

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy, with periods of showers, and some thunder possible in the afternoon.
Tonight: Clearing and cooler.



HIGH: 77 LOW: 57

Shankland's latest book launches in local church



Reporter photo by Janet Hart Leonard



Photos provided

Noblesville author **Amy Thornton Shankland** welcomed excited readers to the launch her new book, *Happy and Solo at Church – Light Your Fire and Worship with Joy*, last Friday, April 10 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 9900 E. 191st St., Noblesville. The book discusses what places of worship are doing (and not doing) for people attending church solo. It shares stories of others facing and overcoming the challenge of attending church alone. *Happy and Solo at Church* talks about how readers can build and strengthen their foundation, an important first step before any of techniques can work. You can order your copy right now at [Amazon](#).

Slow down to quickly solve those challenges

Most people who know me well realize I am a tea snob. This means I only drink loose-leaf, high-quality tea. It tastes wonderful and is better for you. For those of you who consume the other popular caffeinated beverage, it's like the difference between freshly ground coffee and packaged coffee that's been on the shelf for a while.



COLUMNIST

AMY SHANKLAND
Perfectly Imperfect

To drink loose-leaf tea, you need a tea strainer. My favorite one looks like an itty-bitty metal bucket with minuscule holes. It has a chain with a tiny hook attached to it so you can put it safely into the boiling water in your cup.

Invariably, after I set the tea strainer in our sink, the tiny hook will snag on the metal rack we always keep in the bottom. I never realize this until I go to remove it, normally when I'm rushing around trying to clean up the kitchen. I'll grab the strainer; it will get caught ... I'll try to move it again quickly and it will still catch on the rack.

I always laugh at myself ... if I would simply take a moment and slowly remove the tea strainer, it won't catch on the rack anymore, and I'll be done quicker than when I'm rushing and trying to remove it two to three times.

How often do I – and so many of us – do this in other instances? In our fast-paced world, it's challenging to slow down when we face a problem, investigate what's really going on, and eventually solve the issue. But that's precisely what we need to do.

Last week I was puzzled about how to add a team member named Victoria into our Google Workspace. I removed a former team member, so I figured it would be easy to add a new one. Nope. I kept getting an

See *Slow Down* ... Page 2

Polling places will now accept student IDs following federal judge's order

By **GARRETT BERGQUIST**
 WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](#)

Hamilton County's election administrator on Wednesday said she is now accepting student IDs at the polls as a result of a federal court order.

Beth Sheller said the Indiana Election Division issued formal guidance around midday that county election officials accept student IDs once again.

State lawmakers last year passed legislation that prohibits using a student ID to vote, but a federal judge late Tuesday issued an order blocking the law pending further review. Judge Richard Young wrote there is a

strong chance the law violates the First and Fourteenth amendments. In his order, Young noted college students were far less likely to possess another form of approved ID, such as a driver's license, than the average voter.

"Because SB 10 likely imposes a moderate burden on the right to vote, the court must evaluate the extent to which Defendants' interest in protecting public confidence makes it

necessary to eliminate student IDs as a valid form of photo identification," Young said. "Without more evidence, the court cannot conclude that SB 10 is necessary to protect public confidence in Indiana's

On Tuesday, April 14, Richard L. Young, a federal judge in the U.S. Southern District of Indiana, ordered an injunction in the case of *Count US IN et al. v. Diego Morales et al.*

In that case, plaintiffs argued that Indiana Senate Bill 10 violated college students' voting rights by disallowing the use of college and university student IDs in order to vote.

Judge Young's injunction means that polling places and election offices will, for now, accept student IDs from public colleges and universities.

[Click here](#) to read the entry for the injunction, and [click here](#) to read the injunction as ordered by Judge Young.

elections."

Sheller said any student ID used to vote still must show the person's name and photograph and must display an expiration date. In addition, the ID must be issued by the state of Indiana.

State Rep. Matt Pierce, a Democrat whose district includes the IU Bloomington campus, said the state-issue requirement means an ID issued by a state institution such as IU

or Purdue is acceptable, but an ID from a private college is not.

"If you attend a private college like Wabash or a private university like Notre Dame, you wouldn't be able to use that ID," Pierce said. "Because [state universities] are state-supported institutions, they qualify as a state governmental entity."

See *ID* ... Page 2



HSE School Board to vote on appointment of new superintendent

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Southeastern Schools Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on a proposed superintendent's contract at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29. Immediately following the hearing, the board is expected to vote on the appointment of the next superintendent.

The meeting will take place at the HSE Administration Building, 13485 Cumberland Road, Fishers.

This action follows the resignation of Superintendent Patrick Mapes. Over the past several weeks, the board has worked to identify the district's next leader. Throughout this time, the board has focused on maintaining the existing strong foundation and continued focus on students and student outcomes.

VOTE SWENSON MAY 5TH 2026

- ★ DEDICATED
- ★ EXPERIENCED
- ★ INTEGRITY

ANGELA SWENSON FOR JUDGE

HAMILTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT 4

[SWENSONFORJUDGE.COM](#)

PAID FOR BY THE SWENSON FOR JUDGE COMMITTEE

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.

This is a free public service we are providing both to candidates and our readers.

Early Voting Totals

Below are the number of early voters as of Tuesday, April 14, listed by polling location. [Click here](#) for more information on early voting.

Judicial Center	461
4-H Fairgrounds	632
TOTAL	1,093

Elect PEGGY R. PFISTER
NOBLESVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
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Superior 9
 CHRISTOPHER BARROWS FOR JUDGE
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 Paid for by the Committee to Elect Chris Barrows



Noblesville Common Council approves new downtown parking rules

Submitted by City of Noblesville

The Noblesville Common Council has approved downtown parking updates, adding flexibility, consistency, and clearer regulations.

The following updates will go into effect April 23:

- The updated parking policy increases free weekday street parking from two hours to three hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free, no-limit parking will continue evenings after 5 p.m. and weekends.

- Parking meters in the orange and gold lots will be removed. Metered parking in these lots has been \$2 per hour, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. Free parking in these lots will be available for up to three hours from

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays with no change to the unlimited time on nights and weekends.

- The teal lots at Federal Hill Commons will also feature free, three-hour parking weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with no limit during evenings and weekends.

- Additional free street parking along North 8th and 10th streets is also moving to a three-hour limit from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

- Parking in the Levinson and Federal Hill parking garages will be updated from four hours of free parking to three hours of free parking and \$2 thereafter.

“These parking updates keep downtown accessible and welcoming, which

aligns with the goals of the Embrace Downtown project,” Mayor Chris Jensen said. “By adding flexibility, we’re making sure community members and visitors continue to dine, shop, and explore our downtown while we make necessary infrastructure upgrades that support the future of downtown Noblesville.”

The Noblesville Common Council heard the first introduction from city staff on March 24 and reviewed the proposed changes again during the Tuesday, April 14 meeting.

“These parking updates were created to better balance the needs of local businesses, visitors, and downtown employees,” Community Engagement Manager Aaron Head said. “Extending the free parking limit to three hours allows everyone to enjoy local dining and shopping without feeling rushed. These changes benefit the entire downtown by creating consistency across all forms of parking and improving visibility of public parking areas, particularly underuti-

lized surface lots.”

“Over the past few years, we’ve heard from business owners that parking in downtown Noblesville needed to be simpler and more flexible,” Common Council Member and Downtown Business Owner Aaron Smith said. “These changes deliver, creating more free time on the street, better access to lots, and a consistent policy across downtown. Whether you’re a resident, business owner, building owner, or visitor, this is a step in the right direction to make it easier to come downtown and support our local businesses.”

All lot signage will be updated to universal public parking standards, along with additional wayfinding signage to direct the public to off-street parking. A new parking map will be added to the city’s website and distributed to businesses.

Noblesville Common Council meetings are live streamed and available to watch later on Hamilton County Television’s [Facebook page](#) and the city’s [YouTube channel](#).

SLOW DOWN

from Page 1

error message. We needed to add Victoria ASAP, so I panicked. I reached out to our IT person, who said this was not something she was familiar with.

Finally, I took a deep breath. I allowed myself 20 minutes to think about and solve the issue. I realized I needed to go through our third party, Square Space, to add Victoria (I know I just lost some readers here ... but the story will still make sense). After Googling – naturally – the steps about how to accomplish this, I was able to add Victoria. All of this took me less than 10 minutes.

Both stories are a perfect reminder for me, once

again, to slow down more in life. Maybe you need a reminder, too.

I want to challenge readers to think about your current “tea strainer” situation. Instead of panicking because you don’t have a lot of time, take a deep breath and step away for a moment. Nine times out of 10, if you allow yourself more time than you think you have, you’ll solve the issue – or get on the path to doing so.

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

ID

from Page 1

Besides student IDs, acceptable forms of ID include an Indiana driver’s license, a passport or military ID, or a state-issued non-driver voter identification card. Those can be obtained for free through the BMV, though anyone applying for one still has to provide one document proving your identity, usually a birth certificate, one document with your full Social Security number and two documents proving Indiana residency, such as a pay stub or a utility bill.

Early voting runs through noon on May 4. Primary Election Day is on

May 5. Sheller said she does not expect further changes to the student ID requirement before the primary is over. She said anyone voting should check their ID before they go to the polls to make sure it has not expired.

Voters should also check their assigned polling location. Twenty counties in Indiana, including Hamilton and Monroe counties, do not use vote centers.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/election/indiana-polls-accept-student-ids-following-federal-judges-order.

ON-LINE ONLY PUBLIC AUCTION

the Estate of Loyd “Gene” & Ethel Bean of Russiaville, IN

BIDDING OPENS: Tuesday, April 14th @ 5pm

SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, April 25th @ 6pm

PREVIEW DATES: Tuesday, Thursday, April 23rd From Noon - 6pm

FIREARMS PREVIEW: Thursday, April 23rd From 3pm - 5pm

PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, April 27th. Tuesday and April 28th From Noon - 6pm

Coins, Morgan Dollars; Currency, Copper; Advertising, Pocket Knives; Vtg. Watch Fobs; Oil Lamps; Native American Items; Arrowheads & Artifacts; Straight Razors; Keen Kutter Cutlery; Flatware, Sterling Silver; Occupied Japan; Antiques & Rarities; Large Jewel Tea; Collection of Dishes; Household & Advertising; Old Sleepy Eye; Pottery & Adv. Coll.; Depression Glass; Crystal, Pottery, Crocks; Cast Iron, Dirilyte; Display Cases & Curios; Furniture, Appliances; Household, Longaberger; Adirondack & Trapper Baskets; China, Roseville Pottery; Red Wing Pottery; Blue & White Pottery; Hall’s China; Vtg. Calendars; Hudson Bay Advertising; BB Guns, Vtg. Toys; JD Pedal Tractor; Signs, Thermometers; Wool Blankets; Musical Instruments; Singer Sewing Machines; Totes, Tools

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Fishing, Hunting & Camping Gear; Poles, Tackle & Lures; Boat Motors, Tackle Boxes; Decoys, Clothing, Boots; Traps & Trapping Eq.; Small Game Taxidermy; Pelts, Furs, Skulls, Antlers; Mounted Caribou & Deer; Hunting Knives; Blinds, Binoculars; Snow Shoes; Coleman Equipment; Lanterns, Horse Saddles

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Wednesday, April 22

4:00–7:30 PM

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
noblesvillechamber.com | 317-773-0086

Tri Kappa of Noblesville inducts two new members



Photo provided

Tri Kappa's Beta Epsilon Chapter of Noblesville welcomed two new members this month. President Sara Peil presided over the ceremony welcoming in Christie King and Addison Burns. It was a wonderful celebration.

From the desk of Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update No. 170

COLUMNIST



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Hamilton Heights Superintendent

We are excited to welcome everyone back and begin the last six weeks of the school year with continued learning, connection, and celebration across our schools. As we move through April, I'm proud to recognize several groups of exceptional staff members whose work strengthens our district in countless ways.

In honor of National School Library Month, we celebrate our outstanding library/media center specialists and the important role of our district media centers. Our media center staff work extends far beyond managing our media centers. They guide students in navigating information, building digital literacy, exploring new ideas, and discovering the joy of reading. Their collaboration with teachers en-

riches learning at every grade level, bringing curiosity, creativity, and connection to life in our schools every day.

We also want to give a shoutout to our exceptional administrative professionals.

They are the quiet powerhouses who keep our schools running smoothly behind the scenes. They welcome families, support staff, anticipate needs, and help maintain the positive, organized environment that allows teaching and learning to thrive. On Administrative Professionals Day (April 22) and every day, we appreciate their unwavering dedication and the vital role they play in our mission.

National Bus Driver Appreciation Day is right around the corner on April 28. Our bus drivers and transportation aides are a steady, trusted presence

who greet our students each morning and ensure they return home safely each afternoon. Their work sets the tone for the school day and reflects a deep commitment to care, safety, and professionalism. We deeply appreciate these champions of safety who make a meaningful difference in our students' lives every day.

To all of the individuals serving in and/or supporting these roles, thank you for the expertise, contributions, and commitment you bring to Hamilton Heights. You make our district stronger, our students' days brighter, and our community proud.

Mark your calendar to support our Honor Society's spring blood drive in partnership with Versiti next Wednesday, April 22 from 3 to 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Donating blood is a simple act with a profound impact, and your contribution can make a life saving difference. [Click here](#)

for more information or to register to donate much needed blood products.

Looking ahead, the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation (HHEF) will host its 37th annual Golf Scramble on Thursday, June 4, at Bear Slide Golf Course in Cicero. The community is invited to enjoy a relaxing day on the green with friends and colleagues while supporting the impactful work of this outstanding organization. All funds raised go directly back into our classrooms through grants that enhance learning across the district. The Foundation's work touches nearly every student at Heights in some way.

[Click here](#) to register as a player or sponsor. We look forward to seeing you on the course.

Thank you for your partnership, participation, and continued commitment to our schools.

#WeAreHuskies

Trey Williams sentenced to six years in death of former HSE football star Mason Alexander

By MICHAELA SPRINGER
WISH-TV | wistv.com

A Hamilton County judge has sentenced the man charged in the death of former Hamilton Southeastern football star Mason Alexander to six years in prison.

Hamilton Circuit Court Judge Andrew Bloch handed down the ruling for Trey Williams Tuesday morning.

Tuesday's hearing was originally designated as a change of plea hearing. Williams and his attorneys filed a plea deal in February, agreeing to plead guilty to reckless homicide.

Misdemeanor charges of reckless driving causing injury and false identification were dropped.

News 8 previously reported that around 9 p.m. on March 1, 2025, a BMW occupied by Williams and Alexander was traveling southbound on Florida Road, near Geist Park and 113th Street in Fishers.

The BMW moved into the northbound lane to pass another vehicle while a Toyota RAV4 was also traveling northbound. The BMW and the Toyota swerved to avoid a collision. Both vehicles drove off the east side of the road.

The Toyota hit a mailbox, while the BMW hit a tree and caught on fire. Alexander died at the scene.

Alexander's family was in attendance at Williams' hearing; the gallery heard impact statements from Alexander's mother, uncle, aunt, and sister.

Kelly Harris, Mason Alexander's mother, said Williams' actions were a continuation of his reckless and irresponsible behavior, and that her life is forever changed.

"While I visit a grave, you visit loved ones," she said. "You took my son from me so fast, I didn't even get to say goodbye."

Alexander's uncle, Rah-

vy Murray, addressed Williams directly, urging him to learn from Mason's death.

"You got a chance. Mason's in that grave forever, you got eternity," he said. "No amount of money can bring Mason back. I wish for you to become a better man, a better person. Know that you devastated this family. Learn from this. Learn from this, young man. Every day. I want you and your family to become better people. Party like a rockstar – life ain't always a party. There's consequences. Learn from this."

Nancy Fortner and Jai Alexander, Alexander's grandmother and cousin, in their impact statements, forgave Williams.

"I wish you the best in your life, and I hope you get better," Jai Alexander said. "Life's short. I want you to get better."

Williams appeared deeply emotional when listening to Alexander's family, and

cried when reading his apology.

Judge Bloch, before sentencing Williams, said he was not keen on accepting the plea agreement, but after reviewing letters supporting Williams, hearing impact statements, and listening to Williams' attorneys detail psychological evaluations, he accepted the plea. Bloch said he truly believed Williams was sorry.

Bloch ruled that Williams would spend three years in the Indiana Department of Correction, one year on work release through the Hamilton County jail, and two years of probation.

Additionally, Williams' driving privileges were suspended for five years, and must perform 30 hours of community service while on probation.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wistv.com/news/trey-williams-sentenced-mason-alexander-case.

Annual Spring Rummage Sale
Clean out the garage, basement, and under the kids beds, because it's time for the **Spring Rummage Sale!**
Waters Edge at Springmill and Gristmill's annual **Spring Rummage Sale** is **Saturday April 25th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
(for whenever you're done selling your stuff)

Hamilton County Reporter Like us on Facebook
✓ More News ✓ More Sports
... and more readers!
Thank you, Hamilton County!

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A man of faith and family, Jim and his wife Judy raised their daughters right here in Indiana. Retired from business. Committed to his community. **Fighting for our conservative values in Indianapolis.**

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- ✓ **PROTECTING LIFE**
Helped make Indiana **one of the most pro-life states** in the country.
- ✓ **STANDING UP FOR FAMILIES**
100% voting record with the Indiana Family Institute.
- ✓ **FIGHTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION**
Prohibited sanctuary cities and **required Sheriffs to work with ICE.**
- ✓ **FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND CUTTING COSTS**
Balanced the budget, paid down our debt – and just this week, Jim demanded the gas tax be suspended and **got it done.**

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ON OR BEFORE MAY 5 VOTE JIM BUCK REPUBLICAN FOR STATE SENATE

JimBuckForSenate.com Jim Buck for State Senate

Mayor Sue Finkam joins mayors from around the world at Harvard University

The REPORTER

Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam convened with mayors from around the world at Harvard University from April 12 to 14 as part of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, joining leaders from 45 cities across 16 countries at a pivotal moment in their leadership journey.

The gathering brings together mayors to reflect, share insights, exchange ideas, and highlight how they are delivering results for their communities.

Established by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School, the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative provides mayors and senior city officials with research-based insights and tools to solve urban problems and improve outcomes for residents. Since its launch in 2017, the program has trained 359 mayors and more than 635 senior municipal officials across 41 countries.



Photo courtesy of Bloomberg Center for the Cities at Harvard University



Photo provided

(ABOVE LEFT) Mayor Sue Finkam (pictured front row, third from left) at Harvard University with mayors from 45 cities across 16 countries as part of The Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative. **(ABOVE RIGHT)** Mayor Sue Finkam pictured with current Harvard University students and Carmel High School alumni Kevin Wang '22 and Julia Dong '23.

“It has been an honor to collaborate with fellow mayors and world-class faculty at Harvard to tackle the increasingly complex challenges facing modern cities,” Mayor Finkam said. “By sharing Carmel’s successes and bringing innovative, data-driven ideas back home, we can further strengthen our community,

enhance our exceptional quality of life and ensure we are delivering the highest level of service to all our residents.” Housed at the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University, the Initiative supports mayors and their senior teams over nine months through classroom, virtual, and

field-based learning. Drawing on Harvard faculty, staff, and students – as well as experts from Bloomberg Philanthropies’ global network – the program helps city leaders use data and evidence more effectively, foster collaboration and innovation, and deliver results for their communities. As part of her time at

Harvard, Mayor Finkam participated in a series of events with faculty and students across the University, engaging directly with the Harvard community and sharing how Carmel is addressing key challenges and advancing solutions for residents. Topics explored during these events include dem-

ocratic innovation, homelessness and public health, cross-sector partnerships for children and youth and infrastructure development. The gathering also highlights how city leaders are putting learning into action – strengthening how local government works and accelerating progress on shared challenges.

Comics Blaustein & Robinson on tap for new *Center Presents* season

The REPORTER

Two comedians known for their viral online videos will be part of the upcoming season at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts.

Michael Blaustein will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, on the final leg of The Taste Me Tour. Becky Robinson will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, on her The Beasts in Me Tour. Both shows will take place at the Payne & Mencias Palladium as part of the 2026-2027 *Center Presents* Season sponsored by Allied Solutions. The full season will be announced May 18.

Tickets starting at \$29.50 for Blaustein and \$30.50 for Robinson will go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, April 17, at TheCenterPresents.org, by phone at (317) 843-3800, or in person at the Payne & Mencias Palladium’s Fifth Third Bank Box Office at 1 Carter Green.

Blaustein, one of the fastest-rising stand-up performers working today, is a



Photos provided

Michael Blaustein (left) and Becky Robinson (right) will perform at the Payne & Mencias Palladium in Carmel this fall.

comedian, actor, and writer known for his high-energy delivery, audience interaction and relatable observations about modern life. His viral video clips have amassed over 900 million views on social media. Blaustein is co-host of the hit comedy podcast *Stiff Socks*, on which he and fellow comic Trevor Wallace “go do weird stuff, and then

talk about how weird that stuff was.” Robinson is an L.A.-based comedian, writer, actor, and voiceover star best known as Entitled Housewife, an outspoken golfer character she developed through a series of online videos. Entitled Housewife’s antics have racked up millions of views across social media, leading to an

international touring career, a mention in Deadline’s “15 Comedians to Watch in 2025” and a self-produced comedy special, *Becky Robinson: Entitled*. She voiced the lead character Parker J. Cloud on Nickelodeon’s animated series *Middlemost Post* and was a regular on MTV’s *Wild ‘N Out* with Nick Cannon, among other TV appearances.

One day left to apply for Westfield Chamber scholarships

The REPORTER

Do you know a Westfield High School senior looking for scholarship opportunities to continue their educational journey? It is not too late to apply for a Westfield Chamber Academic Scholarship.

During the Westfield Chamber’s 45-year history, it has awarded tens of thousands of dollars to deserving individuals. The 2026

Scholarships have been made possible because of the generous support from Westfield individuals and businesses, including sponsors from the annual Lantern Awards ceremony.

About the scholarships
The Westfield Chamber offers three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. The scholarships are awarded to Westfield High School graduating seniors who plan

to further their education. The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. Friday, April 17.

Each candidate must write and submit a 500-word minimum, 1,000-word maximum essay. The scholarship writing prompt is listed in the scholarship application form. All essays must be submitted via [online application form](#) to be considered for these awards. The student’s information

must accompany essays.

A subcommittee of the Westfield Chamber Board of Directors will review all submitted applications after the April 17 deadline. The judges will not see the applicants’ names or personal information. They will only be provided with the essay responses.

Please reach out to info@westfieldchamberindy.com with any questions.

Community News

Noblesville Schools opens Kindergarten enrollment

Noblesville Schools has opened Kindergarten enrollment for the 2026-27 academic year. Find more information at [this link](#).

Carmel & Fishers Democrats cleaning up invasive species

Members of the Carmel Democratic Club and Fishers Democrats will celebrate Earth Day with an invasive species cleanup starting at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 18.

Both groups will meet at the Bur Oak Bridge at Hazel Landing Park for some coffee and donuts, and then head to their respective city parks, with Carmel going to Hazel Dell Landing, and Fishers going to Heritage Park for weed wrangling at 10 a.m.

[Click here](#) to sign up for the Carmel cleanup. [Click here](#) to sign up for the Fishers cleanup.

Please plan to join and help keep local parks free of invasive species.

State Treasurer to speak at Westfield GOP meeting

The Westfield GOP Club will welcome Indiana Treasurer of State Daniel Elliott to speak at the April meeting. He will update attendees on how he is safeguarding the state’s investments.

The program will begin at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 21 in Program Room A at the Westfield Washington Public Library, 17400 Westfield Blvd.

[Click here](#) to RSVP for the meeting.

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.

BROADWAY
in your backyard!

Artistic Support Provided by Christel DeHaan

APRIL 24 - MAY 10

STUDIO THEATER
AT Allied Solutions CENTER

atistage.org | 317.843.3800

MUSIC BY
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

BOOK & LYRICS BY
DON BLACK & CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

JOIN THE FIGHT TO BEAT CANCER
at the annual
COMMUNITY PORK LOIN DINNER

SAT. 04.18.26 | 4-7:00 P.M. | SHERIDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ADULTS: \$12 IN ADVANCE OR \$15 AT THE DOOR
CHILDREN: \$7

MENU: PORK LOIN, HASHBROWN CASSEROLE, GREEN BEANS, SLAW OR APPLESAUCE, CORNBREAD, DESSERT, & DRINK

PROCEEDS GO TOWARD COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND CANCER RESEARCH.

GET ADVANCE TICKETS FROM A PHI BETA PSI SORORITY MEMBER.

Ten Explorers.
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One Grand Canyon.

MEN ON BOATS

Four evenings: 7:30 pm
Thursday, Fridays
and first weekend Saturday

Three matinees: 2:30 pm
Sundays and second
weekend Saturday

by Jaclyn Backhaus
Directed by Samantha Kelly

Tickets: \$20 (Fri, Sat, Sun)
Thursday: \$15

APRIL 17-26, 2026

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Utility accountability starts with better public policy

The heads of Indiana's biggest utility companies sat in a non-descript meeting room last month, forced for the first time to explain the record-high bills hitting your mailbox.

For years, Hoosiers have watched our monthly costs climb toward a breaking point. State regulators are finally asking why. But as the testimony unfolded, the suffering was acknowledged, but the utility companies were still just making excuses.

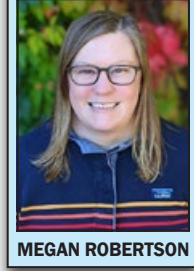
These companies want you to believe that high prices are just the way it is. They use words that ratepayers don't hear very often, blaming "market shifts" for bill spikes.

Don't believe the hype. The reality is that the system has long been rigged to maximize corporate profits. Residential ratepayers foot the bill for a guaranteed profit that pads their pockets no matter how bad a job they do.

Everything we see on our monthly bills stems from decades of pro-utility policies championed by — you guessed it — the utilities at the Statehouse. In recent years, the challenges have been made even worse by federal overreach.

We found out at the hearing that it's costing more than \$1 million each day to keep two ancient, crumbling coal plants running even though the utili-

GUEST COLUMNIST



MEGAN ROBERTSON

ties were preparing to shut them down because the plants were not cost effective. Instead of embracing cheaper renewable, reliable energy sources, the White House ordered these zombie facilities back online, a move that one utility estimated could cost more than \$100 million.

Who do you think is going to pay for that?

Hint: It's never the utilities.

What's truly insulting is that your own hard-earned money is being used against you. A chunk of every bill you pay goes toward an army of utility lobbyists who roam the Statehouse. They use your money to buy influence, block competition, and make sure they can keep raising your rates without anyone stopping them. Your bills are literally paying for the people who are fighting to keep your bills high.

State policymakers have a chance to change the narrative, expanding on the important work they did this session to improve rate-making and safeguards for low-income customers.

There are four changes lawmakers and regulators can make that will help Hoosiers now.

First, we need a statewide plan to cut red tape so we can bring low-cost wind and solar power online faster. It's the cheapest, healthiest energy available, and it's quick to bring online, unlike

other energy sources that ensure you pay high fuel costs — because utilities never pay.

Second, it's time to ban utility lobbying so we aren't forced to fund their political activity. More than 20 states have considered legislation or a regulatory commission proceeding to limit the use of customer funds to support political activities.

Third, we need to make sure the big companies coming here to develop our communities are paying their fair share. Hoosier families should never be forced to subsidize the massive power or transmission needs of tech giants and data centers — and we should know the risks and benefits up front long before there's a single shovel in the ground.

Finally, we need real accountability by regulators so these companies, making double-digit profits, can't pass every mistake on to your bill. Regulators need the power to say "no" to utilities and require them to do more for residential ratepayers and small businesses.

The hearing in Indianapolis put utilities on full display, and regulators are touring the state this month to hear from Hoosiers. Show up. Tell them it's time for change. Because talk is cheap, and we've been hearing the same song for so many years.

The time has come to stop protecting the utilities' bottom line and start protecting ours.

Megan Robertson is executive director of Indiana Conservation Voters.

Poll: Hoosiers will cut back on essentials if gas prices rise another 58 cents per gallon

Submitted

As gas prices hover around \$4 a gallon for the first time in four years, the pressure isn't just being felt at the pump. It's reshaping household budgets across the country.

For many Americans, there's a tipping point: a number where filling up stops being routine and forces trade-offs. Groceries get trimmed, plans get canceled, and financial stress ticks up a notch.

To understand where that line sits, **Advance America** surveyed 3,002 drivers, asking a simple but telling question: "At what price per gallon would you have to start cutting back on essentials?"

The answers reveal a country split not just by geography, but by tolerance — and in some cases, proximity — to financial strain.

The five states closest to their thresholds:

1. Vermont: 17 cents
2. North Dakota: 50 cents
3. Hawaii: 50 cents
4. Utah: 53 cents
5. South Dakota: 55 cents

Hoosiers are closer than most to hitting their limit. Ranked seventh nationally, drivers say they would start cutting back on essentials at \$4.63 per gallon. With prices at \$4.05 on the day of the poll, April 7, they were only 58 cents away from that tipping point.

The five states with the lowest thresholds:

50. Alaska: \$1.40
49. Rhode Island: \$1.14

48. New Mexico: \$1.05
47. Massachusetts: \$1.05
46. Nevada: \$1.04

What Hoosiers cut first & how they cope

When prices rise, the first sacrifices tend to come from lifestyle spending rather than absolute necessities. But the margin is surprisingly thin. Forty-one percent say they would cut back on eating out or takeout first, followed by travel and leisure at 29 percent.

Notably, 13 percent would reduce grocery spending, while 3 percent would cut back on health-care or medications, a sign that rising fuel costs can push households into uncomfortable territory.

Everyday adjustments & some bigger shifts

To cope with higher gas prices, most Hoosiers look for small, practical changes before making drastic moves.

- 40 percent say they would drive less
- 19 percent would combine trips or plan routes more carefully
- 17 percent would take on extra work or side income

More disruptive options — like switching to public transport (8 percent), carpooling (7 percent), or even changing jobs to reduce commuting (5 percent) — are far less common, suggesting limits to how flexible people are willing to be.

Five percent say they would turn to credit or loans just to cover rising costs.

The hidden cost: stress & strain

Beyond the financial impact, rising gas prices are clearly taking a psychological toll.

- 49 percent say they feel extremely or very stressed about fuel costs

- Another 33 percent feel somewhat stressed

That's more than eight in 10 people experiencing at least some level of financial anxiety tied directly to gas prices.

And the ripple effects extend into daily life:

- 37 percent say rising gas prices have forced them to rely on credit or borrowing

- 43 percent have canceled plans with friends or family due to fuel costs

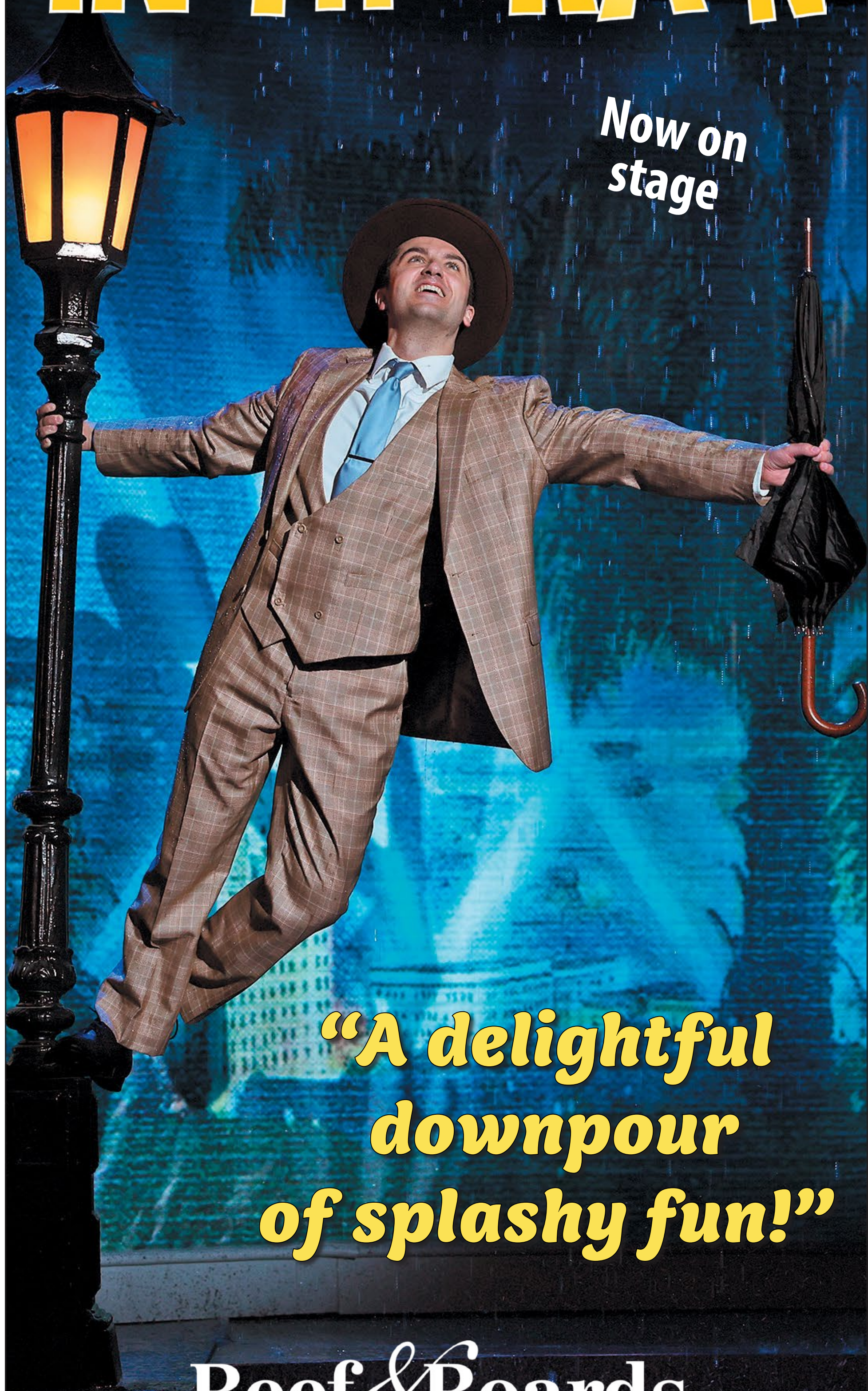
"Gas prices don't just hit wallets; they change behavior," said Laura McCutcheon, VP of Marketing at Advance America. "What's striking here is how little headroom many Americans feel they have left. For some, we're not talking about a distant tipping point. We're already right on top of it."

Methodology

This survey was conducted by Advance America among 3,002 U.S. adults in 2026. It explored household spending thresholds in response to rising gas prices, including the price points at which Americans would begin cutting essential expenses, the categories most likely to be reduced first, and the emotional and behavioral impact of fuel costs on daily life.

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Graeter's Ice Cream & the Kentucky Derby charge out of the gate with limited-edition flavor: Backstretch Bourbon Cherry

Submitted

The race to the most indulgent scoop of ice cream of the season has begun. Graeter's Ice Cream, America's oldest family-owned and operated ice cream maker famous for its French Pot process, is releasing a new limited-edition flavor for Derby season: Backstretch Bourbon Cherry.

In a collaboration worthy of the Winner's Circle, Graeter's and Churchill Downs have teamed up to create a bourbon-kissed ice cream blended with black cherries and pralines, intentionally crafted to capture the thrill, tradition, and pageantry of the race. This decadent flavor is an officially licensed ice cream of the Kentucky Derby.

"We've long believed a collaboration between Graeter's and Churchill Downs was a natural fit," said Richard Graeter, fourth-generation president and CEO of Graeter's Ice Cream. "When the Churchill Downs team visited Cincinnati late last year, they experienced our factory tour and tasted ice cream straight from our French Pots – and we introduced them to what is now Backstretch Bourbon Cherry. The flavor and name were developed by Graeter's with their input, and Churchill Downs approved it on the very first bite. From that moment, we knew we had a



Photo provided

winning flavor."

Backstretch Bourbon Cherry is available now for nationwide shipping at Graeters.com, as well as by the pint and by the scoop at all Graeter's scoop shops. Pints of Backstretch Bourbon Cherry can also be found at select grocery stores including Kroger in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indianapolis, Dorothy Lane Markets, Jungle Jim's, and Central Market in Texas.

Graeter's "Off to the Races" Collection

To help fans celebrate the race weekend properly at home or with friends, Graeter's is offering three ice cream pack options in its Off to the Races Collection for purchase online:

- **The Backstretch Six-Pint Pack:** Two pints of Backstretch Bourbon Cherry, one pint each of Madagascar Vanilla, Black Rasp-

berry Chocolate Chip, Mint Chocolate Chip, and Salted Caramel

- **The Winner's Circle Six-Pint Pack featuring Kern's Kitchen Derby Pie:** This bundle features two pints of Bourbon Ball, one pint each of Madagascar Vanilla, Black Raspberry Chocolate Chip, Mint Chocolate Chip, and Salted Caramel, plus one of the iconic Kern's Derby Pies – the official pie of the Kentucky Derby Festival

- **The Trifecta Chip Wheelies Pack:** Graeter's signature ice cream sandwiches offered in three different flavors – four of Backstretch Bourbon Cherry (sandwiched between two handmade sugar cookies), and four of Vanilla Chocolate Chip and Black Raspberry Chocolate Chip (both between two handmade chocolate chip cookies)

Graeter's Backstretch Bourbon Giveaway

Win free ice cream for a year!

Graeter's is taking Derby celebrations to a whole new level by giving fans the opportunity to win free ice cream for a year, no purchase necessary. One lucky winner will receive a free Create-Your-Own Six-Pint Pack every month for 12 months beginning May 2026 through April 2027. Five runners-up will receive a free Create-Your-Own Six-Pint Pack.

How to Enter: Now through 11:59 p.m. EDT on Derby Day, May 2, ice cream lovers across the country can enter for a chance to win free Graeter's ice cream for a year by simply submitting their name, contact information and birthday at Graeters.com/Derby.

See Graeter's... Page 9

Kids can get in for free at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

The REPORTER

New this spring, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) is making it easier than ever for families to enjoy classical music together. Starting this month, children aged 6 to 18 get in free with the purchase of an adult ticket for *Classical Series* concerts.

"Bringing families together through classical music is one of our goals at the ISO," CEO James Johnson said. "The new policy encourages parents to bring their children, experience the music, and build new family traditions around the ISO."

Free child tickets may be reserved through the ISO Box Office by calling (317) 639-4300 or emailing iso@indianapolisymphony.org. At least one adult classical ticket must be purchased to qualify for this promotion. Groups of 10 or more are encouraged to apply for the **ISO's Prelude Pass program**. Free child tickets may become available for select Printing Partners Pops Series concerts at the ISO's discretion.

This promotion does not apply to previous purchases and may not be applied to any other series apart from *Classical* or select *Pops*. The group rate of \$13.50 per ticket applies to student groups.

Classical concerts are recommended for ages 10 and up. Most classical

concerts have a run time between 100 to 115 minutes, including a 20-minute intermission. For children too young to attend a full-length classical concert, the ISO offers the free *Teddy Bear Concert Series* at various libraries around the Indianapolis area. The *Teddy Bear Concert Series* is designed for children aged 3 through 7 and introduces them to the instruments of the orchestra through storytelling, movement, and live music.

"By introducing children to the arts at an early age, we're not only nurturing the next generation of music lovers, but helping our youngest listeners discover new ways to create and explore, and experience the world around them," said Andrew O'Neal, Director of Education & Community Engagement.

[Click here](#) to see the upcoming schedule.

"We hope that families can take advantage of this new offering and experience classical music more often with their children," Johnson said.

Learn more about discounts at the ISO and about this new initiative at [this link](#).

The ISO is certified as a Sensory Inclusive institution by KultureCity. This certification assists the ISO in providing the best experience for guests who have sensory needs.

Allisonville Meadows listed among 'Best Assisted Living' facilities

The REPORTER

American Senior Communities (ASC), Indiana's largest senior living and healthcare provider, has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* for exceptional performance across multiple categories in its 2026 Best Senior Living ratings.

Locally, **Allisonville Meadows** in Fishers was awarded "Best Assisted Living" for the second year in a row.

Now in its fifth year, the

U.S. News Best Senior Living ratings evaluated more than 3,000 senior living communities nationwide. Communities are assessed using a comprehensive, **data-driven methodology** that incorporates feedback from residents and their families on key factors such as safety, quality of care, staff, management, value, and overall satisfaction with services and amenities. Only communities that meet *U.S. News'* rigorous standards earn the designation

of Best Senior Living, reflecting consistently high performance based on direct consumer feedback. The top-performing communities in each level of care receive this distinction.

In addition to these honors, ASC communities were also recognized with "Accolades" in several areas of excellence. These distinctions



are awarded to communities ranking in the top 25 percent nationally for Caregiving, Activities & Enrichment, Management & Staff, Food, and "Feels Like Home."

"Choosing a senior living community is a significant life decision for older adults and their families. *U.S. News'* Best Senior Living ratings provide a trans-

parent, data-driven tool to help families identify the highest-quality care available," said Ben Harder, managing editor and chief of health analysis at *U.S. News*. "We commend the communities that have earned this distinction, which reflects a deep commitment to resident well-being and exceptional service."

ASC CEO Steve Van Camp said, "This recognition is especially meaningful to us because it reflects the

voices and experiences of our residents and their families. Hearing that our communities 'feel like home' is the highest compliment we can receive, creating that sense of comfort, belonging, and dignity is at the heart of everything we do. We are incredibly proud of our team members across Indiana who provide compassionate, high-quality care each day and make our communities places where residents truly feel at home."



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!



Anderson Firefighters PAC endorses J.D. Ford for Congress

Submitted

State Senator J.D. Ford announced on Wednesday, April 15 he has received the official endorsement of the Anderson Firefighters' Political Action Committee in his bid for Indiana's 5th Congressional District. The endorsement highlights Ford's commitment to first responders and his track record of legislative leadership in the Indiana General Assembly.

The Anderson Firefighters PAC, which represents the interests of professional firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) providers, cited Ford's work on the 2023 police and fire merit system legislation as a key factor in their decision.

"Throughout his time in the Indiana General Assembly, Senator J.D. Ford has been a strong and consistent supporter of professional firefighters," PAC

Chairman Cody Leever said. "His leadership and work on legislation impacting our profession, particularly his role in the 2023 police and fire merit system legislation, have had a meaningful and lasting impact on our members and departments across the state. Having worked with him, we know that he is willing to listen thoughtfully and carefully consider issues that affect the delivery of fire and emergency medical services, as well as the well-being of first responders."

The Anderson Firefighters PAC joins the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) in en-



Ford

dorsing Ford's 2026 congressional campaign.

"I am deeply honored to have the support of the Anderson Firefighters," Ford said. "The safety of our communities depends on the strength of our first responders. Whether ensuring our fire departments have the resources they need or protecting the merit systems that support our heroes, I will always have their backs in Washington, just as I did in Indiana."

During his two terms in the Indiana State Senate, Ford sponsored several bills supporting firefighters and fire safety. His legislative record includes leading the push for the 2023 police and fire merit system updates, advocating for the presumption of disability

for firefighters who contract certain cancers in the line of duty, and supporting increased state funding for local fire department equipment and training. Additionally, he was a key advocate for legislation that expanded mental health resources specifically for first responders.

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. For more information, visit ElectJDFord.com.

Letter guidelines this election season

With the approach of the May 5 Primary Election, the Hamilton County Reporter is establishing some Letters to the Editor guidelines to keep things fair and balanced.

Letters addressing new topics about the upcoming election or the policies of individual candidates will be accepted until the end of the business day on Thursday, April 23 and will be published on Friday, April 24.

Letters in response to new topics published in our April 24 edition will be accepted until Tuesday, April 28 and will be published in our April 29 edition.

These deadlines will give candidates and their supporters the opportunity to reply to letters addressing new topics.

Please send your letters to News@ReadTheReporter.com.

Letters to the Editor do not represent the opinions of The Reporter or our staff.



Tony Cook endorses Jack Russell for Hamilton Heights School Board

Submitted

Jack Russell, candidate for Hamilton Heights School Board At-Large, announced on Wednesday, April 15 the endorsement of Tony Cook, former Hamilton Heights Superintendent and State Representative for Indiana's District 32.

Cook, a lifelong educator and respected community leader, offered strong support for Russell's candidacy and vision for the district.

"Jack Russell is a quality candidate for the Hamilton Heights School Board, and it is a pleasure to endorse him," Cook said. "Jack brings a wealth of experience in business

and management areas, and his extended family members have resided and been actively involved in community affairs for a long time and are highly respected. Jack is committed to educational excellence and individual student program needs. He will bring thoughtful, intelligent leadership, combined with a caring and responsible presence to the board."

Cook dedicated 42 years to education, including service as a teacher, principal, and superintendent of Hamilton Heights School Corpo-



Russell

ration. Following his career in education, he served in the Indiana General Assembly from 2014 to 2022, representing communities across northern Hamilton County and beyond. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Indiana Coalition for Growing and Suburban Schools, where he advocates on behalf of 24 school corporations and plays a key role in shaping education policy.

Russell expressed deep appreciation for Cook's endorsement and the example of leadership he has set

throughout his career.

"Tony Cook has dedicated his life to education and public service," Russell said. "His leadership, experience, and commitment to students and communities is unmatched. I'm incredibly grateful for his support."

Russell, a longtime community leader and advocate, is running on a platform focused on academic excellence, student well-being, community connection, fiscal responsibility, and a culture of respect and accountability. His campaign is centered on a commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Letter to the Editor

Buck votes for wishes of his constituents

Dear Editor:

We have known Senator Jim Buck since he was first elected to the Indiana Senate. We confirm the many other endorsements confirming that he has consistently been a person of high moral character and honesty, and who has consistently voted his conservative values.

Senator Buck recently posted 16 conservative endorsements from businesses and non-profits. We would add the following more recent additions: former V.P. and Governor Pence, former Governor Daniels, and from the home town of Senator Buck's opponent, Mike Cline (former Tipton County GOP Chairman) and Nancy Cline (Tipton County Commissioner).

Senator Buck has supported our President's agenda probably 99 percent of the time. His only divergence was on redistricting based on a large majority of the wishes of his conservative constituents. The resulting misleading negative advertising is from a very large sum of money from out-of-state residents who are not familiar with Senator Buck's conservative constituents and are only interested in their own interests.

Our choice is to continue to have Senator Buck vote the wishes of his conservative constituents rather than the wishes of single interest out-of-state residents.

Vote for Senator Jim Buck, our proven conservative Senator.

J. Conrad & Jo Ella Maugans
Kokomo

GRAETER'S

One winner and five runners-up will be selected at random.

The Graeter's Backstretch Bourbon Giveaway is open to legal residents of the 48 contiguous United States and Washington, D.C., ages 18 and older. For official rules, visit

Graeters.com/Derby.
Graeter's Ice Cream at Oaks & Kentucky Derby

On May 1 and 2, the Graeter's Ice Cream Truck will be making its official Kentucky Derby debut, offering ticketed guests the chance to sample in-

dulgent flavors including Backstretch Bourbon Cherry and Graeter's signature Black Raspberry Chocolate Chip, in addition to other Graeter's staples. The truck will be stationed at the Clubhouse Gate entrance and is open to all guests attending

Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby.

Churchill Downs will also be serving Black Raspberry Chocolate Chip ice cream and Backstretch Bourbon Cherry scoops in select suites and dining areas.

For more information, visit Graeters.com.

from Page 8

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.

Thanks for reading!

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Photos provided

From national acts like EVIL WOMAN – The American ELO (left) to local groups like Northside Exchange (right), Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts brings a wide variety of talent to central Indiana.

Don't miss these May performances at the Center

The REPORTER

There's still time to get tickets for these events and more coming up at Carmel's Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to TheCenterPresents.org.

The Electric Light Orchestra Experience featuring EVIL WOMAN – The American ELO
Saturday, May 2 at 8 p.m.
Payne & Mencias
Palladium

With brilliant arrangements, flawless musicianship, and superlative vocals, the 12-piece band EVIL WOMAN – The American ELO is widely recognized as the world's premier tribute to the Electric Light Orchestra.

Picking up where the Beatles left off in 1970, the UK-based ELO expanded the concept of great melodies, epic song structures, and grand orchestrations in which cellos coexisted with guitars, and classically tinged progressive rock intersected with hook-filled,

radio-friendly pop songs.

ELO was one of the biggest groups of the 1970s, with hits including "Telephone Line," "Mr. Blue Sky," "Xanadu," "Evil Woman," "Livin' Thing," and "Don't Bring Me Down."

Melissa Etheridge: RISE
Sunday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.
Payne & Mencias
Palladium

Melissa Etheridge stormed onto the American rock scene in 1988 with the release of her critically acclaimed self-titled debut album, which led to an appearance on the 1989 Grammy Awards show. For several years, her popularity grew around such memorable originals as "Bring Me Some Water," "No Souvenirs," and "Ain't It Heavy," for which she won a Grammy in 1992.

Known for her confessional lyrics and raspy, smoky vocals, Etheridge has remained one of America's favorite female singers

for more than three decades.

An Evening with Jake Shimabukuro
Friday, May 8 at 8 p.m.
Payne & Mencias
Palladium

Since gaining prominence in the early 2000s, ukulele marvel Jake Shimabukuro has mesmerized audiences with his innovative and dynamic style, taking the instrument to dizzying new heights.

Over a dozen solo albums, Shimabukuro has shown a knack for moving effortlessly between genres, sometimes in the same song. He has played the world's top venues, from Lincoln Center to the Sydney Opera House, and has worked with artists including Yo-Yo Ma, Bela Fleck, Bette Midler, Ziggy Marley, Sonny Landreth, Billy Strings, Lukas & Willie Nelson, and Warren Haynes.

Special Guest: Local singer-songwriter Meghan Cristeen Martin will open the show.
[Click here](#) for tickets.

Local Mix Music Series Northside Exchange
Wednesday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m.

The Tarkington & Online
Northside Exchange was founded in 2022 in Indianapolis by guitarist/vocalist/producer Joseph Filipow and drummer/producer Darnell Perkins, with rising star Daniel Hicks on keyboards.

The band has opened for jazz legend Branford Marsalis, performed at Carmel Jazz Fest, and backed esteemed Indianapolis vocalists Goldie, Marielle Sellers, Blair Clark, and other notable artists.

The group's 2023 debut single "Steppin'" is available on all major streaming platforms.

Peanut Butter & Jam Todd Williams Trio: All Aboard the Short Track Shuffle
Saturday, May 23 at 10:30 a.m.
The Studio Theater
All aboard! The train is leaving the station to

explore what makes jazz swing. The Todd Williams Trio will explore everything you need to bop before you stop. Bring your little ones to our next Peanut Butter & Jam performance as we depart on the Short Track Shuffle.

Luminaries It's All About the Groove! with Lisa Colleen
Tuesday, May 26 at 2 p.m.
The Studio Theater

Drumming has the power to motivate, relax, educate, energize, unite, and inspire. It is accessible to all ages and ability levels, and no experience is needed.

Join music educator Lisa Colleen on a rhythmic journey via a drum circle experience that explores the drum as a tool for creating unity, self-expression, and well-being. The presentation will introduce basic rhythms that lend themselves well to the circle experience.
What are you waiting

for? Come have fun and drum!

New Works Premiere Performances 2026
Saturday, May 30 at 7 p.m.
The Tarkington

Don't miss this evening of exciting work from local artists who are the winners of the 2026 New Works project commissions.

Now in its fifth season, the New Works project is an initiative by Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts to promote and sustain central Indiana's working artists and arts communities in an inclusive way by supporting the creation of new works in the performing and visual arts disciplines.

The four winning performing arts proposals will be presented on stage at the Tarkington, with a talkback discussion following the performances. The event will also include the public unveiling of this year's winning visual arts project.
[Click here](#) for tickets.

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April 23



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Presented by Allied Solutions
May 8 & 9



"Clued In" An Improvised Murder Mystery
May 14

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Indiana releases update to the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy

The REPORTER

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) recently released an update to the **State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)**, a statewide strategy designed to improve water quality in Indiana, the Great Lakes and the Gulf of America.

The updated strategy represents the state's commitment to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into Indiana's waters from point source and non-point source pollutants. It captures statewide efforts in Indiana that positively impact our waters as well as documents the progress of conservation, water quality improvements, and adoption of soil health and edge-of-field practices across the state.

Additionally, the strategy serves as a renewed effort

to encourage outreach and education to conservation partnerships and the public regarding stewardship of Indiana's waters.

"This updated strategy underscores the important work being done in land stewardship," ISDA Director Don Lamb said. "There have been many achievements since the start of the strategy, and by updating it will only strengthen our ability to achieve the goal of reducing excess nutrients in our waterways."

The updated strategy was produced under the leadership of ISDA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) with the guidance provided by the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) and the SNRS workgroup.

"Indiana has put a premium on data to ensure we

have a complete assessment of water health throughout the state," IDEM Commissioner Clint Woods said. "This guided plan gives us a strategic roadmap to better identify trends, address challenges, and measure progress over time, including impactful approaches to address harmful algal blooms and hypoxia."

The following list includes objectives of this strategy:

- Raise awareness about the proper types of conservation practices to use on agricultural ground as well as other rural best management practices;
- Acknowledgment of the challenges facing the improvement of Indiana's impaired waters;
- Involvement and engaging of stakeholders in the state's efforts to reduce nu-

trient loads;

- Prioritization of HUC 8 watersheds within Indiana;
- Discussion of water quality monitoring and regulatory control of point sources;
- The inventory and utilization of resources to achieve their highest impact on nutrient reduction;
- Encouragement of voluntary incentive-based conservation through the many state and federal water quality related programs; and
- Illustrate the means by which the state will provide reports and accountability of assisted conservation practices reported by staff in the Indiana Conservation Partnership.

Click here for more information and to view the full strategy. Comments can be sent to ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov.

Gov. Mike Braun takes action to make housing more affordable for Hoosier families

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

On Monday, April 13, Governor Mike Braun ceremonially signed HEA 1001, legislation aimed at increasing housing production in Indiana.

"Affordability is this administration's top priority, and affordable housing is central to that mission. For too many Hoosiers, homeownership is feeling further out of reach," Gov. Braun said. "Eliminating red tape and making it easier to build more homes will enable more Hoosiers to become homeowners."

The law requires local governments to evaluate barriers to new housing and

report on their progress. The law directs every city, town, and county to hold a public hearing this year on ways to expand housing supply, including reducing or eliminating certain parking mandates for multifamily housing, permitting smaller lots and higher density, and reconsidering aesthetic and design regulations that can add cost and delay.

Local units will also be required to submit annual housing progress reports to the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, allowing the state to better understand how regional housing markets are responding to the need for more homes.

Walker's bill to provide insurance coverage for public safety employees ceremonially signed by governor

Submitted by Office of State Sen. Kyle Walker

A bill sponsored by State Sen. Kyle Walker (R-Lawrence) to provide public safety employees injured in the line of duty with health insurance coverage was ceremonially signed into law by Gov. Braun on Tuesday, April 14.

House Enrolled 1044 ensures employees who sustain serious injuries or disabilities are not left behind. This new law provides police officers, sheriffs, and firefighters

with coverage under their employer's health insurance plan and prohibits the rate charged for coverage from exceeding what they would be paying as an active employee.

These benefits are also extended to the surviving spouse and dependents of the public safety employee should the employee lay down their life in the line of duty. In case a police or fire department is



Walker

dissolved, the local government that initiated the dissolution is required to continue to provide coverage for the employee or their surviving spouse and dependents.

"Our first responders work tirelessly to keep our communities safe, and this new law ensures their health and their family's health is supported," Walker said. "I am grateful for the dedication of our public safety officials, and I

appreciate Rep. Jim Pressel for his work authoring this piece of legislation."

Walker encourages residents of Senate District 31 to contact him with any questions or comments they may have. Walker can be reached by filling out a "Contact Me" form online at IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Kyle-Walker or by phone at (800) 382-9467.

State Sen. Kyle Walker (R-Lawrence) represents Senate District 31, which includes portions of Hamilton and Marion counties.

Baldwin's legislation to strengthen health care competition & public safety ceremonially signed by governor

Submitted by Office of State Sen. Scott Baldwin

Legislation authored by State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) to strengthen health care competition, establish a counter drone framework, and modernize judicial security in Indiana was ceremonially signed into law by Gov. Braun on Tuesday, April 14.

Senate Enrolled Act 189 builds on the federal No Surprises Act of 2021 by triggering a good-faith conference between parties to negotiate a reimbursement agreement instead of conducting an Independent Dispute Resolution case, which will avoid delays in medical care and increased costs. SEA 189 also expedites care by prohibiting insurers from charging a fee for out-of-network care, which allows

health care employers to provide care based on patient need and clinician expertise.

"Health insurance companies often use their power to force health care providers to use specific health insurance carriers, which often delays care that Hoosiers need in a timely manner," Baldwin said. "Senate Enrolled Act 189 will alleviate these burdens and enhance competitiveness within Indiana's health care marketplace."

To address the threat of drones, **Senate Enrolled Act 227** creates a federal-style compliant framework to allow law enforcement throughout the state to detect and respond to unau-



Baldwin

thorized drones only when federal law permits. The law also designates the Indiana State Police as the coordinating agency that sets training and approval standards and provides oversight and liability protections.

To strengthen judicial security, **Senate Enrolled Act 291** repeals the existing Supreme Court Sheriff safety model and replaces it with a dedicated Supreme Court Marshal. The Court of Appeals would also be allowed to create their own marshal system, which would provide security for the Court of Appeals and Tax Court. These marshals will have multiple tasks, including protecting justices, judges, court staff, facilities, and judicial residences. SEA 291 provides marshals limited police power while on duty, which permits them to carry

weapons, temporarily detain individuals to address security threats, and have access to law enforcement intelligence like criminal history records and threat assessments.

"As the risks to public safety continue to change, keeping Hoosiers safe is always a top priority for me," Baldwin said. "Senate Enrolled Act 227 ensures Indiana is prepared to respond to the threats drones present to large public events, airports and critical infrastructure, and Senate Enrolled Act 291 ensures judges can do their job without fear of intimidation and preventing tragic shootings like the one involving Judge Steve Meyer and his wife at their home."

State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) represents Senate District 20, which includes Noblesville, Carmel, Cicero and unincorporated areas of Hamilton County.

Gramlich honored with IBJ 'Forty Under 40' award

Submitted

Lindsay Gramlich, a prominent central Indiana nonprofit CEO, has been named to the *Indianapolis Business Journal's* (IBJ) 2026 "Forty Under 40" class. The annual award recognizes 40 young local professionals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made their mark in their profession before the age of 40.

Gramlich has been a longtime community advocate and has over 16 years of experience in Central Indiana philanthropy. Currently, she serves as the President and CEO of Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis, a nonprofit leadership organization dedicated to helping girls realize their full potential. She has also worked in various capacities at the

Children's Museum of Indianapolis and is an alumna of several renowned leadership fellowships.

"I am deeply honored to be included in this year's Forty Under 40 alongside such a talented and driven group of leaders," Gramlich said. "My work has always been fueled by a desire to ensure that young girls in Indiana have the tools and resources they need to succeed in life, and this recognition also belongs to the many partners who have worked with me to make a difference in Central Indiana."

The 2026 Forty Under 40 class will be featured in a special edition of the IBJ and was recently honored at an awards ceremony in Indianapolis.



Gramlich

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Enjoy “Dog Days of Spring” at Pints & Partnerships

Submitted

Good drinks. Great people. Stronger business.

Last month, The Westfield Chamber of Commerce’s first Pints & Partnerships was a packed house full of connections and conversations.

The second installment of P&P (this time a Yappy Hour Edition) is set for 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 21 at Crate Escapes Dog Park + Bar, 18595 Carousel Lane,

Westfield.

Come unwind and connect with fellow members of the Westfield business community. This casual, after-hours gathering is designed to spark conversations, create new partnerships, and celebrate the power of doing business locally. Crate Escapes will offer BOGO 1/2 Off Cocktails and 20 percent off the Tap Wall during this event.

Enjoy your first drink on

Lake City Bank this month. Come see what’s on tap at the Westfield Chamber and get ready to make connections that matter. *Enjoy responsibly.*

Crate Escapes’ entry policies

As always, entry is free for humans, and dogs are not required to visit. All guests must **sign a waiver** to enter the park, and dogs require a day pass or membership for entry.

It is recommended to register dogs in advance online or through the Crate Escapes Dog Park + Bar **App**. Proof of vaccines (rabies, distemper combo, and Bordetella) is required to enter.

If you choose to register at the door, please plan on a 10- to 20-minute delay for entry. Use code LETSBE-FRIENDS at checkout for \$5 off for Chamber Members’ four-legged friends.

Anne Passage

November 6, 1932 – April 9, 2026

Elizabeth “Anne” Passage (Mills), 93, Carmel, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026. She was born November 6, 1932, in Lapel, Ind., to Bill and Hallie Kerr.



Anne was a devoted woman of faith and an active member of Carmel United Methodist Church for more than 60 years, where she formed lasting friendships and faithfully served her church community. Her faith was a cornerstone of her life and deeply influenced the values she instilled in her family.

An avid golfer, Anne found great joy on the course and was a long-time member of Woodland Country Club, where she enjoyed many years of friendship and fellowship. Professionally, she worked for many years at Union State Bank in Carmel, where she was admired for her dedication, warmth, and integrity.

Above all, Anne was the devoted matriarch of the Mills family. Her life was centered on caring for those she loved, and she took great pride in each generation of her family. Her home was a place of unconditional love, and she made an impression on everyone she met. She was known by friends and family for her selfless nature, abundance of energy, endless optimism, and her joyful laughter and radiant smile. She will be remembered for her gentle wisdom, strength, and unwavering support.

In addition to her parents, Anne was preceded in death by her loving husbands Bill Mills, Dick Weinman, and Howard Passage.

Survivors include her children; Sally Matlock, with daughters Amy, Lori, and Jennifer; Craig Mills (wife, Susan), with children Nicholas and Taylor; Bruce Mills, with children Connor, Jordan, and Brandon; David Mills (wife, Debbie); and Scott Mills (wife, Cyndy), with daughter, Avery; and six cherished great-grandchildren, who brought her immense joy in her later years.

Anne will be lovingly remembered for her grace, resilience, and unwavering devotion to family, faith, and friendship. Her legacy lives on through the generations she nurtured and the many lives she touched with kindness, laughter, and love.

Family and Friends will gather at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 19, 2026, at Carmel United Methodist Church, where the Funeral Service will begin at 4 p.m.

Burial will take place at 11 a.m. Monday, April 20, 2026, at Brookside Cemetery, Lapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in memory of Anne, can be directed to Carmel United Methodist Church, 621 S. Range Line Road, Carmel, IN 46032. Envelopes will be available at service.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family in arrangements.

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

Meeting Notice

The Hamilton Heights School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet in an executive session at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(11) To train school board members with an outside consultant about the performance of the role of the members as public officials.

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

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The Reporter’s policy on obituaries

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

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

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

ARAD DESTROYED

When the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that Israel was coming along the road to Atharim, he attacked the Israelites and captured some of them. Then Israel made this vow to the Lord: “If you will deliver these people into our hands, we will totally destroy their cities.” The Lord listened to Israel’s plea and gave the Canaanites over to them. They completely destroyed them and their towns; so the place was named Hormah.

THE BRONZE SNAKE

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

Numbers 21:1-7 (NIV)

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REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

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

Softball

Home run derby for Millers

Noblesville sets new school HR record in win over Carmel

By **RICHIE HALL**
sports@readthereporter.com

NOBLESVILLE — Preparation can pay off in sports, an idea that the Noblesville softball team put into practice on Wednesday.

It turns out preparation can put a team's name in the record books, which is something the Millers did during their 12-2, five-inning home victory over Carmel.

Noblesville smacked seven home runs during the game, setting a new record for most homers in a single contest. Haley Schatko hit two home runs, while five other Millers players hit one.

"I don't think it was any indication of that Carmel team," said Noblesville coach Deke Bullard. "I think they're a good team. I think we just got the upper hand tonight and we had a significant wind helping us."

The Millers improved their record to 3-0 with the win. Noblesville played two games before Spring Break and were scheduled to take on Fishers Tuesday,

but that contest was rained out.

"We were just hungry," said Schatko. "Since we haven't played in so long, it was just really good to come together as a team."

The Millers hadn't played a game since April 2, but they weren't idle during Spring Break.

"We took the time during Spring Break to come here and get extra reps," said Schatko. "Nobody took reps off. Everybody was doing their best to make sure we were prepared for this game."

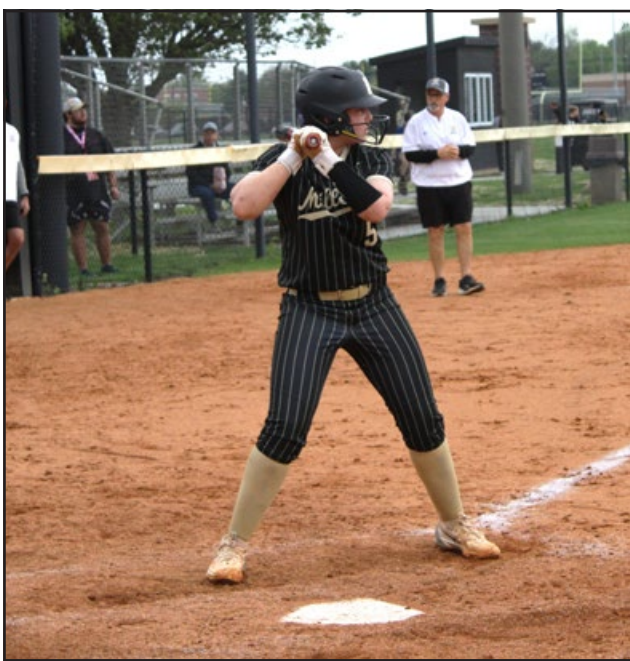
"I came here at least four or five times. And I'm proud that everybody wanted it just as much as I did."

The Greyhounds actually got the first home run of the game. Jayden Kleiner cracked a one-out solo homer during the top of the first inning.

Schatko tied the game with her first home run with two outs in the bottom of the first. Maggie Kern got base with a single, then Reese Newsom blasted a center field to put Noblesville up 3-1.



Schatko



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

(ABOVE LEFT) Noblesville's Maggie Kern had three hits and was one of six players to hit a home run for the Millers during their 12-2 win over Carmel on Wednesday. (ABOVE RIGHT) Carmel's Jayden Kleiner hit a home run for the Greyhounds.

Lilly Brown, one of three freshman on the Millers' varsity roster, led off the second with a homer, then Izzy Zapp sent one over the center field fence minutes later, moving Noblesville ahead 5-1.

Carmel added a run in the top of the fourth when Winni Owens got home on Emily Proctor's RBI groundout. Owens had led off the inning with a double.

The Hounds were within 5-2, but the Millers struck again in the bottom of the fourth. Schatko blasted her second homer with two outs, also scoring Bella Hughes. Kern was next, and she sent a home run over the center field fence.

Addy Retzinger, who got the pitching win for Noblesville, added her name to the homer parade by leading off the fifth with a long ball to center field.

Brown was next, and she got on base with a double. Freshman Kate Ringholz came in to run for Brown, and scored on a Kinley Westbrook single. Zadie Brown, also a freshman, came in to run for Westbrook and was sent home by a Zapp single. Newsom hit a sacrifice fly to score Zapp and end the game on the 10-run rule.

Kern finished the game 3-for-4 at the plate.

Retzinger pitched all five innings, tossing five strikeouts.


"We had some hard hits tonight right at people, so we hit well tonight overall," said Bullard.

Kleiner, Owens and Chloe Junkersfield all had one hit for Carmel.

Noblesville travels to Lawrence North on Friday, while the Greyhounds are 5-5 and host New Palestine on Friday.

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Baseball

Western finishes sweep of Huskies

By **CRAIG ADKINS**
For The Reporter

For the second night in a row, the Western Panthers brought their bats against Hamilton Heights, proving their worth at No. 4 in 3A.

After Tuesday night's 16-0 win in Arcadia, the series moved to Russiaville for game two. The Panthers scored in four straight innings to sweep the Hoosier Conference series with a 9-2 win.

Dillon Pitts started on the mound. But, it was a rough outing, as he gave up seven runs (all earned) on seven hits, walked five and struck out five in 4.2 innings. Cy

Mason threw 1.1 innings, giving up just two hits and yielded two runs.

Western scored three in the third and two in the fourth for a 5-0 advantage.

Landon Hickman led off the fifth with a solo home run to left. Then, with two down, Brennen Heckman doubled. Chase Hall walked to for two on. AJ Flanagan singled to short, sending Heckman home and the Huskies trailed by three, 5-2.

The Panthers scored four in the fifth and sixth to stretch out their winning score.

Hamilton Heights (3-4) hits the road to Bunker Hill tomorrow night to face the Maconaquah Braves at 6 p.m.



Photo courtesy Fishers Athletics

Tyler Nicole was hired as the new Co-Athletic Administrator at Fishers High School on Wednesday.

Tyler Nicole hired as Fishers Co-Athletic Administrator

The REPORTER

Tyler Nicole has been hired as the new Co-Athletic Administrator at Fishers High School.

The FHS athletic department announced the hiring Wednesday night in a news release on the school's website. Nicole was officially approved by the Hamilton Southeastern School Board at its Wednesday meeting.

"Nicole is an NIAAA Certified Athletic Administrator and brings six years of experience as the Assistant Athletic Director at Westfield High School," said the news release. "His background also includes serving as a teacher in Westfield, Head Girls Basketball Coach at North Posey High School, and National Direc-

tor of Tournament Operations for Prep Baseball Report events at Grand Park.

"Throughout the reference process, colleagues consistently described Nicole as 'someone who lifts up anyone and everyone around him' and 'the hardest worker you'll ever meet.' During the interview process at Fishers High School, members of the hiring committee repeatedly noted how strongly he aligns with the culture of Fishers Athletics. As one head coach shared, 'He already feels like a Tiger.'"

"Fishers Athletics looks forward to the leadership, energy, and commitment Nicole will bring to our student-athletes, coaches, and community."



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Softball

Golden Eagles fall to LC

By **CRAIG ADKINS**
For The Reporter

On Wednesday, the Guerin Catholic softball team hosted Lawrence Central.

Steady hitting from the Bears spelled trouble starting in the first as the visitors took down the Golden Eagles in five innings, 11-1.

LC quickly put four on the board in their first at-bat. A couple base hits, a walk and two errors led to the early deficit for Guerin.

The Golden Eagles got their lone run on the board in the bottom of the second on a Gia Crishon home run to left.

Lawrence Central kept their feet on the gas, combining for seven more runs in the third through fifth innings to put the game away early.

Guerin Catholic (3-2, 0-0 CCC) visits Brebeuf Jesuit (2-3, 0-1 CCC) tonight at 5:30 p.m. in their first game of Circle City Conference play.

Heights blanked by Western

By **CRAIG ADKINS**
For The Reporter

On Wednesday, the Hamilton Heights softball team went to Western for the second game of its Hoosier Conference series with the Panthers.

After defeating Western at home on Tuesday, the Panthers returned the favor and blanked the Huskies 8-0.

Heights was held to four hits and the game was low key for the first five in-

nings. Western scored in the first, bunting into a fielder's choice.

Two more scored in the home half of the fourth on a single and an infield error for a 3-0 score.

The Panthers put the game away with a five-run bottom of the sixth.

Hamilton Heights (5-1, 1-1 Hoosier) dropped its first game of the season. The Huskies visit Sheridan (0-2) tonight at 5 p.m. in an all-county game.

Baseball

Royals turning experience into results

By **RICHARD TORRES**
For The Reporter

FISHERS — Seven wins in nine games by mid-April doesn't define a baseball season, but it speaks volumes for the Hamilton Southeastern Royals.

A program with 12 victories overall and only two in Hoosier Crossroads Conference play last season, the 2026 Royals aren't replicating the past.

They're ready to compete.

"Nobody expects anything from us, and that's what we want our mindset to be this time. Don't worry about us," HSE coach Kory Seitz said. "Hopefully, we show up and sneak up on some people this year. We have a lot of faith in what this group can do right here, but now, we got to show it."

So far, the Royals (7-2, 2-0 HCC) have shown they're not the same team from last year.

In 2025, HSE didn't reach seven wins until the first week of May, and with a two-game series sweep of Brownsburg, the Royals have already matched their 2-12 HCC

finish from last spring.

"I got a lot of kids back with a ton of experience. I knew that we were probably going to struggle a little bit last year, but for years, I've been excited about what this junior-senior class right now combined could potentially do," Seitz said. "Just because there's a lot of depth in it."

At the plate, the Royals carry a .347 team batting average and have amassed 78 runs scored, 64 RBI and 22 doubles, while the pitching staff owns a 2.70 ERA.

Lessons have turned into results for HSE in a year's time, and they're still developing with 13 juniors on the varsity roster along with nine seniors.

"We did a lot of work this offseason on being leaders and taking on bigger roles," said HSE junior outfielder Clark Bucher, a Michigan recruit. "We understand that we have to keep fighting even when we get down."

Experience, confidence and chemistry have put the Royals on a positive trajectory, and it could lead to the program contending for its first HCC title since winning the IHSAA Class 4A state

championship in 2019.

A sectional crown this season would mark HSE's 17th overall and first since 2023, but the Royals aren't looking too far ahead.

"It's a great start to the season. It's exactly what we've been working for. We've put in a good off-season, and it's starting to show," HSE junior pitcher Spencer Mohr said.

Mohr (3-0, 1.62 ERA) has 21 strikeouts in 17.1 innings pitched this season. Senior right-hander Dylan Cope (2-0, 2.42 ERA) has 10 punchouts in 8.2 IP, while junior AJ Eikenberry (1-0, 3.65 ERA) has eight in 15.1 IP.

Senior Chase Bradle, an Augustana College commit, is a dual threat as a pitcher and a fielder, with seven strikeouts in 10.0 IP and a .440 batting average with nine RBI and two doubles in 25 at-bats as a first baseman.

Senior second baseman Jackson Bixler (.412, 10 RBI, 2 doubles, HR, 7 stolen bases) hits leadoff ahead of Bucher (.323, 7 RBI, 3 doubles, HR, 5 stolen bases), who hit .230 as a sophomore.

"I think Clark is going

to show why he's a big-time recruit. There's a reason he's going to Michigan, and he's starting to figure out who he is. Last year, we knew he was going to struggle some and all that, but that year has paid off going into this year for us," Seitz said. "Just being way more confident."

With seven lineup regulars hitting .300 or better, the payoff is widespread.

Senior Parker O'Steen (.333, 5 doubles), a Kellogg CC commit, and Manchester commit Cy Cole (.370, 6 RBI, 2 doubles), a senior outfielder, continue to progress.

Varsity newcomer Alex Shepherd (.385, 6 RBI, 3 doubles), a junior catcher, and senior shortstop Trey McManama (.300, 2 doubles) add to the Royals' lineup strength, in addition to senior outfielder Kian Kelly (.333).

"Everything I've asked them to do, I feel like we've almost gotten done at this point, which is encouraging for them because they've bought into everything we spent a lot of time on in the offseason," Seitz said. "I like where our potential could be in a month from now."

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 16

BASEBALL

Bishop Chatard at Guerin Catholic, 5:30 p.m.
Sheridan at Western Boone, 5:30 p.m.
Brownsburg at Westfield, 6 p.m.
Zionsville at Hamilton Southeastern, 6 p.m.
Fishers at Noblesville, 7 p.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Fishers at Columbus North, 6:30 p.m.
Westfield at Brebeuf Jesuit, 7 p.m.
Guerin Catholic at Zionsville, 7:30 p.m.
Heritage Christian at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
Park Tudor at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.

GOLF

Noblesville vs. Pendleton Heights, 4 p.m. at Harbour Trees
Hamilton Heights vs. Western, 4:30 p.m. at Bear Slide

SOFTBALL

Hamilton Heights at Sheridan, 5 p.m.
Guerin Catholic at Brebeuf Jesuit, 5:30 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at New Palestine, 5:30 p.m.
Fishers at Pendleton Heights, 6 p.m.
Harrison at Westfield, 6 p.m.

TENNIS

Hamilton Heights at Maconaquah, 5:30 p.m.
Noblesville at Zionsville, 5:30 p.m.
Avon at Westfield, 6 p.m.
Fishers at Brownsburg, 6 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Harrison at Noblesville girls, 5:30 p.m.

UNIFIED TRACK

Noblesville at Westfield (with Zionsville), 6 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Fishers at Noblesville, 7 p.m.
Guerin Catholic at Park Tudor, 7 p.m.
Brownsburg at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.
Zionsville at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.

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

Boys Lacrosse



Photos by Mike Navarro
(ABOVE LEFT) Guerin Catholic's Gavin Soucie (left) scored five goals and dished out three assists during the Golden Eagles' win over Westfield on Wednesday. (ABOVE RIGHT) Westfield goalkeeper Jack Hamilton (left) made 13 saves.

Golden Eagles win all-county game with Shamrocks

The REPORTER

The Guerin Catholic boys lacrosse team won hard-fought home game over Westfield on Wednesday by the score of 15-10.

Vinny Elliott had an outstanding game for the Golden Eagles, scoring sev-

en goals. Gavin Soucie was dominant, totaling five goals and three assists. Mason Walosin added three goals and dished out one assist.

Chris Giedd made two assists and J.B. Ford provided one assist. Goalkeeper Magnus Mertz made

eight saves.

Keegan Hemingway led the Shamrocks scoring with three goals and one assist. Daniel Sherman and Landon Clark both scored two goals, with Sherman also handing out two assists.

Tyler Hamilton, Fin-

nigan Smyth and Sam Meyers all scored one Westfield goal. Goalkeeper Jack Hamilton made 13 saves.

Guerin Catholic is 6-4 and hosts Glenbard West (Ill.) on Saturday. The Rocks are 6-2 and play at Lake Forest (Ill.) on Saturday.

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Baseball

GC cruises past Chatard

The REPORTER

The Guerin Catholic baseball team cruised to a 14-0, five-inning win at Bishop Chatard Wednesday in a Circle City Conference game.

The Golden Eagles scored three runs in the first inning and four more in the third, then put up seven runs in the fifth inning.

Ian Taylor and Carson Kail both hit home runs, while Ben Canada smacked two doubles. Both Taylor and Canada were 3-for-4 at the plate and batted in three runs. Taylor, Nolan Ratcliff, Bryce Kissell and Karson Smith all hit one double, and Taylor scored three runs.

Tate Troxell pitched four innings for the win, striking out seven. Troxell cleared the 200-strikeout milestone

during the game.

The Golden Eagles are 7-0-1 and host Bishop Chatard tonight to complete the conference series; the game was originally scheduled for Tuesday but was postponed due to weather.

Westfield played to a 1-1 tie at Cathedral on Wednesday.

Robbie Brandenburg scored the Shamrocks' run on an error in the second inning. The Irish tied the game in the fourth inning, and the score stayed 1-1 until the game was called in the eighth inning.

Reid Dikos hit a double, one of Westfield's five hits. Ben Spencer pitched 4.2 innings, striking out four.

The Shamrocks are 4-3-1. Westfield played in the

East Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association Tournament last weekend, with losses to Grace Christian Academy 4-3 and Heritage High 9-2, followed by win over Maryville 5-3 and Gibbs 10-9.

The Rocks host Brownsburg at 6 p.m. tonight in a Hoosier Crossroads Conference game.

University lost an away game 4-1 at Alexandria on Wednesday in a Pioneer Conference game.

The Trailblazers scored their run in the third inning when Ethan Cutsinger got home on a wild pitch.

Beckett Suh had two hits for University.

The Blazers are 5-5 and host Greenwood Christian Academy on Friday.

Girls Tennis

Westfield tennis beats Brownsburg

The REPORTER

The Westfield girls tennis team beat Brownsburg 4-3 in its home opener on Wednesday.

The Hoosier Crossroads Conference match between the host and No. 9-ranked Shamrocks and the Bulldogs featured an expanded varsity lineup with three singles and four doubles courts.

In singles play, No. 1 Isla Harvey was a 6-2, 6-2 winner, followed by No. 2 Sloane Stephens earning a 6-1, 6-3 victory. No. 3 singles Alexis Halliburton dropped a tough three-set match 6-2, 0-6, 6-2.

The No. 1 doubles team of Jenna Berry and Bella Rivera was a 6-2, 6-3 winner, while Kendall Omer

and Rayna Roy took care of the No. 2 doubles match with a 6-1, 6-1 victory. No. 3 doubles Emerson Dierkes and Jilly Omer fell 6-2, 6-1, while No. 4 doubles Caroline Hopkins and Reese Miller dropped their match 6-3, 6-3.

The Shamrocks are 1-1 and host Avon tonight for another HCC dual meet.



Photo by Levi Jones, Indiana Athletics

Indiana Hoosiers Head Coach Curt Cignetti during the National Championship game against the Miami Hurricanes and the Indiana Hoosiers at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, Fla.

IU coaches Cignetti & DeVries to speak in Carmel

Inaugural 'Vision & Victory' night puts spotlight on athletics with cheerleaders, Hoosier the Bison & trophy photo opportunities

Submitted

Indiana University Athletics is staging a first-of-its-kind fan engagement event on May 14 at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, featuring onstage discussions with National Championship Head Football Coach Curt Cignetti, Head Men's Basketball Coach Darian DeVries, and Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Scott Dolson.



Photo provided

Indiana Hoosiers Head Men's Basketball Coach Darian DeVries.

along with a post-spring assessment of the reigning CFP Championship football program.

Emceed by "Voice of the Hoosiers" Don Fischer, the event also will feature the IU Cheerleaders, mascot Hoosier the Bison, video highlights of the 2025-2026 season, exclusive giveaways, and other interactive elements. To conclude the evening, fans will have a rare opportunity to take photos with the

CFP National Championship Trophy starting at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets starting at \$35 go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, April 17 at TheCenterPresents.org, by phone at (317) 843-3800, or in person at the Payne & Mencias Palladium's Fifth Third Bank Box Office, 1 Carter Green.

The event is part of the 2025-2026 *Center Presents* Season sponsored by Allied Solutions.



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Upcoming Broadcasts

Thur April 16 - Baseball
5:45 pm Zionsville vs **Hamilton SE** | HCC Baseball | Southeastern Sports
6:30 pm **Fishers vs Noblesville** | HCC Baseball | HCTV Sports

Thur April 16 - Girls Lacrosse
7:15 pm Heritage Christian vs **Hamilton SE** | Girls Lacrosse | Southeastern Sports

Fri April 17 - Boys Lacrosse
6:00 pm Cathedral vs **Hamilton SE** | Boys JV Lacrosse | Southeastern Sports
8:00 pm Cathedral vs **Hamilton SE** | Boys Varsity Lacrosse | Southeastern Sports

Sat April 18 - Baseball
11:55 am Transylvania vs Earlham | Baseball - Doubleheader | Indiana SRN
1:00 pm University vs **Noblesville** | Baseball | HCTV Sports

Mon April 20 - Baseball
6:30 pm Rossville vs **Noblesville** | Baseball | HCTV Sports

Tues April 21 - Boys Volleyball
5:20 pm Kings Academy vs Horizon Christian | 2026 Volleyball | Indiana SRN

Wed April 22 - Boys Lacrosse
6:00 pm Brownsburg vs **Hamilton SE** | Boys JV Lacrosse | Southeastern Sports
8:00 pm Brownsburg vs **Hamilton SE** | Boys Varsity Lacrosse | Southeastern Sports

Fri April 24 - Baseball
6:30 pm Franklin Central vs **Noblesville** | HCC Baseball | HCTV Sports



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