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THE HAMILTON COUNTY
REPORTER
Your Hometown Newspaper

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Mostly cloudy, with afternoon rain and possible thunderstorms.
Tonight: Becoming mostly clear.



HIGH: 68 LOW: 41

Talking tech safety



Photos provided by Noblesville Schools
 Noblesville Schools held a "Tech Talk" session this week at North Elementary, in partnership with the Hamilton East Public Library. Community members were invited to learn from district technology leaders about how to stay safe from online scams, and they were also able to get help with personal technology device support. [Click here](#) to learn more about online safety best practices.



Photo provided by Pooja Thakkar

Humanity returns to the Moon ... and reminds us to look up again

This week, I stood beneath a rocket powerful enough to shake the ground beneath my feet – and later sat beside a stranger on an airplane who reminded me how small and beautifully connected our world has become.

COLUMNIST



POOJA THAKKAR
 Taste of Community

Somewhere between simulated thunder at Kennedy Space Center and a two-and-a-half-hour flight home filled with unexpected conversation, I realized something profound: space exploration may launch rockets into the sky, but humanity moves forward through connection.

Our quick family trip to Florida wasn't perfectly timed to witness the Artemis launch live, yet the experience felt larger than anything we had imagined. The bus tour through Kennedy Space Center carried us past historic launch pads and engineering marvels, each telling stories of courage, persistence, and possibility.

Then came the moment that truly moved us.

Standing beneath a rocket during a launch simulation, thunder roared, smoke surrounded us, and powerful gusts of air rushed past our bodies. Even knowing it was staged, my girls and I looked at each other in awe. If this was only a simulation, I wondered, what must it feel like for astronauts who actually sit inside that rocket?

In that instant, fun turned into deep respect – for astronauts, engineers, scientists, and thousands of individuals working together to make the impossible possible.

Throughout the tour, one message echoed loudly on the bus screens: "Humanity returns to the Moon."

Not one nation. Humanity.

Waiting in lines, we met families from Scotland, Germany, London, and Italy. Strangers quickly became companions as we shared excitement and anticipation together. Kennedy Space Center felt less like a destination and more like a global gathering place where hope speaks every language.

It's impossible not to laugh
"Men On Boats" stages in Carmel with no men

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

Carmel Community Players (CCP) is thumbing its collective nose at written history in a comedic retelling of John Wesley Powell's expedition down the Colorado River. The play, *Men On Boats*, will stage at The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel, from April 17 to 26.

CCP's own summary of this play reads, "In 1869, the American government sent a crew of explorers down the Colorado River to claim land that doesn't belong to them. In this true(ish) retelling of the 1869 expedition, the one-armed John Wesley Powell enlists a crew of insane but loyal volunteers to trek through the Grand Canyon; they'll brave dangerous waters, get on each other's nerves, and threaten to quit at nearly every turn. Played by a cast of people the first journey left out, *Men On Boats* is a raucous adventure dramedy explores the bravery, determination, and true grit of the historical explorers, in addition to the general foolishness



Photo provided

(Standing, from left) Barb Weaver, Wendy Brown, Nick Chase, Katarina Zack, Kelly Hutchings, Kenzie Wright, and Ozzie Buttler. (Kneeling, from left) Desiree Black and Victoria Garcia. *Not pictured: Sarah Arthur.*

of humanity." The Reporter spoke with CCP Director Samantha Kelly to find out what a "true(ish) retelling" is and why there will be

no actual men in the aforementioned boats.

"[Playwright] Jacqueline Backhouse took the actual journals from John Wesley Powell

because he did document the entire trip," Kelly said. "You can actually read the journals.

See *Laugh ...* Page 2

See *Moon ...* Page 2

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ANGELA SWENSON FOR JUDGE

HAMILTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT 4

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Come meet the candidates

The Reporter is doing our part to help voters make informed decisions when casting their ballots whether early, absentee, or on Election Day.

The Reporter will publish Candidate Bios for all candidates who choose to engage with our readers. Those will appear with every online edition through Election Day (and at [this link](#)), and those pages will be updated as more candidates choose to send us their information.

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Early Voting Totals

Below are the number of early voters as of Thursday, April 9, listed by polling location. [Click here](#) for more information on early voting.

Judicial Center	157
4-H Fairgrounds	192
TOTAL	349

LAUGH

from Page 1

Get Your Tickets

When: April 17-26. Thursday, Friday, and first Saturday shows at 7:30 p.m. Sunday and second Saturday shows at 2:30 p.m.

Where: The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel

Cost: \$20 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. \$15 Thursday.

Where to buy: Go to carmelplayers.org or call (317) 815-9387 for tickets.

She decided that because history, as we know it, is stereotypically written with cis white men – because that's who went on these expeditions – she decided that she was going to kind of turn everything on its head and give history a new spin.

That new spin involves characters who all use the names of people on the expedition, but with the caveat that none of the actors are supposed to portray the characters as factual representations of historical figures they stand in for.

"Everybody is playing the people that were on the expedition," Kelley said. "However, there are no cis white men anywhere in the show. It is female identifying and non-binary performers. We are basically taking an expedition that was documented with fairly good documentation – mostly Powell's account of everything – and kind of doing a sarcastic play on it. The play itself definitely plays into the fact that the natives were here first, and here we go, naming everything after ourselves, even though it's been named already. It's kind of just a new retelling of actual history."

According to Kelly, the playwright has very specific requirements for casting.

"She doesn't want any cis white men within the show, but she also doesn't want the actors or the director to turn themselves into these people," Kelly said. "So basically, everybody has the names of these characters, but nobody is trying to actually be them. We did enough research on our own at the beginning, where we figured out one of the explorers was actually a Scottish man. And the actress I have playing that person cannot do the Scottish accent. So basically we are recounting the events of history in a new way."

Along the way down the Colorado River, in and out

of boats, there will be a lot of comedy and at least a few fourth-wall breaks.

"We have somebody who, at the very end of the show, recounts what happens to everybody, but then is like, 'I'm going to tell everybody that I'm the one that rescued you,' even though they rescued themselves," Kelly said.

This play is sort of meta-revisionist history as a tongue-in-cheek comedy because there's a character who's revising history as it's being revised to all be done by non-men anyway.

"Yes, pretty much," Kelly said. "We are revising history while revising history."

Kelly was in a production of *Men On Boats* in college in 2017, when the play was so new that they had to work from a draft of the script, rather than a finished dramatist's copy.

"My first interaction with it, just from the read through when I was in it, we were crying, we were laughing so hard because so many of the jokes just, they landed immediately and we were like, 'Oh my gosh, that's hilarious,'" Kelly said. "Then we got to the point where we all started putting our spin on it. And it's the same with my actors. They started putting their own spin on everything and now the jokes are landing like 10 times funnier. It's impossible not to laugh for a lot of these situations."

Kelly called this play a PG-13 piece that she expects to appeal to people in their 20s and 30s because of the specifics of the humor involved, but audiences of all ages should, in her estimation, enjoy the laugh-out-loud humor.

"I say come with an open mind because the title is very misleading, but I think audiences will really, really enjoy it once they get situated within the show," Kelly said. "I'll keep them on the edge of their seats the whole time."

How to file a gas price gouging complaint

By **KARA KENNEY**
WISH-TV | wistv.com

The Indiana Attorney General's Office says it will monitor fuel prices across the state to prevent price gouging.

On Wednesday, **Republican Gov. Mike Braun announced a gas tax holiday for 30 days**, which will result in savings to consumers of 17.2 cents per gallon.

I-Team 8 asked how many complaints the Indiana Attorney General's Office received from consumers in 2025 and 2026 related to gas price gouging.

"We have zero complaints between that time period," said Slayde Settle, director of media at the Indiana Attorney General's Office, in an email to I-Team 8.

Report instances of excessive pricing to the Indiana Attorney General's Office at 800-382-5516, or file a gasoline complaint [online](#).

I-Team 8 spoke with Kyle Anderson, an economist at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. He said it's very difficult for consumers to tell at the pump if they're getting the temporary tax savings or if they're getting price gouged.

"Even if there were

complaints, it's very sort of unenforceable," Anderson said. "How do you know that they're not passing on the full savings? Gas prices bounce around every day. So, even if the gas tax is eliminated, yes, we'd expect prices to go down, but, you know, other political events, other, the price of a barrel of oil can change. All these things can happen, and the gas price of gas could go right back up the next day."

Anderson said it's a moving target for not only consumers, but also for the state to enforce.

"If one gas station decides not to pass along the discount, if consumers go somewhere else, then they'll lose out on that business," he said. "So it's really about sort of an efficient market and people looking around getting the best price, and that's what forces gas stations to lower their price. It's competition, not threats from the governor."

I-Team 8 reached out to the Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office for more information on how the state plans to enforce compliance with the gas tax holiday. No response was received by Thursday afternoon.

Anderson said, "Data

suggests that if you cut the gas tax by 17 cents, retailers are going to typically pass about one-half or two-thirds of that on to consumers, and I think the governor and the attorney general are trying to make sure that doesn't happen, and they want all of that to go, but they're sort of pushing back, and there's no real way to monitor that, whether gas stations are really passing all that savings on to consumers."

I-Team 8 reached out to the Indiana Food and Fuel Association. Matt Norris, the group's public policy counsel, said the industry is ready to comply with the gas tax holiday.

"Absolutely, we've passed along the information that we've received from the Governor's Office to our membership so they can suspend the 17.2 cents gasoline use tax and pass that savings along to the consumer," Norris said.

Norris told I-Team 8 it's in the retailers' best interest to follow the law.

"We stand ready to work with the state in implementing this," he said. "Consumers are going to chase the lowest gas price, and we stand ready to serve them when they do that."

The attorney general

cannot control the movement of gasoline prices, as crude oil and the majority of taxes are a result of federal and international factors, according to their website.

The attorney general can, however, challenge illegal pricing activities that include agreements between retailers to fix prices, deceptive sales acts, or excessive pricing during a state of emergency, according to their website.

Rokita said in a **news release** issued Wednesday, "With the suspension of Indiana's gas tax for the next 30 days, my office will closely monitor fuel prices to guard against any potential price gouging. Hoosiers deserve the full relief intended by this emergency measure, and we will use every tool at our disposal to ensure that the removal of the tax translates into lower prices at the pump – and that consumers are not taken advantage of during this time. If a consumer suspects that a gas station in Indiana is still charging tax during the suspension, they should file a consumer complaint with our office."

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wistv.com/news/local-news/preventing-gas-price-gouging.

MOON

from Page 1

But what surprised me most were the conversations happening in the spaces between the big moments.

During our travels – from Disney parks to the space center, from hotel rides to the airport – every Uber ride turned into an unexpected exchange of stories. Each driver shared why they chose this work: flexibility, second careers, supporting families, or simply enjoying meeting new people. Again and again, I heard the same underlying message – people are looking for people.

They were curious about us, and we were curious about them. Different backgrounds, different cultures, different lives – yet the desire was the same: to understand someone who may not look like us, eat like us, or live like us. Those in-between conversations made the journey feel more human, more real.

One simulation featured Neil Armstrong's reminder that nothing is impossible once you believe it is possible. Standing among rockets that once existed only in dreams made those words tangible. The moment humanity believed it could

reach the Moon, half the battle was already won.

My daughters experienced that inspiration firsthand when they met a current astronaut during a meet-and-greet: Roger Crouch. Watching my child receive an autograph and smile proudly felt symbolic – a young dreamer connecting with someone who dared to explore the unknown. We even dressed in astronaut suits ourselves, laughing as we imagined preparing for liftoff.

As we followed updates about the Artemis crew preparing for their ocean landing, our family found ourselves praying for their safe return. These astronauts no longer felt distant; they represented all of us.

The lesson continued on our flight home.

I sat beside a stranger who lived just 35 miles from the launch site. He showed me breathtaking photos of the real launch captured on his phone – flames lighting the sky, history witnessed from his own backyard. Our conversation flowed easily through topics of work, diversity, parenting, politics, international news, and even Bollywood movies he enjoyed watching.

At one point, I offered him an Indian snack I had packed for the journey. He tasted it, smiled with surprise, and immediately took a photo of the snack's name so he could find it again later. Such a small moment,



Photo provided by Pooja Thakkar
Our columnist and her daughters don their moon suits during their visit to the Kennedy Space Center.

yet deeply meaningful.

Food once again proved its universal power. No translation needed. Just culture shared through a simple bite.

I have come to understand that being a connector is not accidental; it is intentional. I try to live by the Three C's: Choices, Chances, and Connections. When we choose openness, take the chance to engage, and allow stories to unfold, community naturally forms.

Humanity returns to the Moon, but humanity also returns to itself every time strangers become storytellers, cultures are shared, and curiosity replaces distance.

As my girls looked up at towering rockets with shining eyes, I realized the greatest launch wasn't happening only in space.

It was happening in conversations, in shared snacks, in Uber rides, in airport seats – in every moment we choose connection over silence.

Because when humanity believes together, everything becomes possible.

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

Thanks for reading!



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Invest Hamilton County launches 'Rise and Reskill' workforce program

The REPORTER

Invest Hamilton County (IHC), with support from the Hamilton County Commissioners, is launching Rise and Reskill, a new workforce training program designed to help individuals in recovery gain and retain meaningful employment.

The program operates under IHC's InvestOnward initiative, which supports justice-involved and recovery populations through career development, skills training, and wraparound services. Research shows steady employment can reduce recidivism rates from 52 percent to below 20 percent, underscoring the critical connection between career stability and long-term recovery outcomes.

The Rise and Reskill curriculum was developed and is led by Ivy Tech Community College Hamilton County, with referral partnerships through Aspire Indiana Health, Bridges of



Thibideau



Heirbrandt



Sheehan

Hope, and Hamilton County Community Corrections. Offered monthly at Ivy Tech, the program provides eight hours of classroom instruction and guides participants from recovery support services into structured career training. Candidates are referred through a recovery house or other partner organization and will leave the program with a work-ready resume, tools to assist in finding employment, and access to wrap-around services that support long-term success.

"What we're seeing through our InvestOnward initiatives is that when you build the path to vitality for

people to walk, the first step gets easier," IHC President and CEO Mike Thibideau said. "The results in Hamilton County speak for themselves: purpose and employment change outcomes. Rise and Reskill takes what we've learned and puts it into action for people in recovery who are ready to take that step."

"Hamilton County believes in pathways to prosperity for every resident, regardless of where they've been," Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt said. "Supporting initiatives like Rise and Reskill is an investment in public safety, in our work-

force, and in the people who call this county home. When we give individuals the tools to rebuild their lives, the entire community benefits."

"The connection between recovery and meaningful employment cannot be overstated," Aspire Indiana Health President and CEO Antony Sheehan said. "Growing demand across industries, combined with evolving work requirements, means there are real opportunities for individuals in recovery to find purpose through work. When people have a reason to show up every day and see the impact of their contribution, outcomes improve – for them, their families, and our entire community."

Rise and Reskill is open to individuals in recovery from substance use who are seeking career training and employment support. To learn more or apply, visit InvestHamiltonCounty.com/investonward.



Master Gardeners want to help you get the most from your plants this year

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association will hold its 27th annual Plant Sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 16 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville.

There will be a wide selection of native plants, hostas, perennials, vegetables, herbs, water plants, and some trees and shrubs. Bearded iris will be dug to order from beds on site.

Come get free gardening information and expert planting advice.

Superior 9

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SMC working to connect students to high-tech manufacturing careers

The REPORTER

As industries across the country accelerate toward automation, SMC is inviting the community to experience the technology driving that transformation firsthand.

In celebration of National Pneumatics Day, SMC will host its fifth annual Community Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the power of pneumatics and the future of advanced manufacturing. SMC is located at 10100 SMC Blvd., Noblesville. [Click here](#) to register.

The free event will bring together local students, families, and community members for an interactive experience designed to highlight how automation and pneumatic systems power everything from manufacturing lines to everyday products.

"Most people don't realize how much pneumatics impacts their daily lives," SMC Corporation of America President and CEO Kelley Stacy said. "Our Community Day event gives us a unique opportunity to showcase the innovation behind the scenes and inspire the next generation to explore careers in automation, engineering and advanced manufacturing."



Attendees will experience:

- Hands-on STEM activities led by SMC engineers and team members
- Live demonstrations of automation and advanced manufacturing technology
- Behind-the-scenes facility tours
- Bounce houses, local vendors, and food trucks on site for the community celebration

The event is part of SMC's broader commitment to workforce development and community engagement, including partnerships with local schools, internship programs, and ongoing investment in STEM education initiatives. With the manufacturing sector facing ongoing workforce shortages, events like SMC's Community Day aim to build awareness early and create meaningful connections between students and industry.

Strong communities and strong businesses go hand in hand," Stacy said. "This is about building our future workforce, but it's also about opening our doors and creating a fun, unique experience that shows just how exciting innovation and automation can be."

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Sheridan Phi Beta Psi raises \$925 for cancer patients

Submitted by Tina Vawter

Sheridan's Theta Alpha Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Psi Sorority recently held their annual euchre tournament with 32 participants enjoying an evening of food, fun, and euchre. The tournament brought in \$925 to help support their community benevolence for cancer patients, and the sorority's scholarship given to a senior

student going into the medical field after graduation.

At the February meeting, they celebrated Phi Beta Psi's Founder's Day and 122 years of existence. Vickie Cooper and Kathy Kirkendorfer, from the Delta Chapter, were guest speakers who spoke to the group about State and National Conventions and the knowledge they gained by

attending both.

Cooper then presented Theta Alpha Alpha member Judy Ottinger with her Lifetime Membership Certificate and pin. Ottinger has been an instrumental and dedicated member of the sorority for 50 years. Congratulations, Judy!

Next up: Phi Beta Psi and the Sheridan Lions will host the Annual Pork Loin

Dinner from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 18 at Sheridan Elementary School, 24975 Hinesley Road.

Advance tickets are available from Sorority members or Lions Club members. Adult tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Children under 12 years of age are \$4 each.

Proceeds from the dinner will support local benevolence and cancer research.

Vendors wanted for Rock the Block

The REPORTER

Rock the Block returns this August.

Westfield Washington Schools' annual Back-to-School Bash is set for 5 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10 at Westfield High School.

Vendor applications are

now open. Bring a game or activity for families to enjoy. Cost is \$25 per 10-by-10-foot space; school-sponsored clubs are free. Help kick off the 2026-27 school year with games, food, and community fun.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Plans change for 116th & Allisonville intersection

Submitted by City of Fishers

While the City of Fishers is improving the intersection of 116th Street and Allisonville Road, which was originally planned as a roundabout, it will now be completed as roadway improvements designed to improve traffic flow and safety.

Construction is expected to begin the week of April 13 and continue through late October, weather and material availability permitting.

Initial work will include construction signage and signal-related activity, followed by intersection improvements, curb and ramp

work, sidewalk work, and paving later in the season.

What to expect

- The intersection will remain open during construction.

- Drivers should expect lane shifts, restrictions, and slower travel, especially during peak travel times.

- Business access will remain open.

- Roadway projects are weather-dependent and schedules may change.

For project updates, visit FishersIN.gov/RoadConstruction, follow [@DriveFishers](https://twitter.com/DriveFishers) on X, or subscribe to updates at FishersIN.gov/Subscribe and FishersIN.gov/Allisonville.

Carmel Oral Surgery offers free oral cancer screenings April 13-15

Submitted

In honor of Oral, Head, and Neck Cancer Awareness Month, Carmel Oral Surgery, 13590B N. Meridian St., Suite 105, Carmel, will offer free oral cancer screenings April 13 to 15.

On April 13 and 14, the free oral cancer screenings will be available from 4 to 5 p.m. On April 15, they will be available from 9 a.m. until noon. The screenings are part of a joint partnership with the Head & Neck Cancer Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of oral, head and neck cancer.

To participate, arrive at the clinic during the designated days and times and ask for a free cancer screening.

April is widely recognized as Oral, Head, and Neck Cancer Awareness Month, a time to increase awareness of the condition, risk factors, statistics and screenings. The American Cancer Society [estimates](#) that there will be 60,480 new cases of oral cavity or oropharyngeal (middle throat) cancer – with 13,150 deaths attributed to it – in 2026.

“Oral cancer cases are on the rise, but the good news is that oral cancer has a

survival rate of 80 to 90 percent when diagnosed early, as reported by the Head & Neck Cancer Foundation,” said Carmel Oral Surgery’s Stanley C. Jachimowicz, DDS. “That’s why screenings like this are important.”

Dr. Jachimowicz recommends most patients get screened annually by a qualified health professional and perform monthly self-examinations.

“Using a bright light and mirror, look for anything unusual in or on your mouth, throat and/or neck, such as lumps, swelling, white or red patches, or sores that won’t heal – particularly those that bleed,” Dr. Jachimowicz said. “If you find anything out of the ordinary, get it checked out as soon as possible.”

Some common symptoms to look for – as identified by the CDC – include sores or pain in the mouth or throat that will not go away; swelling or unusual bleeding; or difficulty performing daily functions like breathing, speaking, and chewing or swallowing food.

The American Cancer Society reports that the average age of people diagnosed with these cancers is 64 and that one in five cas-



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es occur in people younger than 55. Some risk factors to consider include smoking and alcohol use, genetic predisposition, nutrition, mouth/face injuries, oral hygiene, and certain medical conditions/diseases.

Dr. Jachimowicz is a board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon, the highest credential that can be obtained in the oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS) specialty, according to the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. In addition, he is board certified by the National Dental Board of Anesthesiology and holds certifications in advanced cardiac life support and basic life support.

Originally from Michigan, Dr. Jachimowicz earned his bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and his DDS from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. After graduation, he practiced general dentistry for a few years and served as a clinical instructor in the

Emergency Dental Clinic at Indiana University School of Dentistry, later serving as a surgical intern for the OMS department and completing an externship in the Indiana University Department of Anesthesiology at Wishard Hospital.

Dr. Jachimowicz completed his OMS residency through Indiana University Medical Center and Clarivan Hospitals and went into private practice as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon. Currently, Dr. Jachimowicz leads the care team at Carmel Oral Surgery, offering a wide variety of OMS services. For more information, visit CarmelOMS.com.

The Head & Neck Cancer Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of oral, head and neck cancer. The foundation strives to produce measurable, progressive change through education, awareness, research, outreach, and advocacy. For more information, visit mnoofs.com/head-neck-cancer-foundation.

Westfield Washington Schools offers full summer program

The REPORTER

Westfield Washington Schools (WWS) offers a full summer program, including full week care and opportunity and sports camps hosted by teachers and staff for children entering 2026-27 Kindergarten through eighth grade.

Over 90 mini camps focus on many interests such

as the arts, science, academics, and more. Families must reside in the Westfield Washington School District boundaries to enroll.

For more information and to download the summer catalogs with camp descriptions and online enrollment instructions, [click here](#) or call (317) 896-4800, option 3.

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It's cocktail time! UAW Region 2B endorses J.D. Ford for Congress

"Cocktails: because no great story ever started with someone eating a salad."
—Unknown

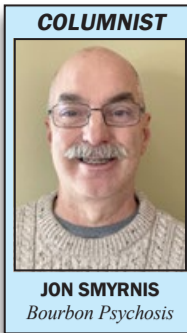
I'm a self-avowed cocktail snob. Really, I am. There are a number of factors that play into this flaw in my psyche, and, if I may say so, they make perfect sense.

First, if I'm going to go out to a fine dining establishment or cocktail bar then I expect them to know their way around a shaker and a stir stick. This is especially true when one is paying \$14 to \$20 plus for a fine mixed drink nowadays. Second, I'm a man of a certain age who knows what I like, what I don't like, and how a drink should be. Experience is everything, and that experience demands perfection.

For example, you go to a bar and order an Old Fashioned. Old Fashioneds are simple cocktails to make, yet they always seem to get mucked up. If your Old Fashioned comes out with fruit salad in it, send it back. Same if it comes out looking like water. This cocktail is based on whiskey. Whiskey isn't a clear liquid, so send it back. Same way with a Manhattan. The usual mistake here is too much Vermouth – yuck. I know, I'm an old man. Get off of my lawn!

Alright, enough griping. Let's look at how to make some great classic cocktails, and some new spins that you might not know about. Because a great cocktail made with bourbon or rye is just as important as enjoying them straight.

Oh, a couple of things: Every great cocktail should begin with two ounces of booze. If not, why waste our time? And, if serving these "up" make sure to shake or stir them



COLUMNIST

JON SMYRNIS
Bourbon Psychosis

until ice cold, or, my preferred method, on the rock with a large ice cube or ball. Never crushed ice or small cubes – we're not drinking at a college bar.

Told you I was a snob.

The Manhattan

• 2 ounces of bourbon or rye

• ¾ ounce of a nice vermouth

• 2 dashes of classic bitters, like Angostura or Peychaud's

• 2 dashes of a complementary bitter, like cherry bark or orange

• Do your shake or stir thing

• Garnish with 1 or 2 high-end (not the bright red syrupy ones) cherries

Black Manhattan

• 2 ounces bourbon or rye

• Replace the Vermouth with Amaro

• 2 dashes orange bitters

• 2 dashes black walnut bitters

• hoity-toity cherries

Dead Rabbit Tipperary (Manhattan variation)

• 2 ounces Jameson (if you want to keep it somewhat Irish)

• 1 ounce sweet vermouth

• ½ ounce Chartreuse

• 2 dashes bitters

Old Fashioned

• 2 ounces of bourbon or rye (ryes are nice with this one because it balances the sweetness)

• ¾ (less sweet) or 1 (more sweet) ounce simple syrup (demerara or brown sugar are nice here)

• Again, mix and match your dashes of bitters to your taste.

• There are literally dozens of different types of bitters out there.

• Fancy cherries

There are many, many, variations on this classic

cocktail. They usually involve a change in the sweet component. A few examples would be replacing the simple syrup with maple syrup, blueberry syrup or for an out West riff, huckleberry syrup. Want to really kick it up a notch? Shake a couple of dashes of your favorite hot sauce in there – yum!

Alright, let's move on to a few grad school level cocktails that are really nice. When you're out on the town, ask your bartender to make you one of these. Any mixologist worthy of the title should know how.

The Boulevardier

• 2 ounces bourbon/rye

• ¾ ounce Campari or Aperol (a little sweeter)

Fancy it up with Cochi Doppi Teatro.

• ¾ ounce sweet vermouth. Fancy it up with Solerno Liqueur.

• Orange twist

Vieux Carre

• ¾ ounce rye or bourbon (I know, this violates my 2 ounce rule, but it has other booze)

• ¾ ounce cognac

• ¾ ounce sweet vermouth

• ½ ounce Benedictine

• 4 dashes of hoity-toity bitters, mix and match, it's up to you.

• Cherry or lemon twist

One more. One of my favorites.

The Paper Plane

• 2 ounces bourbon or rye

• ¾ ounces Aperol

• ¾ ounces Amoro

• ¾ ounces fresh lemon juice

Obviously, books could be written on this topic. I wanted to share with you some of my favorites. Remember, life is too short to drink bad cocktails. 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.

Submitted

The United Auto Workers (UAW) Region 2B officially announced its endorsement on Thursday, April 9 of State Senator J.D. Ford for Indiana's 5th Congressional District.

Ford remains the only candidate in the race to earn the backing of organized labor, following a previous endorsement from the SMART Union (International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers).

UAW Region 2B serves Indiana and Ohio and its support carries immense weight in the 5th District, particularly in Kokomo, a global hub for automotive manufacturing. As the industry transitions to electric vehicles, the UAW identified Ford as the champion best equipped to ensure that the Battery Belt remains a Union Belt.

"UAW Region 2B is proud to endorse J.D. Ford for Indiana's 5th Congressional District," Region 2B UAW Director David Green said. "We need elected officials like J.D. Ford who are willing to fight for working families and our communities. Affordability and accountability are needed now more than ever and J.D. Ford will help Hoosiers get the dignity they deserve."

For Senator Ford, the endorsement is more than a political milestone. It's personal.

"This endorsement hits home because I grew up in a union household.

My dad is a union man, and I saw firsthand how a collective bargaining agreement can secure a family's lifestyle," Ford said. "Growing up, I learned that a union card is a ticket to dignity, health security, and a stable retirement. To have the UAW stand with me is the greatest honor of this campaign because their fight is my family's fight."

The endorsement comes on the heels of Senator Ford being honored last week with the Charles S. Kinchelov Sr. UAW Local 933 Civil & Human Rights Appreciation Award. The award recognizes Ford's career-long commitment to the intersection of labor rights and social justice – a core priority for the UAW's modern 'Stand Up' movement.

"Kokomo is the heart of American transmission production, and as we flip the factories to build the next generation of batteries, we cannot leave our veteran internal combustion engine



Ford

workers behind," Ford said. "I've spent my time in the Statehouse creating the EV Product Commission to ensure this transition benefits union hands. In Congress, I will be the watchdog

ensuring federal investments coming to Howard County stay in the pockets of the people doing the work."

As the sole labor-endorsed candidate, Ford's platform remains focused on the "Hoosier Voices" of the 5th District, advocating for the PRO Act, strict subsidy clawbacks for corporations that offshore jobs, and protecting Social Security for the workers who built Indiana.

About J.D. Ford

J.D. Ford is a two-term state senator, Democratic Senate Caucus Whip, and previously served as the Caucus Chair. Ford, known for his people-first approach, flipped a long-held Republican district by listening to the needs of Hoosiers. Ford is the first and only openly LGBTQ+ member of the Indiana General Assembly and now he's ready to take his service to Hoosiers all the way to Washington D.C. Learn more about the candidate at ElectJDFord.com.

North GOP to welcome primary candidates at Monday meeting

The REPORTER

The next Northern Hamilton County GOP dinner meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, April 13 at the Hamilton North Public Library, 209 W. Brinton St., Cicero.

The guest speakers will be candidates for Sheridan Town Council, candidates

for Sheriff, candidates for Jackson Township Board, judicial candidates, as well as other candidates and elected officials.

Candidates: feel free to bring your signs and literature.

Please invite your friends, and neighbors.

This will be the North GOP's last meeting before the May 5 primary election. If you can attend, please RSVP to emily.pearson317@gmail.com by Sunday, April 12.

The cost is \$10 for guests; sponsors and members are free.

GREEN-DAY

Saturday, April 25
11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Grand Junction Plaza
225 S. Union St.

The City of Westfield's Parks and Recreation Department is hosting its annual Green Day at Grand Junction Plaza, a free family event celebrating Earth and Arbor Day! Enjoy activities and exhibits from local organizations covering topics like trees, water, soils, and sustainability, plus free native tree saplings (while supplies last).

Ready to dig into the details? Visit westfieldin.gov/greenday to learn more!



Letter to the Editor

Gillim: Buck doesn't deserve smear campaign

Dear Editor:

I am in agreement with the letter to the editor published April 8, 2026, regarding the degrading and derogatory campaign being waged against Indiana Senator Jim Buck.

It should be very troubling to all the constituents of Indiana Senate District 21 when vast amounts of money from political action committees outside the State of Indiana are being spent on this local Indiana primary campaign.

There should be no doubt that this smear campaign is being waged against Senator Buck as revenge for his vote against political redistricting of Indiana in 2025 (House Bill 1032).

I applaud Senator Buck for having the ethics, determination, and courage to do the right thing for Indiana when he voted against gerrymandering in our State. The act of changing political boundaries or redistricting should only occur after a census has determined that populations have shifted in ways that warrant the shifting of political boundaries. A new census typically occurs every 10 years since the movements of populations take time. The last U.S census occurred in 2020. Indiana approved new congressional district maps (redistricting) in October of 2021. This means that Indiana wouldn't normally consider redistricting until after the 2030 census.

It is outrageous to me that a majority of Indiana's House of Representatives and our Governor were in favor of redrawing the political boundaries of our State after only four years. There was no evidence of significant population shifts to warrant redrawing the boundaries. It was clearly gerrymandering in every sense of the word.

In my mind, Indiana has always tried to be a State, within our great Nation, that prides itself on honesty, integrity, courage, strength, and civility. When voting in the Indiana Republican primary, remind yourself of this pride we hold and of those, like Senator Jim Buck, trying to do the right thing.

Parvin Gillim
Sheridan

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

Noblesville Job Fair offers second chances during Second Chance Month

The REPORTER

Job seekers facing barriers to employment will have the chance to meet with hiring employers from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 14 at a Nationwide Days of Second Chances job fair hosted by Genesis Church, 1702 Pleasant St., Noblesville.

Employment barriers can come in many forms, including homelessness, previous incarceration, lack of reliable child care or transportation, or gaps on a resume. Better Together, in partnership with churches across the country, is breaking down these employment barriers with a series of background-friendly job fairs – including in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Montana, Ohio and Washington, D.C. – as part of the nonprofit's Nationwide Days of Second Chances.

The job fair will feature employers who are prepared to interview Noblesville-area

job seekers and offer jobs on the spot, giving hope to those who are struggling to break through the impersonal and unforgiving algorithms of online job applications. A growing list of employers includes Concrete Tailors and RCS Contractor Supplies, Ed Martin Automotive Group, Gaylor Electric, IATSE Local 30, Save Our Sports, Skilled US, Tri State Forestry Services, Will Power Excavation and more.

Additional resources include free one-on-one job coaching sessions to review resumes and interviewing skills. Health services and educational resources will also be available. Nearly all job seekers leave with hope in their hearts as candidates ring the opportunity bell upon receiving a job offer or interview as a celebration of their wins.

To learn more, visit BetterTogetherUS.org/NWDSC.

Indiana State Comptroller & Treasurer Launch State Financial Fireside Chat

Submitted

Indiana Comptroller Elise Nieshalla and State Treasurer Daniel Elliott have launched a statewide series to bring Hoosiers a firsthand look at how the State manages taxpayer dollars, kicking off the new State Financial Fireside Chat series. The first event took place last week in Crawfordsville, Ind., in partnership with the Crawfordsville-Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

The series is a collaborative initiative between the two statewide fiscal offices, underscoring their shared commitment to transparency and effectively communicating state financial information.

"Hoosiers deserve clear, accessible information about the State's finances," Comptroller Nieshalla said. "The Fireside Chat Series gives us another way to share key updates – from Indiana's AAA credit rating to our low debt position –

so taxpayers can see how their state's resources are being responsibly managed."

"Financial transparency is more than a principle, it's a practice," Treasurer Elliott said. "These fireside chats give Hoosiers the opportunity to understand how their dollars are invested and how state resources support communities across Indiana. Every dollar that we're able to earn or save is a dollar we don't have to take away in taxes from hardworking Hoosiers."

Each Fireside Chat draws on the distinct but complementary responsibilities of the two offices. Comptroller Nieshalla provides an overview of Indiana's financial position and the key operations of her



Nieshalla



Elliott

office, including the accounting and reporting of state funds, disbursement of tax revenues to state agencies and local units of government, payment of Indiana's employees and vendors, and administration of the State's deferred compensation retirement plan.

Comptroller Nieshalla also advances good governance through the administration of the Indiana Transparency Portal and her leadership in building a movement from the states calling for the restoration of the country's fiscal solvency, given its \$39 trillion debt burden.

Treasurer Elliott, the State's Chief Investment Officer, is responsible for managing more than \$16

billion in state assets, and he provides an update on the performance of the State's investment portfolio, savings programs available to Hoosiers, and the work of the Indiana Bond Bank in helping communities finance critical infrastructure and public projects.

Since taking office in January 2023, Treasurer Elliott's investment strategies have generated more than \$1.24 billion in earnings for Hoosiers, including a record \$513 million in general fund investment returns during Fiscal Year 2025. These earnings reflect conservative, disciplined investment practices designed to safeguard taxpayer dollars while maximizing returns for the State.

The Crawfordsville event drew local business owners and community leaders, and the State Financial Fireside Chat Series will continue across Indiana in the coming months in partnership with local organizations.

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

TRACTORS: FarmAll 560 Tractor, 1984 John Deere 4450 (540 & 1000 PTO, 3-pt, Front & Rear Wgts, 15-Speed Power Shift, 8788 hrs), 1949 John Deere Model A Gas, John Deere L w/ Plow & Draw Bar, Ford Ferguson 9N, Oliver 77 Row-Crop Gas w/ Mounted Sprayer, FarmAll Super MTA w/ Hyd. Front End Loader, 1982 JD 4640 (Rear Wgts, 3 Hyd Remotes, 6940 hrs, Quad-Range Transmission)
PLANTERS & DRILLS: JD 7000 12-Row Planter (Liquid Fert, Insect, Bean & Corn Meters, 200 Monitor), JD 7000 Planter (Used for Food Plot & Truck Patch), 30' Case IH 5500 Grain Drill (Monitor & Markers)
SPRAYERS & TANKS: Bestway 1000-Gallon w/ 60' Booms & Raven 440 Monitor, 1000-Gallon Steel Tank on JD Gear w/ Hyd. Hoist, 500-Gallon Sprayer on JD Gear, 1200-Gallon Stainless Tank on 1065 JD Gear (Honda 5.5hp Motor & Banjo Pump), Chem Farms Stainless Saddle Tanks w/ Pump, Clark 1000-Gallon Nurse Tank w/ Pump on Adj Gear, 3-pt 200-Gallon w/ PTO Pump & 30' Booms, JD 963 Gear w/ 1000-Gallon Poly Tank (30-Gal Inductor)
VEHICLES: 2006 Hummer H3 4x4 (Leather, Sunroof, Power Windows & Seats, Vortec 3500, Gas, 242830 miles), 2006 Chevrolet C1500 Silverado (2-W/D, Vortec 5.3 Liter Gas, 218756 Miles), 1999 GMC C7500 7H1 Auger Truck (7.4 Liter Gas Motor, 17928 Miles), 2012 Int'l 4300M&SBA 4x2 Bucket Truck (2008 Altech Service Body w/ 50' Bucket, 44996 miles, Max Force Diesel Engine-Diagnosed as needing replaced-Excessive Blow-By), 2004 Ford F-350 Super Duty Crew Cab (V-8 FX4 4-WD, 6.0 Liter Diesel, Leather, Power Seats & Windows, Sunroof, Gooseneck Hitch, 6-3/4' Bed, 168705 miles)
TRAILERS: 2014 Sure-Trac 25+5 Gooseneck, 2013 Corn Pro UT-16L w/ Ramps, 12'x81" Bolinger Trl., 2007 Konkrite 18'x80"
TIRES: 18.4-34 Firestone Clamp-On Duals, 2016 Like New Ford F-350 Toyo Tires (265-70R 19.5), Stock 5-Lug

Michelin Tires & Wheels, 2004 Stock F-350 Firestone LT265 75R 16, 18.4-37 Firestone T-Rail Duals
TILLAGE EQUIPMENT: 25' DMI Tiger Mate II Fld. Cult., 25' McFarlane 8-Bar Pull-Type Harrow, 8' JD RW Disk, Brillion 10-Shank 3-pt Chisel Plow, 32' Brillion XL144 Packer (X-Fold Extendable Tongue, Scrapers, USED VERY LITTLE), County Line 3-pt Cultivator, 2 & 3-Bottom Plows, Oliver 545 Plow, 19' Allis-Chalmers 1200 Fld. Cult., McFarlane QT-111RB Quadra-Till 11-Shank Chisel
WAGONS & GRAIN HANDLING: Hay Wagons, (2) JD 1075 Gears w/ Midwest Steel Beds & M-10 Hyd. Hoists, Parker 300-bu Gravity Wagon, J&M 680-760 Gravity Wagon w/ Brakes & Lights, Seed Wagon w/ Sudenga Brush Auger (Hyd. Pump & Motor), Kongskilde SUC-1000 Grain Vac, (2) J&M 350-20 Gr. Wagons on JD 1075 Gears w/ Lights
LIVESTOCK EQ: Tilt-Tables for Goats/Sheep, Cattle Panels & Gates, Cattle Catch Chute, Wire Fence
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
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
ATTACHMENTS: Wolverine Skid Steer Plate, 8' 3-pt. Plow Blade, Dearborn Model 19-6 Slip Scoop, 12" & 32" Backhoe Buckets
MISC: 275-Gallon Food Grade Totes, 55-Gallon Food Grade Metal Barrels, Bin Parts, PTO Shafts, IH Clam Shell Fender, Fuel Tanks, Fencing & Posts, JD Bicycle, JD Corn Sheller, Original JD Delivery Trailer, 3-pt Grader Blade, Bobcat Trench Compactor, 6-Way 7' Grouser Dozer Blade, New Idea PTO-Driven Manure Spreader, 5' Frontier AF10F Loader-Mount Blade (Fits JD 100 & 200-Series Loaders)

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— CICERO —

NOTICE

The Cicero Redevelopment Commission will meet at Cicero Town Hall, 70 N Byron St, Cicero at 6:45 on 4/21/2026.
 R7797 4/10/26, 4/13/26

— TIPTON COUNTY —

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Tipton County, Indiana that the Tipton County Council will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year at their regular meeting place at the First Floor Meeting Room, Tipton County Courthouse, at 6:30 p.m. on the 21st day of April 2026.

Fund	Account	Fund Desc. / Account Desc.	Amount
1176	42000	Highway / Machinery & Equipment	\$380,000
Total for Fund:			\$380,000

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.

Dated: April 8, 2026
 Jon DeBaun, Tipton County Auditor
 R7803 4/10/26, 4/13/26

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Gov. Braun tours world's first bone marrow bank in Indianapolis

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The co-founder behind a new bone marrow bank told News 8 on Tuesday Indiana could become the Silicon Valley of biosciences.

Ossium Health co-founders Kevin Caldwell and Erik Woods took Indiana Gov. Mike Braun on a tour of their facility on the northwest side. Founded in 2016, the company extracts bone marrow as well as bone material from the spinal columns of deceased organ donors.

Caldwell told News 8 that doctors have historically relied on live donors for marrow rather than deceased donors, the source of most donated organs. As a result, he said thousands of patients battling blood cancers such as leukemia die every year because a donor match cannot be found in time.

"We envisioned solving this problem by making a bone marrow transplant something that can be done on demand, on request, not

something that a patient has to search for for months in hopes of finding a donor," he said.

The Republican governor in March announced the state will make \$1 billion in performance-based incentives available over the next 10 years for life sciences companies. He said Ossium Health and similar companies are exactly what he is looking for.

"This is kind of the prototypical thing I want to see in our state around this whole idea of life sciences," he said. "We've got so much potential in this state. It's the Crossroads of America that gives you all the logistic benefits. But with institutions like Purdue, IU, Notre Dame, Rose-Hulman, we need more STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) degrees."

Caldwell said he believes biosciences will be



Braun

the main driver of innovation and change to daily life over the next 50 years in the same way microelectronics drove change over the past half-century. He said Indianapolis is well-positioned to be the epicenter of the biosciences revolution because it has a long history of advanced research and pharmaceutical manufacturing, plus it has several universities nearby with strong bioscience research programs, notably Purdue and Indiana universities. In addition, he said, biosciences products can be delivered by truck anywhere in the continental United States from Indianapolis within one or two days.

At Ossium, marrow is harvested and then frozen. Ossium staff can stockpile marrow and store it for years on end, thawing it out whenever a patient needs it. In addition, bone material

can be harvested for use in bone grafts. Caldwell said this has allowed his company to build the world's first bone marrow bank as well as, in partnership with local hospitals, carry out the first procedures associated with Ossium's techniques.

Unlike traditional marrow donations, Ossium scientists said harvesting from whole spinal columns means they can keep leftover marrow in case a patient needs a follow-up infusion. They said Indianapolis' location also minimizes the marrow bank's risk from natural disasters.

Caldwell told News 8 his company collects marrow through the traditional organ donation network, so anyone interested in donating marrow through Ossium's methods can do so by signing up to be an organ donor.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/gov-braun-tours-worlds-first-bone-marrow-bank-in-indianapolis.



Bian

Wen

Lin

Kong

Zhou

Five women accused of prostitution arrested at Noblesville foot spas

The REPORTER

During the period of March 18 to April 6, 2026, the Noblesville Police Department (NPD) received several complaints of alleged illegal activity occurring at three different businesses in Noblesville.

Based on the complaints, the NPD's Street Crimes Unit (SCU) initiated an investigation that spanned several weeks. Detectives identified five suspects who were arrested on charges of

prostitution, alleged to have taken place at their place of employment.

All suspects were transported and booked at the Hamilton County Jail on the following preliminary charge(s):

- **Jianhua Bian**, 43, Noblesville, was arrested March 18 at Comfy Foot Spa, 14350 Mundy Drive #1000, Noblesville, and charged with Prostitution, I.C. 35-45-4-2 (Class A Misdemeanor).
- **Xuelian Lin**, 56, Brooklyn, N.Y., was arrested March 18 at Lucky Foot Spa, 17687 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, and charged with Prostitution, I.C. 35-45-4-2 (Class A Misdemeanor).
- **Lijuan Kong**, 55, New York, N.Y., was arrested

Noblesville, was arrested March 18 at Comfy Foot Spa, 14350 Mundy Drive #1000, Noblesville, and charged with Prostitution, I.C. 35-45-4-2 (Class A Misdemeanor).

• **Xuelian Lin**, 56, Brooklyn, N.Y., was arrested March 18 at Lucky Foot Spa, 17687 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, and charged with Prostitution, I.C. 35-45-4-2 (Class A Misdemeanor).

• **Lijuan Kong**, 55, New York, N.Y., was arrested

April 6 at Longevity Foot Spa, 175 Sheridan Road, Noblesville, and charged with Prostitution, I.C. 35-45-4-2 (Class A Misdemeanor).

• **Yuxia Zhou**, 44, Noblesville, was arrested on April 6 at Longevity Foot Spa, 175 Sheridan Road, Noblesville, and charged with Prostitution, I.C. 35-45-4-2 (Class A Misdemeanor).

Note: A charge is merely an accusation, and the defendant(s) is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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Retired Hamilton County Superior Court Judge endorses Christopher Barrows for Judge of Superior 9

Submitted

Daniel J. Pflieger, a retired Hamilton County Superior Court judge and attorney, has endorsed Christopher Barrows for judge of the newly created Hamilton County Superior Court 9.

“Chris Barrows has served Hamilton County his entire life as guardian ad litem, local attorney, youth coach, and local board member,” Pflieger said. “His current role as Court Commissioner has given him the experience to not only run a Court as judge, but to build one from the

ground up.”

The eight Hamilton County judges appointed Christopher Barrows as Court Commissioner in 2022 to preside over the Title IV-D Court. The Title IV-D Child Support court is a high-volume court handling paternity and child support establishment, modification, and enforcement. The court has over 2,000 hearings per year. Court Commissioner Barrows also routinely serves as judge pro tem for



Barrows

the Circuit and Superior Courts.

“In my nearly 30 years of knowing Chris, I have seen him in leadership roles as a lawyer, as an educator, and as a member of our community,” Pflieger said. “Chris will bring a unique set of qualifications, talent, and experience to the Superior Court 9’s bench that will have it up and running immediately.”

Pflieger served as Hamilton County Magistrate (1995 to 2005), and

judge of Hamilton County Superior Court 2 (2005 to 2016). During his tenure Daniel presided over major felonies, complex civil litigation, and torts cases (including personal injury and medical malpractice). Since that time, he has served as of counsel with Terry Legal Group, LLC in Carmel representing clients in criminal and family law matters.

Daniel J. Pflieger, retired judge, joins Bill Doss, Secretary of the Hamilton County Veterans Corps., and others in endorsing Court Commissioner Barrows.

Indiana State Police release Enforcement Bureau statistics for March 2026

Submitted by

Indiana State Police

The Enforcement Bureau of the Indiana State Police oversees the traffic enforcement efforts of the Troopers assigned to the 14 State Police Districts throughout Indiana. Among their primary missions is helping to provide safe environments on our roadways for everyone.

As a result of strategic enforcement efforts, Troopers documented the following statistics for March 2026.

Traffic stops: 41,223

- 17,846 traffic citations
- 33,332 traffic warnings
- 427 drunk driving arrests

- 1,851 criminal arrests (traffic-related)
- 1,250 criminal arrests (non-traffic-related)

- 1,364 seatbelt citations
- 165 distracted driving citations

Crashes investigated:

1,292

- Personal injury crashes: 196
- Fatal crashes: 5
- Troopers often happen

upon or are dispatched to assist with disabled vehicles. These calls include flat tires, mechanical issues, vehicles stuck, or those out of fuel. During the month of March, Troopers assisted 2,699 motorists on Indiana roadways.

As part of Governor Mike Braun’s public safety platform, the Indiana State Police will continue utilizing various methods in enforcing Indiana’s traffic laws with the primary goal of voluntary compliance with these

laws. These may include aviation assets, dedicated patrols, wolf pack patrols, motorcycle patrols, unmarked patrol vehicles, and marked Mustangs.

The overall goal is to drive down the number of crashes, injuries, and fatalities. It’s not about writing tickets; it’s about saving lives.

Community members are always encouraged to report suspicious and/or illegal activity on roadways to law enforcement by calling 911.

Community News

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.

Cicero gets fired up about pancakes

The Cicero Fire Department’s annual Pancake Breakfast will take place from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 9 at the Fire Department, 1359 Stringtown Pike.

The breakfast will include pancakes and sausage as well as all the fixings. Speaking of which ...

What’s your favorite go-to pancake topping? Fresh strawberries, blueberries, chocolate chips, bananas and whipped cream, maple syrup, or something unique? The Fire Departments wants to know what you like on your pancakes. [Click here](#) and comment on the Facebook post. Your suggestion could end up on this year’s topping bar.

The cost is a free-will offering. Proceeds go to Cicero Fire & Community Outreach.

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.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

EDOM DENIES ISRAEL PASSAGE

But Edom answered: "You may not pass through here; if you try, we will march out and attack you with the sword."

The Israelites replied: "We will go along the main road, and if we or our livestock drink any of your water, we will pay for it. We only want to pass through on foot—nothing else."

Again they answered: You may not pass through."

Then Edom came out against them with a large and powerful army. Since Edom refused to let them go through their territory, Israel turned away from them.

Numbers 20:18-21 (NIV)

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The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

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

Meeting Notices

The Carmel Advisory Committee on Disability will meet at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in Meeting Room C at Carmel Clay Public Library, 425 E. Main St.

The Jackson Township Board will meet to discuss general township business at 1 p.m. May 7, 2026, at the Trustee's Office, 506 W. Main St., Arcadia.

The Sheridan Community Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 13, 2026, in the Board Room at Sheridan High School, 24185 Hinesley Road.

The Westfield Washington Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, 2026 in Meeting Room 2A of the Westfield Washington Public Library, 17400 Westfield Blvd.

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.

It's storm season in Indiana

How Duke Energy's investments in smart, self-healing technology are helping keep the lights on

The REPORTER

We're in the midst of Indiana's storm season, which runs from March to June. Duke Energy Indiana's investments in advanced "self-healing" technology will make a difference in keeping the lights on for customers.

What is self-healing technology?

It's advanced technology that works like the GPS in a car – it automatically detects power outages and

quickly reroutes power to restore service faster or even avoid the outage altogether.

It can help to reduce the number of customers affected by an outage by as much as 75 percent and can often restore power in less than a minute. (Click [here](#) for a visual demonstration.)



Pinegar

By the numbers

In 2025 alone, self-healing technology helped avoid 100,000 outages for Indiana customers, saving around 350,000 hours of total outage time.

Around 45 percent of Duke Energy Indiana customers currently benefit from self-healing technology – that's nearly four times

the number of customers served by this innovative technology in 2022.

"Duke Energy will continue to expand self-healing technology in Indiana this year, helping deliver smarter, stronger and more resilient power on both 'blue-sky days' and during severe weather," Duke Energy Indiana President Stan Pinegar said. "For our customers, that means fewer outages, faster restoration and a more reliable experience year-round."

Spectrum expands fiber broadband network in rural Hamilton County

Submitted

Spectrum has announced the expansion of its fiber broadband network to bring Spectrum Internet, Mobile, TV, and Voice services to more than 900 additional homes and businesses in previously unserved or underserved areas of Hamilton County.

Our multi-year rural construction initiative is driven by more than \$7 billion in private investment from Spectrum and will ultimately add more than 100,000 miles of fiber network infrastructure and deliver symmetrical and multi-gigabit speeds to more than 1.7 million new locations across the country.

"Spectrum is bringing gigabit broadband to rural communities in Indiana and across America," said Josh Moore, Area Vice President for Spectrum's Midwest South Management Area.



Photo provided

"Our investment is providing residents and small businesses superior connectivity at highly competitive prices, backed by a team of skilled local technicians and 100 percent U.S.-based customer service."

Local residents and business owners should visit SpectrumRuralExpansion.com to learn more about when their home or

business may be able to receive Spectrum services.

Spectrum Internet delivers speeds up to 1 Gbps and Advanced WiFi for residential and business customers, featuring starting speeds of 500 Mbps, with no modem fees, data caps, or contracts. The company has also begun a network evolution that will provide gigabit upstream speeds and multiple

gigabit download speeds across its entire 41-state service area.

Spectrum Internet exceeded advertised download and upload speeds for all tiers measured – even during peak weeknight usage between 7 and 11 p.m. – according to the FCC's most recent "Measuring Broadband America Fixed Broadband Report."

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REPORTER SPORTS FRIDAY

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

Baseball

Tigers rally late, win HCC opener

By **RICHARD TORRES**
For The Reporter

FISHERS – The Fishers Tigers relied on execution and grit Thursday night, and both paid off during their Hoosier Crossroads Conference opener against rival Zionsville.

Trailing Class 4A No. 7 Zionsville early, 4-2, the 4A sixth-ranked Tigers chased Eagles' starter Peter Ward after four innings and then rallied with a four-run bottom of the fifth to win the two-game series opener, 6-5.

Last year, the Tigers (3-3, 1-0 HCC) were 13-1 at Tiger Field.

So far, the new-look Tigers are following a similar path after winning their home opener despite eight new starters in the lineup.

"We're going to be a good team. We got all the guys. We have talent. If we put the pieces together, we're going to be a great team," Fishers senior catcher David Pina said.

Against the Eagles (5-1, 0-1 HCC), everything fell into place during the bottom of the fifth.

Ward, a junior right-hander and Bellarmine recruit, allowed two hits, walked one and struck out five with two unearned runs charged. With his pitch count reaching 73, the Ea-



(LEFT) Fishers' Sean Frey hit a two-run single in the fifth inning, providing the go-ahead runs that helped the Tigers to a 6-5 win over Zionsville Thursday. (RIGHT) Carter Strole scored one of the runs for Fishers during the fifth inning.

gles turned to the bullpen in the fifth.

The Tigers immediately went on the attack.

A leadoff single by senior Vincent Pecoraro (2-for-4, 2 runs) kicked off the frame, followed by walks to junior Ethan Buelt (1-for-3, RBI) and returning infielder Carter Strole (2 walks), a junior and Central Michigan commit.

Pina came up to bat with the bases loaded and tied the game on the first pitch, lacing a two-run single up the

middle to make it 4-4.

"I had a strikeout last AB, and I was like, man, I got to flip the page," Pina said. "I got to be ready. I got to attack fastball. I was ready for that fastball."

Senior Sean Frey (1-for-3) made the Eagles pay with one out, connecting for a two-run single up the middle to put Fishers ahead 6-4.

"Stuck to the game plan and [Pina] hit the first pitch for the two-run single, and Sean Frey had a really great at-bat. He was aggressive

and got a two-run single," Fishers coach Matthew Cherry said.

"Peter Ward is a really good pitcher, but they did exactly what we needed to do to win that game. We wanted to elevate his pitch count and get to the bullpen and stay within striking distance, and they executed perfectly."

The Tigers led 1-0 after the first inning when Pecoraro singled to centerfield, advanced to third on a pick-off throwing error at first

base and later scored on a passed ball.

Zionsville answered in the top of the second and took a 3-1 lead after loading the bases four times while two batters were hit by breaking pitches.

Fishers' starter Owen Lukac, an Evansville commit, ran into trouble as the Eagles strung together two hits and used a fielding error to load the bases with no outs.

An RBI sacrifice by Mitchel Finelli (2 RBI) plat-

ed one run and a single by Sam Haak (2-for-3) scored the second. A one-out, bases-loaded hit by pitch scored the third run.

Lukac escaped the bases-loaded jam with two straight swinging strikeouts.

"Errors are part of the game, so you just got to take a deep breath, settle in, go get the next guy," Lukac said. "Just keep trusting. You don't lose after one error."

See Rally . . . Page 12

Reporter photos by Richie Hall

Basketball

Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville Teen Center to host 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

The REPORTER

The Teen Center at the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville is excited to announce an upcoming 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, set to take place at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 8 on the Club's outdoor courts. This high-energy event is open to teens ages 13 and up and aims to bring together young athletes from across the community for an evening of friendly competition, connection, and hoops.

Participants will compete for cash and prizes, with first place earning \$300 in cash and second place receiving \$150 in gift cards.

The tournament is free for current Club members, while non-members may

participate for \$20 per player. Teams may sign up as a group of three, with an optional fourth player as a sub. Prizes will be split among players.

All participants must present a valid form of identification upon arrival. Acceptable forms include a driver's license, student ID, or PowerSchool verification.

"This tournament is about more than just basketball—it's about giving teens a place to compete, connect, and be part of something positive," said Teen Center Director, Maggie Hood. "We're excited to see the energy and talent our community's teens will bring to the courts."



**TOM & SONI SHEEHAN
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF NOBLESVILLE**

The Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville Teen Center continues to provide a safe, engaging space for teens to build relationships, explore careers, stay active, and grow as leaders.

Spots are limited, and teams are encouraged to register early to secure their place in the tournament.

For more information, please contact the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville at (317) 773-4372 and ask for Maggie or AJ. To register a team, visit the MyClubHub portal at BGCNI.org.

The Boys & Girls Club

of Noblesville provides high-quality, low-cost programs for youth members with the help of donors and sponsors. Between the Club, the Community Center and Camp Crosser, we provide opportunities for members to enjoy activities and experiences that help shape character and offer new perspectives. We are dedicated to inspiring and enabling all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens by promoting leadership, character, health and physical development.

Two big innings fuel Millers' sweep of Avon

By **CRAIG ADKINS**
For The Reporter

NOBLESVILLE – It's always tough to beat a team twice, let alone two days in a row. Playing at home always has some sort of advantage, especially for Noblesville at Dunker Field.

The Millers took advantage at the plate in two different innings to separate themselves from Avon on the way to an 8-2 win on Thursday, sweeping the two-game series.

The Orioles were able to get to starter Eli Hall in the first. Clayton Lenz hit a ground rule double to deep center and scored on a sac-

rifice fly to center. Avon went up 2-0 on a wild pitch from Hall that scored Jaden Mitchell.

"I think some of those plays should have been made defensively in the first," said Noblesville head coach Justin Keever. "Some plays that we normally make, we didn't and they made us pay."

Hall settled down in his final four innings, allowing just two hits in that span and striking out five.

"I thought Eli battled. He didn't have his best stuff, but he kept battling," said Keever. "One of the keys in

See Sweep . . . Page 12



Keever

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Baseball

Golden Eagles roll past Heritage Christian

The REPORTER

Guerin Catholic had its offense working Thursday in its game at Heritage Christian, as the Golden Eagles won 15-6.

Guerin Catholic began with two runs in the first inning. Karson Smith hit a left field double to score Ian Taylor and Carson Kail.

The Golden Eagles didn't score in the second inning, but scored in every inning afterwards. That included three runs in the third: Taylor led off with a home run, then Smith and

Grant Beard scored after Harrison Haq reached on error. Beard had gotten on base with a double.

Heritage scored three runs in the bottom of the third, cutting GC's lead to 5-3. Taylor got a run back in the fourth inning by smacking his second homer of the day, a solo blast to center field.

Luke Zorger scored in the fifth inning, getting home after Nolan Ratcliff hit a sacrifice fly. Heritage hit an RBI singled in the bottom of the fifth, staying

within 7-4.

Guerin Catholic pulled away in the sixth inning, putting up five runs. Smith cracked a three-run home run, also scoring Taylor and Kail. Cooper Harmon hit a double, Brody Cain was walked, and both scored on Ben Canada's right field double.

The Golden Eagles led 12-5 after the sixth inning, with Heritage putting up another run in the bottom of the inning. Guerin Catholic sprinted to the finish with three runs in the sev-

enth. Smith doubled Kail home, then Harmon blasted a homer over the right field fence, also scoring Smith.

In all, GC totaled 14 hits and 13 RBIs, with Smith going 4-for-4 and driving in six runs. Taylor finished with four runs scored. Cain and Smith both hit two doubles.

Luke Gremelspacher pitched four innings for the win, striking out four and allowing only two hits.

Guerin Catholic is 5-0-1 and plays Saturday at Greenfield-Central.

Royals win conference opener

The REPORTER

Hamilton Southeastern won a tough Hoosier Crossroads Conference opener on Thursday, beating Brownsburg 9-7 in an away game.

The Bulldogs got on the board first, scoring four runs in the third inning. The Royals answered that and more in the top of the fourth inning, scoring six runs for a 6-4 lead.

Cy Cole led off the inning with a base hit, then

was brought home by Alex Shepherd's center field double. Colin Kendrick bunted Shepherd in to score, then Trey McManama tied the game with a double, sending home Chase Bradle and Kendrick.

Parker O'Steen hit the go-ahead RBI, with a right field single that scored McManama.

Southeastern loaded the bases, then added another run when Shepherd drew a walk to send in Clark

Bucher.

Jackson Bixler singled in McManama for a fifth-inning run, giving HSE a 7-4 lead. Brownsburg scored twice in the bottom of the fifth, cutting the Royals' lead to 7-6.

Southeastern added two more runs in the seventh inning. Bixler led off with a double and stole third base, then scored on Bucher's sacrifice fly. Bradle batted in Cole to complete the

HSE scoring. The Bulldogs got one run in the seventh inning, but Shepherd threw to Bixler to catch a Brownsburg runner stealing for the third out.

Shepherd was 3-for-3, including two doubles. Bucher hit a double. Dylan Cope pitched three innings for the win, striking out four.

The Royals are 5-1 overall and host Brownsburg at 6 p.m. tonight to finish the HCC series.

Roundup: Carmel rolls past Brebeuf; Rocks, Blazers drop out-of-state games

The REPORTER

Carmel had a big-hitting day at Hartman Field on Thursday, rolling past Brebeuf Jesuit 11-0 in five innings.

The Greyhounds led 3-0 after three innings, then put up eight runs in the fifth inning. Jackson Harris hit a solo home run in the third inning, then smacked a three-run homer in the eighth inning that ended the game on the run rule. Harris was 3-for-3 at the plate and scored three runs.

John Zangrilli cracked a lead-off triple in the first inning, then scored after Max Walkey hit a sacrifice fly.

Walkey finished the game with three RBI. Jackson Treadway and Nathan Steele each hit one double.

Jeremy Millay pitched 3.1 innings, striking out five. Carmel is 2-0 and plays tonight at North Central.

Westfield dropped its first game at the East Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association (ETBCA) Tournament Thursday, falling 4-3 to Grace Christian Academy of Knoxville, Tenn. in a nine-inning game.

The Shamrocks got on the board in the fourth inning after Gavin Russ smacked a two-run home run. Beck Jor-

dan also scored. The Rams hit their own two-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning to tie the game.

The score stayed 2-2 until the top of the ninth inning, when Kasen Jessup was brought home by Andrew Noble's sacrifice fly. Westfield led 3-2, but Grace Christian won the game on a two-RBI single with one out.

Noble and Jessup both hit one double. Corey Wilhelm pitched 5.1 innings, striking out seven.

The Rocks are 2-2 and play two games on Friday. Westfield first takes on Heritage High School of

Maryville, Tenn. at 5 p.m., then plays Maryville High School at 7:30 p.m.

University finished its trip to Panama City Beach, Fla. with a 6-1 loss to Greenwood (Ky.) on Thursday.

The Trailblazers scored their run in the fifth inning when Oliver Kingery got home on an error. The Gators held University to two hits: a single each from Cooper Cammack and David Gasper.

Finn Steiner pitched four innings, striking out five.

The Blazers are 5-4 and return to Indiana this weekend. University's next game is Tuesday at Alexandria.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, April 10

BASEBALL

Westfield at Heritage (Tenn.), 5 p.m.
Brownsburg at Hamilton Southeastern, 6 p.m.
Carmel at North Central, 6 p.m.
Fishers at Zionsville, 6 p.m.
Westfield at Maryville (Tenn.), 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Noblesville at Culver Academies, 7 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Carmel, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern at Castle Invitational, 4 p.m.
Taylor at Hamilton Heights, 5:30 p.m.

TENNIS

Cathedral at Noblesville, 4:30 p.m.
Guerin Catholic vs. Jasper, 4:30 p.m. at Brownsburg

VOLLEYBALL

Carmel at Zionsville, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 11

BASEBALL

Fishers at Mt. Vernon doubleheader, 11 a.m.
Hamilton Heights at Anderson doubleheader, 11 a.m.
Lewis Cass at Sheridan doubleheader, 11 a.m.
Westfield at Gibbs (Tenn.), 11 a.m.
Carmel at Penn doubleheader, noon
Guerin Catholic at Greenfield-Central, 3 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at Pendleton Heights, 6 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE

Anthony Wayne (Ohio) at Noblesville, noon
Evansville Memorial at Guerin Catholic, noon
Center Grove at Carmel, 1 p.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Penn at Guerin Catholic, 3:30 p.m.

GOLF

Guerin Catholic at Rochester Invitational, 9 a.m.
University at Cardinal Ritter Classic, 9 a.m. at Eagle Creek
Carmel, Guerin Catholic, Noblesville at Yorktown Invitational, 10 a.m. at The Players Club
Guerin Catholic at Delphi Invitational, 1:30 p.m. at Coyote Crossing

SOFTBALL

Hamilton Heights at Maconaquah, 9:30 a.m.
Carmel, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern at Castle Invitational, 10 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Noblesville at Columbia City Invitational, 10 a.m.

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

SWEEP

from Page 11

the fourth, he got his cutter going against the lefties and got quick groundouts. That allowed Griffin [Snider] to come in and throw his electric stuff there for two innings."

After stranding four in the first two innings, the Millers fought back in the third.

Aiden Reynolds walked to lead off and moved to second on a Brooks Riggs single to center. Jalen Stidham lined a grounder up the middle, sending Reynolds home for the first run.

Sophomore DH Christian Penalzo doubled to left, driving Riggs home for a 2-2 tie. Slade Hodges got hit by a pitch and made his way to third on a Chris Martz single to center. Stidham and Penalzo both ran home for the 4-2 lead through three.

Hall threw a solid five frames with seven strikeouts. He gave up four hits and one walk before Snider took over.

"In the sixth inning, they had two, three and four coming up. Griff had a guy

down 0-2 and I called a slider and he backed up on him. He got him to foul two sinkers off of his chin," added Keever. "To Griff's credit, he put them down in order. His stuff's electric and he's really good."

The Millers were motivated at the plate after Snider struck out the final three in the top of the sixth.

Martz and Ethan Clark walked with one out, followed by Reynolds being intentionally walked, loading the bases.

Then on the next pitch, Zac Glander sent a towering grand slam over the fence in left for what wound up as the final of 8-2.

"It was just a great team win tonight. Every guy played their part and found a way for us to win," stated Keever.

Glander's grand slam and Penalzo's two-hit night highlighted the Miller offense.

Noblesville (5-3, 2-0 HCC) has won three in a row and hosts the Lake Central Indians (2-2) tomorrow at 1 p.m.

RALLY

Lukac earned the win. The lefty threw 5.0 innings, gave up eight hits, two earned runs and struck out seven, including four of the next five to end the threat in the second and to start the third.

"Owen settled in. Got us through five and turned it over to the bullpen," Cherry said. "Jerry [Jaramillo] and Grant [Wolf] did great. They did exactly what we asked them to do."

Wolf picked up the save.

He entered the seventh after the Eagles drew a pair of leadoff walks. He induced two ground outs (one for a run), struck out one and left two on base.

Overall, the Tigers' pitching staff stranded 10

runners, including seven in scoring position.

"Nobody quit tonight. Started off a little rough, but everyone kept battling," Strole said. "Our motto this year is next. Next play. We just keep grinding."

from Page 1

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Boys Basketball



Photo provided

Mt. Vernon's Luke Ertel was named the Indiana Mr. Basketball for 2026.

Luke Ertel voted 2026 Mr. Basketball

The REPORTER

Luke Ertel has earned the top individual award in Indiana high school boys' basketball.

A 6-2 guard from Mt. Vernon High School in Fortville, Ertel has been named *IndyStar* Indiana Mr. Basketball for 2026 in online voting of media and boys' varsity coaches conducted by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association and All-Star game director Mike Broughton, it was announced Thursday.

The Mr. Basketball result means Ertel will wear the No. 1 jersey for the Indiana All-Stars in their annual series with Kentucky. The Mr. Basketball award goes to the top boys' basketball senior in the state. The Mr. Basketball and Miss Basketball awards are part of the *IndyStar* Indiana All-Star program that dates to 1939. The Miss Basketball award, along with the girls All-Stars, was added to the All-Star program in 1976.

Gracyn Gilliard of Center Grove was announced as the 2026 *IndyStar* Indiana Miss Basketball on March 13. The complete 2026 Boys' All-Star team will be announced later. The complete 2026 Girls' All-Star team was announced March 18. The 2026 boys' Junior All-Stars were announced April 1. The 2026 girls' Junior All-Stars were announced March 9.

Ertel earned the boys' top honor after being named on 207 ballots submitted to Broughton in voting that ran from March 19 to April 2. Dikembe Shaw of Crown Point was runner-up with six votes. Brady Scholl of Northridge was third with four votes, while Brennan Miller of Lawrence North and Noah Smith of Plainfield tied for fourth place with three votes each. Seven other players received one vote apiece. There were 230 votes cast overall.

A Purdue University signee, Ertel is the first Mr. Basketball winner from Mt. Vernon, the second Indiana All-Star in his family and the 12th Indiana All-Star from the Fortville-based school. His brother, Michael, was named an Indi-

ana All-Star in 2017.

Luke Ertel averaged 24.5 points, 9.9 rebounds, 6.6 assists and 1.8 steals as a senior in leading the Marauders to a 28-3 record and the Class 4A state championship. He also converted 47.9 percent of his field goals (256 of 534), 39.8 percent of his 3-pointers (98 of 246) and 88.6 percent of his free throws (148 of 167) as MV also won the Homestead Invitational, Hoosier Heritage Conference, Greenfield-Central Sectional, Southport Regional and New Castle Semi-State.

For his career, he totaled an MV-record 1,756 points (21.2) as well as 659 rebounds (7.9), 432 assists (5.2) and 124 steals (1.5) for teams that posted a combined 80-27 record and won two sectionals, two regionals, one semi-state and one state title. In 83 career games, he connected on 47.6 percent from the field (571 of 1,199), 41.2 percent from distance (208 of 505) and 89.2 percent from the line (404 of 453). He owns an additional school record for season points (758 as a senior).

A 2026 Iverson Classic All-American, 2026 Gatorade Indiana Player of the Year and 2026 MaxPreps Indiana Player of the Year, Ertel averaged 13.0 points, 6.3 rebounds and 4.3 assists as a freshman, 12.2 points, 4.7 rebounds and 2.7 assists in just six games because of injury as a sophomore and 22.7 points, 6.4 rebounds and 4.0 assists as a junior. He posted three triple-doubles as a senior -- against Crown Point on Dec. 23 (16 points, 13 rebounds, 10 assists), Hamilton Southeastern on Jan. 24 (22 points, 17 rebounds, 11 assists) and New Albany on March 21 (22 points, 11 rebounds, 10 assists).

Ertel's career single-game bests are 36 points against Greenfield-Central as a junior and South Bend Saint Joseph as a senior, 17 rebounds against HSE as a senior, 13 assists against Harrison as a senior and five steals against Delta and Pendleton Heights as a senior.

Guerin Catholic girls lacrosse beats Cathedral



Photo by Mike Navarro

The Guerin Catholic girls lacrosse team cruised to a 16-4 win at Cathedral on Thursday. Claire Flannagan scored five goals, followed by Caroline Ford with four goals. Lucy Esposito added two goals. Five other players got one goal: Claire Poe, Natalie Laughon, Camryn Carter, Ella Capofari and Maggie Scott. Ford picked up seven draw controls and four ground balls and forced three turnovers. The Golden Eagles are 3-1 and host Penn Saturday afternoon. (ABOVE) Guerin Catholic's Caroline Ford scored four goals and made several big defensive plays during the Golden Eagles' win over Cathedral on Thursday. Ford had seven draw controls, picked up four ground balls and forced three turnovers.

Softball

Huskies, Golden Eagles get big victories

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Heights softball team improved to 2-0 after taking care of Anderson 14-1 Thursday in a five-inning away game.

The Huskies scored in all five innings, including four runs in the second and fourth. Kamryn Rhoton led the RBIs by driving in four runs, including a three-run home run in the second inning. Rhoton scored three runs in total.

Lily Cash was perfect at the plate, going 3-for-3, including a double, and batting in two runs. Olivia Turner smacked two triples, while Hannah Dent and Heather Crays both hit one triple. Crays scored three runs. Jayda Morris hit one double.

Cash pitched all five innings, striking out 10 and allowing three hits.

The Huskies play a home game at 5:30 p.m. today against Taylor.

Guerin Catholic also had its bats going Thursday, collecting nine hits en route to a 10-3 home win over Heritage Christian.

Kate Brady scored the Golden Eagles' first run in the first inning after Jillian Davis reached on error. Heritage tied the game in the top of the third inning with an RBI double, but Guerin Catholic exploded for six runs in the bottom of the third.

Emily Powers singled in the go-ahead run, scoring Aggie Waymouth, who led off the inning with a double. The Golden Eagles kept going: Powers scored on an error, then Izzy Phillips sent a two-run single into right field, bringing in Davis and Ava Augustinovicz. Gia Crishon cracked a triple to score Phillips, then got home on Halle Hunter's RBI groundout.

Augustinovicz hit a two-run single in the fourth inning, sending Waymouth and Brady home and putting GC ahead 9-1. Powers drew a bases-loaded walk in the fifth inning that scored Sophia Nicely for a 10-1 Guerin Catholic lead.



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Guerin Catholic's Ava Augustinovicz got the pitching win for the Golden Eagles during their 10-3 victory over Heritage Christian. Augustinovicz threw 12 strikeouts in six innings.

Heritage added two runs

in the seventh inning, but Crishon got a strikeout for the second out, then Hunter caught the final out in left

field.

Brady, Augustinovicz and Waymouth all had two hits. Augustinovicz pitched six innings for the

win, striking out 12 against three hits.

The Golden Eagles are 3-1 and host Lawrence Central on Wednesday.

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Grand Park Sports & Entertainment announces Diamond Complex partnership with Titan Bat Company

Submitted

Grand Park Sports & Entertainment announced on Thursday, April 9 a landmark, multi-year partnership with Titan Bat Company, establishing the newly branded Titan Bat Diamond Complex as a premier destination within the nation's leading youth and amateur sports campus.

This partnership represents a significant investment into the continued growth and evolution of Droplight Grand Park, reinforcing a shared commitment to performance, craftsmanship, and community-driven development across the baseball and softball ecosystem.

Through this collaboration, the Titan Bat Company will bring an integrated brand presence across the baseball and softball diamonds at Droplight Grand Park, including comprehensive signage, experiential activations, and digital engagement initiatives. The partnership includes naming rights integration across all earned and paid media, prominent on-site branding at key entry points and throughout the complex, and dynamic visibility through LED rotations, dugout wraps, backstop banners, light pole placements, and outfield signage – delivering unmatched exposure within the Droplight Grand Park platform.

In addition, Titan Bat will activate directly with athletes, families, and fans through premium on-site experiences during prime tournament weekends, supported by targeted digital campaigns, social amplification, and direct engagement with Droplight Grand Park's extensive tournament database.

"Titan was built on craftsmanship, faith, and a deep respect for the game," said Todd Stephens, President of Titan Bat Company. "Partnering with Droplight Grand Park allows us to bring that mission to life on a national stage; connecting directly with athletes and families while investing back into the communities that fuel the future of baseball."

"This partnership reflects exactly the type of collaboration we are building at Droplight Grand Park; aligning with brands that bring authenticity, performance, and a commitment to the athlete experience," said Greg Stremlaw, Co-Chief Executive Officer of Grand Park Sports & Entertainment. "The Titan Bat Company understands how to connect with players and families in meaningful ways, and this investment enhances both the visibility and the overall experience within our baseball and softball complexes."

The partnership also includes premium hospitality access, annual media placements, and sustained digital integration, ensuring year-round visibility and engagement across Droplight Grand Park's national audience.

With more than 5.5 million annual visitors, Droplight Grand Park provides an unparalleled platform for brands to connect with the next generation of athletes and consumers. The Titan Bat Diamond Complex will serve as a central hub for baseball and softball activity, reinforcing a shared commitment to excellence, innovation, and long-term investment in the sport.

About Titan Bat Company

Titan Bat Company is a premium manufacturer of handcrafted baseball bats, rooted in American craftsmanship and a mission-driven approach to the game. Built on faith, quality, and performance, Titan serves athletes across all levels with products designed for excellence. Learn more at titanbats.com.

About Droplight Grand Park Sports Campus

Grand Park is the nation's premier youth sports destination, located in Westfield. The 400-acre campus features 34 multi-purpose fields, 26 baseball and softball diamonds, and a 377,000 Events Center. Since opening in 2014, Grand Park has welcomed millions of athletes, families, and fans from across the country, serving as a center for sports, tourism, and community connection.

Men's Basketball

Former Butler player making impact on the court in a new way

By ANDREW CHERNOFF
WISH-TV | wistv.com

Playing in the NBA G League can be a grind.

In fact, each team in the league played at least 50 games this past season.

"Pro sports, there's a lot that goes into it," Austin Spurs guard and Indiana native Kyle Mangas said. "And your identity can get kind of swept up into that. So, it's important to really truly remember who you are."

For Mangas, it's also important to remember who he is spiritually.

That's why before games, like when the Spurs played the Noblesville Boom last month, Mangas attends a small devotional to pray and talk about faith.

"This kind of puts everything into perspective and reminds you of what's most important," Mangas said.

The man at the center of the devotional ahead of the Spurs vs. Boom game was former Butler University basketball star Kellen Dunham. Dunham is a co-chaplain for the Boom.

"Three years ago, I was working at Salesforce, and

I heard a whisper from God that maybe you should be getting back into basketball," Dunham said.

Dunham has been a co-chaplain for the Boom, along with fellow co-chaplain Andy Riemersma, the past three years.

"It's bigger than basketball," Riemersma said. "We're trying to set these guys up for a future beyond the game and help them understand that their identity is not in what they do, but in who they are. And so we want more for these players than from them."

Both Dunham and Riemersma lead a prayer session before each game just a short distance away from the court.

"So much resources are put into physical, the mental side of the game," Dunham said. "But, I feel like we do ourselves a disservice not to go there spiritually."

Dunham was actually part of the NBA G League when he played professional basketball. He thinks that experience helps him connect with players as he talks with them about faith before games.

"He's been in their



WISH-TV photos by Andrew Chernoff

shoes," Riemersma said. "He has lived this and walked this. He carries that coach personality. And I learned a lot from watching him lead chapel and how he pours into the guys."

Dunham may not be playing on the court anymore, but he's still making an impact on the hardwood.

"It's just the joy to be able to share that good news

in the Gospel with others, that we speak the same basketball language," Dunham said.

The Noblesville Boom wrapped up their season late last month.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wistv.com/sports/basketball/butler-basketball/kellen-dunham-noblesville-boom.

Women's Basketball

Indiana Fever unveil first look inside sports performance center

The REPORTER

The Indiana Fever unveiled the first interior renderings of the Indiana Fever Sports Performance Center, offering a detailed preview of what will be the largest and most advanced training facility in the WNBA.

The newly released renderings showcase the \$78 million, 108,000-square-foot, three-story facility, designed as a fully integrated, year-round hub for performance, recovery, lifestyle and team connection. Located in the heart of downtown Indianapolis near Gainbridge Fieldhouse, the facility is expected to open prior to the 2027 WNBA season.

"These renderings bring our vision into focus," said Indiana Fever Team President Kelly Krauskopf. "Every element of this facility has been intentionally designed around our players including how they train, recover, connect and live day to day. This will set a new standard for women's sports and continue to position Indianapolis at the center of that momentum."

Purposefully designed to support the full experience of professional women athletes, the Indiana Fever



Rendering provided by Pacers Sports & Entertainment

Sports Performance Center integrates elite basketball performance spaces with comprehensive wellness, recovery, lifestyle and family focused amenities, creating a seamless ecosystem that redefines what a player-first environment can be.

"Throughout this process, player feedback and needs have been the top priority for this training center, and I am grateful that our organization continues to invest in the Fever and set the standard for player care," said Indiana Fever center Aliyah Boston. "Every aspect of our experience has been thought of, supporting who we are as players on the court just as much as who we are as people off of it. I can't wait until we make this building our home next season."

The renderings highlight a series of signature spaces across the facility designed with athlete insights including:

- Light-filled, dual practice courts anchored by a fully integrated performance environment, including strength and conditioning, sports medicine and rehabilitation;
- A comprehensive recovery suite featuring hydrotherapy pools, infrared sauna, red light therapy, and dedicated massage and treatment rooms;
- "The Hub," a central gathering space designed to celebrate team achievements and Fever history, while fostering connection and daily interaction among players and staff;
- A luxury, next-generation player locker room featuring individual player studios with dedicated space for preparation, recovery and personal expression, along with a private lounge;
- A chef-driven nutrition program, including a full-service kitchen, nutrition and smoothie bar, and indoor-outdoor dining spaces designed to fuel performance; and
- Lifestyle and support amenities such as a content production studio, podcast room, player nail/hair/makeup salon, golf simulator, and player dedicated

child care spaces.

The facility will also feature fan-facing experiences on the ground level, including a public lobby anchored by the Hall of Excellence, showcasing the history and legacy of the Indiana Fever, and a team store offering unique merchandise and retail experiences.

Beyond the player environment, the performance center also includes integrated front office and coaching spaces, collaborative meeting areas and premium player support amenities, creating a seamless environment that supports performance on and off the court.

Construction began in summer of 2025 and is being led by Shiel Sexton with global design firm Populous as architect.

As Aliyah Boston, Caitlin Clark and the Indiana Fever prepare to return to the court this season, single game tickets for preseason and select single game tickets for regular season are now on sale at feverbasketball.com/tickets.

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