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THE HAMILTON COUNTY
REPORTER
Your Hometown Newspaper

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Showers and storms, especially in the afternoon.
Tonight: Showers and storms, mainly after midnight.



HIGH: 77 LOW: 63

Super-excited about super food

By **STU CLAMPITT**
news@readthereporter.com

As soon as The Hamilton County Reporter learned that Monday, April 6 is National Açaí Bowl Day, we reached out to Pure Green, 8594 E. 116th St., Fishers, to find out what that business is doing to mark the occasion and how Fishers has treated a new business focused on healthy eating.

Fishers Pure Green Owner Chasten Harmon held a ribbon cutting for her store on Oct. 16, 2025, which you can read about at [this link](#).

Almost six months later, Harmon has seen great success with her store and told The Reporter Fishers has been very welcoming.

"It's been pretty great," Harmon said. "We have had consistent growth all throughout the winter, which has been really nice because winter is a tough time for restaurants – and smoothies specifically. We are very happy with how things have been going for the first six

months, definitely. We just had our best performing month this past March, so we're really excited to head into spring."

Pure Green is a family business for Harmon, who owns the store with her sister, brother-in-law, and both her parents. When not in the store taking care of customers, Harmon can be found throughout the city helping local organizations and spreading the word about healthy eating.

"We've done countless amounts of community events all over Fishers in the past six months," Harmon said. "I'm definitely making my way through the ZIP codes for sure. We've probably done 40 to 50 different events in the past six months. We've done work with a couple local nonprofits. We did a partnership all winter with the Fishers Youth Initiative. We did a coloring sheet collaboration with the Fishers Art Center. We've got a partnership with Indy Ignite. We're literally just making our way around town trying to make a lot of noise and



Photo provided by Robert Jones, rwjmedia.com
Chasten Harmon likes to hang out (literally) in the famous hanging chairs at Pure Green in Fishers.

let people know that we're here and we're a healthy option. It's definitely been fun."

On Monday, April 6, Harmon will be in the store helping the entire Pure Green corporation promote National Açaí Bowl Day.

"We're celebrating it together company-wide, so I know

that they'll be doing their own kind of Açaí Day, but in our store, we're going to be doing buy one, get one free for açaí bowls," Harmon said. "I mean, I literally am, at this point in time, obsessed with açaí. The more I learn about it, the more I

See Super . . . Page 2

Easter: a season of renewal, shared around the table

Easter arrives each year like a soft breath of spring, bringing longer days, blooming flowers, and a quiet invitation to begin again. Across the world, people celebrate Easter not only as a sacred religious observance but also as a season of renewal, reflection, and gathering.



COLUMNIST

POOJA THAKKAR
Taste of Community

Recently, I had a beautiful conversation with my Jamaican friend, Stephanie Bailey, who shared her memories of Easter growing up in Jamaica. As she spoke, I could almost smell the kitchen she described. During Easter time in Jamaica, the air fills with the warm, spiced aroma of freshly baked Easter bun. Families gather together, slicing the rich loaf – dark with molasses and studded with cherries, currants, and raisins – and pairing it with thick cuts of creamy cheese.

Recently, she brought Easter bun and cheese for us to try. Although I had never tasted Jamaican Easter bun or the delicious cheese before, what I experienced first was not flavor – it was tradition. Before the first bite, I could already sense the family memories she carried and the joy she felt in sharing a piece of her heritage with us. Sometimes food introduces itself through emotion long before it reaches the palate.

Children eagerly wait for their share while adults savor nostalgia in every bite. The tradition blends history and creativity, passed from one generation to the next. Easter bun and cheese is more than a meal; it is a reminder of home, belonging, and shared heritage.

See Easter . . . Page 2

Help 'Stamp Out Hunger' with USPS & Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank

The REPORTER

The 34th annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will take place on Saturday, May 9.

As the largest one-day food drive in the United States, it encourages residents to leave non-perishable food donations near their mailboxes for letter carriers to collect.

Hamilton County's letter carriers make this one of the easiest food drives you can participate in. Bags will be delivered to your mailbox beginning May 2. Fill a bag with non-perishable food items, and then place the bag by your mailbox. Your mail carrier will pick up the filled bags on May 9. All food donated will be distributed to local food pantries via Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank.



Graphic provided

Please take part on May 9 to make this year's Stamp Out Hunger a success. Your help is

needed. Volunteer opportunities are available at the Fishers Post Office and at the Noblesville

Post Office to help sort donations. Visit tinyurl.com/StampOutVolunteer2026 to sign up.

Get up close and personal with the tracks when Nickel Plate Railbikes return April 17

The REPORTER

Spring returns to the rails on Friday, April 17, as Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad launches its 2026 railbike season from Hobbs Station in Noblesville.

The seasonal outdoor experience invites guests of all ages to pedal the rails and take in the scenery along the historic Nickel Plate line. Railbike rides have become a favorite warm-weather activity for families, couples, friends, and visitors looking for a unique way to get outside and explore Hamilton County.

In 2025, the program welcomed more than 10,000 riders. With strong growth over the last several seasons, the organization expects that momentum to continue in 2026 with a new lower-priced weekday option and additional themed offerings planned for later this season.

"Our railbike rides have become such a fun part of what we offer each year," said Emily Reynolds, executive director of Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad. "They give people a chance to



Photo provided by Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad

Gas is expensive, even for trains. Go green and pedal down the tracks!

experience the railroad in a completely different way, and we are excited to welcome riders back for another season starting April 17."

All rides depart from Hobbs Station in Noblesville and are designed to be approachable

and enjoyable for a wide range of riders. The regular 2026 railbike season will run through October, giving guests plenty of opportunities to experience the historic corridor in a fun, active, and family-friendly way.

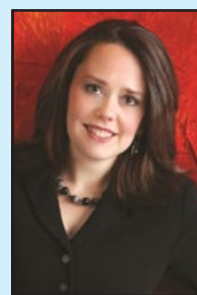
Advance ticket purchases are encouraged, especially for weekend rides and other high-demand dates.

Tickets and additional ride information are available at NickelPlateExpress.org.

There's still time to purchase tickets for CSO season finale, *Symphonic Odyssey*

Submitted

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) wraps up its 2025–2026 season at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 18 with a journey through four exciting and meaningful works for a full symphony orchestra.



Corcoran

The night will include pieces by Antonin Dvořák, Cristina Spinei, Gustav Mahler, and Felix Mendelssohn. The CSO will be under the direction of guest conductor Kelly Corcoran. The concert will be at the Payne & Mencias Palladium at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts.

The full repertoire will include:

- Antonin Dvořák – *Carnival Overture*, op. 92
- Cristina Spinei – *...throes of increasing wonder*
- Gustav Mahler – *Adagietto* from Symphony No. 5
- Felix Mendelssohn – *Symphony No. 5*, op. 107, "*Reformation*"

"This exciting season finale is the perfect way to get inspired by the lively and joyful pieces in the repertoire," CSO Board Chair Nancy Sutton said. "Nothing compares to the experience of attending a live concert performance by a full symphony in a concert hall like the Payne & Mencias Palladium. We hope you will join us."

Dvořák's *Carnival Overture* celebrates the beautiful joy we find in life. It shimmers with delight, imbued with life from the first note to the last. Written in 1891, *Carnival* was composed

See *Odyssey* . . . Page 2



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SUPER

love it. So I'm excited about National Açaí Day because me and açaí, we've gotten very close in the past six months."

Harmon described açaí as being like a blueberry, but smaller, packed with more antioxidants, and with less sugar.

"It's something you can literally eat every day for health benefits because it's high in antioxidants, it's low sugar, it's good for heart health, brain health, and it's really, really great for keeping the digestive system moving and regular," Harmon said.

Harmon told The Reporter that Pure Green's açaí offerings are different

than you will find if you go to other companies. Pure Green uses an organic açaí that arrives at her store pre-frozen, pureed, and prepared in individual packages.

"It's super low in sugar and it's organic," Harmon said. "Then we take these packages and we literally just blend them with açaí or coconut water, and a piece or two of strawberry or banana. That's it for our bases, which I think is why a lot of people come to us as opposed to other stores. Other stores are putting maybe half a pack of açaí, and the rest is frozen fruit. You're not even getting the full serving of açaí."

puregreen

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Graphic provided



Photo provided by Robert Jones, rwjmedia.com

At Pure Green, you will get two packs of açaí and nothing else other than a few pieces of banana, for instance.

"Ours is the purest açaí that you can get," Harmon said. "At other stores it is going to be diluted with fruits. And in some other stores it's going to be even worse, which is the scorable sorbet açaí that has sugars, gums, fillers, preservatives. It's filled with so much stuff the ingredient

list is a paragraph long. I think a lot of people come to taste our açaí bowls because it's the most açaí and the purest açaí that you can get in town. And I love açaí bowls. I'm a patron of all the smoothie shops that don't have the sorbet, and I prefer ours just because the açaí ratio is the highest."

If you prefer a smoothie to a bowl, Pure Green has you covered.

"I recommend the Blue Banana if you're going to

try a smoothie," Harmon said. "We also do have a mocha cold brew smoothie if you want your caffeine fix, but the Blue Banana is our best seller by far. It's literally just bananas, almond milk, cashew butter, coconut butter, blue spirulina, and a little bit of açaí. That blue spirulina doesn't really have a taste, but it's so good for you. And there's something about whatever taste it does have that just makes this smoothie amaz-

ing. I love to watch people take their first sips because they're always like, 'Ooh, that's good!' I'm like, 'Yeah, I know.'"

With the buy one, get one free option, you should bring a friend when you stop by Pure Green, 8594 E. 116th St., Fishers, to celebrate National Açaí Bowl Day.

Either that, or just get two bowls for yourself because you deserve a little extra.

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EASTER

Beyond the food lies the deeper meaning of Easter – a time of reflection on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Families gather for church services filled with prayer, music, and community connection. After the season of Lent, marked by fasting and sacrifice, Easter becomes a joyful moment of renewal. The fast is broken with celebration, often featuring fresh fried or steamed fish prepared in many varieties, bringing loved ones together around the table once again.

Listening to Stephanie's story reminded me how universal Easter truly is. Around the world, people welcome spring as a symbol of hope. Gardens awaken. Tables fill. Communities reconnect. Whether through worship, shared meals, or simple acts of kindness, Easter becomes a celebration of life returning after stillness.

Spring teaches us patience. Just as seeds quietly

grow beneath the soil before they bloom, our own lives move through seasons of waiting, reflection, and renewal. Easter reminds us that new beginnings are always possible.

Through Taste of Community, I continue to see how traditions – no matter where they originate – carry the same emotional thread. Food becomes a language of love. Recipes become storytellers. A shared meal becomes an open door to understanding someone else's journey.

What touched me most was not only the bun and cheese or the fish prepared after Lent, but the spirit of generosity behind it. Easter, in its simplest form, is about connection. It invites us to slow down, gather intentionally, and celebrate both faith and fellowship.

This spring season encourages us to reflect on what we are ready to renew in our own lives – relationships, traditions, gratitude,



Photo provided by Pooja Thakkar

or perhaps simply the act of sitting together at the table.

So this Easter, I invite you to think about your own traditions. What dishes appear year after year? What stories are told again and again? What memories rise each time the season returns?

I would love to hear your Easter stories, family traditions, and cherished recipes. Please share them with me at tasteofcommunity25@gmail.com. Your memories

may become part of our growing Taste of Community collection, celebrating how food and storytelling continue to bring us closer together.

Because Easter, like spring itself, reminds us that hope is always meant to be shared.

Pooja Thakkar is working to build cultural connections. You can read her column each week in the pages of *The Reporter*.

ODYSSEY

just two years before Dvořák set sail for America. The piece is meant to depict a lively scene at a traditional Czech carnival, an illustration of what it means to be alive in his native land.

Spinei's work *...throes of increasing wonder* (originally composed for ballet performance) is shimmery, light, and lavish in its own way. Spinei is an up-and-coming composer out of Nashville, Tenn. She studied composition at The Juilliard School with composer Christopher Rouse. Spinei's *...throes of increasing wonder* was commissioned by The Pacific Northwest Ballet company in celebration of its 50th anniversary season.

Mahler's *Adagietto* for strings and harp reminds us of our own stories of boundless love for those closest to us. This piece

flows slowly with complete loving adoration, enjoying the passing of time. The origin of the piece is born out of the composer's love for his wife, Alma Schindler, the socialite of her day – the "It Girl" of Austrian culture. She was a composer and musician in her own right, but upon falling in love with Mahler in 1901, she relinquished her musical career in service of his.

Mendelssohn's Fifth Symphony, "Reformation," is its own wonder of composition, contemplating the great themes of faith and life. Mendelssohn's masterpiece will surely leave you in awe, juxtaposing "old style" polyphony (featuring two or more simultaneous, independent melodic lines that interact harmoniously) and his own ubiquitous style. The piece was received poorly when it was



Photo illustration provided

first performed, but it would be found and published decades after Mendelssohn's death. The "Reformation" symphony has posthumously earned a lasting space in the orchestral canon.

Tickets can be purchased for CSO's *Symphonic Odyssey* online at TheCenterPresents.org or by calling the Fifth Third Bank Box Office at (317) 843-3800.



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Two important days: Former POW Day & POW/MIA Day

**Submitted by
Jon Baldwin**
Clay Township Military
Library & Museum

The United States has two national observances that honor prisoners of war and those still missing. They are related, but not the same.

1. National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day

Date: April 9 every year
• Honors former prisoners of war – service members who were captured and later came home.

• The date remembers April 9, 1942, when tens of thousands of American and Filipino troops on the Bataan Peninsula were forced on the brutal "Bataan Death March."

• Created by Congress and first proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1988.

How it is observed:
• Ceremonies at VA medical centers, national parks, veterans' posts, and community sites.

• Former POWs are often named, invited to speak, or honored in person.

• The POW/MIA flag may be flown at government buildings and memorials.

Key idea for students and visitors:
• April 9 focuses on those who survived captivity and returned, and on the

Side by Side: What's the difference?		
Question	Former POW Day	POW/MIA Day
Exact date	April 9 every year	Third Friday in September
Who is honored most directly?	Former POWs who survived and came home	POWs of all wars and all who are MIA and unaccounted for
Main theme	Survival, resilience, long-term impact of captivity	Remembrance, "You Are Not Forgotten," ongoing search and identification
Typical guests	Former POWs, their families, local veterans	Former POWs, families of the missing, Gold Star families, military leaders
Symbol often used	U.S. flag and POW/MIA flag at local events	POW/MIA flag at required federal sites, Empty Chair/Missing Man table

impact that experience had on them and their families.

2. National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Date: Third Friday in September every year

• Honors all who were prisoners of war and all who are still Missing in Action (MIA) and unaccounted for, from every conflict.

• First observed nationally in 1979 after families of Vietnam War POW/MIAs pushed for full accounting of their loved ones.

How it is observed:
• A major national ceremony is held, traditionally at the Pentagon, with former POWs, families of the missing, and senior leaders present.

• Ceremonies are also held worldwide on military bases, ships at sea, state cap-

itals, schools, and veterans' organizations.

• The POW/MIA flag is required by law to be flown at many federal buildings on this day.

Key idea for students and visitors:

• September's day reminds us that some never came home, and that the United States still works to find, identify, and return them.

How to think about the two days

For middle school, high school, college students, and adults:

• **April 9:** "They survived." We listen to former POWs (or their families), learn what captivity was like, and thank them for their courage and endurance.

• **Third Friday in September:** "We remember and still search." We honor everyone who was a POW and everyone still missing, and we highlight the nation's promise to keep looking until every person we can possibly find is accounted for.

Both days say the same core thing in different ways: Their sacrifice matters, and they are not forgotten.

Clay Township Military Library and Museum provides educational information in good faith to support our veteran community. Our complete disclaimer statement, including information about research methods and content limitations, is available for review at our museum offices or upon request.

State Rep. Garcia Wilburn invites you to town hall

The REPORTER

State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D-Fishers) invites the residents of House District 32 to join her for a town hall discussion on the 2026 legislative session.

The town hall will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, April 6 in Community Room B at the Carmel Clay Public Library, 425 E. Main St.

This is an opportunity for constituents to hear about legislation

and to share their thoughts, concerns, and ideas for future legislation. From local control and public safety to utility costs and environmental protections, the General Assembly tackled a lot of issues this year.

House District 32 covers south Carmel, west Fishers, and a small portion of south Noblesville. All are welcome to attend.



Garcia Wilburn

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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 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.

— Good news from Stony Creek Church of Christ —

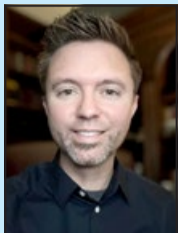
The power of the resurrection

If you were to ask random strangers, "What do you think is the single greatest event to happen in human history?" what kinds of answers would you get? WWI? WWII? The Fall of the Roman Empire? The American Revolution? The fall of the Berlin Wall?

I assume that very few would give the single greatest event to happen in human history: the resurrection of Jesus.

Just hear me out: Jesus being God came in the flesh. Yet, what would man do to him? He allowed them to arrest him, despite having the power to overcome his captors. He was sentenced to death by crucifixion – a painful death reserved for the worst of criminals, despite being completely innocent of all charges and living a sinless life. He hung on a cross until he suffocated to death – no one survived it. He was dead – no longer breathing, no more heartbeat, his body was cold and lifeless. He was put into a tomb with a stone rolled over the entrance.

COLUMNIST



CURTIS COOPER
Think on These Things

Three days later, He got up from the grave bed, rolled back the stone, and walked out of there. He was alive! And His closest followers who were cowardly at his arrest and crucifixion would later become bold preachers of the resurrection and suffered persecution and horrible deaths for it as the message spread all over the world.

The message of the resurrection would have a worldwide impact.

It changed everything. It has changed society as we know it. It has changed our culture for generations. And it has changed the lives of so many people.

Many will go to church this Sunday to celebrate it. Many families will dress up, take pictures, go to bible class, sit in a church building, sing hymns, and listen to sermons about it. Yet, if you talk with people, very few understand the power of it. Let's look at some of the powerful things Scripture points out about the resurrection of Jesus.

It is the foundation of the Christian faith.

1 Corinthians 15:14, 19 reads, "...if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty ... If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." Paul says the resurrection is foundational to our faith. Without it, everything Christians believe and teach would crumble.

It is the evidence for the Christian faith.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 reads there were over 500 witnesses to the resurrected Lord. Paul wrote that just 20 years after the event while several of the witnesses were still alive. Think about it: if you wanted to fool people and make up a story that did not happen, what would you avoid doing? Claiming witnesses and giving names of living references. Yet, Paul did both.

It is the Christian way of life.

The gospel is the message of the death, burial, and resurrection (DBR) of Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4). But Paul says we cannot just believe it, we must "obey [it]" (2 Thessalonians 1:8). Baptism not only unites us to Christ's DBR, but it's about having a spiritual DBR in our own lives (Romans 6:5; Colossians 2:12-13; Ephesians 2:1, 4-5). Baptism is not just about washing away past sins (Acts 2:28; 22:16), but it is also about committing to living your life for Jesus.

Its remembrance is to be every first day of the week. Easter, like Christmas, is

not a divine-given holiday. Meaning, outside a mis-translation, you will not find it anywhere in your bible. It is not instructed, nor is there an example of anyone celebrating it. With that being said, the DBR of Jesus is so important for us to remember, that the Lord established a weekly memorial for us to remember it on the first day (Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 2:41; 20:7).

It is our hope of a future, bodily resurrection.

It was not just God saying, "Hey everyone, look at what I did!," but more, "Hey! Look what I can do for you!" Paul said that Jesus was just the "first fruits of the resurrection" (1 Corinthians 15:20) which was an agricultural term – meaning the first portion guaranteed the rest of the harvest was coming. As sure as Christ was raised from the dead, those who belong to Christ will be resurrected one day to glory with a new spiritual body (2 Corinthians 4:14; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:52-54; 1 John 3:2). All will be raised, but according to how we live we choose as to what we will be raised to – life or condemnation (John 5:28-29).

Visitors are welcome and valued. We meet at 15530 Herriman Blvd., Noblesville. Our phone number is (463) 287-0664. We meet for Sunday morning Bible Study at 10 a.m. and have classes for all ages. Worship begins at 11 a.m. and we have a Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 p.m. A warm welcome awaits!

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Call or text 317-372-9416 or email speakingtruthinlove4.15@gmail.com

@ NOBLE COFFEE
933 Logan St,
Noblesville, IN 46060

Ivy Tech Hamilton County contributes \$298.6M to region

New report shows immense impact of college's students, alumni & operations

Submitted by Ivy Tech

Ivy Tech Community College Hamilton County's impact on the region adds more than \$298.6 million in income through its students, alumni, and operations. These benefits include \$192.3 million in added student income, \$83 million in added business income, \$18.8 million in added income from Campus activities, as well as \$4.5 million in social savings related to health, the justice system, and income assistance in Indiana.

The overall impact of Ivy Tech was cited in a new report on the economic value of the College, as measured during Fiscal Year 2024-2025 by Lightcast. The report found that

the statewide impact of Ivy Tech adds more than \$4.8 billion in income through its students, alumni, and operations of campuses throughout the state. That's equal to more than 63,000 jobs supported – or one out of every 67 jobs in the state.

"Ivy Tech is a major catalyst for economic growth, investing in Hoosiers, strengthening our region, and delivering impact that lasts for generations," said Dr. Rachel

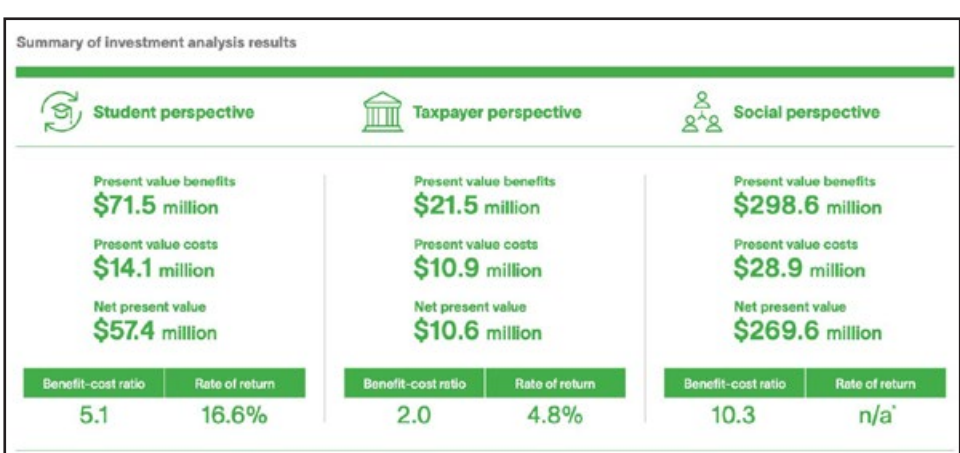


Kartz



Pollio

Kartz, Chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College Hamilton County. "When you factor in both the economic and social benefits, the impact is clear. For a campus that was only three years old when this data was captured during the 2024-25 academic year, we are immensely proud of the meaningful difference we are already making in Hamilton County – and we know our impact will continue to grow for years to come."



Graphic provided by Ivy Tech

The report highlighted the return on investment from the perspective of students, taxpayers, and society at large. For example, for every \$1 invested in Ivy Tech Hamilton County, taxpayers get a return of \$2, and further impacts are felt by the lifestyle improvements that come with added skills and education. For every \$1 students invested in Ivy Tech Hamilton County in the form of out-of-pocket



IVY TECH
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HAMILTON COUNTY

expenses and time and money forgone, students will see a return of \$5.10 in higher future earnings. For every dollar invested in Ivy Tech Hamilton County, the people of Indiana see a cumulative benefit of \$10.30.

"We know that more education and skills lead to better and higher-paying jobs, and that is a key mission for Ivy Tech as Indiana's workforce engine," Ivy Tech President Marty Pollio said.

Texas Hold'em
WESTFIELD LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

"Poker for Sight" Tournament
EXCITING AWARDS

Friday and Saturday
APRIL 24th & 25th, 2026

1st Place \$10,000 CASH

GUARANTEED: Over \$25,000 in Prizes!

ENTRY: \$135 Cash at the Door

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS: Receive a discount on your Buy-in for reserving your seat early. Details and registration at lionspoker.org

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CHARITY

Approved by the state of Indiana Charity Gaming Division Permit #011908



Photo provided

Rep. Spartz joins NASA team for Artemis II launch

Submitted by Office of Rep. Victoria Spartz

On Wednesday, April 1, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz joined congressional colleagues and the NASA team for the Artemis II launch, marking a historic step toward returning humans to the Moon after more than 50 years.

"I was honored to join my colleagues and the NASA team as we take the first step in returning humans to the Moon after more than five decades," Rep. Spartz said. "This mission reflects American innovation and our commitment to exploration, and Hoosiers – especially in In-

diana's 5th District – have played an important role in supporting this mission to land humans on the Moon again before China." Artemis II is the first crewed mission of NASA's Artemis program, laying the groundwork for future lunar missions and long-term space exploration.

YOU'RE INVITED TO HOPE Family Care Center BINGO 2026

THURSDAY APRIL 16TH 6PM

Join HOPE for a night filled with fun, food, laughter, raffles, a Silent Auction – and BINGO! \$50 Per Ticket

Scan QR to Purchase Tickets Today! Must be 18 years or older to play.

TIPTON COUNTY EVENT CENTER
1200 South Main Street, Tipton, IN 46072

*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

First Lady Maureen Braun proud to announce new statewide access to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

This week, Indiana First Lady Maureen Braun announced that every child under age five in Indiana is now eligible to receive a free book each month through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Indiana.

First Lady Braun shared in a video announcement on Wednesday that the program is officially available in all 92 counties, marking a major milestone for early childhood literacy across Indiana. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Indiana mails high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to children from birth to age five at no cost to their families.

"Receiving books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library fosters a love of reading and creates meaningful family memories to last a lifetime," First Lady Maureen Braun. "Early childhood literacy has a profound impact on Hoosier kids as they grow, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Indiana is helping to build strong foundations for young Hoosiers."

"I am grateful for all the hard work Maureen has put in over the past year in support of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Indiana," Govern-



Braun

nor Mike Braun said. "When I asked her to lead this mission for our state, I knew she would ensure our youngest Hoosiers have the resources they need to learn, grow and succeed and she has done a tremendous job."

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Indiana is made possible through a partnership between the Dollywood Foundation, the State of Indiana, the Hoosier HOPE Foundation, and dedicated Local Program Partners who bring the program to life in their communities.

Don't just ride the rails... Bike them!

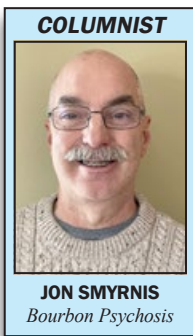
Forest Park Rail Adventure
An 8-mile round trip rail bike ride starting at Hobbs Station in Forest Park.

White River Family Cruise
Enjoy this short, scenic rail bike ride from Hobbs Station in Forest Park.

NickelPlateExpress.com/railbike-rides

High West Distillery

"Whiskey has killed more men than bullets, but most men would rather be full of whiskey than bullets." – either Winston Churchill or Logan Pearsall Smith



JON SMYRNIS
Bourbon Psychosis

We're gonna stay out West this week and visit another one of my favorites: High West Distillery.

I have had occasion to visit both their main distillery, located at the junction of Utah's beautiful Wasatch and Uinta Mountain ranges, and their "Saloon," located in Park City. Yes, another trip.

In fact, on our trip to Utah, the Saloon in Park City was the first place we visited. As we know, I have issues. Located in the heart of this quaint mountain ski town, the Saloon boasts that it is "the world's first and only ski up gastro distillery." The place definitely has an Old West vibe. It serves outstanding cocktails featuring their own whiskeys, of course, and the food is absolutely amazing. If this were a food column, I'd wax on, but it's not, so suffice it to say, if you're visiting Park City, eat there.

The trip to their large distillery was a wonderful drive through the Wasatch Mountains. Located on the Blue Sky Ranch, this multi-million-dollar facility is truly extraordinary. The building is huge, but looks like an Old West lodge and it sits on a gorgeous ridge-line with breathtaking views of the Uinta Mountains. Can you tell I liked this place? It has a restaurant (didn't dine there ... boo!) as well and a very nice gift shop that sells High West merch and their whiskeys.

Okay, enough travel reminiscing. Let's talk about their booze.

Many of their whiskeys are actually ryes and most of their bourbons are also high rye. MGP? Of course, but I'm not going to go on about that. Much of the time they blend the sourced ryes with their own distillates. In fact, their website has a complete section on their blending prowess.

The results? Deliciousness! Their 92-proof "High West Bourbon" is a solid, straightforward, whiskey priced at under \$25. Its mashbill, interestingly, is 75 to 80 percent corn, which results in a nice corn sweetness, but still has a peppery finish. High pepper notes remain with their other offerings, such as their 92-proof American Prairie bourbon and their 117-proof Cask Strength, which has a delightfully pleasant almond

finish. All of these have a price point between \$25 and \$70.

Then there's their special stuff. Their 116-proof Bourye is a very popular annual release that is rarely seen on the open market. Alas, I haven't had an opportunity to try it. It retails, if you can find it for retail, at \$125. I'll snag one someday.

I do have bottles of their "flagship" A Midwinter's Night's Dram. Again, a rye, this nearly 100-proof gem is also highly allocated at \$125 a bottle. Each year of its release is designated an "Act," playing along with the Shakespeare shtick. Last year was "Act 13," and it's delicious.

Again, not the best at the whole palate description thing. Let me quote from the High West site, "Palate: Marionberry preserves, chocolate dipped cherries, marbled rye bread, mo-chaccino, cinnamon bark, oolong tea, winter pine, smoldering Havana cigar." That's a mouthful – literally.

Aside from all of the fancy descriptions, Midwinter's Night is truly an amazing whiskey that lives up to its name. I can envision (and in fact have) enjoying it on a cold winter's night sitting by my fireplace. A perfect evening.

Both of these nice bottlings are available for sale right now on High West's website. One small glitch, for some inexplicable (and probably idiotic) reason, they don't ship to Indiana. Do you know anyone in Kentucky?

I would be remiss if I didn't mention their Double Rye aged in Quady Port barrels. This isn't available at the moment, but I believe it comes around every so often. This is one of my favorite whiskeys of all time. Deep, dark, luxurious, with notes of port (of course), dark chocolate, and baking spices. This, like Midwinter's Night, is a whiskey to sip, savor, and cherish. If you see a bottle, snag it!

High West offers great bourbons and ryes at very nice prices, except for their special stuff. However, their special stuff is well worth the cost. I'd like to reiterate that if you're ever near Park City Utah, go visit their distillery or at least the Saloon, you won't be disappointed.

Until next time, cheers!
Jon Smyrnis is a lifelong Indianapolis area resident. He enjoys traveling, hiking, biking, kayaking, dining out, and, of course, fine cocktails and great bourbons.

Westfield gives details on 2026 construction & repaving schedule

Submitted by City of Westfield

The Westfield Public Works Department has announced this year's road construction and street repaving projects.

"Over the past two years, Westfield has made record investments on infrastructure to ensure our roadways keep pace with our growth," Mayor Scott Willis said. "These projects are about getting our roads right-sized, improving safety and connectivity, and continuing to close trail gaps so residents can move throughout our city more easily."

181st Street & Grand Park Boulevard Begins April 4

Roundabout construction; anticipated closure for 60 days.

191st Street Widening Utility work this Spring; roundabout construction this fall

Widening of 191st Street from Tomlinson

Road to Grand Park Boulevard, including a roundabout at Grand Park Boulevard and a pedestrian bridge for Monon over 191st. Remaining construction on 191st Street and the Monon pedestrian bridge over 191st is projected for Spring 2027.

State Road 32 Through end of 2026

Road widening work on the south side of State Road 32 will begin this Spring, along with construction of the SR 32 and East Street roundabout. Traffic will remain open east-west during construction. Later in the year, traffic will be shifted south on the newly constructed roadway to allow the contractor to complete the remaining north side reconstruction work. All construction work is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.



Willis

Monon Tunnel Through end of 2026

Work on the Monon Tunnel at 161st Street began March 2. Work will continue through the end of the year.

While a full closure of 161st Street is not anticipated, there could be lane restrictions at times.

Penn Street extension August 2026

The Penn Street extension is a new roadway segment to connect Penn Street from East Street to Hillcrest Drive, just north of the Ambrose on Main project. The project will include on-street parking, sidewalks, lighting, and signage; anticipated closure for 60 days.

Additional projects include a traffic signal at Grand Park Boulevard and Tournament Trail, widening of Mule Barn Road, downtown drainage improvements, and a raised cross-

walk at 151st Street and American Lotus Drive.

Repaving projects
Street repaving projects will begin approximately the first week of May and continue through the first week of October. More firm timelines will be announced as the summer progresses.

Each paving project begins with milling the top surface of asphalt and repaving it with a new layer about two to four inches thick. Typical milling and paving projects take three to five days to complete and require lane restrictions.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) awarded Westfield an additional \$911,000 through the Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) program following bid openings for repaving projects. More repaving projects will be announced at a later date.

For a full list of projects, visit westfieldin.gov/construction.

SPRING EQUIPMENT & MACHINERY AUCTION

ON-LINE ONLY

BIDDING OPENS: Thursday, April 2nd @ 10am
SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, April 11th @ 6pm

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

<p>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)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>TRAILERS: 2014 Sure-Trac 25+5 Gooseneck, 2013 Corn Pro UT-16L w/ Ramps, 12'x81" Bolinger Trl., 2007 Conkrite 18'x80"</p> <p>TIRES: 18.4-34 Firestone Clamp-On Duals, 2016 Like New Ford F-350 Toyo Tires (265-70R 19.5), Stock 5-Lug</p>	<p>Michelin Tires & Wheels, 2004 Stock F-350 Firestone LT265 75R 16, 18.4-37 Firestone T-Rail Duals</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>LIVESTOCK EQ: Tilt-Tables for Goats/Sheep, Cattle Panels & Gates, Cattle Catch Chute, Wire Fence</p> <p>MOWERS: 7' Ford 14-92 3-pt. Sickle Bar Mower, JD MX-8 Pull-Type Rotary Cutter, JD 503 Rotary Cutter, New Holland 57 Hay Rake</p> <p>LAWN & GARDEN: 3' JD Snow Blower, 5' Snapper Pro Snow Blower, Grasshopper 721 w/ 66" Deck, Grasshopper 618 w/ 52" Deck, JD Z425 Mower w/ 54" Deck (459 hrs), Gravel Rascal</p> <p>ATTACHMENTS: Wolverine Skid Steer Plate, 8' 3-pt. Plow Blade, Dearborn Model 19-6 Slip Scoop, 12" & 32" Backhoe Buckets</p> <p>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)</p>
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To View Complete Sale Bill Including Pictures & Terms and to Register & Start Bidding:
Click the Calendar Link @ www.cripesauction.com

Absentee Bidding is still Available
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Young to chair small business committee field hearing in Carmel

Submitted by Office of U.S. Sen. Todd Young

On Tuesday, April 7, U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) will chair a U.S. Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee Field Hearing titled "Fueling Innovation: The Role of Small Businesses in America's Bio-economy."



Young

The event will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 7 on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

The hearing will include two panels of Hoosier leaders testifying about Indiana's leadership in bioscience innovation:

- U.S. Senator Todd Young

- Dr. Alina Alexeenko-Peroulis, Co-Founder and President, LyoWave, Inc.

- Aaron Schacht, CEO and Board Director, BiomEdit, Inc.

- Derek Small, Co-Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Monument Biosciences, Inc.

- Mark Warner, Co-Founder and CTO, Liberation Bioindustries

- David Rosenberg, President and CEO, Indiana University Launch Accelerator for Biosciences

- Vincent Wong, CEO and President, BioCrossroads and Crossroads Health Ventures

- Michelle Dennis, Regional Innovation Officer, Heartland BioWorks



Young entrepreneurs are ready to pitch

Meet the local 2026 STARTedUP Regional Finalists

The REPORTER

The STARTedUP Foundation announces the regional finalist teams advancing in the 2026 STARTedUP Challenge, Indiana's premier high school pitch competition, now in its ninth year. The event was formerly known as Innovate WithIN.

With a \$25,000 grand prize on the line, the STARTedUP Challenge brings together Indiana's brightest young innovators and challenges them to develop real ventures, pitch to judges, and compete for life-changing opportunities.

• **The Central Indiana (Region 2) Competition** will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, April 16 at Kurz Purdue Technology Center, hosted in partnership with Purdue Innovates & Purdue University Certificate in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. [Click here](#) to register.

• **The East Central Indiana (Region 3) Competition** will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 22 at IU Indianapolis – Campus Center Theater, hosted in partnership with Indiana University Indianapolis, IU Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering, IU Innovates, and IU LAB Launch Accelerator for Biosciences. [Click here](#) to register.

Both events are free and open to the public.

How the competition works

The 2026 STARTedUP Challenge follows an exciting multi-stage format designed to identify and accelerate Indiana's top young entrepreneurs:

• **Regionals, April 2026:** One winning team will be selected from each of the seven regional competitions across the state.

• **Wildcard Selection:** Three additional teams from across Indiana will be chosen as wildcard finalists, bringing the total number of advancing teams to 10.

• **Regional & Wildcard Prize:** Each advancing team member (up to three members per team) will receive a \$1,000 prize.

• **Six-week Bootcamp:** All 10 advancing teams will enter an intensive bootcamp featuring weekly calls, mentorship opportunities, expert support, and a two-day in-person experience, all designed to take their ventures to the next level.

• **Finals, June 12, 2026:** The top teams will compete in the STARTedUP Challenge Finals, where the ultimate winner will claim the \$25,000 grand prize.

Finalists

The following area student teams from Region 2 will compete at the 2026 STARTedUP Challenge:

• **Dermi:** Angie Xiu & Alex Mi | Carmel High School

• **Exit Point:** Freddy Brubaker & Zoya Syed |

Carmel High School

• **Ganz Osteo AO:** Zoe Baldauf | Carmel High School

• **Hydraband:** Isaac Qian & Mahesh Duvvuri | Carmel High School

• **Occlusense:** Riya Koya & Zaina Khan | Carmel High School

• **Templ:** John Bunch & Nick McKeown | Westfield High School

• **TraceAI:** Alexander Weiland | Hamilton Heights High School

• **Veristryp:** Aparna Parasad & Jessica Flowers | Carmel High School

• **VitaFlex+:** Liv Bates & Sam Foster | Westfield High School

• **Arys-Rx, LLC:** Jack Hamilton & Shayan Maun | Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School

• **ClimaNex:** TinaLe Liang, Anthony Thieu & Ishan Pande | Zionsville Community High School

• **CropConnect:** Keshav Krishnan | Park Tudor School

The following area student team from Region 3 will compete at the 2026 STARTedUP Challenge:

• **Barkitecture:** Jack WhalenLuke Hile & Cooper Case | Noblesville High School

Powered by Innovation Accelerator Classroom

Many of this year's competing students have been prepared through STARTedUP's Innovation Accelerator; a three-level professional development path that helps

teachers bring real-world entrepreneurial thinking into their classrooms.

For eight years, STARTedUP has partnered with educators across Indiana to build classroom cultures rooted in innovation, problem solving, and real-world impact. Through the Innovation Accelerator, teachers receive training, coaching, classroom-ready resources, and access to a statewide community of educators doing groundbreaking work.

Over the course of the program, students identify real-world problems they care about and build venture concepts with tangible deliverables like prototypes, business models, and pitch presentations. Students have gone on to launch businesses, nonprofits, inventions, services, civic projects, in-school initiatives, and more.

About the STARTedUP Foundation

The STARTedUP Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs across Indiana. Through programs like the STARTedUP Challenge and the Innovation Accelerator, STARTedUP works with students, teachers, and communities to turn classrooms into launchpads for real-world ideas. The STARTedUP Challenge has grown into the state's premier high school entrepreneurship competition. For more information, visit startedup.org.

Brunch & Blooms: all you'll need to know for the 2026 Peony Festival

By KELLY McVEY

President, Indiana Peony Festival, Inc.

Beyond our festival hub in Seminary Park, awaits our sister event, **Brunch & Blooms**.

Brunch & Blooms is a brunch and retail crawl that runs in conjunction with the festival, activated through our energetic downtown square. Walk the festival's vendor path to all the wonderful shops, restaurants, and cafes our downtown of Noblesville has to offer. You can visit more than 40 participating locations for more peony-inspired fun. Each of these merchant stops have special peony promotions, drinks, products, specials and more!

Our annual Brunch & Blooms event is proudly sponsored by **46 & Spruce by Syndicate Sales**.

46 & Spruce by Syndicate Sales is located in Kokomo and is among our country's largest suppliers of floral hardgoods. With their expertise and knowledge on the floral industry, they are great sponsors and partners to our

festival. Look for their tent on 9th and Conner streets to shop their fun, wearable florals to complete your festival day outfit. They'll offer a unique array of floral accessories to elevate your favorite peony attire.

Also new to Brunch & Blooms is our "Brunch with 46 & Spruce" activation. See more floral installations beyond the community alleyways! Select brunch locations throughout downtown will be transformed with stunning floral installations. Designed using floral products from 46 & Spruce, along with fresh peonies, these interiors will surround guests in florals from floor to table. Who doesn't love brunch among the blooms?! Check back for more details to come!

The celebration of our state flower in the heart of downtown is truly a hallmark sight to see. [Visit our website now](#) to explore the full list of participating Brunch & Blooms locations, along with featured promotions and event details. Be sure to include this experience in your festival weekend plans!

Miles Nelson endorses Kristina Moorhead for Indiana Senate District 29

Submitted

On Tuesday, March 31, Kristina Moorhead, Democratic candidate for Indiana State Senate District 29, announced the endorsement of former Carmel City Councilor Miles Nelson.

"I'm proud to support Kristina Moorhead for State Senate," Nelson said. "She brings integrity, strong leadership, and a real commitment to serving our community. Kristina listens, works hard, and focuses on practical solutions that matter to families and local businesses. She has my full support."

Nelson's endorsement adds to the growing momentum behind Moorhead's campaign, which is focused on delivering commonsense, results-driven leadership for Hoosiers.

"I'm honored to have Miles' support," Moorhead

said. "His dedication to our community and belief in bringing people together to get things done means a great deal. I look forward to continuing to build a campaign centered on listening, collaboration, and real solutions for the people of District 29."



Moorhead

The endorsement reflects growing momentum for Moorhead's campaign as it continues to build a broad coalition of support across Senate District 29. Moorhead is running for Indiana State Senate District 29 to put her proven policy experience to work – cutting costs for families, ending government overreach, and building an Indiana where every child and every Hoosier has the opportunity to thrive.

Learn more about the candidate at KristinaMoorhead.com.

Conner Prairie unveils new museum with innovative indoor exhibits

By COLIN BAILLIE
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A brand new exhibit will soon be open to the public at Conner Prairie, with multiple new indoor experiences designed to connect Conner Prairie's history to the present day.

The new exhibits at the **Museum Experience Center** include Power of Place, Wellspring, Torn, Caring for Collections, and

a Spark!Lab. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Monday to celebrate the opening.

Mark Firestone, Conner Prairie's associate vice president of developing experiences, says the museum building has been around since the 1980s, but the exhibit has made it nearly unrecognizable.

Firestone also says this allows them to have exhibits open year-round and in

all types of weather.

"This building gives us a new opportunity to tell stories in new ways," Firestone said. "We can use new technologies, we can build things like Wellspring that wouldn't fit out on the grounds."

The Museum officially opens up to the public on Friday, but Firestone says those who have already toured the exhibits are blown away.

"Honestly, I've been watching all the faces, and it's just surprise and delight. I think people don't expect something of this level from Conner Prairie," Firestone said.

For more information about the Museum, [click here](#).

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/local-news/conner-prairie-new-museum.

THE 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 to purchase tickets.



HOTEL CARMICHAEL

PATIO IS NOW OPEN



Local franchise group to open newest DQ restaurant in Hamilton County

Submitted

Carmel just got a whole lot tastier with a new DQ restaurant coming to town.

American Dairy Queen Corporation (ADQ), an iconic leader in treats and food, has announced a new restaurant opening on Monday, April 6 in Carmel.

Located at 7245 E. 146th St., near the intersection of East 146th Street and Community Drive, the new restaurant will be owned and operated by local entrepreneurs Harsh Barot, Has Patel, and Pravin Patel.

“We’ve had the opportunity to see firsthand the joy DQ restaurants bring to the communities we serve since beginning our work with the brand five years ago,” said Barot, DQ Carmel franchise owner. “We’re proud to bring another location to Carmel and continue to welcome the local community to celebrate life’s little and big moments with us.”

The trio have been Dairy Queen franchisees for five years and are long-time fans of the brand. With

several years of restaurant experience, they say they look forward to continuing their involvement with Dairy Queen and plan to open additional locations in the future.

Community involvement will be central to the new restaurant’s mission. The team plans to partner with local schools, engage with the college communities in Carmel, and participate in events that celebrate and support local residents, in addition to Dairy Queen’s national partnership with Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

The restaurant will serve hot food and treats, including Signature Stack-burgers, Chicken Strip Baskets, and world-famous DQ soft serve in cones, sundaes, shakes, and the signature Blizzard Treat, among many more craveable menu items.

A welcoming environment for all, the new DQ restaurant features a modern design with large, comfortable booths, community ta-



Photo provided
(From left) Brian, Charlie, Eric, Kattie, Bhargav, and Harsh in front of the new Dairy Queen at 7245 E. 146th St., Carmel.

bles and chairs, a designated mobile order pick-up counter, and drive-thru lanes.

The restaurant will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day starting April

6. The Carmel location is the third DQ restaurant owned by Barot, Patel, and Patel, who also operate locations in Noblesville and Clermont.

OneZone Business Action Committee endorses Danny Lopez for State Representative

Submitted

The OneZone Business Action Committee (ZoneBAC) announces its endorsement of Danny Lopez for State Representative, District 39.

“Danny Lopez brings the kind of proven, forward-thinking leadership Indiana needs in the Statehouse,” OneZone Chamber President Jack Russell said. “He understands the importance of strong schools, smart tax policy, and strategic economic development – and is prepared to take on the challenges ahead to ensure communities like Hamilton County continue to thrive.”

Lopez offers a track record of leadership and a clear vision for maintaining Indiana’s position as a national leader. With a focus on education, fiscal responsibility, and economic growth, he is committed to protecting the strengths that

make Hoosier communities attractive while addressing emerging challenges. His practical, solutions-oriented approach positions him to make an immediate impact for District 39.

The ZoneBAC is made up of OneZone Chamber members. In considering this race, the committee recognized Lopez’s leadership, vision, and understanding of the issues impacting the business community. His commitment to strong, sustainable growth made him a clear 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.



Lopez

Updated cholesterol guidelines aim to reduce heart disease risk

Dr. JANEL GORDON

WISH-TV Medical Expert
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology and nine other major medical organizations earlier this month released **new cholesterol screening and management guidelines.**

An estimated one in four U.S. adults have elevated LDL cholesterol, or low-density lipoprotein, is commonly known as “bad” cholesterol because high levels lead to plaque build-up in arteries. Elevated LDL cholesterol increases the risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD), including heart attack and stroke.

Cholesterol screening is recommended starting in childhood, from ages 9 to 11. People should be screened again at age 19 and every five years.

The American Heart Association in 2023 development a risk calculator called Predicting Risk of Cardiovascular Disease EVENT, or PREVENT. Physicians and other health care professionals can assess the 10- and 30-year risk estimates for heart attack and stroke in people ages 30 to 79. The calculator was based on data from 6.6 million people. The previous risk calculator was based on 26,000 people and calculated risks starting at age 40.

The PREVENT calculator uses factors including age; gender; blood pressure; cholesterol; personal history or presence of overweight or obesity; diabetes or chronic kidney disease; and smoking status. The calculator should not be used to assess people with familial hypercholesterolemia, a genetic disorder.

Risks can be further personalized based on additional factors including a personal history or presence of chronic inflammatory condi-

tions such as lupus or rheumatoid arthritis; gestational diabetes; gestational high blood pressure; preeclampsia preterm delivery; early menopause; and family history of heart disease.

For people with intermediate risks, LDL cholesterol levels should be below 70 milligrams per deciliter. People with higher risks should have a goal for a LDL cholesterol level below 55 milligrams per deciliter.

The new guidelines also call for additional testing to further assess cardiovascular disease risk. One of these tests is lipoprotein(a). Lp(a) may be stickier than LDL cholesterol and speed up the narrowing of the arteries. It is genetic and not altered by lifestyle interventions. Adults should have their level checked at least once.

Lifestyle interventions should be the first step in improving risks. People should work with their health care team to eat whole food, plant-forward meals that are lower in saturated fat; engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity, including two days of strength training; avoid tobacco; get restful sleep; and maintain a healthy weight. From 80 percent to 90 percent of cardiovascular disease is attributable to modifiable risk factors.

Statins remain the primary choice for pharmacological intervention, especially for people 40 and older with diabetes, chronic kidney disease stage 3 or 4, or HIV. Additional therapeutic options are available, if needed, to lower LDL cholesterol and triglycerides, which also contribute to cardiovascular disease risk. People who are pregnant, breastfeeding and in the process of conceiving, should not utilize lipid-lowering medications.

The 2026 Guideline on the Management of Dyslipidemia is a report of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association Joint

Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines, developed in collaboration with and endorsed by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, the Association of Black Cardiologists, the American College of Preventive Medicine, the American Diabetes Association, the American Geriatrics Society, the American Pharmacists Association, the American Society for Preventive Cardiology, the National Lipid Association and the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/health-spotlight/updated-cholesterol-guidelines-aim-to-reduce-heart-disease-risk.

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Four stages of raising confident, money-smart kids

Good financial habits are a little like brushing your teeth. When you learn them early, they become second nature, and you carry them with you for life. And while money can feel complicated, especially today, the foundation starts simply.

Parents can begin the conversation with very young children, and young adults can build on those basics as they take on more responsibility. Step by step, these habits create confidence that helps build long-term financial security and a more fulfilling life.

The following are the four key stages of financial growth.



COLUMNIST
COREY SYLVESTER
Cicero Edward Jones

Stage 1
For very young children, the goal is to make money feel simple and manageable. A great place to start is with three jars labeled “Spend,” “Save,” and “Share.”

When kids can actually see their money grow or shrink, the idea starts to make sense. Saving also introduces them to goal setting, and working toward paying for a small toy or outing teaches patience. Most important, you’re helping your children see money as a tool they can understand easily and use with confidence.

Stage 2
If you have tweens (children roughly 9 to 12 years old), they’re usually ready for

slightly bigger financial ideas. This is a great time for them to earn money through chores or small jobs, helping them see the connection between effort and reward and building a sense of ownership. Conversations about needs versus wants also become more meaningful, because kids are now making real choices with money they earned themselves. Your tween may be ready for a simple savings account to watch their savings grow, or a reloadable cash card for spending.

Stage 3
By the time teens reach high school or young adulthood, budgeting becomes essential. This doesn’t need to be overly strict or complicated. A simple system that helps them track deposits and withdrawals can make all the difference. Whether they use

an app, a paper notebook or a spreadsheet, the real goal is awareness. Teenagers also benefit from learning how credit works. Understanding how to build a healthy credit score and how to use credit wisely protects them from costly mistakes in later life.

Stage 4
Then come the early working years, when habits shift from learning to building. One of the smartest steps at this stage is paying yourself first. Automatic transfers to savings or retirement accounts help establish stability without extra effort. Even small retirement contributions matter more than most people realize, because time allows compounding to do the heavy lifting. This is

See *Smart* . . . Page 11



Photo provided

AG Todd Rokita endorses John Lowes for Sheriff

Submitted

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has endorsed Chief Deputy John Lowes in his campaign for Hamilton County Sheriff, citing Lowes’ experience, conservative leadership, and commitment to public safety.

Rokita, who has served as Indiana’s Attorney General since 2021, previously represented Indiana in Congress from 2011 to 2019 and served two terms as Indiana Secretary of State from 2002 to 2010. Throughout his career, he has been a strong advocate for constitutional principles, the rule of law, and public safety.

“I’m proud to support John Lowes for Hamilton County Sheriff,” Rokita said. “John is a proven conservative who understands that protecting our communities starts with upholding the Constitution, enforcing the rule of law, and standing firmly for public safety. With nearly three decades of law enforcement experience and years of executive leadership, he has the knowledge, integrity, and toughness required to lead. As Chief Deputy, John

Lowes has already played a key role in keeping Hamilton County one of the safest places to live in Indiana, and I am confident he is the qualified and experienced leader we need as our next Sheriff.”

Lowes, a career law enforcement officer with more than 28 years of experience, currently serves as Chief Deputy of the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office, where he oversees daily operations and supports deputies across the county.

“I am honored to have the support of Attorney General Todd Rokita, a proven conservative leader who has spent his career fighting to protect Hoosier values,” Lowes said. “I’m grateful for his endorsement and remain committed to keeping Hamilton County safe, supporting our law enforcement officers, and upholding the values that make our community strong.”

Lowes will appear on the Hamilton County Republican primary ballot in the Republican Primary on May 5.

For more information, please visit LowesForSheriff.com.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE WATER OF CLEANSING

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: "This is a requirement of the law that the Lord has commanded: Tell the Israelites to bring you a red heifer without defect or blemish and that has never been under a yoke. Give it to Eleazar the priest; it is to be taken outside the camp and slaughtered in his presence. Then Eleazar the priest is to take some of its blood on his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the tent of meeting. While he watches, the heifer is to be burned—its hide, flesh, blood and intestines. The priest is to take some cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool and throw them onto the burning heifer. After that, the priest must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water. He may then come into the camp, but he will be ceremonially unclean till evening. The man who burns it must also wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he too will be unclean till evening.

"A man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and put them in a ceremonially clean place outside the camp. They are to be kept by the Israelite community for use in the water of cleansing; it is for purification from sin. The man who gathers up the ashes of the heifer must also wash his clothes, and he too will be unclean till evening. This will be a lasting ordinance both for the Israelites and for the foreigners residing among them.

"Whoever touches a human corpse will be unclean for seven days. They must purify themselves with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; then they will be clean. But if they do not purify themselves on the third and seventh days, they will not be clean. If they fail to purify themselves after touching a human corpse, they defile the Lord's tabernacle. They must be cut off from Israel. Because the water of cleansing has not been sprinkled on them, they are unclean; their uncleanness remains on them.

Numbers 19:1-13 (NIV)

Jesse Scot Lytle

December 22, 1976 – March 29, 2026

Jesse Scot Lytle, 49, Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, March 29, 2026, in his home. He was born on December 22, 1976, to Jerry Lytle Sr. and Carla (Hammond) Lytle in Marion, Ind., and called Noblesville his home.



Jesse worked in safety management earlier in his career, primarily with major construction companies, while remaining a prolific carpenter for over 30 years, working for Polaris Home Services & Construction as the lead contract carpenter most recently. Jesse was at one with nature. His most beloved hobbies include fishing in the summertime, bird watching year-round, and walking his dogs around the neighborhood; particularly at night, when he and his pups could wear their headlamps as a light source. As an exquisite baseball player throughout his childhood and into his time in college, Jesse loved the Boston Red Sox and was always tuned into baseball games on TV, from Little League to MLB. He was a carpenter in every sense of the word, always working with his hands at work, for the people he loved, and for fun. Jesse was never seen without his coffee tumbler. He loved watching SpongeBob just to giggle. He devoted his life to his daughters and loved spending time with them – especially when eating the desserts they made for him to try.

He is survived by his daughters, Devin Marie Lytle (23), Karlie Ann Lytle (21), and Macie Sue Lytle (17); life partner, Megan Lytle; his older brother, Jeff Lytle; life-long childhood friend and brother by bond, Seth Tatman; and his beloved dogs, Opal and Bailey.

In addition to his parents, Jesse was preceded in death by his brother, Jerry Lytle Jr., and his infant brother, Jody Lytle.

Visitation will be from 9 to 11 a.m., with services at 11 a.m., on Friday, April 3, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Burial will take place following the services at Hartford City Cemetery in Hartford City, Ind.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

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.

SMART

from Page 10

also when young adults can start organizing their money into different buckets for rent, automobile payments, emergencies, retirement, and everyday spending. These habits help lay the groundwork for financial freedom down the road.

good habit makes the next one easier. Over time, these habits turn into a lifetime of financial security and fulfillment. When you start strong and stay consistent, money becomes a tool that helps your children support the lives they want.

Throughout every stage, the theme is confidence. Each small success creates a sense of control and each

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

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WESTFIELD

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the City of Westfield, Hamilton County, Indiana, that the Common Council at their regular meeting place at Westfield City Hall at 130 Penn Street, in Westfield, IN at 7:00 PM, on the 13th day of April 2026, will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.

Additional appropriations to be added:	
240 DOJ Equitable Sharing Program Fund	
Major Budget Classification:	
Other Services and Charges- #240002330	\$26,417.20
TOTAL for DOJ Equitable Sharing Program Fund	\$26,417.20

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard on the additional appropriation.

R7676 4/3/26, 4/6/26

Meeting Notices

The Hamilton County Airport Authority Board will meet in an executive session at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(D) Purchase of Lease of Real Estate; and IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(19) Discussion with Attorney Subject to the Attorney Client Privilege.

A regular meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the Jet Access Conference Room at the Indianapolis Executive Airport, 11329 E. State Road 32, Zionsville.

Each year, the Hamilton County Reporter requests government entities to notify us of public meetings as their Open Door Law notification under I.C. 5-14-1.5-5. The Reporter publishes these notices as a public service in our Tuesday through Friday digital editions. Meeting notices for Open Door Law compliance can be sent to PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com.

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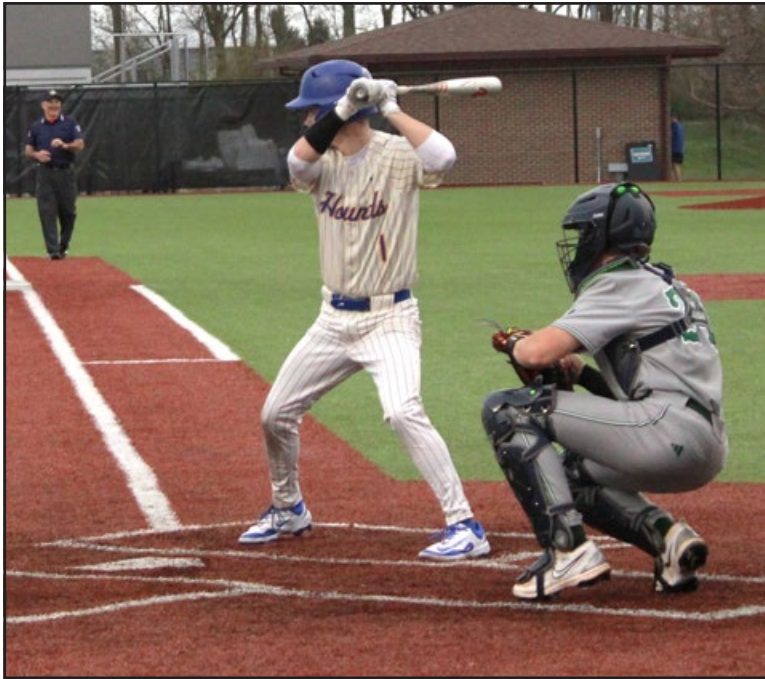


REPORTER SPORTS FRIDAY

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

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

Baseball



(ABOVE LEFT) Carmel's Max Walkey hit a two-run double for the Greyhounds' during their Thursday win over Covenant Christian. (ABOVE RIGHT) Westfield's Gavin Russ gets ready at first base during the Shamrocks' win over Franklin Central on Thursday.

Rocks pick up HCC sweep over Flashes

The REPORTER

Westfield got an early jump on the Hoosier Crossroads Conference Thursday by finishing a sweep of Franklin Central.

The Shamrocks hosted the Flashes at Grand Park and won the second game of their series 5-2. The Flashes scored both of their runs in the top of the fourth inning, after which Westfield took over.

Robbie Brandenburg singled in Nick Fero to give the Rocks a run in the bottom of the fourth and pull within 2-1. Westfield's defense turned a double play in the top of the sixth, with

Maddox Novotney grabbing a lineout, then tossing to Gavin Russ at first base.

"He's been phenomenal," Rocks coach Ryan Bunnell said of Novotney. "Rarely is he going to light up the stat sheet, but he does so many things that are just huge for us. He made two-plus defensive plays today that were game-changers for us."

In the bottom of the sixth, Andrew Noble took the Shamrocks from trailing to leading with a three-RBI triple. Novotney, Kasen Jessup and Nick Fero all scored. Noble soon scored, with Lincoln Hoffman blasting a double to left field.

"He's off to a hot start and been doing so well," said Bunnell. "We knew when he was up, he had a chance."

"We've been doing a really good job in these three games," said Bunnell. "Even in the loss to Center Grove, we've been doing a really good job when we have two strikes in how we've been fighting, staying in the fight with two strikeouts."

Clayton Walther threw two strikeouts in the seventh inning, then Evan Govert came in and induced a groundout for the third out.

Noble finished with two hits, while Walther totaled four strikeouts in 3.2 innings for the win. Ben Spencer also threw four strikeouts.

Westfield will take its annual Tennessee trip next week, playing Grace Christian Academy at 7 p.m. Thursday to begin the trip. * * *

Carmel's baseball team won its opener on Thursday, holding off Covenant Christian for a 5-4 victory at Hartman Field.

The Greyhounds started the game strong, with five runs in the first two innings. Carmel led 2-0 after the first inning; John Zangrilli scored the first run with a passed ball, then Charles Ranek scored after Silas Neal was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

In the second inning, Max Walkey smacked a

two-run double, sending home Kane Hare and Zangrilli. Walkey later scored on a wild pitch.

The Warriors got back in the game with four runs in the fifth inning, but Carmel was able to hold on. The Hounds didn't allow a hit in the final two innings, with Ranek throwing two strikeouts during that time.

Zangrilli went 3-for-4 at the plate. Jacob Behm and Mark Neels both hit one double. Cam Carmichael pitched the first inning and got the win.

The Greyhounds got on the road Saturday, playing at the Bedford North Lawrence Round Robin. The Greyhounds take on the host Stars at 11 a.m. and Evansville North at 12:30 p.m. * * *

Noblesville began its play at the Clarksville (Tenn.) tournament with a 3-1 loss to Hilliard Bradley (Ohio) on Thursday.

Bradley led 3-0 after five innings. The Millers scored their run in the sixth inning; Aiden Reynolds hit a one-out double and later scored on a wild pitch.

Reynolds got the only Noblesville hit of the game. Griffin Snider pitched 4.2 innings, striking out eight.

The Millers are 1-1 and play two games at Clarksville today, taking on Henry County (Tenn.) at 11 a.m. and the host Clarksville at 4 p.m.

Softball

Rocks surge past Arabians

The REPORTER

A third-inning surge gave the Westfield softball team a home win over Pendleton Heights on Thursday.

The Shamrocks beat the Arabians 7-3 at Monon Trail Athletic Complex. The Arabians scored the game's first run in the first inning, with Westfield getting on the board in the second inning. Bella Blakeley hit a two-out double, then scored on a Sydney Jordan single.

Pendleton Heights jumped ahead 3-1 in the top of the third after hitting a two-run double. But the Shamrocks rebounded quickly in the bottom of the third. Dylan Todd led off with a home run, then Makayla Watson singled to get on base and was sent home on a Sofia Easterhaus double, tying the game at 3-3.

Cam Pulice hit a sacrifice fly to score Easterhaus, moving Westfield ahead 4-3. Blakeley singled in Annika Lawrence before

scoring on an error, and the Rocks led 6-3.

Easterhaus batted in another run in the sixth inning, scoring Jordan with an RBI fielder's choice.

Watson, Easterhaus, Blakeley and Jordan all had two hits. Olivia Sampia pitched four innings, striking out six.

Westfield is 3-3 and is off for Spring Break, returning to action Tuesday, April 14 at Brownsburg. * * *

Carmel dropped a 4-1 game to Mt. Vernon Thursday at Cherry Tree Softball Complex.

The Greyhounds scored their run in the seventh inning. Chloe Junkersfield led off with a double then scored on Tinsley Malek's left field single.

Riley Petrites also had one hit for Carmel. Emily Smith pitched three innings, striking out four.

The Hounds are 2-3 and host Floyd Central next Friday, April 10.

Baseball Season Preview

Huskies look to rebound & reboot with pitching leading the way

By CRAIG ADKINS

For The Reporter

Hamilton Heights graduated many seniors from a 10-19 season in 2025. The only way to go from there is up.

The future is bright and this year's team has both youth and experience. The Huskies will be searching for answers at the plate, as they return just three from last season's starting lineup.

"We will have to prove that we can score runs on a consistent basis," said third-year Hamilton Heights head coach Adam Hughes.

Junior PJ Wright is the top hitter coming back. Wright hit .260 (19-for-73) had 17 RBIs, scored nine runs and hit four doubles last year. Senior Dillon Pitts was 16-of-65 at the plate, drove in 13 runs, scored nine, belted five doubles and hit a home run. Fellow senior Josh Newton also brings a solid bat. Newton scored 15 times, drove in four runs with a double, two triples and one home run.

Heights was a team that looked to run in 2025 and it will look to do the same this season. The Huskies stole 36 bases last year with 10 returning, as Wright stole five bags as a sophomore.

"Good overall team speed should help us a lot this season," Hughes said. Senior Owen Robey led with 33.2 innings, struck out 35 and held opposing hitters to a .202 average. Robey looks to help anchor the rotation, along with classmate Pitts, who went 2-5 with a 3.21 earned-run average in 33.2 innings. Pitts fanned 32 and gave up just 15 earned runs.

Junior Kaden Lawson topped Husky pitchers with

a 4-3 record in 25.1 frames while striking out 29 and looks to be a key rotation arm. Junior Cyrus Mason was 1-0 (1.75 ERA), appearing in seven games, throwing 16 innings, whiffing 16 and limiting opponents to a .211 average. Sophomore Owen Hughes will also be a fixture on the mound. Hughes was 1-2 in 15.1 innings last year, striking out 18 and walking just six in four appearances.

"We will return an experienced pitching staff," Hughes said.

There are a few top newcomers that look to make an immediate impact. Junior Austin Kappes will play outfield and pitch (he pitched 2.1 innings in 2025). Sophomore Landon Hickman (six games played) and junior infielder Brennan Heckman will be looked upon to start this season.

The Huskies open the season at home with a doubleheader starting at 11 a.m. tomorrow against Fort Wayne Northrop.


Next week, Heights visits the Jay County Patriots on Thursday, April 9 and finishes up the second week of spring break with a Saturday doubleheader on April 11 at Anderson at 11 a.m.

During mid-season, Heights will play two games each in the Hoosier Conference against Western, Tipton and Logansport. Non-conference opponents include road trips to Maconaquah, Brebief Jesuit, Lawrence Central, Clinton Prairie, Kokomo and Frankfort (DH).

The Huskies will also play Daleville, Lapel, Shelbyville, Hamilton Southeastern, McCutcheon and Noblesville at home.

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Swimming



Photo provided

Carmel Swim Club hosted and won the 2026 Indiana Swimming Age Group Short Course Championships, which took place March 19 to 22.

Carmel Swim Club dominates Age Group State

Fishers Area Swimming Tigers is strong second

The REPORTER

The future of swimming continues to look bright in Hamilton County.

Carmel Swim Club hosted the 2026 Indiana Swimming Age Group Short Course Championships, which took place March 19 to 22. Carmel dominated the meet, scoring 3,915 points between the girls and boys teams.

Fishers Area Swimming Tigers also had a strong meet, scoring 1,837.5 points to take runner-up honors. Both the Carmel and Fishers teams had multiple event champions and end-of-meet award winners.

In the 10 and under category, FAST's Gabriel Brown was a winner in three events during Day 1 of the competition. Brown set new meet records in all three victories: the 200 individual medley (2 minutes, 12.52 seconds), the 100 freestyle (55.01 seconds) and the 100 butterfly (1:01.91). Brown was also part of the winning 200 medley relay, joining Liam Cockrum, Donovan Rabourn and Maddox Mackrell to finish in 2:06.58.

Noblesville Swim Club's Oliver Grieshop won the 50 breaststroke in 37.24.

Carmel picked up a victory in the 10U girls 200 medley relay. Ceci Mellon, Nora Sweeney, Mikaela Morris and Rachel Choi won that event in 2:17.00.

Grace Gannon won the Girls 13-14 1650 free on Day 1, clocking in at 16:59.01. Anton-David Bernstein was the Boys 11-12 1000 free champion, with a winning time of 10:41.17.

Day 2

Brown returned to the water on Day 2 to win three more events in record time. He claimed the 200 free in 1:56.94, the 100 backstroke in 1:01.12 and the 100 breaststroke in 1:12.42.

In fact, FAST swept all of the 10U boys events on Day 2. Mackrell was the 50 butterfly champion (30.21) and the 50 free winner

(27.47). Brown and Mackrell teamed with Rabourn and Cockrum to win the 200 free relay in 1:54.48.

In girls 10U competition, Noblesville's Cora Arnold won the 50 free in 27.95 seconds. Carmel's 200 free relay team of Mellon, Choi, Morris and Sweeney reteam to claim the 200 free relay, clocking in at 1:59.79.

The county's older swimmers also had a good Day 2. Gannon set a new Girls 13-14 record in the 400 individual medley of 4:15.98, and also joined Zara Paton, Annie Hare and Audrey Wolf to win the medley relay (3:47.57). Paton claimed the 50 backstroke (25.71), while Wolf won the 100 butterfly (54.44).

Jeremiah Marshall was another FAST winner, taking the Boys 11-12 100 breaststroke in 1:07.79.

Carmel had several event wins, too. Acelyn George won a pair of Girls 11-12 races: the 100 free in 53.37 and the 50 butterfly in 26.45. Kate Allen was first in the Girls 13-14 200 free (1:47.71) and Sydney Emel was first in the Girls 13-14 100 breaststroke (1:02.92).

Carter Kellett won the Boys 13-14 50 backstroke (24.33), with Linrui An claiming the Boys 13-14 200 free (1:42.10) and 400 IM (4:00.28). Both swimmers joined Blake Hadley and Dylan Pangemanan to win the 400 medley relay in 3:36.13. Ivans Bogdanovs won the Boys 11-12 500 free in 5:10.99.

Day 3

The Carmel and Fishers dominance continued on Day 3, as both schools monopolized the girls events.

Carmel won seven races. Allen was first in the Girls 13-14 50 free (23.12) and 500 free (4:49.95), while George paced the Girls 11-12 100 butterfly (57.19) and 50 backstroke (28.31 seconds).

Emel was the Girls 13-



Photo provided

Fishers Area Swimming Tigers' Gabriel Brown won six events in the Boys 10 and Under category, also winning the high point award.

14 50 breaststroke winner (29.07), while Yan Zheng won the Girls 11-12 200 free (1:57.90). Zheng and George joined Vivien Morris and Olivia Hughes to take the 200 medley relay (1:50.99).

FAST got two Day 3 relay wins in Girls 13-14 competition. The team of Gannon, Paton, Hare and Wolf won both the 200 free relay (1:37.63) and the 200 medley relay (1:44.68). Gannon was also first in the 200 butterfly (2:01.20) and Paton won the 100 backstroke (55.42).

Carmel's boys picked up six Day 3 victories. An won four Boys 13-14 events: he claimed the 100 backstroke (52.22) and 500 free (4:35.18), joined Kellett, Yamil Solano De Vargas and Edward Enoch to win the 200 free relay (1:28.57), then teamed with Kellett, Blake Hadley and Solano De Vargas for first in the 200 medley relay (1:39.62).

Bogdanovs won the Boys 11-12 200 free (1:55.51) and Bernstein was first in the Boys 11-12 50 backstroke (27.28). Both swam on the winning 200 medley relay with Mitchell Sowder and Levi Miller (1:52.13).

Day 4

The final day of competition was another Carmel/FAST sweep. Carmel won

seven events and Fishers the other five.

Zheng had three victories, in the Girls 11-12 200 IM (2:09.31) and 50 breaststroke (30.27), then joined Hughes, George and Brooklyn Gilmore to take the 200 free relay (1:41.37). George also won the 100 backstroke (59.97) and Hughes was first in the 50 free (24.75).

In girls 13-14 races, Allen won the 200 IM (1:59.65) and the 100 free (50.46).

Gannon won three Girls 13-14 races for Fishers, starting with the 1000 free (10:24.00). She also won the 200 breaststroke (2:17.50) and joined Paton, Hare and Wolf for a 400 free relay victory (3:29.16). Wolf was first in the 50 butterfly (24.86) and Paton won the 200 backstroke (1:59.38).

Carmel won three Boys 13-14 events. An set a new record of 1:52.75 in the 200 IM and also claimed the 100 free (47.36). He joined Kellett, Solano De Vargas and Enoch to win the 400 free relay (3:15.20).

Fishers' Jeremiah Marshall won the Boys 11-12 50 breaststroke (30.81).

High point winners

Brown was the Boys 10U high point winner, while Bernstein won the Boys 11-12 award; both scored 120 points. An won the Boys 13-14 high point award with 136 points.

George was first in the Girls 11-12 high point, totaling 132 points. Allen and Gannon tied for first in Girls 13-14 competition; they both scored 134 points.



Photo provided by Carmel Athletics

Kati Weir is the new Carmel volleyball girls head coach. Weir coached at Wapahani for three years and led the Raiders to three state championship matches, including the 2022 Class 2A title.

Kati Weir hired as Carmel girls volleyball coach

The REPORTER

Kati Weir has been named as the new Carmel girls volleyball head coach.

Carmel Athletics announced the hiring in an article on its athletic website Thursday morning. Weir played for Yorktown High School, leading the Tigers to an IHSAA state championship, then continued her playing career at Ball State University, where she was a two-time All-MAC Academic and Distinguished Student-Athlete.

Weir spent four years as the head coach of Wapahani High School, leading the Raiders to three consecutive state championship matches and winning the 2022 Class 2A title. Her peers in the state coaches association selected her as the 2022 Class 2A State Coach of the Year. She has also served as an assistant coach at Yorktown.

"Coach Weir will begin her coaching duties immediately at CHS," the article said.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

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.

Saturday, April 4

BASEBALL

Noblesville vs. Dixon County (Tenn.), 9 a.m. at Clarksville (Tenn.)
Hamilton Southeastern vs. Henry County (Tenn.), 9:30 a.m. at Clarksville (Tenn.)
Guerin Catholic vs. Kouts, 10 a.m. at Valparaiso
Carmel at Bedford North Lawrence Round Robin, 11 a.m.
Fort Wayne Northrop at Hamilton Heights, 11 a.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at Clarksville (Tenn.), noon
Guerin Catholic at Valparaiso, 12:45 p.m.
Fishers at Don Everett Classic, TBD at Clarksville, Tenn.

BOYS LACROSSE

Roncalli at Guerin Catholic, 1:30 p.m.

GOLF

Guerin Catholic at Seymour Invitational, 9 a.m. at Shadowood

TRACK & FIELD

Guerin Catholic at Bishop Chatard, noon

VOLLEYBALL

Carmel at Roncalli, 9 a.m.
Guerin Catholic at Cathedral Round Robin, 9 a.m.
Carmel vs. Jeffersonville, 11 a.m. at Roncalli

Monday, April 6

BASEBALL

Bedford North Lawrence at Hamilton Heights, 6 p.m.
University at Owensboro Catholic, 3 p.m.

GOLF

Circle City Conference meet, 1 p.m. at Golf Club of Indiana

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



Photo illustration provided

'Welcome to Indianapolis' Basketball Bobblehead Series unveiled to celebrate Final Four

The REPORTER

The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum has unveiled an officially licensed Welcome to Indianapolis Basketball Bobblehead Series to celebrate the Arizona Wildcats, Illinois Fighting Illini, Michigan Wolverines, and UConn Huskies and their fans' trip to Indianapolis for

the 2026 NCAA Division I Final Four.

The Final Four National Semifinals games will take place Saturday, April 4 with the National Championship Game on Monday, April 6 at Lucas Oil Stadium. The bobbleheads feature team mascots Wilbur Wildcat of Arizona and Jonathan the Husky of UConn along

with vintage style bobbleheads for Illinois and Michigan.

The bobbleheads, which are expected to ship in October, are \$40 each plus a flat-rate shipping charge of \$8 per order. Each bobblehead will be individually numbered to 2,026.

The bobbleheads are now available at [this link](#).

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