



# Easter

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# REPORTER

THE HAMILTON COUNTY

Your  
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Newspaper

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER



**Today:** Partly to mostly cloudy. Later afternoon shower and storm chances.  
**Tonight:** Showers and storms, especially in the evening.



HIGH: 79 LOW: 63

# Safety in the digital age

*EXOS IT protects the City of Noblesville and BOOM fans*

By **STU CLAMPITT**  
[news@readthereporter.com](mailto:news@readthereporter.com)

The home of the Noblesville Boom was recently renamed the Riverview Health Arena at Innovation Mile, Powered by Parkview, but long before the naming rights were sold, EXOS IT was keeping people at the Arena safe behind the scenes. The Reporter spoke with EXOS IT Director of Government Operations Robert Paglia about what it takes to provide cybersecurity in the era of AI and bad actors both foreign and domestic.



Paglia

“We provide what we call ‘smart hands,’ and we provide an on-site engineer during games,” Paglia told The Reporter. “They serve as the smart hands for the whole technical operation during the



**Meet the EXOS IT Executive Team: (from left) Jose Martinez, Chief Information Officer and Managing Director of EXOS IT; Cody Tyler, Chief Information Security Officer and Managing Director EXOS Cyber; Jason Sondhi, Founder and CEO; Ryan Vaughn, President and General Counsel; Sam Guerra, Director of Finance; and Lindsay Szostak, Director of People Operations.**

games. So, if any issues arise, we’re the first on-site to help towards any resolution.”

According to Paglia, in the

IT industry, “smart hands” refers to the engineers, especially on-site during events, who have both the experience and

expertise to handle unexpected problems.

See Age . . . Page 2

## A new husband

My husband John retired March 2, which we’ve been planning for months now (Readers, don’t let the headline panic you, he’s not driven me crazy and ran me off.) Since that day, I feel like I’ve gained a new husband.



COLUMNIST

AMY SHANKLAND  
*Perfectly Imperfect*

**Pre-Retirement** John often worked 50- to 60-hour weeks as a sales rep. He worked every other Saturday. John’s company would notify him the evening before of his appointments the next day, so I could never count on him being home for dinner. I became the Queen of Meal Rearranging, always staying flexible on what we’d eat each evening.

With his busy schedule, I rarely asked him to do much around the house. I refused to complain, as I’ve been lucky to either work close to home or in it for almost 20 years. John mowed the lawn on weekends and fixed things here and there, and that was about it. We have a saying in our house – it isn’t broken until John Shankland says it is.

On his slower days, we’d grab a rare walk together with the dogs at lunch time. John struggled to eat healthy meals, as he was on the road constantly. Fast food was convenient and easy.

Over the past month, however, I’ve seen and experienced some wonderful changes. A couple of Saturdays ago, we worked together to clean our shed and do some yard work. I paused and had to blink back tears of joy. Strange to say, I used to dream of doing yard work alongside him years ago.

He’s not been sitting around doing nothing since retirement (other than the first couple of days – who could blame him!) Our garage is the cleanest I’ve seen in years. John’s overflowing with ideas about fixing things around the house and how to make it better. He has already started on the Honey Do list with enthusiasm.

We’ve been walking our dogs on the Nickel Plate Trail near our house almost every weekday, and going for longer walks on the weekends. John’s been eating smoothies – with fruits AND veggies – on a regular basis. In just four weeks, he’s lost six pounds.

I’ve had dinner almost every evening with my husband over the past month. I don’t think we’ve ever been able to do that in our 27 years of marriage! I no longer have to erase and rearrange meals on our refrigerator chalkboard.

See New . . . Page 2

# Rewarded for giving readers the scoop on Graeter’s ice cream shop in Fishers

**The REPORTER**

Regular readers of The Hamilton County Reporter will recall that Graeter’s Ice Cream, America’s oldest family-owned and operated craft ice cream maker, held a grand opening event on Wednesday, March 25 in celebration of its new scoop shop in Fishers at 8699 E. 106th St.

This newspaper is always pleased to help spread the word about new businesses, and we did so as a community service. The fine folks at Graeter’s then reached out to our publisher with an offer that was just too sweet to pass up: free ice cream for the people in the office!

Unwilling to put the Stu back into stupid, Reporter Publisher Stu Clampitt agreed, and on this page you can see some of the happy faces gathered around Reporter Owner Ray

Adler’s desk after 12 tasty pints arrived at the office.

Graeter’s Fishers location features dine-in seating, an enclosed patio area, and the brand’s full menu of ice cream, frozen drinks, sundaes, and other irresistible treats.

As the fifth Graeter’s location in Indiana, this store joins those in Butler-Tarkington, Carmel, Westfield, and the Fishers Ambleside Drive location. This scoop shop is conveniently located just off Interstate 69, effectively expanding Graeter’s footprint to reach more ice cream fans and residents in the Indianapolis area.

Hours of operation for this new Graeter’s Scoop Shop at Lantern Road are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and noon to 10 p.m. on Sunday.



Reporter photo

**Noblesville attorney and Reporter Owner Ray Adler and members of his staff, Paralegal Andrea Hodgins, Receptionist Alli Weyer, and Paralegal Kathi Harrison, grabbed pints of their flavors of choice. Thanks, Graeter’s!**

## Westfield & Carmel help inform local voters



Reporter photo

**The Westfield GOP and Carmel-Clay Republican Club held a joint meeting on Tuesday evening, March 31 at Viking Meadows Clubhouse, 15757 Viking Meadows Drive, Westfield. Dubbed “Defend the Rule of Law,” the event brought in candidates for Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney, and Superior Court judge seats. (ABOVE) Superior Court 3 judge candidate Chris Evans speaks to the crowd. (From left, with candidacy is parenthesis) Amy B. Summerfield (Superior Court 3), Angela Brown Swenson (SC 4), Chris Evans (SC 3), Trampas Whalin (SC 4), Chadwick Hill (SC 4), David K. Najjar (SC 5), Danica L. Eyler (SC 8), Christopher Barrows (SC 9), Sarah Shields (SC 9), Paul C. Sweeney (SC 9), Josh Kocher (Prosecutor), John Lowes (Sheriff), and Dustin Dixon (Sheriff).**

## Candidates, it’s time to engage with your voters

**The REPORTER**

It’s primary election season, and Hamilton County voters have a fine selection of candidates, many of whom have already reached out to The Reporter so we can share their message with our readers.

For those candidates who have not yet responded to our requests for campaign information, what the heck are you waiting for?

If you or your campaign staff fill out our candidate bio form on our website at the link below, you will be included in every online edition we publish from April 7 through and including Primary Election Day on May 5. **There is no cost** to get campaign contact information, a candidate photo, and 200 words about why you are the best candidate out to our readers.

Please note that we do not edit the candidate bios for grammar, punctuation, or content. We will, however, reject any that violate our attack ad policy.

Starting on April 7, readers of The Hamilton County Reporter Newspaper will be able to make more informed decisions when they cast their ballots. If you choose not to engage with our readers – again, at no cost – that will tell them at least as much as you could have said in 200 words.

**INDIANA PEONY MAY 16 Festival** *peonies IN THE PARK* **BRUNCH & BLOOMS**

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INDIANAPEONYFESTIVAL.COM

**NEW**

from Page 1

It's been fun to have Retirement John in my life. The dogs are even enjoying the extra attention. We're talked about getting an RV and traveling around the country in a few years. That goal seems even more realistic now, as I can take my laptop and work on projects when we're on the road.

I've always loved my husband. I intend to enjoy this "new one" more and more in the years to come.

*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](mailto:amys@greenavenue.info).*

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**AGE**

from Page 1

In addition to providing smart hands with technical expertise for the Arena and other private-sector clients, EXOS also provides IT services to public-sector clients throughout Indiana.

"We actually provide the IT and cybersecurity support for the city of Noblesville, but we also do it for Lebanon, Greenwood, Mooresville, Cumberland, and a whole bunch of different places throughout the state," Paglia said. "My role is specifically around our public sector practice and ensuring the delivery of services for anything related to IT or cybersecurity for our public clients."

Readers of this newspaper have seen numerous articles in the last year about data breaches and other forms of hacking performed by both private criminals and foreign governments. Paglia, who has been working in this industry for decades, said that those incidents are becoming more common.

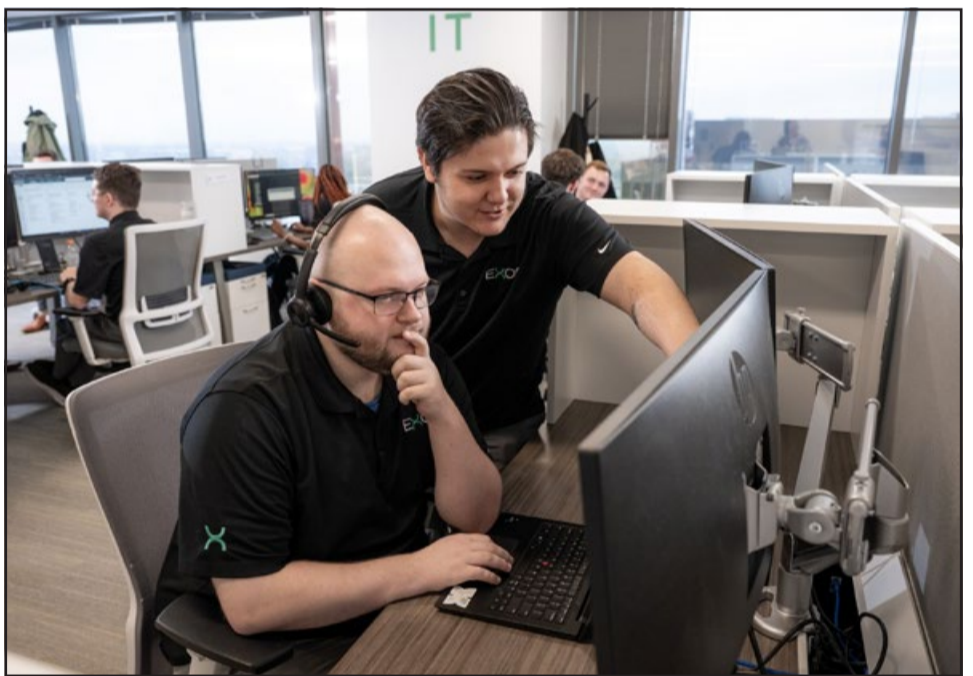
"I think there's more, in my opinion," Paglia said. "The criminals are getting much more sophisticated. I would say it's a continuum of progression, and it's something that we ourselves are constantly evolving with. We have to use AI tools in our cybersecurity stack to make sure we're keeping up with the criminals."

As technology advances, so does criminality. Individuals with limited expertise can now buy software and resources online to use as tools against citizens, businesses, and government entities.

"Individuals who may have an interest in nefarious behavior can purchase a bot online for a cheap price, where that stuff may not necessarily have existed before," Paglia said. "I think there's accessibility to a wider variety of audiences."

That is why cybersecurity and IT are both important.

"We try to really express this to our clients that cybersecurity is one aspect, but you have to have a really good IT team," Paglia said. "And those two teams have to work in conjunction with each other, or it doesn't work. We can have the smartest cybersecurity engineers in the world, but if you don't have an IT team that knows how to make the corrections because of what's found by the cybersecurity team, then there's really little value in it. One of the things we pride ourselves on is we have such a strong collaboration between our IT and



Photos provided by EXOS IT

**The consummate professionals at EXOS IT are ready and willing to keep your business safe in the ever-changing world of cybersecurity.**

cyber [teams]. I always look more at the cyber as they're monitoring, they're auditing, and they're finding the issues, and it's really up to a strong IT team to be able to figure out how to update that infrastructure and get rid of those weaknesses. It's continuous learning and education, and that just never can stop. You always have to be on alert."

EXOS provides services for both the private and public sectors, but because Paglia's position is focused on the government operations, The Reporter asked him what it is like to work

with the City of Noblesville, which he has personally been doing since last year.

"Oh, they're great," Paglia said. "They've got a really strong leadership team. They're certainly engaged with IT. You can tell when there's a real investment in technology, and Noblesville is one of those clients where they realize the power of technology. It's been so simple to work with them."

Paglia told The Reporter he is quite pleased with his decision to join the EXOS team and work with Hamilton County clients.

"It's been a great journey for me and for eight months being here. I've really enjoyed it," Paglia said. "I've really enjoyed working with the Boom organization, working with Noblesville, and with many of our other public sector clients."

If your company would like to explore the possibility of getting the level of technological support both the Boom and the City of Noblesville demand, you can learn more about EXOS IT online at [WeAreEXOS.com](http://WeAreEXOS.com), or you can call them to discuss cybersecurity and IT options at (317) 743-7339.

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# Braun & state legislators take action to protect Hoosier kids online

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Governor Mike Braun is taking decisive action to empower parents and protect Hoosier children from online predators and to raise the penalty on child predators who exploit children with child sex abuse material.



Braun

The two new Indiana laws take a stronger stand for child safety both online and offline.

**HEA 1408** puts up new guardrails to protect Hoosier minors online and empower parents. The law requires covered social media platforms to obtain verifiable parental consent for accounts involving Indiana users under 16, prevents direct messages and search visibility for adolescent accounts, restricts algorithm-driven recommendations and certain addictive platform features, and empowers parents with stronger tools to monitor and limit their child's use. These protections are enforceable by the Attorney General.

**HEA 1303** strengthens Indiana's response to child sexual exploitation and abuse by raising the penalty on child predators who exploit children with child sex abuse material, creating a new offense for distribution of child sex abuse material, and tightening offender registration requirements including for offenders coming from other jurisdictions.

This action builds on Gov. Braun's crackdown on child predators online with Operation Guardian Angel

*"The Fishers community is still grieving the loss of Hailey, and her parents' courage in speaking out to protect other young Hoosiers has been incredibly moving. A new law passed this year strengthens Indiana's alert system, giving law enforcement more ability to respond quickly when a child may be in danger. We also enacted new safeguards on social media, requiring parental consent for minors and empowering parents with more control and visibility into their children's online activity. We will continue working to strengthen protections for young Hoosiers and do everything we can to keep our kids safe."*

— House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers)



*"I am thankful that we were able to honor Hailey by getting this legislation to protect Hoosier kids across the finish line. Law enforcement needs as many tools in the toolbox as possible to stop child predators. As the Fishers community continues to grieve Hailey and reflect on the work that has been done this year to prevent future tragedies, I plan to have more conversations with constituents about additional guardrails on social media and steps we can take at the legislature to keep our children safe."*

— State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D-Fishers)



and the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Last year, Indiana State Police arrested 499 people for crimes against children and rescued 126 children from ongoing abuse, while the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force received 29,635

cyber tips, a 38 percent increase over the prior year.

With nearly 7,000 tips already logged this year and the task force expanded by 50 officers to 520 across the state, Gov. Braun is mobilizing the Indiana State Police like never before to protect kids and put predators behind bars.

# Scholarship available for Hoosiers with Muscular Dystrophy

The REPORTER

The Indiana-based Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation (MDFF) is now accepting applications for its annual educational scholarship, which supports Indiana residents living with muscular dystrophy and related neuromuscular diseases as they pursue their educational goals.

Sponsored by Busey Bank, the application is open through June 1, 2026, and provides financial assistance to help reduce barriers to education. Applicants must be Indiana residents diagnosed with muscular dystrophy or a qualifying neuromuscular disease and enrolled with MDFF. The opportunity is open to students pursuing a wide range of educational paths, including two- and four-year colleges, trade schools, and accredited certificate programs.

"This scholarship is about more than financial support; it's about creating opportunity," MDFF Executive Director Hannah Oostlerlinck said. "We know that individuals living with neuromuscular diseases often face additional challenges in accessing education. Our goal is to help remove some of those barriers so they can pursue their dreams and build



independent, fulfilling lives."

The MDFF Educational Scholarship was established in honor of the late Andrew "Sparky" Seever, a longtime supporter of the organization who believed deeply in expanding access to education. One \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded, with recipients selected based on financial need, academic achievement, leadership, and community involvement.

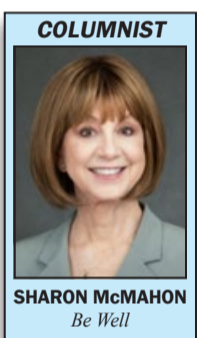
Applications and additional information are available at [mdff.org](http://mdff.org). The scholarship recipient will be announced later this summer.

About the Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation

The Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation, based in Carmel, provides financial assistance, programs, and resources to Hoosiers living with muscular dystrophy and other neuromuscular diseases. Through advocacy, education, and community support, MDFF works to increase independence and quality of life for families across the state.

# Regular columnist gets backed up

*"Happiness: a good bank account, a good cook, and a good digestion."*  
— Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 18th Century Swiss philosopher, composer, writer, and key figure in the Enlightenment



SHARON McMAHON Be Well

that is not news. However, poor diet and relying too much on soft drinks for our fluids have made the business of laxatives a multi-billion-dollar business! Over the counter laxatives are NOT a cure,

ed otherwise – move your body! Movement assists in movement ... if you get my meaning! Walk, cycle, dance, do whatever works for you. I teach stretching and flexibility classes which are greatly helpful in relieving digestive problems.

I am sometimes asked what kind of expectations to have in regard to the frequency of regular bowel habits, and I do not have specific answers to that as regularity differs from person to person. I will say that your own body will let you know – a healthy digestive system leaves you feeling refreshed, energized, and alert.

As we age and our metabolism naturally slows, we may be more challenged with constipation discomfort, and most of the time my suggestions here will bring relief. However, if you become constipated, do see your physician first to rule out any more serious problem such as intestinal disease or abnormality.

If your doctor approves, cut back on processed foods, incorporate those delicious fresh fruits and vegetables and drink plenty of water. (Note that if you suffer from heart, circulatory, or kidney problems your physician should advise on the amount of liquids you consume.)

Let's move!  
Sharon McMahon, CNWC

Since I am not a financial professional and only a mediocre cook, I will try to address the third "good" in the quote above!

Writing about constipation is not much more fun than having it but something that most people can relate to at some point in their lives. Most "irregularity" issues are infrequent but very annoying and can certainly derail a fitness plan.

*(Please note!* Often constipation can follow a surgery or be related to necessary prescription drug therapy – in which case you must listen carefully to your physician's diagnosis and recommendations, I will not address those issues in this piece. My suggestions do not address post-surgery and issues related to prescription drug side effects.)

In recent years, our diets have progressively incorporated more processed foods with many additives and fewer high-fiber foods; most of us have been made aware of that I believe –

and can be habit forming.

- My recommendations to my clients include increasing the amount of fiber intake to 25 to 35 grams per day and including whole grain breads and cereals. There is such a wide variety of grains available at most supermarkets, including barley, oats, farro, kamut, and quinoa.

- Choose fresh fruits over juices which are often laden with sugar. Apricots and figs are delicious and a great choice.

- Drink water! Fluids help your body process fiber without discomfort.

- Consider adding dried beans or peas to just about any dish.

- Seeds are excellent (unless you suffer from diverticulitis – please follow your physician's advice!) and I particularly enjoy chia seeds added to my Greek yogurt.

- Avoid frozen and boxed meals and canned goods when other good food items are available.

Unless you are instruct-

# Kroger helps customers fuel up with new '4X Fuel Points' weekend

The REPORTER

The Kroger Co. has announced a second 4X Fuel Points event to help customers fuel up. From April 3 to 5, customers can earn 4X the Fuel Points on groceries and eligible purchases with a digital or in-store accessible coupon.

"Spring can bring added travel for the families we serve," Executive Vice President Mary Ellen Adcock said. "Through our Fuel Points program and everyday low prices, we are giving customers more ways to stretch their budgets and earn more for being a loyal Kroger customer."

Kroger's Fuel Points program rewards custom-

ers with even more savings. Customers earn one Fuel Point for every \$1 spent on groceries, with points redeemable for discounts on fuel.

**Fuel up for Spring Break with these offers**

Kroger invites customers to enjoy multiple ways to maximize savings during this 4X Fuel Points weekend and beyond:

- Boost by Kroger Plus: Members earn 2X Fuel Points every day, any way they shop and 5X during the Spring Weekend Fuel Event.

- Everyday Fuel Points: Earn one Fuel Point for every \$1 spent on groceries.

- Earn extra Fuel Points

on select gift card purchases.

- Earn 25 Fuel points for every qualifying prescription filled at Kroger Family of Stores and earn 75 Fuel Points for every qualifying 90-day refill.\*

**Saving is easy**

With the in-store accessible coupon or the digital coupon in the Kroger app or on [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com), saving is simple whether shopping in-store, through pickup or delivery.

*\*Some restrictions apply. Some Pharmacy exclusions apply. Some items, including adult beverages and tobacco, are not eligible to earn Fuel Points. Prices may vary by geography.*

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Thanks for reading The Reporter!

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## Community News

### GOP Women to welcome Sheriff candidates

The Hamilton County Republican Women will welcome Sheriff candidates Dustin Dixon and John Lowes for a public safety update in April.

The meeting will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 8 on the second floor of the Courthouse in Noblesville, 33 N. 9th St. Please enter on the west side of the building.

Dixon and Lowes will share current public issues and their visions for the future of law enforcement in Hamilton County. Don't miss your chance to hear directly from the candidates.

Food and drink will be provided. There is no cost to attend for HCRW members, but guests cost \$5. RSVP to [hamcogopwomen@gmail.com](mailto:hamcogopwomen@gmail.com) by April 6.

If you have not renewed your HCRW membership for 2026, there is still time to do so. Annual memberships are \$40 and can be purchased at [this link](#).

### Workshop for pastors on technology in ministry

Local author David J. Swisher, a ministry technologist and bivocational minister, will offer a free workshop for pastors and ministry leaders in the area on "Navigating Technology Disruption in Ministry."

The event is scheduled for 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 11 at the Noblesville Schools Community Center, 1775 Field Drive.

This event will offer practical insight, a hopeful framework, and clear next steps for leading with wisdom in times of technological disruption. The event is free, but registration is requested through [Eventbrite](#).

### Free Shred Day at Carpenter Realtors

Carpenter Realtors will hold a free Spring Shred Day from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 11 at the Carmel office, 790 W. City Center Drive.

Acceptable items include: all paper, magazines, file folders, notepads, notebooks, and all envelopes.

### Coffee Hour for Veterans

Attention Veterans in northern Hamilton County ... From 9 to 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month, Veterans and the general public are welcome to get together at Remnant Coffee Shop, 101 W. Main St. (266th Street), Arcadia.

Come get to know other Veterans in the area. Tea drinkers are welcome.

# Local cops stepping up patrols to target distracted driving & speeding

## The REPORTER

Hamilton County Traffic Safety Partnership is partnering with the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) to increase patrols aimed at reducing speeding and distracted driving on Indiana roadways.

As part of the Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program (CHIRP), an ICJI initiative that provides federal funding for local traffic safety enforcement, officers will work overtime beginning April 4 through April 13, to identify and stop drivers who are speeding or violating **Indiana's Hands-Free Law**.

"Distracted driving and speeding are preventable behaviors that put drivers, passengers, and pedestrians

at risk," ICJI Executive Director Douglas Huntsinger said. "This campaign is a reminder that these actions have real consequences, and law enforcement officers are actively working to keep Indiana's roads safe."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Indiana recorded 249 speeding-related fatalities in 2023, and distracted driving accounted for 47 fatal incidents. However, limitations in data collection suggest that the actual number of deadly crashes caused by distracted drivers is likely higher than reported.



Quakenbush

"Distracted driving and speeding continue to be contributors to serious and deadly crashes," Hamilton County Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush said. "These actions put everyone on

the road at risk. Our duties will be increasing enforcement efforts and will issue citations to those observed violating these laws." Indiana's Hands-Free Law, which took effect in 2020, prohibits drivers from holding mobile devices while operating a motor vehicle. Calls may only be made using hands-free technology, such as Bluetooth, headset, or any other hands-

free technology.

To help prevent dangerous driving behaviors, ICJI and law enforcement encourage motorists to:

- Put the phone down and avoid multitasking while driving
- Obey posted speed limits and adjust speed for road conditions
- Allow extra travel time, especially during busy commute periods
- Keep a safe distance between vehicles

CHIRP is supported by the NHTSA and administered by the ICJI. For more information about ICJI's traffic safety programs, visit [in.gov/cji](http://in.gov/cji).

[Click here](#) to learn more about Hamilton County Traffic Safety Partnership.

# Hamilton Heights Indoor Percussion has strong showing at IPA State Finals

## Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corp.

Hamilton Heights Indoor Percussion capped off its season with an outstanding showing at the Indiana Percussion Association (IPA) State Finals, placing 11th in the Percussion Scholastic A category this past weekend.

Most importantly, the group rose to the moment and delivered its strongest performance of the entire season. Their focus, growth, and commitment were on full display when it mattered most – a testament to the hard work they've invested since day one.

This season was a true team effort. Every student in the ensemble played a meaningful role in pushing the group forward, supporting one another, and striving for excellence each and every day.

"A heartfelt thank-you goes to our incredible percussion staff for their



Photo provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation

Members of Hamilton Heights Indoor Percussion bring intensity and precision to the floor during their State Finals performance last weekend, where the ensemble delivered its strongest run of the season and finished 11th in the state.

dedication, expertise, and countless hours poured into these students," HHHS Band Director Mark Snelson said. "Your impact extends far beyond the performance floor. We also extend deep appreciation to

our amazing parents. Your support, time, and energy each weekend went above and beyond. This program would not be what it is without you.

"Finally," he continued, "we celebrate our outstand-

ing senior class for their leadership, commitment, and the legacy they leave behind. They have set the standard for what it means to be part of this program. What a way to finish. We are so proud of this group."

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# Timeless music from two incomparable voices

Don't miss Michael Feinstein with special guest Sandi Patty

**The REPORTER**

The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook, Michael Feinstein, returns with an evening of timeless music at 8 p.m. Friday, April 17 at the Payne & Mencias Palladium.

The multi-Platinum-selling, five-time Grammy and two-time Emmy award nominee is Artistic Director for Allied Solutions Center and Founder of the affiliated Great American Songbook Foundation. His most recent album is *Gershwin Country*, which reimagines the classic songs of George and Ira Gershwin through



Photos provided

duets with some of the biggest names in country music.

Joining him as special guest will be Sandi Patty,

an Indiana Living Legend and the most awarded female vocalist in contemporary Christian music, with 40 Dove Awards and five

Grammy Awards. [Click here](#) for tickets. This concert is part of the BHI Senior Living Songbook Series.



## Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announces 2026 Kroger Symphony on the Prairie season

**The REPORTER**

Get ready for another unforgettable summer at Kroger *Symphony on the Prairie*. The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) announces its 2026 season, featuring an exciting lineup of orchestral favorites, blockbuster film music, and high-energy tribute performances at the scenic Conner Prairie Amphitheatre in Fishers.

Tickets for the 2026 season go on sale at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 7. Concerts begin June 26 and continue through Labor Day weekend, offering a full summer of live music under the stars.

From rock classics and iconic film scores to the patriotic tradition of Star-Spangled Symphony, this year's lineup is sure to make your summer sizzle. From classic hits of the 1960s and '70s to contemporary pop and rock, the ISO offers music for the whole family to enjoy.

The ISO will perform 11 concerts this season, bringing audiences music from some of the most beloved artists and franchises of all time. Programs include the music of *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, and Disney favorites, along with electrifying symphonic programs celebrating Earth, Wind & Fire, the biggest hits of the 1980s, and smooth Yacht Rock classics.

The orchestra season opens June 26 and 27 with Face 2 Face: A Tribute to Billy Joel and Elton John, featuring two nights of unforgettable piano rock hits.

The ISO's annual Star-Spangled Symphony returns July 2 to 4 with patriotic favorites and a dazzling fireworks display

celebrating America's 250th birthday, with special surprises.

Film and pop favorites continue throughout July with the Music of *Star Wars* on July 10, featuring a trivia contest for super fans. July concerts also include Serpentine Fire: The Music of Earth, Wind & Fire on July 11, Back to the 80s on July 17, and Summer Breeze: Yacht Rock Classics on July 18.

The ISO also performs the magical Music of *Harry Potter: An Evening at Hogwarts* on July 24 and Disney in Concert: *A Dream Is a Wish* on July 25, bringing beloved film music to life with the power of a full orchestra.

Following the orchestra performances, the Kroger *Symphony on the Prairie* stage welcomes an exciting lineup of tribute artists celebrating some of the biggest names in music.

The tribute series begins July 31 with Always, Adele, followed by Let's Sing Sabrina / Let's Sing Harry on Aug. 1 celebrating the music of Sabrina Carpenter and Harry Styles.

August continues with a variety of crowd-pleasing performances, including The Fab Four: The Ultimate Beatles Tribute (Aug. 7), The Heart of Rock & Roll: America's #1 Huey Lewis & the News Tribute (Aug. 8), Hollywood Nights: The Bob Seger Experience (Aug. 14), and The Australian Bee Gees (Aug. 15).

Additional performances include Troubadours: A Tribute to James Taylor and Carole King (Aug. 21),

See ISO . . . Page 6

## Hamilton East Public Library to host sold-out event with New York Times bestselling debut author Tiffany Crum

**The REPORTER**

The Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) will welcome debut author Tiffany Crum for a special evening author on Saturday, April 18. The free, ticketed event reached full capacity within 48 hours of opening registration, reflecting strong community excitement for Crum's newly released novel, *This Story Might Save Your Life*.

The program will take place offsite at the theatre inside the Fishers Art Center at City Hall and will feature a moderated conversation with Crum, followed by an audience Q&A and book signing.

Crum's debut novel has quickly gained national at-

ention, earning recognition as a *New York Times* bestselling release and a BBC Radio 2 Book Club selection. *This Story Might Save Your Life* follows a beloved podcast duo whose lives take a shocking turn when a disappearance transforms their story into a real-life mystery.

"We're thrilled to bring an author of this caliber to our community," HEPL Systemwide Program Coordinator Allison Kartman said. "The overwhelming response to this event speaks to the excitement readers have for compelling new voices and the power of libraries to connect people with stories and the authors be-

hind them." Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase copies of the book onsite from Chapter Book Lounge prior to the event.

Originally from a dairy farm near a maximum-security prison, Crum went on to work in the film industry before earning her MFA in creative writing. She now lives in Atlanta, Ga., with her family. *This Story Might Save Your Life*, which published on March 10, 2026, has already sold in 15 languages and is currently under option for television.

While registration for this event is full, commu-



Graphic provided

nity members are encouraged to follow HEPL for future author events and literary programming.

For more information about other events happening at HEPL, go to [hamiltoncastpl.org](http://hamiltoncastpl.org).

### FEINSTEIN'S AT HOTEL CARMICHAEL



**Casey Abrams and Hunter**  
*Presented by Allied Solutions*  
April 10 & 11



**BALL STATE STUDIO BAND**  
& **JOSH KAUFMAN**  
April 23



**WILL HOGE**  
*Presented by Allied Solutions*  
May 8 & 9

*Visit [FeinsteinsHC.com](http://FeinsteinsHC.com) to purchase tickets.*



## HOTEL CARMICHAEL

PATIO IS NOW OPEN



# ISO

from Page 5

One Night of Queen (Aug. 22), The Boy Band Night (Aug. 28), and Private Eyes: A Tribute to Hall & Oates (Aug. 29).

Labor Day weekend closes out the season with Free Fallin The Tom Petty Concert Experience (Sept. 4), The Phil Collins Experience (Sept. 5), and the popular EagleMania (Sept. 6).

**New this season**  
Beginning April 7, visit [IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://IndianapolisSymphony.org) for the Symphony Summer Special. For a limited time only, choose tickets to four concerts for just

\$120 (plus taxes and fees). Mix and match music from your favorite decades and create your perfect concert lineup (exclusions apply). This limited-time offer will be available while supplies last.

Single tickets and tables can be purchased by the general public starting Tuesday, April 7 via phone at (317) 639-4300, at the ISO Box Office at 45 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, online at [IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://IndianapolisSymphony.org), or by visiting your central Indiana Kroger store.

# Sheridan gears up for America 250

Town expands events with car show fundraiser & reimagined Fourth of July celebration

Submitted by Ashley Beasley

Sheridan Events is preparing for a full season of community celebrations. Plans have expanded for both the Rev'd Up Rides Car Show and the Town of Sheridan's annual Fourth of July festivities.

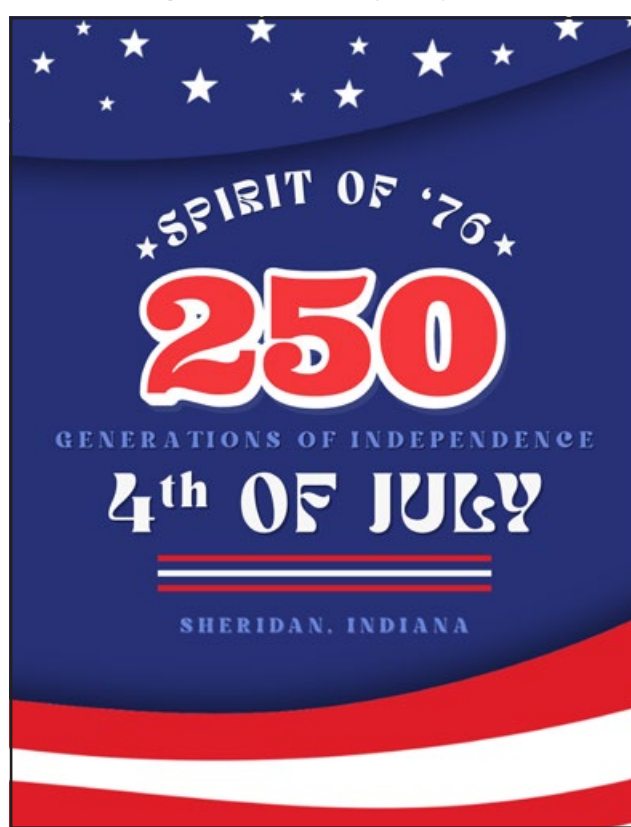
These efforts are supported in part by a \$5,500 grant from Hamilton County Tourism, which will help Sheridan continue to host community gatherings that attract visitors as well as strengthen the local economy.

The 2026 season will kick off with the second annual Rev'd Up Rides Car Show on April 25 at Sher-

idan High School. Registration begins at 9 a.m., but participants can also pre-register online at [SheridanEvents.org](http://SheridanEvents.org). While the event is free to attend, the fee to register a car is \$20. Rev'd Up Rides serves as both the organization's opening event and a key fundraiser supporting Sheridan's Fourth of July celebration. Attendees can expect a wide variety of vehicles, local fare from vendors like Gosia's Rustic Kitchen, Sip Happens, and Sheridan Rotary, plus a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere with music from the Molter Brothers and Henry Entertainment, LLC.

This year's Fourth of July celebration will feature several exciting changes. Due to construction along State Road 47, festivities will be relocated to the Sheridan High School grounds. Sheridan Events is grateful to Sheridan High School for generously providing an alternative venue for these community events. The location offers expanded space and is a prime venue for the fireworks show.

For the first time, Sheridan will welcome Burgerhaus Productions as they deliver our guests a professionally choreographed fireworks show set to music. The display will be launched near the storied Blackhawks football field, with seating available in the stadium stands and other areas on the



Graphic provided

grounds, allowing guests to experience the show from multiple vantage points.

Sheridan's 2026 Fourth of July celebration is thrilled to be part of the nationwide commemoration of 250 years of American Independence. The local theme, "Generations of Independence," will highlight both Sheridan's history and its future by blending elements of past and present. Inspired by the national Spirit of '76 theme, the event will feature a mix of throwback activities; including some Sheridan favorites like the ping pong ball drop, live music from multiple eras, and

more! It will be a return to the simple, connected feel of the classic small-town summer celebrations many of us long for.

Community members and visitors alike are encouraged to support 2026 events in Sheridan by attending the Rev'd Up Rides Car Show and Fourth of July celebration; as well as through donations to the organization which is committed to providing inclusive, accessible, and affordable events.

More information can be found at [SheridanEvents.org](http://SheridanEvents.org) or by following along at Sheridan Events on Facebook.

**Thanks for reading!**

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\*Bingo is free to play and tickets sold help cover food, support a good cause, and to reserve your spot. IGC ref. #164314 - Lic. #017492.

# Noblesville Lions welcome infectious disease specialist



Photo provided by Lisa Dick, Noblesville Lions Club

The Noblesville Lions welcomed Dr. Tracey Ikerd to speak about common infectious diseases at their March 25 meeting. Dr. Ikerd is an infectious disease specialist, practicing at Riverview Health and Ascension St. Vincent hospitals. He gave a show and tell style presentation, introducing the symptoms and treatment of various diseases including shingles, Lyme disease, and brown recluse spider bites. Dr. Ikerd also shared information about prevention of infectious diseases, highlighting that the shingles vaccination is especially important for older adults because it can be very painful in those over 50 and many older adults carry the virus which they were exposed to as children in the form of chickenpox. (ABOVE) Noblesville Lions First Vice President John Einsfeld and infectious disease specialist Dr. Tracey Ikerd.

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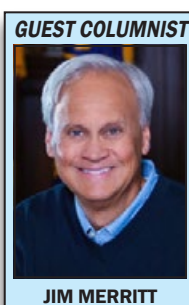
[NickelPlateExpress.com/railbike-rides](http://NickelPlateExpress.com/railbike-rides)

# Six years after COVID-19, Indiana is not ready for the next pandemic

The world changed six years ago. What began as a cluster of pneumonia cases overseas became a global pandemic that took Hoosiers' lives, upended daily routines, overwhelmed hospitals, shuttered businesses, and forced governments to make decisions at a pace and scale they weren't ready for — and still aren't.

As an Indiana State Senator, I had a front-row seat to how our state responded in real time — sometimes admirably, sometimes imperfectly and always under extraordinary pressure. Six years later, the most important question we should be asking is simple: Are we ready for the next pandemic?

Pandemics are not anomalies in history. They are recurring tests of human preparedness, leadership and collective responsibility. From the Antonine Plague in the Roman Empire and the 1918 influenza, to HIV/AIDS, SARS and Ebola, disease has repeatedly exposed both the strengths and vulnerabilities of societies.



JIM MERRITT

Each generation receives warnings from the past, but too often those warnings fade once the crisis does. That pattern repeated itself during COVID-19.

In researching my new book, *Lessons Learned: Are we ready for the next pandemic?* History says no, I examined pandemics dating back nearly two millennia. Repeatedly, the same sequence emerges: initial denial, a fragmented response, the politicization of basic science, scapegoating of communities, and finally, collective amnesia once the acute crisis fades. COVID-19 followed that script with remarkable precision.

Indiana's experience reflected the broader national struggle. Early in the pandemic, leaders were forced to make decisions with limited information and rapidly evolving science. Public health officials worked tirelessly, hospitals expanded capacity overnight and communities adapted in ways we never thought possible.

The crisis also revealed deep challenges. Public

health guidance became entangled in politics. Trust in institutions eroded. Debates over personal freedom versus collective responsibility dominated public discourse. And once vaccines arrived and the immediate emergency subsided, much of the country, including Indiana, moved on quickly. That tendency to move on may be the most dangerous part of all.

Scientific progress during the pandemic was extraordinary. Vaccines were developed at an unprecedented rate. Data sharing across the globe accelerated research. Medical professionals gained invaluable experience in treating a novel disease. But scientific advancement alone doesn't guarantee readiness.

Preparedness requires something less visible but just as important — sustained political will, coordinated leadership and a public willing to remember the lessons of the past and prepare for the future. We should be investing in early-warning systems, strengthening public health infrastructure, and maintaining clear lines of communication between government, scientists and citizens.

It also requires honest reflection. The pandemic forced difficult conversations about the balance between individual liberty and collective safety, conversations that remain unresolved. In a free society, those tensions are inevitable. But ignoring them or pretending they will disap-

pear before the next crisis is a mistake.

The reality is that COVID-19 was not a once-in-a-century event. Since the 1918 influenza pandemic, the world has faced at least seventeen novel respiratory virus threats. Each one served as a warning. Each one offered an opportunity to prepare for the next. Yet, historically, we failed to act on those warnings.

That is why the anniversary of COVID-19 is more than a moment for remembrance. It's a reminder to recommit. We owe it to the families who lost loved ones, to the healthcare workers who risked their lives and to the communities that endured profound disruption. Most importantly, we owe it to future generations.

The next pandemic is not a matter of if, but when. Whether Indiana — and the nation — is better equipped to respond will depend on what we choose to remember, what we are willing to change and how seriously we take preparation today. History shows us how to behave. The question is whether we will finally listen.

*Author Jim Merritt was an Indiana State Senator for more than three decades. He had a front-row seat to Indiana's pandemic response and lack of after-action planning. His research and expertise in state government led to the publication of Lessons Learned, with guiding solutions to prevent a repeat of COVID-19.*

## Letter to the Editor

### Reader encourages continued funding for Medicare Advantage

Dear Editor:

In early March, I joined dozens of Medicare Advantage beneficiaries and caregivers in Washington, D.C., for a chance to meet with lawmakers about the program.

In those meetings, we had frank conversations about the problems underfunding this vital program could bring for seniors in Indiana. We shared that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' plan to increase 2027 Medicare Advantage funding by a mere 0.09 percent is not enough to support the millions of Americans who rely on Medicare Advantage.

We continue to emphasize that true inflation should be the basis of any increase in annual Medicare funding. Anything less is an effective decrease in senior benefits.

Underfunding Medicare Advantage could potentially put the health and financial well-being of seniors at risk through increased premiums, higher out-of-pocket costs, and slashed benefits. Many seniors can't afford to pay more for their healthcare. When faced with increased costs, they would likely forgo their medical appointments and prescription drugs. Those who can afford medical care may find themselves unable to visit their preferred doctors and specialists when medical networks tighten due to insufficient funding.

Fiscal responsibility is important to seniors, but so is the quality of our lives and healthcare. Medicare Advantage funding decisions must take into account what will happen to those of us at the other end of the funding decisions, especially homebound seniors and those dealing with chronic illnesses, who rely on Medicare Advantage home care programs.

I encourage all members of Indiana's congressional delegation to listen to their constituents and ensure Medicare Advantage continues to have the funding it needs and deserves.

**Penny Bigelow**  
Indianapolis

## Letter to the Editor

### Doug Carter makes case for Chris Evans for Superior Court 3 judge

Dear Editor:

My name is Doug Carter. I recently retired after nearly 40 years of law enforcement service primarily in Hamilton County.

As a former State Trooper, two-term elected Sheriff of Hamilton County, and most recently retired as the Superintendent of the Indiana State Police after serving 12 consecutive years, I'm pleased to endorse Magistrate Judge Chris Evans to be the next judge of Hamilton Superior Court 3.

Chris presently serves as a magistrate judge in Hamilton County having been appointed by the elected judges. Magistrate Evans has a reputation as a fair and hard-working judge with a demonstrated commitment to the rule of law. He has extensive experience presiding over bench and jury trials involving complex civil and criminal proceedings and is the only candidate for Court 3 with judicial experience.

His character, judicial demeanor, and experience make him the best choice to serve as the elected judge of Hamilton Superior Court 3.

This is a challenging time for law enforcement and the judicial system making judicial experience more important than ever. Chirs Evans is the only candidate for Court 3 with that very experience.

I encourage all Hamilton County residents to vote for Chris Evans for Court 3 on May 5. Now more than ever, your vote for experience matters. Magistrate Judge Chris Evans is ready on day 1.

**Douglas G. Carter**  
Superintendent (Ret.), Indiana State Police

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

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**BIDDING OPENS: Thursday, April 2nd @ 10am**

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**PREVIEW DATES: Tuesday, April 7th - Thursday, April 9th From 10am - 5pm**

**PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, April 13th - Thursday, April 16th From 10am - 5pm**

**Or by Appointment Only**

**TRACTORS:** FarmAll 560 Tractor, 1984 John Deere 4450 (540 & 1000 PTO, 3-pt, Front & Rear Wgts, 15-Speed Power Shift, 8788 hrs), 1949 John Deere Model A Gas, John Deere L w/ Plow & Draw Bar, Ford Ferguson 9N, Oliver 77 Row-Crop Gas w/ Mounted Sprayer, FarmAll Super MTA w/ Hyd. Front End Loader, 1982 JD 4640 (Rear Wgts, 3 Hyd Remotes, 6940 hrs, Quad-Range Transmission)

**PLANTERS & DRILLS:** JD 7000 12-Row Planter (Liquid Fert, Insect, Bean & Corn Meters, 200 Monitor), JD 7000 Planter (Used for Food Plot & Truck Patch), 30' Case IH 5500 Grain Drill (Monitor & Markers)

**SPRAYERS & TANKS:** Bestway 1000-Gallon w/ 60' Booms & Raven 440 Monitor, 1000-Gallon Steel Tank on JD Gear w/ Hyd. Hoist, 500-Gallon Sprayer on JD Gear, 1200-Gallon Stainless Tank on 1065 JD Gear (Honda 5.5hp Motor & Banjo Pump), Chem Farms Stainless Saddle Tanks w/ Pump, Clark 1000-Gallon Nurse Tank w/ Pump on Adj Gear, 3-pt 200-Gallon w/ PTO Pump & 30' Booms, JD 963 Gear w/ 1000-Gallon Poly Tank (30-Gal Inductor)

**VEHICLES:** 2006 Hummer H3 4x4 (Leather, Sunroof, Power Windows & Seats, Vortec 3500, Gas, 242830 miles), 2006 Chevrolet C1500 Silverado (2-W/D, Vortec 5.3 Liter Gas, 218756 Miles), 1999 GMC C7500 7H1 Auger Truck (7.4 Liter Gas Motor, 17928 Miles), 2012 Int'l 4300M&SBA 4x2 Bucket Truck (2008 Altech Service Body w/ 50' Bucket, 44996 miles, Max Force Diesel Engine-Diagnosed as needing replaced-Excessive Blow-By), 2004 Ford F-350 Super Duty Crew Cab (V-8 FX4 4-WD, 6.0 Liter Diesel, Leather, Power Seats & Windows, Sunroof, Gooseneck Hitch, 6-3/4' Bed, 168705 miles)

**TRAILERS:** 2014 Sure-Trac 25+5 Gooseneck, 2013 Corn Pro UT-16L w/ Ramps, 12'x81" Bolinger Trl., 2007 Conkrite 18'x80"

**TIRES:** 18.4-34 Firestone Clamp-On Duals, 2016 Like New Ford F-350 Toyo Tires (265-70R 19.5), Stock 5-Lug

Michelin Tires & Wheels, 2004 Stock F-350 Firestone LT265 75R 16, 18.4-37 Firestone T-Rail Duals

**TILLAGE EQUIPMENT:** 25' DMI Tiger Mate II Fld. Cult., 25' McFarlane 8-Bar Pull-Type Harrow, 8' JD RW Disk, Brillion 10-Shank 3-pt Chisel Plow, 32' Brillion XL144 Packer (X-Fold Extendable Tongue, Scrapers, USED VERY LITTLE), County Line 3-pt Cultivator, 2 & 3-Bottom Plows, Oliver 545 Plow, 19' Allis-Chalmers 1200 Fld. Cult., McFarlane QT-111RB Quadra-Till 11-Shank Chisel

**WAGONS & GRAIN HANDLING:** Hay Wagons, (2) JD 1075 Gears w/ Midwest Steel Beds & M-10 Hyd. Hoists, Parker 300-bu Gravity Wagon, J&M 680-760 Gravity Wagon w/ Brakes & Lights, Seed Wagon w/ Sudenga Brush Auger (Hyd. Pump & Motor), Kongskilde SUC-1000 Grain Vac, (2) J&M 350-20 Gr. Wagons on JD 1075 Gears w/ Lights

**LIVESTOCK EQ:** Tilt-Tables for Goats/Sheep, Cattle Panels & Gates, Cattle Catch Chute, Wire Fence

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**MISC:** 275-Gallon Food Grade Totes, 55-Gallon Food Grade Metal Barrels, Bin Parts, PTO Shafts, IH Clam Shell Fender, Fuel Tanks, Fencing & Posts, JD Bicycle, JD Corn Sheller, Original JD Delivery Trailer, 3-pt Grader Blade, Bobcat Trench Compactor, 6-Way 7' Grouser Dozer Blade, New Idea PTO-Driven Manure Spreader, 5' Frontier AF10F Loader-Mount Blade (Fits JD 100 & 200-Series Loaders)

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## Watch for signs of human trafficking during NCAA Final Four festivities

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita welcomes basketball fans visiting Indianapolis this week for the Final Four. While fans enjoy this exciting culmination of March Madness, he said they should also stay alert to the signs of human trafficking – a serious crime often associated with large sporting events.

“The Final Four is a thrilling event that brings tremendous energy and national attention to Indianapolis,” AG Rokita said. “But large crowds like this also create opportunities for human traffickers. We’re asking fans to stay vigilant and help us watch for signs of trafficking – your eyes and ears can help rescue victims and hold these predators accountable.”

People in certain job

roles – such as medical professionals, restaurant workers, hotel staff and truck drivers – are particularly likely to come into contact with trafficking victims.

Human trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar criminal enterprise. It occurs anytime someone uses force, fraud, or coercion to make another individual provide labor, services, or commercial sex acts. If the person performing commercial sex acts is under 18, the crime of human trafficking still occurs, even without the elements of force, fraud, or coercion.

According to the U.S. State Department and other anti-trafficking experts, common signs that someone may be a victim of human



Rokita

trafficking include:

- Living with their employer or in housing provided by their employer;
- Living in overcrowded or poor conditions;
- Being prohibited from speaking to others alone or freely;
- Giving scripted, rehearsed, or inconsistent answers to questions;
- Having their identification documents or passport held by someone else;
- Showing signs of physical abuse, such as bruises or injuries;
- Appearing fearful, submissive, anxious, or overly compliant;
- Working excessively long hours with little or no pay; and
- Being under 18 and

involved in the commercial sex industry.

If you have suspicions that someone is being trafficked, you should immediately call local law enforcement. You may also call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text “HELP” to 233733.

In America, human trafficking is propagated in significant part by criminal cartels operating out of Mexico. In addition to persistent strong actions to combat illegal immigration, AG Rokita and his team are engaged in other efforts to combat human trafficking – such as operating the **Address Confidentiality Program**.

This initiative helps protect victims of certain crimes – including those who have been trafficked – by concealing their residential address from the public and thereby their victimizers.

## OneZone Business Action Committee endorses Mark Hall for County Council

Submitted

The OneZone Business Action Committee (ZoneBAC) is proud to announce its endorsement of Mark Hall for Hamilton County Council, District 3.

“Mark Hall brings a disciplined, common-sense approach to county government, with a clear focus on public safety, infrastructure, and responsible budgeting,” OneZone Chamber President Jack Russell said. “He understands that strong fundamentals are what allow businesses and communities to thrive, and his leadership reflects a commitment to long-term, sustainable growth in Hamilton County.”

Hall currently serves on the Hamilton County Council and prioritizes responsible budgeting with a focus on public safety and infrastructure as the foundation of county government. He has emphasized disciplined financial oversight, detailed review of expenditures,

and maintaining strong reserves while planning ahead for continued population growth. His approach reflects a commitment to ensuring Hamilton County remains safe, well-prepared, and positioned for long-term economic success.

The ZoneBAC is made up of OneZone Chamber members. In considering this race, the committee recognized Mark Hall’s leadership, experience, and understanding of the issues impacting the business community. His commitment to responsible governance and continued growth made him a strong choice for endorsement.

ZoneBAC endorsement decisions are made by the committee using nonpartisan criteria. Committee members review candidate information and determine which candidates to support based on their positions, qualifications, and commitment to issues important to the business community.



Hall

## Indiana higher ed commission approves consolidation, elimination of hundreds of degrees

By GARRETT BERGQUIST  
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Hundreds of college degrees will be either wound down or folded into other programs following a Wednesday vote by the Commission for Higher Education.

The vote follows months of negotiations between the commission and the state’s seven public colleges and universities: Ball State University, Indiana State University, IU, Ivy Tech, Purdue University, the University of Southern Indiana, and Vincennes University.

After state lawmakers last year mandated colleges target degrees with very low enrollments, education officials said they and their counterparts at the public institutions identified 1,160 degree programs that, combined, accounted for just 4 percent of all of Indiana’s college degrees awarded in 2024.

Out of that total, about 470 degree programs will continue, either because they are new programs that are still ramping up or because the universities have submitted a plan to improve student enrollments. Another 370 will be consolidated

or merged with another program. Finally, 171 degree programs will be suspended and 39 will be eliminated. A total of 50 programs slated to be suspended or eliminated have no students enrolled in them at all this year. Just 0.6 percent of Indiana’s 2024 public college graduates held degrees that are slated to be either suspended or eliminated.

Dr. Matt Butler, the commission’s chief academic officer, said the commission has always had the authority to approve new degree programs or review existing ones, but the enabling state law merely authorized program reviews. It did not require them. That changed with a new law that passed last year. It requires the commission to review the enrollments of college degree programs over a three-year rolling average.

“Many of [the programs] have very few students enrolled and they’ve been struggling to produce graduates over the last few years and they likely will struggle to produce future students,” Butler said. “We all know students have been voting with their feet since the Great Recession from certain disciplinary fields to more

direct-preparation fields.”

At IU Bloomington, for example, commission documents show 28 degree programs will be either suspended or eliminated. Seven of them have averaged no completions at all over the past three academic years and most of the rest averaged less than one per year. Degree programs to be suspended or eliminated across all seven institutions run the gamut. They include Bachelor of Arts degrees in Religious Studies, Geography and African Studies at IU Indianapolis; Master of Arts degrees in History and Journalism at Ball State; Bachelor of Science degrees in Physics, Quantitative Economics and Unmanned Systems at Indiana State; and Ph.Ds in Veterinary Medicine and Consumer Science at Purdue’s main campus in West Lafayette.

Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner said any students who are enrolled in a program slated to be merged, consolidated, or eliminated will be allowed to complete their degree. This includes incoming freshmen who had enrolled in those programs for the 2026-2027 academic year. Those programs will stop accepting new appli-

cants as they wind down.

Jenner said unused or underused degree programs divert resources that could be used to help students elsewhere. She said she expects university leaders will look for ways to use the savings from eliminated programs.

“I think it will depend on university to university on what they decide to do, but that will absolutely be a focus for our university teams to make sure we’re as efficient as possible and have the greatest value proposition in Indiana,” she said.

Roughly half of the degree programs with enrollments below the minimum threshold set by state law are at IU, a total of 605 across all campuses. Purdue is second, with 274 such degree programs. Ivy Tech had the fewest, with 47 programs flagged for review.

Jenner said the law makes degree reviews based on enrollments an annual requirement, but she does not expect future reviews to result in such large-scale eliminations because the initial work will be done.

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/college-program-consolidation-indiana.*

## OneZone Business Action Committee endorses Jim Buck for State Senate, District 21

Submitted

The OneZone Business Action Committee (ZoneBAC) announces its endorsement of Jim Buck for State Senate, District 21.

“Jim Buck brings experienced, steady leadership and a strong understanding of the issues that matter most to Indiana’s business community,” OneZone Chamber President Jack Russell said. “His background in small business, combined with his commitment to fiscal responsibility and economic growth, has helped position Indiana for continued success.”

Senator Buck has dedicated his career to public service, bringing real-world experience from manufacturing, small business ownership, and real estate

into his work at the Statehouse. He currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Local Government Committee and plays a key role on several committees impacting policy across the state. Throughout his tenure, he has been a strong advocate for fiscal discipline, limited government, and policies that

support small businesses, workforce development, and strong communities. His leadership has earned recognition statewide, including honors for his support of small business and public safety.

The ZoneBAC is made up of OneZone Chamber members. In considering this race, the committee recognized Jim Buck’s

See Buck . . . Page 9



Buck

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**TODAY'S BIBLE READING**

**OFFERINGS FOR PRIESTS AND LEVITES**

The Lord said to Aaron, "You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites.

"I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting. From now on the Israelites must not go near the tent of meeting, or they will bear the consequences of their sin and will die. It is the Levites who are to do the work at the tent of meeting and bear the responsibility for any offenses they commit against it. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. They will receive no inheritance among the Israelites. Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the Lord. That is why I said concerning them: 'They will have no inheritance among the Israelites.'"

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the Levites and say to them: 'When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the Lord's offering. Your offering will be reckoned to you as grain from the threshing floor or juice from the winepress. In this way you also will present an offering to the Lord from all the tithes you receive from the Israelites. From these tithes you must give the Lord's portion to Aaron the priest. You must present as the Lord's portion the best and holiest part of everything given to you.'

"Say to the Levites: 'When you present the best part, it will be reckoned to you as the product of the threshing floor or the winepress. You and your households may eat the rest of it anywhere, for it is your wages for your work at the tent of meeting. By presenting the best part of it you will not be guilty in this matter; then you will not defile the holy offerings of the Israelites, and you will not die.'"

Numbers 18:20-32 (NIV)

**Laura Elaine Moore**

January 1, 1959 – March 27, 2026

Laura Elaine Moore, 67, Noblesville, passed away on Friday, March 27, 2026, at Community Heart and Vascular Hospital in Indianapolis.



Born January 1, 1959, in Rushville, she was the daughter of William J. and Geneva E. Jones.

Survivors include two daughters, Arin Dudley (Jeffrey) of Tipton and Andrea Moore of Noblesville; a brother, Terry Blankenship of Carthage; a sister, Tammy Reynolds of Sheridan; and one grandchild, Braedyn Dudley. She was preceded in death by her parents and four brothers and sisters, Sandra Jones, Gary Jones, Charles Jones, and Larry Blankenship.

Ms. Moore had lived in this area her entire lifetime and was a member of Calvary Apostolic Church in Noblesville. She had been employed in cleaning/custodial work for several years.

Laura enjoyed singing, painting, art, bird watching, and helping others in their time of need.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2026, at Calvary Apostolic Church, 16400 Cumberland Road, with Pastor Bryan Tanton officiating. Burial will be in Crownland Cemetery. Friends may call on Friday morning, from 11 a.m. until the time of the service, at the church.

Memorial contributions can be made to Calvary Apostolic Church, 16400 Cumberland Road.

Online condolences may be shared at [glennegorgeandson.com](http://glennegorgeandson.com).

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**BUCK**

from Page 8

leadership, experience, and understanding of the issues impacting the business community. His commitment to continued growth and sound policy made him a strong choice for endorsement.

ZoneBAC endorsement decisions are made by the

committee using nonpartisan criteria. Committee members review candidate information and determine which candidates to support based on their positions, qualifications, and commitment to issues important to the business community.

**Meeting Notices**

The Hamilton County Plan Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2026, has been canceled due to a lack of petitions for consideration. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

The Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals will not meet as scheduled on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, due to a lack of petitions for consideration. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

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](mailto:PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com).

**Send Meeting Notices to:  
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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](http://ReadTheReporter.com/obitform).

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**1307 CLIFF VIEW DRIVE**  
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# REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

Sports Editor Richie Hall | [Sports@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:Sports@ReadTheReporter.com) | Twitter @Richie\_Hall

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

## Boys Volleyball



Reporter photos by Julie Brown  
**(TOP)** Carmel sophomore Eli Philistin-Lynch hit eight kills for the Greyhounds during their Tuesday win over Bishop Chatard (pictured), then put down another 10 kills in Carmel's Wednesday victory over Center Grove. **(ABOVE)** Senior Shep Spidel dished out 31 assists against Chatard and 36 more assists against Center Grove.

## Carmel volleyball picks up two wins

### The REPORTER

The Carmel boys volleyball team is off to a strong start, having compiled an 8-2 record over its first 10 games. The Greyhounds began the week with two sweeps. First, Carmel traveled to Bishop Chatard on Tuesday and beat the Trojans 27-25, 25-20, 25-16. Junior Jack Kovak led all attackers with 13 kills on 20 swings, making no errors. Sophomore Eli Philistin Lynch put down eight kills on 20 swings. Sophomore Dylan Kaiser hit .750 and served two aces. Senior Shep Spidel added 31

assists, and senior Brice Hagaman contributed 10 digs. The Greyhounds went back on the road Wednesday to Center Grove and came home with a 25-17, 25-13, 25-21 victory. Thomas Kuehl led the offense with 12 kills, while Philistin-Lynch hit 10 kills. Kovak made five blocks, while Spidel had four blocks, in addition to handing out 36 assists. Hagaman collected nine digs. Carmel plays at the Bedford North Lawrence Round Robin on Saturday, taking on Roncalli at 9 a.m. and Jeffersonville at 11 a.m.

## Four county players named boys Junior All-Stars

### Noblesville's McClelland named head coach

#### The REPORTER

Four Hamilton County boys basketball stars are among the 18 players that have been selected to the *IndyStar* Indiana boys' Junior All-Stars for 2026. All-Stars games director Mike Broughton announced Wednesday. Two Fishers players will be a part of the six-player Core Group: Jason Gardner Jr. and Cooper Zachary. The two Tigers will join Harper Baker-Lands of Plainfield, Isaiah Hill of Pike, Jahari Miller of Pike and Max Vise of Mt. Vernon.

In addition to the Core Group, six players each were chosen for squads labeled Red Group and Blue Group. Guerin Catholic's Jake Grissom will play on the Red Group, joining Devin Bolden of Cardinal Ritter, Duncan Combs of Bloomington South, Derrick Cross Jr. of Bloomington North, Hunter of Silver Creek and Tyler Renn of Terre Haute North. Carmel's Cash Daniels will be a part of the Blue Group, joining Brody Baker of Harrison, Elijah King of South Bend Saint Joseph, DaKori Parker of South Bend Riley, Austin Schla-bach of Westview and Mack Welker of Homestead. Scott McClelland of Noblesville will be the head coach, and Heath Howington of Class A state champion Barr-Reeve will be the assistant coach.

McClelland has an 86-38 record with one sectional title in five seasons at Noblesville, including a 13-11 mark this past season. He is 332-207 in 23 seasons overall as a boys' varsity coach. That includes a 73-78 record in seven seasons at Morristown, a 25-16 mark in two seasons at Brebeuf Jesuit, a 31-35 ledger in three seasons at Western Boone and a 117-40 slate in six seasons in a second tenure at Morristown. His Morristown team was the 2018 Class A state champion, and his Yellow Jackets won additional sectionals in 2007 and 2019. He was an IBCA District 3 Coach of the Year in 2018 and was a 2018 Junior All-Star assistant coach. A 1993 graduate of Yorktown High School, McClelland played basketball and football. He played basketball for one season at Ancilla College, then completed his education at Ball State, earning a bachelor's



Reporter photo by Richie Hall



Photo by Joshua Herd



Photo by Mike Navarro



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

**Jason Gardner Jr. (top left) and Cooper Zachary (top right), both of Fishers, are part of the six-player Core Group. Jake Grissom of Guerin Catholic (above left) will play on the Red Group, and Cash Daniels of Carmel (above right) will play on the Blue Group. Noblesville's own Scott McClelland (below) will be the head coach.**

degree in 1998. He began coaching as a Yorktown girls' basketball assistant from 1995-98. He went 11-11 as the Wapahani girls' head coach in 1998-99, then was a boys' assistant for one season each at Blue River Valley, Indianapolis Cathedral and Indianapolis Seccina before being named boys' head coach at Morristown in 2003-04. The Junior All-Stars will play one game against the Kentucky Junior All-Stars on Sunday, May 31 at Charlestown High School. The Junior All-Stars also will play one game against the Indiana All-Star senior boys on Wednesday, June 3 at Mt. Vernon High School. Both games will be doubleheaders with the 2025 Indiana girls' Junior All-Stars, whose roster was announced on March 9. The players listed as Core Group players each will play in two games. The players listed in the Red and Blue groups each will play in one game, the Red Group on May 31 against the Kentucky Juniors and the Blue Group on June 3 against the Indiana Seniors.



The Indiana senior All-Stars will play the Kentucky senior All-Stars on June 5 at Lexington Catholic High School. The Indiana senior All-Stars will play Kentucky's seniors again on June 6 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. The roster for the Senior girls was announced March 18. The roster for the Senior boys will be announced later. The fourth annual *IndyStar* Indiana All-Star "Futures Games" doubleheader will be played on June 1 at a site to be announced. The Futures Games will be a girls-boys doubleheader with Indiana-only squads of sophomores and freshmen in a North vs. South format. The girls' Futures Game rosters were announced on March 26. The boys' Futures Game rosters will be announced later. The 2026 Indiana boys' Junior All-Star team was selected through a process that allows all IBCA-member head coaches to nominate players through the IBCA all-state process. The 22-member Indiana Basketball Coaches Association all-state committee reviewed and voted on players for the 2026 IBCA boys' All-State teams that were released on March 25.

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### Boys Lacrosse

## HSE boys split in St. Louis

### The REPORTER

The Hamilton Southeastern boys lacrosse team split a pair of games in the St. Louis area last weekend.

The Royals beat Christian Brothers 14-4 on Friday, March 27. Stats from that game were unavailable.

Southeastern played Mary Institute and Country Day School on Saturday, March 28 and lost in overtime 7-6. Kyle Jenkins scored three goals, followed by one goal each from Turner Berry, Ben Speckman and Kody Lougheed.

Jake Kuxhausen made two assists, while Jenkins and Cohen O'Grady both dished out one assist. Vince Putnam collected six ground balls, while Jackson Joyce won nine faceoffs.

The Royals are 8-3 and are off until April 15 when they host Avon.

\*\*\*

Hamilton Southeastern's girls fell 15-4 to Kentucky Day School on Saturday, March 28.

Eddie Fisher scored two goals and made one assist. Eliza Bordenkecher and Al-

lison Funk both scored one goal. Samantha Kim dished out two assists and Claire Latta made one assist. Alexandra Austgen scooped up four ground balls.

Southeastern is 5-4. The Royals' next game is April 16 against Heritage Christian at home.

\*\*\*

Carmel's boys beat Wheaton Academy 18-5 on Monday.

Lincoln O'Leary and Ike Stitle both scored six goals for the Greyhounds. EB Warren added two goals, followed by one goal each for Max McCord, Matthew Quigley, Luke Shrift and Evan Coulter.

Stitle, Evan Bardwell and Coulter all dished out two assists. O'Leary, Zach Degraff and Shrift each made one assist. Michael Reckenwall collected eight ground balls, with Quigley getting six ground balls.

Carmel played at Guerin Catholic on Wednesday, results from that game will appear in a later edition. The Greyhounds' next game is against Center Grove at home on April 11.

### Baseball

## Rocks, Golden Eagles, Blazers, all get huge wins

### The REPORTER

The Westfield baseball team opened up Hoosier Crossroads Conference play with a 13-0, five inning victory Wednesday at Franklin Central.

The Shamrocks scored in each of the five innings, starting with an RBI triple from Beck Jordan in the first inning. Andrew Noble scored the run.

Noble drove in two runs in the second inning with an RBI single to score Gabe Garcia and Maddox Novotney. Lincoln Hoffman tripled in Noble, then scored on Jordan's RBI groundout. Reid Dikos got home on a Gavin Russ sacrifice fly, making the score 6-0.

Westfield put up four more runs in the third inning. Novotney singled in Fero, then Noble hit a two-RBI single to bring in Garcia and Novotney. Jordan singled in Noble for the Rocks' 10th run.

Jordan blasted another

two-run hit in the fourth inning, sending Garcia and Novotney home. Clayton Walther singled Kasen Jes-sup home in the fifth inning to complete the scoring.

Jordan and Noble both had three hits, including a double for Noble, with Jordan totaling five RBIs and Noble driving in four runs. Corey Wilhelm pitched four innings for the win, striking out six and allowing one hit.

The Shamrocks are 1-1 and host Franklin Central at 6 p.m. tonight to finish the HCC series.

\*\*\*

Guerin Catholic won its third consecutive run-rule game of the week on Wednesday, beating Warren Central 14-0 in a game at Grand Park.

The Golden Eagles started with four runs in the first inning. Carson Kail doubled in Nolan Ratcliff and Ben Canada, Ian Taylor scored on Karson Smith's RBI groundout, and Grant Beard brought

Kail home with a single.

Taylor hit an RBI single in the second inning to score Ratcliff, then later scored on a balk. In the fourth inning, Canada cracked a center field triple, sending home Tate Troxell, Cooper Harmon and Liam Zorger. Canada later scored on a wild pitch.

Guerin Catholic finished the scoring with four runs in the fifth inning. Luke Gremelspacher scored on an error, Zorger tripled in Bryce Kissell, Jack Stoner singled Zorger home, then Stoner scored on Brody Cain's RBI groundout.

Jackson Baker also hit a double. Harrison Haq got the pitching win, striking out six over two innings.

The Golden Eagles are 3-0 and play two games at Valparaiso on Saturday. Guerin Catholic takes on Kouts at 10 a.m., then the host Vikings at 12:45 p.m.

\*\*\*

University opened its season with an 11-3 win at Cas-

cade on Wednesday.

The Cadets scored all three of their runs in the first inning. The Trailblazers answered with three runs in the second inning; Ryan Castetter batted in all three runs with a triple. Braxton Sparks, Quinn Green and Philip Jacobs all scored.

University surged ahead in the sixth inning by scoring six runs. Castetter doubled in Jacobs and Cutsinger, then Beckett Suh singled Castetter home. The Blazers loaded the bases, and Finn Steiner drew a walk to score Cooper Cammack. Suh scored when Green drew a walk, then Owen Kingery got home on Jacobs' RBI groundout.

Kingery smacked a two-run triple in the seventh inning, bringing home Cutsinger and Castetter.

Jacob Shearer got the pitching win, with two strikeouts in one inning.

University's next game is Monday against Owensboro (Ky.) Catholic.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Thursday, April 2

#### BASEBALL

Covenant Christian at Carmel, 6 p.m.

Franklin Central at Westfield, 6 p.m.

Noblesville vs. Hilliard Bradley (Ohio), 7 p.m. at Clarksville (Tenn.)

#### SOFTBALL

Noblesville at Western Boone, 5:30 p.m.

Mt. Vernon at Carmel, 6 p.m.

Pendleton Heights at Westfield, 6 p.m.

#### TRACK & FIELD

Noblesville girls at Warren Central, 5:30 p.m.

#### VOLLEYBALL

Hamilton Southeastern at Brownsburg, 6 p.m.

Noblesville at Avon, 7 p.m.

Westfield at Franklin Central, 7:30 p.m.

### Friday, April 3

#### BASEBALL

Noblesville vs. Henry County (Tenn.), 11 a.m. at Clarksville (Tenn.)

Fishers at Don Everett Classic, noon at Clarksville (Tenn.)

Hamilton Southeastern vs. Hinsdale (Ill.),

1:30 p.m. at Northeast (Tenn.)

Noblesville at Clarksville (Tenn.), 4 p.m.

Hamilton Southeastern at Northeast (Tenn.), 4:30 p.m.

#### GIRLS LACROSSE

Carmel at Center Grove, 6:30 p.m.

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

### Football

## Local football players named to Academic All-State team

### The REPORTER

Hamilton County had several football players named to the Indiana Football Coaches Association's 2025 Academic All-State team.

Hamilton Heights had four players receive honors in District 5. All of the other county honorees are in District 8. Westfield had 16 players on the Academic All-State team, followed by 15 each for Carmel and Fishers. Hamilton Southeastern had 10 honorees, Guerin Catholic had six and Sheridan had two.

Here is a complete list of county Academic All-State players.

**Carmel:** Dane Bathurst, Kaiden Bower, Anthony Coellner, Aaron Fedorcha, Michael Gosh,

Flynn Hornsby, Chase Jarred, Will Massey, Liam McDowell, Isaac Nelson, Matthew Obermeier, Joshua Orahoo, Spencer Sell, Dominic Shockley, Ben Stranko.

**Fishers:** Jaxson Andrews, Hudson Bell, Kasope Dairo, Kyle Gunawan, Micah Hillen, Zeke Kramer, Nolan Kuhn, Tyler Maynard, Max Musgrave, Maena Ochieng, Walid Oummammar, Jacob Robbins, Owen Stout, Gage Sturgill, Josh Wilkins.

**Guerin Catholic:** Grant Bauman, Daniel Baumgarde, Aiden Ferry, Quentin Klee, James Moody, Nolan Ratcliff.

**Hamilton Heights:** Aiden Day, Austin Day, Cooper Craft, Will Duncan.

**Hamilton Southeast-**

**ern:** Turner Berry, Chase Bradle, Jack Jacobs, Alex Jenkins, Kyle Jenkins, Kian Kelly, Jordan Rogers, Graham Toner, Jackson Tolle, Henry Wans.

**Sheridan:** Chance Spencer, Jonathyn Ugalde.

**Westfield:** Alex Aram-

boles, Cash Ballard, Nathan Baylor, Daniel Cox, Tyson Gilbert, Aiden Grabowski, Jordan Gross, Caden Hon-eycutt, Cato June, Mason Keller, Noah Lee, Logan Loring, Malachi Mills, Broc Parker, Chase Sulewski, Gabriel Willis.

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