly the discomfort made sense. The unease wasn't a flaw; it was the point. For a time, the audience isn't simply watching Helen's story. We are trapped inside her head.

That sensation is reinforced by the design. Kai Harris' circular stage, emblazoned with gear imagery, is a literal reminder that Helen's world is governed by machinery, social and economic. Minimal furniture and tall movable panels keep the environments abstract as scenes shift fluidly between office, bedroom, and prison. Aaron Burns' lighting projects a ticking gear across the floor, time itself advancing in rigid increments. And the steeply curved seating of Shelton Auditorium wraps the audience around the playing space like a tribunal, so that by the courtroom scenes, we realize we've been the jury all along.

Director Marcia Epich-Harris frames the story as memories flashing through Helen's mind in her final moment before execu-



Alaine Sims as Helen with her boss and soon-to-be husband, played by Patrick Vaughn.

tion, a concept that fits the play's dreamlike, episodic structure beautifully. As Helen, Alaine Sims carries the evening with impressive control, tracing the tightening vise of expectation without melodrama. Brant Hughes brings relaxed charm as her lover, a role originated on Broadway by a young Clark Gable.

Natalie Beglin's rapid-fire switchboard operator is a comic highlight, while Beverly Roche's quietly resigned mother offers a grounded counterpoint. Patrick Vaughn moves convincingly through the key authority figures in Helen's life, her boss, her husband, and her lawyer, each one recognizable and oppressive

in equal measure. J. Charles Weimer brings period authenticity to his several roles throughout the evening.

Both Nia Hughes, whose lovely singing moments add unexpected lyrical texture, and Adriana Menefee bring warmth and versatility to the ensemble, helping flesh out the social world pressing in on Helen from all sides. Together the cast creates a vivid, cohesive machine around the Young Woman, every character another cog tightening against her.

Nearly a century after its premiere, Treadwell's play still hums with unsettling relevance. Southbank Theatre Company's production is a powerful reminder that some theatrical machines

never stop turning.

We may begin the play knowing she did it. What still lingers is the more unsettling question Treadwell leaves us with: why?

Southbank Theatre Company's *Machinal* continues at Shelton Auditorium at Butler University through March 22. Tickets and information are available through Southbank Theatre Company's website, southbanktheatre.org.

Content advisory: The production includes a brief scene of sexuality and moments of flashing lighting effects that may affect photo-sensitive audience members.

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

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.

Northern GOP Club announces next meeting

The REPORTER

The Northern Hamilton County GOP will hold its next meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, March 23 at Greeks Pizzeria, 417 S. Main St., Sheridan.

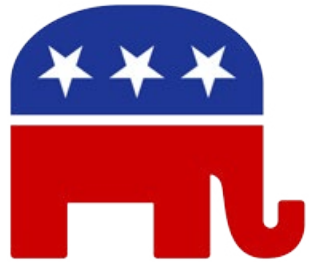
Speakers will include candidates for Hamilton County Sheriff, Sheridan Town Council, judicial candidates. State Senator Jim Buck will provide an update from the General Assembly. Attendees will also have an opportunity to meet other candidates and office holders.

Candidates: Feel free to bring your signs and literature for people to take home.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to emily.pearson317@gmail.com by Saturday, March 21. The cost of the dinner is \$10 for guests and free for sponsors and members.

Club goals are:

1. Make it easier for Republican men and women in



Northern Hamilton County to meet and speak with Republicans holding and running for office.

2. Address concerns happening in the northern part of Hamilton County (Cicero, Sheridan, Arcadia, and Atlanta), but all Republicans in Hamilton County are welcome to attend.

3. Share information to help precinct committee people staff their polls and connect them with poll workers.

4. Inform people of upcoming events, and volunteer.

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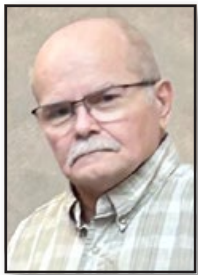
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Eric Paul Jones

March 21, 1958 – March 12, 2026



The family of Eric Paul Jones of Noblesville is saddened to announce his passing on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at the age of 67. He loved God and now rests peacefully in the arms of our Lord. He was born on March 21, 1958, to Earl and Wilma (Jackson) Jones in Indianapolis.

Eric will be remembered by his wife of 33 years, Linda Jones; daughter, Aundrea (Jon) Boyle; son, Austin Jones; grandson, Lennon Boyle; brother, Jerry (Danielle) Jones; brother-in-law, Doug Holderfield; sister-in-law, Rosemarie Adams; as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends; and his beloved dog, Bella.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his four sisters, Connie, Marsha, Nelda, and Cheryl.

Eric graduated from Arsenal Tech High School, class of 1977. PFC Jones honorably served his country in the United States Army from 1981 to 1984 and was stationed overseas in Germany and at Ft. Harrison. He received a distinguished rifleman badge, Army service ribbon, overseas service ribbon, and driver badge.

After his marriage to Linda, they settled in Noblesville and raised their family. Eric was a CNC machinist, reading blueprints and using micrometers to create parts. Eric was always an hour or two early to work because he was afraid to be late and wanted front-row parking.

Eric loved God, reading the Bible, and watching movies. He loved his family and they loved him just as deeply. Eric's parents were born in Tompkinsville, Ky.

The Indianapolis Colts were his favorite football team, regardless of the score. Eric shared his love of sports with his son, and the family loved attending Austin's school sports. Eric made everyone laugh with his antics.

A celebration of life will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Burial with military honors will be at Hamilton Memorial Park Cemetery, 4180 Westfield Road, Westfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306 (t2t.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Sam Muir Atherton, Jr.

January 20, 1946 – March 11, 2026



Sam Muir Atherton, Jr., known as Muir to his friends, Bo to a minute circle of friends, left us on March 11, 2026, to take that journey that either perplexes one or fills one with wonder. He will be sorely missed for his wry sense of humor, his extraordinary vision, his appreciation of art and architecture, particularly the cathedrals and forgotten Romanesque chapels of Europe, his affinity for music in almost all its forms, his love of fine cuisine paired with obscure wine vintages, his infatuation with the bistros of Paris and the unusual, out of the way auberges of Provence where true French cuisine could still be found. Muir was educated at Princeton '68 and Wharton, yet his quest for knowledge continued throughout his life.

He is survived by his adoring ex-wife, Bethany du Val d'Eprenesnil (Romain); sons, Sam Muir Atherton III (Sam Muir Atherton IV) and Winfield Gates Atherton; brother, Peter Lynn Atherton (Julie); sister,Carolynn Muir Atherton Kimura (Walter, deceased); and niece, Emma Rose Atherton Blodgett Palylyk.

Muir was predeceased by his youngest son, Wells Coleman Atherton.

Our dearest Muir, we wish you nothing but a bon voyage, a smooth, fast green, and a Talisker at the end of the day. 1946 – In our hearts

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Meeting Notices

The Carmel Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Hearing Officer meeting at 5 p.m. Monday, March 23, 2026, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square. A regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m. in the same location.

The Cicero Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

The Westfield Plat Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2026, has been canceled due to no business items for consideration.

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.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

KORAH, DATHAN AND ABIRAM

As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all those associated with Korah, together with their possessions. They went down alive into the realm of the dead, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community. At their cries, all the Israelites around them fled, shouting, "The earth is going to swallow us too!"

And fire came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense.

Numbers 16:31-35 (NIV)

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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.

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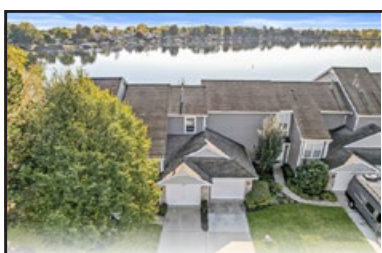
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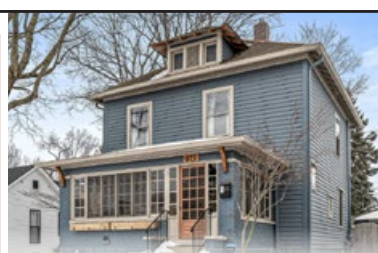


SOLD!

11405 Haverstick Road
CARMEL

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.

Listed at \$409,900

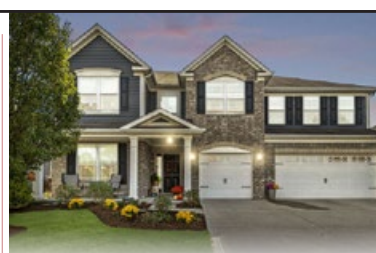


SOLD!

875 S 9th street
NOBLESVILLE

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.

Listed at \$430,000

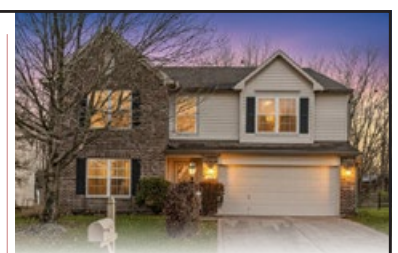


SOLD!

1307 CLIFF VIEW DRIVE
WESTFIELD

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.

Improved Price \$479,900



SOLD!

18826 LONG WALK LANE
NOBLESVILLE

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Gymnastics

Millers, Rocks compete at state

The REPORTER

The Noblesville and Westfield gymnastics teams represented Hamilton County well at the IHSAA state meet, which took place Saturday, March 14 at Ball State University's Worthen Arena.

The Millers competed as a team and finished ninth, scoring 103.325 team points. Junior Valorey Bittles led the way with an all-around score of 36.15. She also had the highest place and score on an individual event, tying for 20th on the vault.

Bittles was the very last gymnast on the vault, but it proved to be worth the wait. She completed a hand-spring double somersault and scored 9.275, easily the highest Noblesville score of the day.

The Shamrocks had three gymnasts compete as individuals. Sophomore Sonoma Fischer participated in the all-around, where she scored 33.575 points.

Fischer's best event was the floor exercise, where she posted a 9.025. She was joined by two of her Shamrocks teammates in that event: sophomore Kelsey Atkinson scored 8.825 and senior Madie Doran scored 8.60.

Doran is the only senior among the county gymnasts that participated in the state meet. As for Noblesville's other competitors, Hailey Nobbe and Emmerson Leckrone are juniors and Vera Deichman is a freshman.

The Millers were making their first appearance at the state meet since 2008.

A complete list of county scores now follow.

All-around scores: Valorey Bittles (Noblesville) 36.15, Hailey Nobbe (N) 33.95, Sonoma Fischer (Westfield) 33.575, Vera Deichman (N) 33.45, Emmerson Leckrone (N) 31.90.

Vault: Bittles (N) 9.275, Fischer (W) 8.90, 45. Nobbe (N) 8.80, Deichman (N) 8.625, Leckrone (N) 8.225.

Uneven bars: Bittles (N) 8.70, Fischer (W) 8.425, Nobbe (N) 8.375, Leckrone (N) 7.775, Deichman (N) 7.675.

Balance beam: Bittles (N) 8.925, Kelsey Atkinson (W) 8.825, Deichman (N) 8.725, Madie Doran (W) 8.60, Leckrone (N) 8.20, Nobbe (N) 8.175, Fischer (W) 7.225.

Floor exercise: Fischer (W) 9.025, Bittles 8.90, Nobbe (N) 8.60, Deichman (N) 8.425, Leckrone (N) 7.70.



Photo provided

Noblesville's Valorey Bittles scored 36.15 points in the all-around for the Millers gymnastics team at the state meet Saturday, March 14 at Ball State University's Worthen Arena. Noblesville placed ninth as a team.

Boys Basketball

Hounds drop regional game to Panthers

The REPORTER

The Carmel boys basketball team's season came to an end at the Class 4A New Castle regional on Saturday, March 14.

The No. 10-ranked Greyhounds lost to Fort Wayne Snider 54-46. Carmel was making its first appearance in a regional since 2021.

The Hounds got off to a strong start, leading 11-4 midway through the first quarter. Evan Harrell opened the game with a 3-pointer then made a layin to give Carmel its largest lead.

But the Panthers came back in the other part of the first period, tying the game at 13-13 by the end of the quarter. Julian Vogt nailed a 3 to start the second period, pushing the Hounds ahead 16-13.

Snider scored five quick points to take its first lead at 18-16. Vogt tied the game with a jumper, but a 3-pointer from Braylin Fertl gave the Panthers a 21-18 advantage.

Harrell struck back with five consecutive points (put-back, free throw and layin), then two free throws from Ben Bremer moved Carmel ahead 25-22. But Trell Hogue finished the half with

a triple and the score was tied 25-25 at the break.

The Panthers began the second half with a 7-0 run to lead 32-25. Snider would lead for all but a few seconds of the half. The Panthers were ahead 36-31 when Aiden Dickerson and Bremer threw in back-to-back 3s, moving Carmel ahead 37-36.

Snider's Jordan Woods ended the third quarter with a dunk and that put the Panthers in front 38-37. Snider would stay ahead for the entire fourth quarter, although the Hounds were kept things close for most of the period.

Two Hogue free throws gave the Panthers a 47-41 lead with 1:28 left. Vince Nover hit a 3, then Bremer made two free throws and Carmel was within 47-46. But the Panthers didn't let the Greyhounds score again. Snider went 5 of 6 from the line during the final minute and Hogue finished the game with a dunk.

Harrell led Carmel with 17 points and seven rebounds. Bremer added 10 points, while Nover scored nine.

The Greyhounds finished their season 18-6.

Girls Basketball

Donna Buckley resigns as NHS girls coach

The REPORTER

Donna Buckley, the longtime Noblesville girls basketball coach, has resigned.

Buckley announced her resignation on Monday after 18 seasons at the Millers coach. She began her tenure at Noblesville in 2008 and had a successful run, finishing with winning records in 13 of those 18 seasons.

"I want to thank Coach Buckley for her dedication and commitment to Noblesville High School basketball over the past 18 years," Noblesville athletic director Leah Wooldridge said in a statement. "During her tenure, she has developed countless student-athletes and helped lead our program to a state championship, along with many other accomplishments. We are grateful for the lasting impact she has made on our program and look forward to the continued positive influence she will have on students in her role as a health and wellness teacher at NHS."

Buckley led the Millers to a Class 4A state championship in 2022, the second in program history. The Miller also won a regional title and reached the final four in 2024 and claimed additional sectional championships in 2015 and 2021. Buckley's Noblesville teams have compiled 20-win seasons five times since the 2014-15 school year.



File photo provided

Noblesville girls basketball head coach Donna Buckley has resigned. Buckley had coached the Millers for 18 seasons and led Noblesville to a Class 4A state championship in 2022. She is pictured with Meredith Tipper, one of several 1,000-point scorers for the Millers under Buckley's tenure.

Before coming to Noblesville, Buckley coached at Greenfield-Central from 2001 to 2008, guiding the Cougars to a sectional championship in 2004. She has 371 career wins, with 275 of those victories at No-


blesville. Buckley graduated from Clinton Central in 1993 and attended Taylor University, playing basketball there for two seasons. She was an assistant coach at South Adams and spent one season as the

head coach at Fort Wayne South Side before moving to Greenfield-Central.

Buckley was the IBCA District 2 Coach of the Year in 2015 and 2021 and was an assistant coach for the Indiana All-Stars in 2021.

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Boys Basketball

Winegar steps down from Fishers

Coach takes new job at Iowa United Prep school

The REPORTER

Fishers boys basketball coach Garrett Winegar has resigned as the Tigers boys basketball coach.

Winegar has accepted a job on the coaching staff of Iowa United Prep, a relatively new prep school in Des Moines. Winegar had been the head coach at Fishers since 2021.

Winegar had been pursued by Mark Scharnberg, the founder and owner of Iowa United. While making such a move was never something Winegar had planned, he told The Reporter that joining the Iowa United coach staff "aligned with my vision of how I want to do things."

"I think it's a good step in my career to advance in my career and it's a good opportunity for my family," said Winegar.

Iowa United's head coach is Keith Smart, who Indiana University fans remember as the man who hit the winning basket to bring the Hoosiers their 1987 NCAA championship. Smart has coached numerous NBA teams throughout his career and recently joined Iowa United as well.

Winegar compiled a 132-25 record as the Tigers' head coach, putting together a winning season in all six of his years. Fishers has fin-



Photo by Joshua Herd

Fishers boys basketball head coach Garrett Winegar has stepped down to take a new job at Iowa United Prep school. Winegar had coached the Tigers for six years, leading them to a state championship in 2024.

ished the past three seasons with an 83-3 record, winning a Class 4A state championship in 2024 and returning to the state title game in 2025.

While Winegar was aware of the opportunity "for a while," he said he made it clear there would be no in-season switch. He would not leave until the end of Fishers' season.

"I hoped it would be a little bit later in March, but that's how things worked out," said Winegar. After

taking a few days off, the coach consulted with his wife to "see what made sense for us."

Winegar said he made a quick decision to give Fishers plenty of time to find a new coach, saying he owed that to the Tigers.

"It makes it very difficult to leave somewhere you love," said Winegar. "It's very bittersweet. We've prayed about this for a long time and where we're supposed to go and we feel that

a door's been opened that we want to walk through."

"I'm very proud of what we've been able to accomplish," said Winegar. He also said he's grateful for all of his players, assistant coaches and parents that have supported him over the past six years, calling Fishers "a special place."

"No matter where my career ends up, I'll always remember this as some of the best six years of my career," said Winegar.

Men's Basketball



Joshua Herd / File photo

Braden Smith, pictured here earlier in the season, usually wears No. 3 for Purdue, but he had to switch to No. 41 during the Sunday, March 15 Big Ten Tournament championship game after ripping his No. 3 jersey. Smith went on to help the Boilermakers beat Michigan in the championship and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

Purdue's Braden Smith explains why he changed jerseys on Sunday

By JOSH BODE

WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Purdue senior guard Braden Smith started wearing a No. 41 jersey during the first half of the Big Ten Tournament championship game, rather than his usual No. 3 jersey. His new No. 41 jersey did not have a name on the back.

Smith, in the No. 41 jersey, had an incredible game in the Boilermakers' win over Michigan to capture the Big Ten Tournament title. He had 14 points, 11 rebounds, and no turnovers.

Smith, the 2022 Mr. Basketball from Westfield, explained why he had to make the jersey switch.

"I ripped it (No. 3 jersey) fully with both hands like Superman style," Smith said. "I was really frustrated. Just a lot of misses these past four games, and it's just frustrating because I put a lot of time and work in. Ob-

viously when you don't see the result, it kind of gets to you and it got to me at that point. I figured I'd take it out on the jersey rather than take it out loud or to somebody else. That's kind of just what happens. Just frustration."

Smith had started the game with three straight misses, but ended up shooting 6-12 from the field in the championship game.

In his other three games of the Big Ten Tournament, Smith had shot 2-8 against Northwestern, 1-8 against Nebraska, and 1-7 against UCLA. But, the Boilermakers were able to win all four games and Smith racked up 46 assists on his way to being named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

This story originally appeared on WISH-TV at wishtv.com/sports/basketball/purdue-basketball/purdue-braden-smith-explains-why-he-changed-jerseys-on-sunday.

Men's Basketball

Boom split back-to-back series with the Knicks

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Boom (15-17) split a back-to-back series with the Winchester Knicks last weekend at The Arena at Innovation Mile.

First, the Boom snapped their seven-game losing streak with a decisive 141-115 victory over the Knicks on Saturday, March 14.

Dakota Mathias delivered a standout performance, recording the first triple-double of his career and the 19th in franchise history. Mathias finished with 31 points, 11 assists, and 10 rebounds on 9-of-15 shooting from the field, including 6-of-8 from three-point range. Omar El-Sheikh followed with a career-high 21 points to go along with five rebounds, while Au'Diese Toney added 16 points.

For Westchester, Pacome Dadiet (on assignment) led the way with 31 points, seven rebounds, and two assists on 13-of-23 shooting. Dink Pate provided 18 points, eight rebounds, two assists, and two steals off the bench. Two-way players Kevin McCullar Jr. and Dillon Jones each scored 16 points, with Jones also tallying six rebounds and six assists.

The opening quarter was

tightly contested, featuring five lead changes, as the teams finished knotted at 28-28 after 12 minutes. The back-and-forth battle continued for much of the first half until the Boom used a 23-8 run to build a 16-point advantage. Noblesville capitalized on Westchester's shooting struggles, outscoring the Knicks 40-24 in the period to take a 68-52 lead into halftime. Three Boom players reached double figures in the half, led by Mathias, who scored 19 of his 31 points on 5-of-8 shooting, including 3-of-5 from beyond the arc.

Westchester trimmed the deficit to nine early in the third quarter, forcing a Noblesville timeout, but the Boom responded emphatically with a 17-3 run to reestablish control and extend the lead to 23 later in the period. The Boom pulled away further in the fourth, stretching the lead to as many as 28 points, their largest of the night. Keion Brooks Jr. and El-Sheikh each scored 10 points in the final frame to close out the win and end the seven-game skid. As a team, Noblesville shot 58.2 percent from the field and 54.8 percent from three-point range in the victory.

The Boom (15-17) dropped a home contest to the Knicks (11-19), 120-110 on Sunday, March 15.

Mathias led the Boom with a team-high 28 points, adding four rebounds and two assists while shooting 6-of-11 from three-point range. Keion Brooks Jr. contributed 20 points, three rebounds, and three assists, while Cody Martin finished with 16 points and nine assists.

For Westchester, McCullar posted a game-high 31 points and 11 assists on 13-of-20 shooting, including 5-of-9 from beyond the arc. Nick Jourdain (19 points, 12 rebounds) and Trey Jemison III (11 points, 10 rebounds) also recorded double-doubles.

McCullar set the tone early for the Knicks, scoring 13 of Westchester's first 15 points after a 14-point outing in Saturday's meeting, helping fuel a 15-5 run to open the game. Trailing by 10, the Boom quickly answered with a run of their own to briefly take a one-point lead before the Knicks closed the opening frame ahead 29-24. Despite a strong first half from Mathias, who poured in 15 of his 28 points over the opening two quarters, Noblesville

trailed 58-53 at halftime after both teams scored 29 points in the second period.

The game remained back-and-forth through three quarters, though the Knicks never relinquished the lead in the third. After scoring six points in the first half, Brooks caught fire in the third, erupting for 14 points on 6-of-8 shooting in the frame. Westchester weathered the surge to carry an 87-82 advantage into the fourth. Momentum briefly swung toward Noblesville following an 8-2 run that gave the Boom a two-point edge early in the quarter, but the Knicks responded with a decisive 17-6 run down the stretch to secure the double-digit road victory.

Next up

The Boom will hit the road for the final time in the regular season, traveling to face the Greensboro Swarm on Wednesday at Novant Health Fieldhouse. Coverage will stream on ESPN+, with tipoff scheduled for 7 p.m.

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

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 17

GIRLS LACROSSE

Westfield at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Carmel boys, Fishers, Noblesville boys Westfield at Fall Creek Pavilion HSR Qualifier, 6 p.m.

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

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Sheridan High School raises money for Special Olympics

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

On Friday, March 6, Sheridan High School (SHS) students and staff were able to participate in an unforgettable experience.

Each year, SHS staff members and students lead an initiative to raise money for Special Olympics by participating in a Polar Plunge. Plunging at Eagle Creek Park, students raise money all year to be able to participate in this exciting event.

This year, SHS collectively raised \$7,615 for Special Olympics of Indiana.

All year, students take time to fundraise and demonstrate their passion and support for every student. Many schools across the state of Indiana participate in this challenge and dive into the cold waters. This event not only allows them to share in an exciting event with their peers but also allows them to make a positive impact on their community.

SHS students and their commitment to supporting those in need are a perfect example of the community and connection that make Sheridan Community Schools a great place to be.



Photos by Allison Waitt



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