

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026**

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



**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Today: Mostly cloudy.  
 Stray showers around in the late afternoon.  
 Tonight: Partly cloudy.



HIGH: 62 LOW: 39

**Westfield Lions' Poker for Sight raises \$24K for local charities**

*Event awards \$25K in prizes; B.J. Andrews wins \$10K top prize*

By **JEFF LARRISON**  
*Westfield Lions Club*

The Westfield Lions recently completed their 36th "Poker for Sight" @ Texas Hold 'Em tournament and it produced big winners – counting players and the charities that received donations at the event.

The semi-annual tournament pays out over \$25,000 in prize money, including \$10,000 to the winner, and this Spring's event generated approximately \$24,000 for the Lions' charitable work. Also, during the tournament the Lions present "Big Checks" before each of the qualifying sessions and championship session to local charities.

B.J. Andrews won the championship, earning the \$10,000 top prize and winner's leather jacket with a commanding chip lead at the end of the six-hour final round.



Photo provided by Westfield Lions Club

**B.J. Andrews won the \$10,000 prize as well as the winner's leather jacket.**

Anthony Tursi finished second, receiving \$4,000.

Third- and fourth-place finishers tied with identical chip

counts – an event first – and split the combined payout, earning \$1,750 each.

"This event continues to

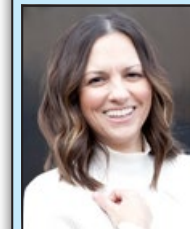
grow because of the incredible support from our players and

**See Poker . . . Page 2**

**Leave the "dis" in my disability**

Something that frustrates me is that many people want to change the word disability or try to call it something else. I have not always had this opinion, but I do now and I would like to explain where I am coming from.

**COLUMNIST**



**AMY SHINNEMAN**  
*Disability in the City*

Often people have the best of intentions when they produce "softer" names to replace the word disability. I apologize if that offends anyone, and I am not claiming to speak on behalf of all disabled people. I do know from experience and relationships with disabled people that I speak for many when I say that.

It bothers me a lot. Here is why. When people see disability as a "bad word" that can feel like they are denying my reality or trying to dismiss something that is very central to my being. I cannot dodge the fact that it defines me in many ways. It just does.

I get that often people are trying to say that people with disabilities are capable and can do many things. Of course we can!

We can get that truth across without changing any names. And we should.

Much of the work I do revolves around trying to change the narrative surrounding the word disability. We do not have to deny people's reality, but we do need to work to change the narrative that surrounds the word disabled.

Growing up, that word felt like something that was not okay for me to say or admit about myself. I convinced myself that I needed to try and hide the biggest part of me to have any sort of chance at self-worth. Yet, I knew that there were many things I could not do because of my disability. Disability has always been a part of my identity.

**See Disability . . . Page 3**

**Two original members of Carmel Symphony Orchestra retire**

**Submitted**

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) recently celebrated two of its longest standing musicians at its final concert of the 2025-2026 season.

Ann Manship and Jan Brill retired at the end of what was their 50th season with the CSO. At the "Symphonic Odyssey" concert Saturday, April 18, CSO Board Chair Nancy Sutton read a letter from Mayor Sue Finkam expressing her gratitude for the musicians' impact on the CSO and the Carmel Community.

Mayor Finkam's letter said in part:

*On behalf of our community, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation and warmest congratulations to each of you as you take the stage tonight for*

*your final performance with the Carmel Symphony Orchestra. Reaching 50 years of service is an extraordinary milestone, and doing so as two of the Orchestra's original members makes this moment even more meaningful.*

*For 50 years, you have each been pillars of the Carmel arts community.*

*Your artistry and unwavering commitment have helped shape this organization into the premier resident orchestra for the City of Carmel. Your musicianship has inspired audiences, supported generations of fellow artists and contributed immeasurably to the cultural growth our city is proud to celebrate today.*

Both Manship and Brill are original members of the CSO,



**Manship**



**Brill**



Photo provided by Carmel Symphony Orchestra

**CSO Board Chair Nancy Sutton (right) presents Jan Brill (left) and Ann Manship (center) with their recognitions upon their retirement.**

performing since it incorporated as a non-profit in 1976, helping it grow into a fully professional organization. Manship

and Brill have seen many wonderful performance venues and

**See CSO . . . Page 3**



**Family Promise secures \$20K grant from Clayton to prevent homelessness**

**Submitted**

Family Promise of Hamilton County (FPOHC) recently received a \$20,000 grant from homebuilder Clayton, ensuring that families in Hamilton County receive the support they need to stay safely housed.

The grant is a portion of the \$2 million Clayton is donating to the Family Promise national network. The funds are a result of the recently announced partnership extension between Family Promise and Clayton.

*A Future Begins at Home*, the initiative created through this collaboration is focused on supporting families experiencing homelessness by helping them remain in their homes and quickly regain stability. Since its inception in 2019, *A Future Begins at Home* has helped catalyze over \$14 million in additional funding, resulting in more than 43,000 families served.

"We're grateful to continue our partnership with Clayton and the impact it brings to our community," FPOHC Executive Director Alicia Klingerman said. "This grant will help families stay safely housed and create a path toward long-term stability."

In addition to Clayton's generous financial support, they have donated 20 homes to the Family Promise national network since

**See Promise . . . Page 3**

**Attorney General Rokita launches IN Fuel Watch**

*New online portal brings transparency to gas prices during declared energy emergency*

**Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita**

On Tuesday, April 28, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita launched IN Fuel Watch, a new public online portal that provides real-time gasoline prices at more than 4,600 Indiana gas stations around the entire state.

The user-friendly website allows Hoosiers to search, filter and sort stations by price, city, or name. It features live statewide

metrics – including the current average price and average change since the tax suspension began – along with color-coded indicators for each station: green for those dropping prices more than 17 cents below the April 8 level, yellow for moderate changes and red for any increases.



**Rokita**

"Hoosiers deserve clear, accessible information about gas prices in their communities," AG Rokita said. "IN Fuel Watch gives you the ability to check local prices and see how they compare across the state. We know every

penny matters right now and are committed to making sure you

are treated fairly at the pump during this time."

By providing this transparent view of pricing across Indiana, the portal helps families make informed decisions at the pump while equipping AG Rokita's Consumer Protection Division with real-time data to monitor the market and potentially investigate retailers with

**See Fuel Watch . . . Page 2**

**VOTE SWENSON MAY 5TH 2026**

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 HAMILTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT 4

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

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

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BY STRADLATE

## Early Voting Totals

Below are the number of early voters as of Monday, April 27, listed by polling location. [Click here](#) for more information on early voting.

Judicial Center . . . . .	1,461
4-H Fairgrounds . . . . .	2,028
Roy G. Holland Park (Fishers) . . . . .	459
Billericay Park (Fishers) . . . . .	529
Westfield City Hall . . . . .	215
Washington Twp. Office . . . . .	175
Cool Creek Nature Center . . . . .	440
Jill Perelman Pavilion (Carmel) . . . . .	370
Wilfong Pavilion (Carmel) . . . . .	197
Carmel Clay Public Library . . . . .	530
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>6,404</b>

## POKER

from Page 1



Photos provided by Westfield Lions Club  
(TOP LEFT) The Indiana Diabetes Youth Camp received a \$1,500 check: (from left) Carrie Larrison, Jenna White, and Dwight Gossett. (TOP CENTER) Open Doors Food Pantry received a \$1,500 check: (from left) Linda Chase, Carrie Larrison, and Cheryl Hochgesang. (TOP RIGHT) Third Phase received a \$1,500 check: (from left) Rodney Benson, Jeff Larrison, and Sandra VanDenBerg. (ABOVE LEFT) Indy Edge Beep Baseball received a \$500 check. (ABOVE RIGHT) The HVAF received a \$1,500 check: (from left) Tracy Rogers, Steve Hall, Kanika Warren, and Ashley Walls, and Bruce Bowman.

## Where to vote early

### Noblesville

Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square

- April 29 to May 1 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- May 2 from 9 to 4 p.m.
- May 4 from 8 a.m. to noon

Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St.

- April 29 to May 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- May 4 from 8 a.m. to noon

### Carmel

Wilfong Pavilion, 11675 Hazel Dell Pkwy., Building A

Jill Perelman Pavilion, 3000 W. 116th St.

Carmel Public Library, 425 E. Main St.

- April 29 & 30 from 2 to 7 p.m.
- May 1 & 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Fishers

Roy G Holland Memorial Park Building, 1 Park Drive

Billericay Park Building, 12690 Promise Road

- April 29 & 30 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- May 1 & 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Westfield

Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn St.

Cool Creek Nature Center, 2000-1 E. 151st St.

Westfield Washington Twp. Offices, 17400 Westfield Blvd.

- April 29 & 30 from 2 to 7 p.m.
- May 1 & 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

the community.” Tournament Director Mike Birk said. “Every dollar raised helps us support organizations that make a real difference in people’s lives.”

The club presented \$1,500 donations to:

- Indiana Diabetes Youth Camp
- Third Phase Homeless Shelter
- Hoosier Veterans and Families
- Open Doors Food Pantry

Each organization provides critical support to individuals and families in need, reflecting the Lions Club motto, “We Serve.”

During the tournament the Lions also presented a \$500 check to the Indy Edge Beep Baseball Team. The Edge team representatives attend all the Lions’ tournaments and conduct silent auctions during the tournament featuring donated prizes.

The Lions are so proud to partner with the Edge to help their visually impaired players enjoy the game of baseball. The Edge won the Beep Baseball World Series in 2023 and 2024 and came in second place in 2025!

Since Helen Keller gave the Lions the nickname “Knights of the Blind” at the 1926 International Lions Convention, Lions have made it a priority to support vision-related charities, projects, and organizations like the Edge.

The Lions began holding the semi-annual tour-



Photo provided by Westfield Lions Club

The Westfield Lions worked the final round at the Poker for Sight Tournament.

## FUEL WATCH

from Page 1

unjustifiably high prices during the declared energy emergency.

AG Rokita said his office will enforce Indiana’s Deceptive Consumer Sales Act and price-gouging laws if stations fail to pass along savings or charge unconscionable prices. He added that although state legislators have made laws confusing when it comes to whether a gas station is gouging during an energy emergency, the Office of the Attorney General has made these issues easier to understand through the work of good attorneys and a “can do” information technology team.

AG Rokita thanked Chief Technology Officer Sreenath Bangaru and

his entire IT team for their swift work in developing and quickly launching this transparency portal.

“We’re proud of how quickly our team built and launched IN Fuel Watch,” Chief Technology Officer Sreenath Bangaru said. “This tool not only gives Hoosiers real-time transparency into gas prices across the state but also sends a clear message to retailers: our office is closely monitoring the situation.”

Hoosiers can visit [IN Fuel Watch](http://INFuelWatch.com) immediately at [infuelwatch.com](http://infuelwatch.com) to check current prices in their area.

Anyone who believes they have witnessed price gouging may file a complaint with AG Rokita’s office at [indianaconsumer.com](http://indianaconsumer.com).

nements in 2007 and have only missed two of them over the years (due to COVID-19). The tournament is recognized as one of the best in the Midwest and consistently draws over 250 players over the two-day tournament. Profits from the tournaments allow the Lions to make impactful donations to Westfield’s schools and students, as well as to numerous other charities throughout the year.

The founder of the tournament, Lion Don Russel, along with Tournament Directors Lions Brian Abraham and Mike Birk, have developed and refined the tournament so that the vast majority of the people that play are repeat players.

The next tournament is scheduled for November 2026. More information is available at [LionsPoker.org](http://LionsPoker.org).



Photo provided by Westfield Lions Club

Grand Prize winner B.J. Andrews also got this slick winner’s leather jacket.

### About the Westfield Lions Club

The Westfield Lions Club is part of Lions Clubs International, a global service organization dedicated to improving communities through

volunteer service and charitable giving, with a strong focus on vision-related initiatives. If you are interested in becoming a Lion and making a difference in our community, go to [WestfieldLions.org](http://WestfieldLions.org).

# Vote Court Commissioner Christopher Barrows

## First Judge of Hamilton Superior Court 9



Christopher Barrows	Opponent One	Opponent Two
More than 10 years as a lawyer?	✗	✓
More than 1 year judicial experience?	✗	✗
Thousands of cases in Hamilton County Courts?	✗	✗

## Integrity, Community Roots, and Experience That Matters

# Court Commissioner Christopher Barrows for Court No. 9

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Chris Barrows

## Community News

### Carmel VFW to hold free breakfast for Veterans

To kick off the fifth annual VFW Day of Service, the Delbert L. Waugh VFW Post 10003, 12863 Old Meridian St., will welcome Veterans for a free breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. this Saturday, May 2.

### 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 Department wants to know what you like on your pancakes. [Click here](#) and comment on the Facebook post. Your suggestion could end up on this year's topping bar.

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

### Coffee Hour for Veterans

Attention Veterans in northern Hamilton County ...

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

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

# Braun says ex-DCS director's special advisor position is a 'second chance'

By **KARA KENNEY**  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](#)

Governor Mike Braun says the former director at the Indiana Department of Child Services left "because he had a personal issue" and that he deserves a second chance.

**Lawmakers and taxpayers have blasted the new special advisor position** created for ex-DCS director Adam Krupp, a position that pays \$210,000.

I-Team 8 caught up with Braun after a news conference.

**Kenney:** Governor, you just talked about efficiency and accountability. Why give Adam Krupp a position and how do you hold him accountable if there's no job description?

**Governor:** It's easy to hold you accountable. He left because he had a personal issue.

Braun appointed Adam Krupp in January 2025. Krupp took a leave of absence for several months, from mid-January to mid-

April 2026.

When Krupp returned, Braun appointed Jennifer Dorfmeier to take over as DCS director and named Krupp as a special advisor on child welfare issues.

"If you've got somebody that did a good job and had an issue personally with it, I'm going to be one who gives you a second chance," Braun said. "There's a reservoir of experience there. Jennifer had done a great job in his absence."

Krupp served as the Indiana Department of Revenue Commissioner under Governor Holcomb. He also previously worked as general counsel to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Krupp's salary will remain at \$210,000 in his newly appointed role — the same salary as new **DCS Director Jennifer Dorfmeier**.

Dorfmeier, appointed April 21, will lead the state's third largest agency with more than 4,000 employees.

I-Team 8 asked the State Personnel Department for a job description for Krupp's position, but SPD responded that one was not available.

"I'll do like I've done over the years," Braun told News 8. "You make good decisions. People stick with you. You'll know what to pay them, you'll know when it makes sense to do so."

I-Team 8 was not able to ask any follow-up questions such as whether the position is permanent or temporary.

State Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, said the Governor owes the taxpayers an explanation.

"This position as a governor's adviser never existed before for that specific role," Qaddoura said. "It seems that this was a personal privilege that was afforded to a government employee that was not extended to others. That special treatment and favoritism is not something that I support."

The DCS budget for

fiscal year 2026 is \$1.54 billion.

Under Krupp and the agency's Project Awaken, dozens of DCS employees were terminated or reassigned citing "operational efficiencies" and "restructuring of certain administrative functions and roles."

"I find it extremely difficult to understand the logic behind creating additional layers of bureaucracy in state government, who are letting the frontline workers be either terminated or under invested in and underpaid and overworked," Qaddoura said. "I would have been more in favor of using a quarter million dollars to hire three additional case managers that actually can oversee cases and reduce the workload and improve the quality and oversight of investigations that DCS performs."

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/i-team-8/governor-says-ex-dcs-directors-special-advisor-position-is-a-second-chance](#).*

## CSO

from Page 1

positive changes with the CSO throughout the years, making it a wonderful life-long avocation.

In addition to a framed copy of the letter from Mayor Finkam, Brill and Manship received a glass trophy, CSO logo blanket and lifetime season tickets to the CSO performances. They also received many heartfelt handwritten notes from fellow musicians and CSO staff and board members.

### About Ann Manship

Manship played violin for the CSO and had early training at home from her mother who was a professional violinist and teacher. Manship decided her love of science would serve her best and decided to go to Purdue University for pharmacy.

While at Purdue, she performed with the Purdue Orchestra and Lafayette Symphony. When she finished school in 1975 and began working at a retail pharmacy in Carmel, she saw a callout for the Carmel Symphony.

Manship's daughter wrote her a message upon her retirement saying, "Congratulations on your retirement from the CSO after 50 years as a violinist. You played while raising active kids. You played while working full-time leading a team of pharmacists. You

played because you simply loved it. We saw that after every rehearsal and concert. Through your dedication to the CSO, we learned the importance of feeding your passions even when life becomes demanding."

### About Jan Brill

Brill has been a significant part of the CSO since its founding in 1976, reflecting a lifelong dedication to music and community. Beyond the symphony, she continues to share her talents as a musician, playing in the church orchestra at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis and performing with two musical trios. Rooted in a family tradition of education, she devoted 18 years to teaching private music lessons and earned recognition as an award-winning educator in the Westfield Washington Schools.

Brill's daughter also had words of thanks to her mom that said, in part, "You and Dad spent so much time helping the organization grow, sustain, and thrive in addition to your cellist contributions, and you have inspired so many young musicians through your efforts. Growing up around music inspired many of our family traditions and created four generations of cellists. These will be core memories for the rest of our lives."

## PROMISE

from Page 1

2019. These homes are used primarily as transitional housing, allowing families to stay together while receiving case management and support services as they work toward permanent housing.

### About Clayton

Founded in 1956, Clayton is a leading single-family, values-driven home builder committed to opening doors to a better life through homeownership. The company's portfolio includes a comprehensive range of site-built, modern manufactured, Tiny, Cross-Mod® and modular housing. In 2025, Clayton built more than 59,000 homes nationwide. Clayton remains committed to delivering attainable, sustainably-built housing with a lower cost of homeownership and creating a world-class experience for customers and team members. For more

information, visit [clayton-homes.com](#). CrossMod is a registered certification mark of the Manufactured Housing Institute.

### About Family Promise

Family Promise helps local communities coordinate their compassion to address the root causes of family homelessness. The organization addresses the issue holistically, providing prevention services before families reach crisis, and case management when they become homeless, and stabilization programs once they have secured housing to ensure they remain independent. Family Promise taps existing local resources to empower families towards economic stability. Families come to us in crisis; we help them rebuild their lives with new skills and ongoing support. To learn more, visit [FamilyPromiseHamiltonCountyIN.org](#).

## DISABILITY

from Page 1

I prefer the word disabled because other words make me uncomfortable and feel condescending to me. The word disability feels fitting for my experience as someone who has lived an entire lifetime with a physical disability.

It is what it is, so why not just say it like it is?

I feel respected and seen when others around me acknowledge my disability. It does not mean that must be the main topic of conversation. It means that because of my disability things may have to happen a little differently, or I may need accommodations to get to the same end goal. It creates an awareness that is necessary to my wellbeing.

I want to live in a world where I can say that I am disabled and that not be an

automatic negative mark on my character. Or where I am seen as lesser-than. Too often, I have been negatively categorized before I even speak.

Avoiding the word disabled only sets us back further. Something often seen as helpful is erasing disabled people from the conversation. It leaves me feeling as if I have failed and cannot be honest about how my disability affects what I am able to, physically speaking.

It only changes the surface and makes things look shinier outside but does not change the underlying attitude or negativity. At the end of the day, disabled people are still living with their disability. Renaming it does not change that.

We are all "differently

abled," but we are not all disabled.

Just because I cannot do some things, does not mean I cannot do anything.

Imagine if you went to the doctor and you had a certain condition, but everyone around you said, "We need to change the name of that" when you shared it with them. It sounds ridiculous.

That is my two cents on the topic. It is something that I am deeply passionate about and have a lot to say, sometimes so much so that I have a tough time putting it into words.

I appreciate the opportunity to be able to share my perspective. I hope that you can respect my opinion. If you disagree with me, I respect your opinion, too. I would encourage you to in-

clude disabled people in the conversation when making decisions about what to call disabled people.

I spent most of my life trying to escape my identity. I no longer want to run or hide from what I have always been: disabled.

I will spend the rest of my life working to change the harmful misconceptions that surround disability.

Until next time ...

*Amy Shinneman is a former National Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, disability blogger, freelance writer, wife, and mom of two boys. She is the recipient of the Reporter's Winter 2025 Ink-Stained Wretch award. You can find her blog at [humblycourageous.com](#) and reach her on Instagram @ashinneman.*

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SCOTT FADNESS, FISHERS  
CHRIS JENSEN, NOBLESVILLE

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DIXON FOR SHERIFF

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DUSTIN DIXON

# DIXONFORSHERRIFF.COM

# Carmel Farmers Market starts 28<sup>th</sup> season Saturday with local vendors & live music

By **HANNA MORDOH**  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

The Carmel Farmers Market will begin its 28th season this weekend.

The market is every Saturday from 8 to 11:30 a.m. from May to the end of September at Carter Green, south of the Palladium. It features 84 vendors offering Indiana-grown and produced goods.

Organizers say the farmers' market serves as a significant community gathering place and a hub for local businesses to thrive.

Susan Bock is a market master and oversees the Farmers Market. Miriam Boyer, the owner of Guaca-

mole and More, has been a vendor at the market for 10 years. Both women joined *Daybreak* on Tuesday to talk about the market's long-term impact on local enterprises.

Bock highlighted the unique atmosphere of the Carmel Farmers Market, emphasizing its role as a social hub.

"I would say it's really a gathering place. We have live music every week, and we typically have between 5,000 and 75,000 people in 3 1/2 hours," Bock said. "Our mission is to support small local businesses and see them thrive."

Bock emphasized that the food and produce are all

grown in Indiana.

"Everything in our market is Indiana-grown and produced, and you can rest assured that we don't bring things in from other areas," Bock said. She added that customers can, nine times out of 10, talk to the business owner. "When you come to the market, you learn all about them."

Boyer described the profound positive effect the market has had.

"The market helps a lot, a lot, a lot. And not only the businesses, but also the community. They come and have a great time," Boyer said. She noted that her business "keeps growing" and that "people are very thankful."

Boyer's products include fresh guacamole and salsas, Mexican lime pie, chicharrons, and mangoes on a stick.

"All of my products are fresh ingredients, no preservatives, no artificial colors. Most of them are gluten-free, dairy-free, oil-free, and sugar-free. That's what a lot of people are looking for these days."

The Carmel Farmers Market will be open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Carter Green until the last Saturday in September.

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/carmel-farmers-market-opens](http://wishtv.com/news/carmel-farmers-market-opens).*

# Sen. Banks introduces legislation to speed up VA construction projects

Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Jim Banks

[Click here](#) to read the full bill.

## Background

VA estimates it would cost between \$98 billion and \$109 billion to fully implement its strategic capital investment plan, including deferred maintenance and new construction, and this figure has been steadily increasing for many years. VA's infrastructure needs



Banks

have long significantly exceeded its infrastructure resources, and stretching each construction dollar as far as possible is critical.

The Government Accountability Office, Office of Inspector General, and VA officials have repeatedly cited the Department's unique construction codes and standards as major, and sometimes unnecessary, cost drivers. VA has long maintained its own facility design standards that are significantly different from commercial codes and standards and often vary from project to project. In contrast, GAO, OIG, and VA officials have touted the two CHIP IN Act projects (in Omaha, Neb., and Tulsa, Okla.) for being completed more quickly and at lower cost compared to VA-managed projects, because the law permitted their private developers to rely on commercial codes and standards to a limited extent.

Last week, Senator Jim Banks (R-Ind.) introduced the Faster VA Construction Act. This bill would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to adopt commercial building codes and standards where possible, consistent with law. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and Mazie Hirono (D-HI) are original cosponsors of the bipartisan legislation.

"Hoosier veterans deserve timely care, not red tape," Sen. Banks said. "This bill speeds up VA construction and makes sure taxpayer dollars are put to their best use."

Key provisions of Faster VA Construction Act:

- Direct VA to use commercial codes and standards in its construction and leasing projects instead of, or in addition to, unique federal codes and standards, where they do not conflict with statutory or regulatory requirements.
- Direct VA to use commercial codes and standards in three construction or leasing projects, as a pilot, for each of the next five years.
- Require VA to report on its use of these authorities.

# Noblesville Schools recognized nationally for music education for 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year

Submitted by Noblesville Schools

Noblesville Schools announced Monday, April 27 that for the 12th consecutive year they have been recognized as a national Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. This is a particular honor given that Noblesville Schools is one of only two districts in the state to receive this level of consecutive recognition.

The national music education recognition highlights school districts for their outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders in embracing music education as a part of the core school curriculum.



Photo provided by Noblesville Schools

Districts were selected based on music funding, staffing of highly qualified

music teachers, commitment to standards, and access to music instruction.

Noblesville Schools offers over 30 music classes across all grade levels.

## Hamilton County Reporter

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INDIANA STATE SENATE

### VOTE EARLY FOR TIFFANIE DITLEVSON

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- ✓ The only candidate already serving 70% of District 31
- ✓ The only combat veteran in the race
- ✓ The only candidate with local government experience

## 2026 Republican Primary

May 5, 2026

Early Voting Available April 7 - May 4

**Fishers Early Voting Locations**

Roy G. Holland Memorial Park Building  
1 Park Drive, Fishers

Billericay Park Building  
12690 Promise Road, Fishers

**Fishers Early Voting Hours**

Wednesday-Thursday  
April 22-23 | 2:00 PM-7:00 PM

Friday-Saturday  
April 24-25 | 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Wednesday-Thursday  
April 29-30 | 2:00 PM-7:00 PM

Friday-Saturday  
May 1-2 | 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

**Lawrence Early Voting Location**

Indianapolis Public Library - Fort Ben Branch  
9330 E. 56th Street, Indianapolis

**Lawrence Early Voting Hours**

Saturday, April 25-Sunday  
May 3 | 11:00 AM-6:00 PM

Visit [IndianaVoters.com](http://IndianaVoters.com)

Scan the QR code to confirm your voter registration, view a sample ballot, request an absentee ballot, or find additional voting locations and hours.

## ✓ Vote Tiffany Ditlevson

Republican for State Senate

Republican Primary | May 5, 2026

Early Voting Available

Paid for by Tiffany for Indiana Senate.

# IU Kokomo recognizes graduating teachers

## The REPORTER

Faculty and staff in the Indiana University Kokomo Division of Education, along with the 2026 Indiana Teacher of the Year, welcomed 50 new teachers into the profession at its annual recognition and pinning ceremony.

Scott Jones, executive vice chancellor of academic affairs, congratulated the graduates on becoming teachers, noting they have a great responsibility to the children they will teach.

“Each of you will have the opportunity to transform student lives every day, to make the sort of difference that people 50 years later will still be profoundly grateful for,” he said. “I want to thank you now for the great work you all will go on to do.”

Chris Darr, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, said in choosing the profession, they’ve chosen to change lives.

“Your students will remember you, and everything you do or say in and out of the classroom matters,” he said. “They will remember the effort you put into educating them, and they will remember the care you showed them as human



beings.”

Area graduates recognized included:

- **Elementary Education:** Ella Leininger, Atlanta; Emily Bragg, Elwood; Camden France Mahorney, Noblesville; Justin Dyer, Tipton; and Jacob Medvescek, Zionsville

- **Elementary and Early Childhood:** Grace Richardson, Cicero; and Taylor Stern, Sheridan

- **Elementary Education and Mild Intervention:** Whitney Gosnell, Alexandria

- **Secondary Education, Science:** Natalie Hall, Carmel

- **Secondary Education, Social Studies:** Macy Davidson, Noblesville; and Nicholas Hughes, Tipton

# Don't miss Carmel's second Japan SpringFest on Sunday

## Submitted by City of Carmel

Presented by the Carmel Sister Cities Inc. Japan Committee, in partnership with the City of Carmel, the second annual Japan SpringFest (formerly Cherry Blossom Festival) returns on Sunday, May 3. This free, family-friendly celebration of Japanese culture will take place at One Civic Square from noon to 5 p.m.



This year's festival features an expanded lineup of traditional food, entertainment live performances and hands-on activities designed for all ages.

Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, Japan SpringFest 2026 features a bigger and bolder experience for the community. Festival attendees will enjoy returning fan-favorite performers alongside exciting new acts, with a full schedule of traditional Japanese drumming, dance, and live on-stage entertainment throughout the afternoon. The festival will also offer twice the food vendors as last year, giving attendees an even wider selection of authentic Japanese cuisine and fusion offerings to explore. Guests of all ages can participate in traditional Japanese cultural activities including calligraphy, origami, kimono try-ons and more.

This year's festival also coincides with the recent reopening of the newly redesigned Kawachinagano Japanese Garden, located just steps from the festival grounds at Civic Square.

The garden was reimagined by world-renowned designer Hoichi Kurisu, whose portfolio includes the celebrated Portland, Ore. Japanese Garden, and features refined pond areas, enhanced northern garden landscaping and a tranquil setting that visitors can enjoy year-round.

“Japan SpringFest has quickly become one of our community's most anticipated cultural celebrations,” said Dr. Evan Kreutzer, president of the Carmel-Kawachinagano, Japan Sister City, Inc. “With an expanded festival and the stunning newly reopened Japanese Garden as a backdrop, this year promises to be an unforgettable experience for our residents and visitors alike.”

This event is made possible by the event sponsors and the Japan SpringFest Committee:

- Dr. Evan Kreutzer, Chair
- Mitsu Samiya, Chair
- Yosuke (Yogi) Eguchi
- Shu Goto
- Lauren Hardesty
- Chizuki Lothamer
- Masumi Makio
- Toyoka Nishihara
- Yuka Sato
- John Senuta

The event is free and open to the public. No tickets or registration are required. For more information and updates, visit the [Japan SpringFest event page on Facebook](#) or go to [CarmelSisterCities.org](#).

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Sukiya En-



Graphic provided by City of Carmel

trance Gate, at the start of the festival, from noon to 12:30 p.m. The ceremony will feature brief remarks from Mayor Sue Finkam and Township officials, as well as representatives from Carmel Sister Cities and CCPR. The ribbon cutting will take place immediately after at the entrance gate.

The event location is adjacent to the Monon Greenway so biking and walking are encouraged. If you are arriving by car, parking is available in the following locations:

- Civic Square Garage, 50 Red Truck Road
- Veterans Way Garage at Carmel City Center, 100 City Center Drive
- The Center Public Parking at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts, 819 3rd Ave. SW
- Kirby Park North, 1033 3rd Ave. SW
- Kirby Park East, 160 W. Carmel Drive

## Road closures

The following road closures will be in place during the event:

- Veterans Way: Full closure from Executive Drive to Gradle Drive
- Civic Way (City Hall overflow lot): No entry off of Range Line Road

## Detour route

A clearly marked detour (indicated in orange and white line on map) will be in place. The detour will route traffic east along Carmel Drive to Range Line Road then will continue north on Range Line Road to Gradle Drive, then west on to Gradle Drive to Civic Square and around the fountain.

There will also be local access only closures installed on Veterans Way at Carmel Drive, Executive Drive and Range Line Road and southeast of the fountain in both directions to prevent vehicles from traveling south into the closed portion of Veterans Way.

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# More than \$2.7 million in forgotten retirement benefits reclaimed by hardworking Hoosiers, more benefits waiting

## Submitted

The Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) has refreshed its Reclaim Your Retirement secure database with 541 new potential benefit recipients.

Since the secure database's launch in November 2025, 444 retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries have reclaimed their retirement benefits.

More than \$2.7 million in forgotten retirement benefits have been claimed by hardworking Hoosiers and their survivors and beneficiaries whose names were listed on INPRS's Reclaim Your Retirement secure database.

As a result of combined outreach efforts:

- Approximately \$2.6 million of annual guaran-

teed lifetime income has been claimed by 398 members by initiating retirement.

- \$146,384.07 has been delivered to 46 members, survivors, and beneficiaries for defined benefit and defined contribution benefits previously paid out.

As of March 2026, the refreshed Reclaim Your Retirement database lists:

- 3,793 Public Employees' Retirement Fund and Teachers' Retirement Fund members eligible to request their earned retirement benefits, and
- 2,247 retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries who have funds previous-



ly issued to them, but the funds have not been deposited.

More than 20,000 people have accessed the **Reclaim Your Retirement secure database** since its launch in November 2025.

With this refreshed database, INPRS is amplifying its outreach efforts to locate more eligible retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries who have retirement benefits awaiting them.

Median monthly benefit payments by fund range from \$557.50 to \$793.50. These individuals may also have a defined contribution account, with balances averaging \$14,451 to \$33,342.

The public can access the Reclaim Your Retirement secure database, available at [in.gov/inprs/reclaimyourretirement](http://in.gov/inprs/reclaimyourretirement).

Visitors can search for themselves, friends, family members, and former colleagues. To initiate the search, visitors must enter a first name, last name, and date of birth, including the four-digit year of the person they are searching for.

If there is a match in the database, on-screen instructions will guide the named individual, their survivor, or beneficiary toward what they should do next.

The **Reclaim Your Retirement secure database** is hosted securely in a database outside of INPRS member accounts. It's free and easy to use.

## JOHN LOWES

YOUR CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF

**Endorsed by:**  
**SHERIFF DENNIS QUAKENBUSH**

### EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Hamilton County Sheriff — Side by Side Comparison

QUALIFICATION	JOHN LOWES	OPPONENT
<b>LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE</b>		
Officer	✓	✓
Mid-Level Supervision	✓	✓
<b>COMMAND EXPERIENCE</b>		
Patrol Division Commander	✓	✗
Investigations Division Commander	✓	✗
Chief Deputy / Assistant Sheriff	✓	✗
Manages \$34 Million Budget	✓	✗
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
Graduate Certificate — Executive Police Leadership	✓	✗

John has spent the last eight years as part of the leadership team responsible for running the Sheriff's Office alongside Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush.

JOHN LOWES — A LEADER THAT IS READY ON DAY ONE!

LOWES KNOWS SAFETY SHERIFF

PAID FOR BY LOWES FOR SHERIFF COMMITTEE

# Sheridan kids act like they can spell!

The weekend of April 24, Sheridan Middle and High School Drama students shared their musical and acting talents with their community. These young actors presented the Tony Award-winning musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." The amazing show was directed by a talented group of individuals: Libby Doublestein, Johnny McGinnis, Gretchen Rafferty, and Ashlynn Green. Thank you to everyone who came to see these performers. (Photos by Paul Pretty Good Photography)



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# Young Sheridan actors have incredible talent



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# Noblesville's Emery Henderson wins 2026 Congressional Art Competition for Fifth District

Submitted by Office of U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz

On Monday, April 27, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) announced the winner of the 2026 Congressional Art Competition, an annual program of the U.S. House of Representatives highlighting student artists nationwide.

This year's competition featured a record number of participants representing every county in the Fifth District. First-place winner Emery Henderson, a junior at Noblesville High School, was selected by a panel of expert judges from the community and will receive a complimentary trip to Washington, D.C. to join winners from around the country, and her piece In the Garden will



Photo provided

be displayed for one year in the Cannon Tunnel at the U.S. Capitol.

Students interested in participating next year should note that submissions

will open in Spring 2027 and can find more information at [this link](#).

# National Fentanyl Awareness Day: a time to look out for each other

The United States is seeing a decline in overdose deaths, a sign that harm reduction efforts are working. But fentanyl remains the leading driver of overdose deaths among young people in the U.S., and one of the biggest risks is misunderstanding.



JUSTIN PHILLIPS

is up to 100 times stronger than morphine.

These are not distant statistics. They are showing up in our schools, our workplaces, and our communities.

Fentanyl Awareness Day is an important day of action, but the fentanyl crisis is present in communities year-round, and it's reaching younger people at an alarming rate. Educators are seeing firsthand how early exposure, misinformation and stigma are leaving young people vulnerable. Youth who begin using substances before age 15 are more than 50 percent more likely to develop substance use disorders later in life, making prevention before first use imperative.

At Overdose Lifeline, we work with schools, families, and community organizations to close these gaps through evidence-based prevention education and overdose re-

sponse training. Since 2014, one of our primary missions has been to remove the barriers to life-saving tools.

That includes expanding access to naloxone, commonly known as Narcan, and training individuals and organizations to use it. It includes providing fentanyl test strips so people can identify risk before it becomes fatal. These are practical, proven interventions that save lives.

For employers and business leaders, this moment calls for more than awareness. It calls for engagement.

That can mean supporting prevention education in schools, equipping workplaces with overdose re-

sponse training or ensuring employees and their families have access to accurate information and resources. It can mean partnering with organizations doing this work on the ground.

National Fentanyl Awareness Day exists because awareness saves lives. Acting on that awareness is what changes outcomes.

April 29 is a reminder that looking out for each other is not just a personal responsibility. It is a community standard and one that requires leadership.

Justin Phillips is the founder of Overdose Lifeline. Learn more at [OverdoseLifeline.org](#).

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<b>WALKING LIBERTY HALF DOLLAR</b> 	<b>FRANKLIN HALF DOLLAR</b> 	<b>MERCURY DIME</b> 	<b>ROOSEVELT DIME pre 1964</b> 
<b>LIBERTY NICKEL</b> 	<b>WHEAT PENNIES</b> 	<b>BUFFALO NICKEL</b> 	<b>SILVER DOLLARS</b> 
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# Nieshalla issues statement on budget-neutral Hoosier START employer match update

**Submitted by Office of State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla**

*Indiana State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla issued the following statement after the governor ceremoniously signed SEA 14 into law, authorizing an increase to the employer match for Indiana's Deferred Compensation Retirement Plan, Hoosier START.*

"SEA 14 received unanimous, bipartisan support in both chambers of the Indiana General Assem-

bly, underscoring the legislature's shared commitment to providing updated, fiscally responsible benefits for state employees," Nieshalla said. "When we identified that the match amount was still at \$15, the original amount when the benefit started 26 years ago, we got to work finding a budget-neutral way to bring it in line with



**Nieshalla**

present-day value, which helps the State maintain a competitive retirement package for employees."

SEA 14 modernizes key components of the State's retirement benefits at no extra cost to taxpayers by offering employees the option to redirect an existing and often forfeited benefit option to support an increased State match. Pending State

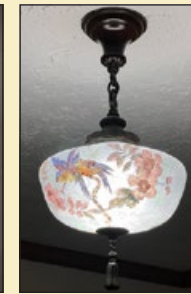
Budget Committee approval, the maximum employer contribution for eligible employees will rise from up to \$15 per paycheck (original amount) to up to \$28 per paycheck (present-day value) beginning after Dec. 31, 2026.

As with the current match, it will continue to be applied automatically for eligible Hoosier START participants and will remain subject to review every two years through the State's biennial budget process.

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**VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT:** 2008 Porsche 911 Carrera 4 Cabriolet. 2017 Mercedes-Benz E550 convertible. 2010 Mercedes-Benz S65 AMG. 1977 Mercedes 450SL convertible with hardtop. 1988 Harley-Davidson 85th Anniversary Softail Springer (450 miles). Mowers and grounds equipment.

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# CCHA Law continues growth with addition of Alexandra Afriat to Business Services and Estate Planning practice groups

**Submitted**

Church Church Hittle and Antrim (CCHA Law) welcomes Alexandra "Alex" Afriat (Lasbury) as an Associate Attorney in the firm's Business Services and Estate Planning practice groups.

Afriat advises individuals, families, and business owners on a broad range of legal matters. Her practice includes business formation, contract drafting and negotiation, commercial real estate matters, corporate governance, and estate planning.

"Alex brings a strong

financial background and a thoughtful, client-focused approach to her work," Managing Partner Alex Pinegar said. "We're excited to have her join our team and continue supporting our clients' business and estate planning needs."

Afriat earned her Bachelor of Science in Finance from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business and spent four years working as a financial analyst in the banking and healthcare



**Afriat**

industries before pursuing her legal career. She went on to earn her Juris Doctor, summa cum laude, from Boston College Law School, with a concentration in tax law. While in law school, she served as an articles editor for the *Boston College Law Review*.

Afriat is admitted to practice law in Indiana and Illinois and is a member of the Indiana State Bar Association and the Hamilton County Bar Association.

# Race into May with captivating blend of harmonies & dynamic sound that is Steel Petals

**Submitted**

On Friday, May 1, join Feinstein's inside The Hotel Carmichael to see Steel Petals, an Indianapolis-based band that blends captivating harmonies with a fresh, dynamic sound. Fronted by the vocal talents of Tim Wright, Cat Federspiel, and Jenn Moe, the band delivers an unforgettable performance with their rich, layered melodies and heartfelt lyrics.

Known for their exceptional vocal harmonies, Steel Petals combines elements of folk, indie, and Americana, creating a sound that's both intimate and expansive. With their unique chemistry and magnetic stage presence, Steel Petals offers an experience that resonates deeply with their audience.

Wright has been in the music business for the past 45 years. He has played in the past with his brother, Tom, with a variety of

groups and as a solo performer. Wright plays pedal steel guitar, guitar, and sings. As part of the various groups, Wright has performed rock, pop, country, bluegrass, and gospel. As part of the Wright Brothers Band, Wright contributed to nine singles on the *Billboard* Hot 100 during the 1970s and 1980s and performed with Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash, Ronnie Milsap, Bob Hope, and Marty Stuart.

Federspiel is an Indianapolis-based musician and vocalist known for her work in the folk, indie, and Americana genre. She is known for soulful, layered vocal harmonies and heartfelt songwriting. She has previously played with several groups in the local music scene.

Moe's love of music sprouted from an eclectic mix of Broadway music, Motown, and Rat Pack

Cocktail Jazz. She is an Indianapolis-based vocalist and graphic designer active in the local music scene. She is best known as a lead vocalist for Strawberry Jam and Steel Petals, and formerly for Full Tilt. She currently performs a mix of country, classic rock, and popular hits. She also helps lead marketing efforts for her bands.

Tim Wright & Steel Petals' show takes place May 1. Come early for dinner from 5:30 p.m., when the doors open, until 7:30 p.m. when the show starts. Once the show has begun options are available for drinks and dessert.

Get your tickets and learn more about this and other shows at [feinsteins.com/events](http://feinsteins.com/events). You can also call Hotel Carmichael at (317) 688-1947.

Feinstein's at Hotel Carmichael is located at 1 Carmichael Square, Carmel.

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## 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 no longer be accepted.

Letters in response to new topics will no longer be accepted.

Letters of endorsement will continue to be accepted through the end of business on Thursday, April 30, and will appear in our Friday, May 1 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.*



### Letter to the Editor

## Former Westfield Chief of Police endorses John Lowes for Sheriff

Dear Editor:

I am proud to offer my strongest endorsement of John Lowes for Sheriff of Hamilton County, Indiana.

During my nearly 15 years as Chief of Police for the Westfield Police Department, I had the privilege of working closely with John while he served as a Police Captain. Over the course of our professional relationship, John consistently distinguished himself through exceptional character, sound judgment, and unwavering integrity. He earned the respect of his peers and subordinates, not only as a capable leader, but as a trusted colleague and dependable friend.

John is an intelligent, forward-thinking leader who understands that modern law enforcement requires a careful balance of accountability, transparency, and compassion. He has always demonstrated a commitment to professionalism, strong community partnerships, and a leadership style grounded in respect and service – qualities that are essential for today's Sheriff.

What sets John apart is not only his experience and leadership ability, but his genuine dedication to the people he serves. He is a devoted father and a man of strong values who cares deeply about the safety and well-being of the community. His vision for Hamilton County reflects both practical experience and a sincere desire to build a safer, stronger future for all residents.

I have complete confidence in John's ability to lead the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office with integrity, vision, and professionalism. He will serve both the public and his deputies with honor and respect.

Hamilton County would be exceptionally well served by his leadership.

**Joel Rush**

*Former Chief of Police  
Westfield Police Department*

*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.*

## Treasurer Daniel Elliott Welcomes Israeli Consul General Elad Strohmayer to Indiana Statehouse

Submitted by Office of Treasurer Daniel Elliott

On Tuesday, April 28, Indiana State Treasurer Daniel Elliott welcomed Elad Strohmayer, Consul General of Israel to the Midwest, to discuss Indiana's continued investments and economic ties to Israel. This is Treasurer Elliott's first meeting with Consul General Strohmayer, who assumed the post last year, replacing Consul General Yinam Cohen.



Elliott

to investing in Israel bonds, which have consistently ranked among the state's best-performing assets. Treasurer Elliott also helped lead a delegation of State Treasurers from across the United States to Israel last year as part of his duties as a member of the National Association of State Treasurers, where he currently serves as the Vice President of the national, non-partisan organization.

"As Treasurer, my fiduciary duty is to safeguard Hoosiers' money while seeking strong, reliable returns,"

See Elliott . . . Page 12

# Sunset Blvd. is good enough to watch from any seat in the house

Actors Theatre of Indiana's tag line reads "Broadway in your Backyard!"

Once again, ATI has produced that level of excellence for their audience with their 2025-26 season closing production of *Sunset Blvd.*

The 1995 Tony Award winning musical-drama is based on Billy Wilder's eponymous 1950 film, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and book/lyrics by Don Black and Christopher Hampton. It is directed for ATI by Michael Blatt, with Music Direction by Ginger Stoltz and Choreography by Carol Worcel.

The creative staff combines their outstanding staging talents with a highly skilled cast. The result is a polished and potent retelling of the iconic Hollywood tale about faded silent-screen maven Norma Desmond's sad and desperate hopes of regaining her place in a changing film-making world.

Judy Fitzgerald stars as the aging performer and brings her many talents to the fore as she is beyond spectacular in her portrayal. She absolutely demands attention as the dethroned movie queen, stirring the audience with her renditions of "With One Look" and "As If We Never Said Goodbye." Ms. Fitzgerald handles this very difficult role with such sharp skill – you just can't take your eyes off of her.

Luke Weber portrays the down-on-his-luck screenwriter Joe Gillis and is a match for Ms. Fitzgerald's talent output on every level. Trapped in an unlikely bond with Ms. Desmond, Weber's Gillis is defiant and plain-spoken in the second-act opener – "Sunset Blvd." – and delivers top-level vocals throughout the show.

Don Farrell makes his return to the ATI stage as Ms. Desmond's butler and protector, Max von Mayerling. Sporting a newly shaved head for the part, Farrell gives the type of performance we are accustomed to from him, especially soaring on his deeply-felt "The Greatest Star of All."

Deborah Mae Hill adds an important supporting

role as Betty Schaefer, Gillis' come-lately love interest, and shares a lovely rendition of "Too Much in Love to Care" with him.

Supporting cast members all fit well in their various ensemble roles and execute their vocals and Ms. Worcel's choreography with a well-set sparkle.

In an unusual scoring style (although somewhat familiar in Webber's catalog), the majority of lines are delivered as song. Although I wouldn't call the musical style 'opera,' it approaches that genre. The result is an almost continual production of music by Ginger Stoltz' 10-piece orchestra which is delivered with richness and power. All the players work very hard, but especially noteworthy is Ms. Stoltz's expert turn at the keyboard which ranges from thunderous to sweet.

An ingenious scenic



KEN KLINGEMEIER  
*A Seat on the Aisle*



Photo by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com

Judy Fitzgerald as Norma Desmond.

design by Jay Ganz allows for smooth transitions between the various locales of the story and costumes by Guy Clark are lavish where needed.

**Bottom Line:** Although our seats weren't the best for this staging, that factor didn't detract from noting that this is a very entertaining, high-level production. It really is a must-see! ATI's second season in its new configuration has been a

big success, I believe. Mrs. K and I look forward to the upcoming season of shows with great anticipation.

*Sunset Blvd.* continues at ATI's Studio Theatre in the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel through May 10. You can get information about the schedule and tickets by calling (317) 843-3800 or at [atistage.org](http://atistage.org).

Read more great play reviews from *A Seat on the Aisle* at [asota.wordpress.com](http://asota.wordpress.com).

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LYONS REALTY

# Lucas Oil Uncorked raises \$192K for Peyton Manning Children's Hospital

**The REPORTER**

On April 16, Lucas Oil Products – the Indiana-based, family-owned distributor of high-performance automotive additives and lubricants – brought together more than 200 guests for an evening of exceptional dining and meaningful philanthropy at Prime 47 in Carmel.

The event collectively raised more than \$192,000 for Peyton Manning Children's Hospital (PMCH) at Ascension St. Vincent.

"For the second year, Lucas Oil Uncorked brought our community together in support of programs and services that make a meaningful difference for children and families throughout Indiana," said Katie Lucas, President of Lucas Oil and Board Chair of the Ascension St. Vincent Foundation. "Our family has seen firsthand the incredible work being done at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital, and we are proud to support its continued impact through Uncorked."



Lucas Oil CEO Morgan Lucas added, "Compassion and genuine 'Hoosier Hospitality' took center stage at the second annual Lucas Oil Uncorked. It's nights like these that truly highlight philanthropic excellence in Indiana, and none of it would be possible without the support of our Uncorked guests who showed up for Peyton Manning Children's Hospital. Lucas Oil is proud

to be headquartered right here in central Indiana, where our work directly impacts the lives of so many in our community."

Driven by a deeply held passion for children's health, the Lucases are long-time supporters of PMCH and Ascension St. Vincent. Their two sons, Hunter and Austin, were born in an Ascension St. Vincent hospital, and in 2023, Hunter

received life-saving surgery at PMCH. The Lucas Family will never forget the care and compassion shown by PMCH and Ascension St. Vincent during this challenging time.

One hundred percent of funds raised during Lucas Oil Uncorked will continue expanding critical programs, resources, and services for children and families across Indiana.

**TODAY'S BIBLE READING**

**BALAAAM'S DONKEY**

*Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path through the vineyards, with walls on both sides. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat the donkey again.*

Numbers 22:24-25 (NIV)

**Phyllis Joan (Snyder) Love**

**December 25, 1928 – April 22, 2026**

Phyllis Joan (Snyder) Love, 97, Noblesville, died April 22, 2026, at Autumnwood Village, Tipton. She was born December 25, 1928 in Lapel to Marvin L. Forrer and Opal Marie Snyder. Joan was raised by her maternal grandparents, Clem and Roxie (Hill) Snyder of the Walnut Grove and Arcadia communities.



Joan graduated in 1946 from Jackson Central High School in Arcadia. Shortly after graduation she went to work at Jenkins Glass Factory in Arcadia as secretary to the manager. In 1948, she worked at the Veteran's Service Office at the Courthouse in Noblesville. While working at the Veteran's Office she met Joseph E. Love, a veteran of WWII, who would later become her husband. They were married in June 1948. During the 1950s, Joan worked in the Hamilton County Clerk's office as Clerk's Clerical Assistant, and Voter's Registration Deputy.

Joe and Joan resided on Field Drive in Noblesville most of their lives.

Joan was especially interested in art, and had studied oil painting with Harriet Jeffries of Carmel, and watercolor painting with Floyd D. Hopper of Noblesville. She also studied sculpture with Adolph Wolter of Indianapolis. Most of the subjects of her sculpture were Arabian Horses. She was also commissioned by the Arabian Horse Association to illustrate a Children's Fun Book.

She was an Honorary Member of the Hamilton County Artist's Association, the IN Arabian Horse Club, and the International Arabian Horse Association. Joan was an adult leader in the Hamilton County 4-H Horse and Pony Club for 10 years. She had been a member of the Board of Riverview Hospital, and had worked there as a volunteer for over 40 years.

In addition to her parents, Joan was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph, in December 2003; stepfathers, Willis Darrel Webb and Frank J. Taylor; half-brothers, Marion "Pete" (Nancy) Webb of Pendleton, Ind., and Paris and Anthony Taylor of New Orleans, La.; and half-sister, Marilyn (Danny) Gardner of Vacaville, Calif.

Joan is survived by her daughter, Rebecca J. (Dr. Tim) Fleck of Westfield; son, J. Bradley (Sherri) Love of Noblesville; four grandchildren, Austin R. (Meagen) Fleck of Noblesville, Ashley R. (Jon) Teunis of Houston, Texas, Hannah A. (Mike) Wyatt of Winter Park, Colo., and Nicholas B. Love of Noblesville; and great-grandchildren, James Reid and Mackenzi Rose Fleck of Noblesville, Graham W. and Nolan J. Teunis of Texas, and River G. Wyatt of Colorado.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday May 14, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

**ELLIOTT**

Treasurer Elliott said. "Our investment in Israel bonds has proven to be both smart and impactful. Not only are these bonds among our top-performing investments, but they also reflect Indiana's commitment to partnering with a nation known for resilience, innovation, and economic strength. These investments are ben-

eficial to Hoosier taxpayers and are morally in-line with Hoosier values."

"It was a pleasure to meet Treasurer Elliott and thank him for his steadfast support for Israel," Consul General Strohmayr said. "Indiana's investment in Israel bonds reflects both moral clarity and strong financial judgment, deliv-

ering real returns for Hoosiers while strengthening our partnership. Treasurer Elliott is a true friend and I look forward to building on this important foundation together."

As of April 2026, Indiana has invested \$120 million in Israel bonds as part of an approximately \$16 billion general fund portfolio.

Treasurer Elliott oversees over \$75 billion of Hoosier funds through his direct management or service on various boards for the State of Indiana. In the nearly 3 1/2 years since taking office, he has generated over \$1.2 billion in investment returns for Hoosier taxpayers, more than the prior 10 years combined.

*from Page 11*

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

Submit obituaries under 500 words online at [ReadTheReporter.com/obitform](http://ReadTheReporter.com/obitform).

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# REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

Sports Editor Richie Hall | Sports@ReadTheReporter.com | Twitter @Richie\_Hall

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

## Softball

# Royals rally, complete Mudsock three-peat

By RICHARD TORRES  
For The Reporter

**FISHERS** – No Grace Swedarsky. No problem for the fourth-ranked Class 4A Hamilton Southeastern Royals.

Without their senior ace for Tuesday's Mudsock rivalry showdown against 4A No. 8 Fishers, the Royals relied on their bats and sophomore pitcher Kaleah McCarter.

Neither disappointed.

McCarter scattered four hits over 6.0 innings with six strikeouts, while the lineup produced 13 hits – five extra-base knocks – led by freshman Jaycee McCarter's ninth home run of the season to beat Fishers, 7-1.

Fishers (11-5, 0-2 HCC) led 1-0 midway through the second inning, but Hoosier Crossroads Conference



Photo by Richard Torres

The Hamilton Southeastern softball team won its third consecutive Mudsock trophy on Tuesday, beating Fishers 7-1.

foe HSE (12-3, 2-1 HCC) rallied for five hits in the bottom of the frame that produced six runs en route

to the Royals' third straight Mudsock victory.

"When the girls came in after Fishers got that one

run and before we grabbed our bats, we talked about how do we respond?" HSE coach Emily Pusti said.

"The girls said, 'We hit' (1-for-3, RBI) tied the game. That's how we respond, and 1-1 in the bottom of the they did it."

HSE junior Tori Bricker See Rally . . . Page 14

## Boys Swimming



Photo provided

**Gabriel Brown of Fishers Area Swimming Tigers received the 9-Year-Old Boys National Swimmer of the Year award at the inaugural ORCA Awards. The awards were presented by the International Swim Coaches Association at a ceremony that took place April 17 and 18 in St. Petersburg, Fla.**

## FAST swimmer Gabriel Brown wins Swimmer of the Year Award

By RICHIE HALL  
sports@readthereporter.com

One of the best young swimmers in the country is also one of the first winners of an award to recognize that excellence.

Gabriel Brown, who swims with Fishers Area Swimming Tigers, was named the 9-year-old Boys National Swimmer of the Year at the inaugural ORCA Awards earlier this month. The awards were presented by the International Swim Coaches Association at a ceremony that took place April 17 and 18 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Brown was one of 18 Swimmers of the Year; there are categories for both boys and girls ranging from ages 9 to 18. (FAST's Grace Gannon was named the 13-year-old Girls National Swimmer

of the Year, a story will appear later this week in The Reporter.)

"He was pumped," said Devon Brown, Gabriel's father. "For age groupers, there's not really any of these kinds of awards."

Devon Brown said that SwimSwam, the online swimming news website, also puts together annual swimmers of the year awards, based on age categories. Gabriel was the runner-up in the 9-10 age division, "which was pretty cool," said Devon Brown. "And then to be recognized as the top 9-year-old was incredible," noting that the award "can never be taken away from him."

To select the Swimmers of the Year, the ISCA looked through results to see who

See Brown . . . Page 14

## Girls Tennis



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

The Fishers girls tennis team won the Mudsock trophy on Tuesday, beating Hamilton Southeastern 4-3.

## Tigers claim Mudsock trophy

By RICHIE HALL  
sports@readthereporter.com

**FISHERS** – The Fishers girls tennis team earned a Mudsock point for the Tigers on Tuesday.

Fishers beat Hamilton Southeastern 4-3 at the Tigers' tennis courts. Both teams are ranked in the latest Indiana High School Tennis Coaches Association poll, with Fishers at No. 19 and the Royals at No. 24.

The Tigers began with a sweep of all three singles matches. No. 1 Allie Briggs won 6-3, 6-0. No. 2 Ryan Bell was a 6-3, 6-3 winner and No. 3 Addie Sharp was victorious 6-1, 6-1.

Fishers' No. 1 doubles team of Imani Mokra and Lucy Clark won 6-2, 6-4. Southeastern took the other three doubles matches: No. 2 Lucy Denton and Meredith

Walters toughed out a 6-1, 2-6, 7-5 victory. No. 3 Addie Kaus and Taylor Ducey were 6-2, 6-3 winners and No. 4 Delilah Yoo and Alexis Fuquay won 6-3, 6-3.

"We're playing better," said Tigers coach Dave Heffern. Fishers graduated four players from last season, a group that helped the Tigers to three state appearances in 2022-23-24 and a semi-state appearance in 2025.

That includes Mischa Briggs, Allie's older sister who is now playing at Grand Valley State University. Allie moved into the No. 1 spot that Mischa had played for several years.

"Allie is playing great," said Heffern.

Westfield swept Noblesville 7-0 in a Tuesday Hoosier Crossroads Conference match.

The No. 11 Shamrocks won all seven matches in straight sets. In singles, No. 1 Sloane Seyferth won 6-0, 6-1, Alexis Halliburton took the No. 2 match 6-2, 6-0 and No. 3 Caroline Hopkins was a 6-0, 6-4 winner.

In doubles, No. 1 Jenna Berry and Bella Rivera were 6-0, 6-1 winners. No. 2 Rayna Roy and Kendall Omer won 6-0, 6-1. No. 3 Emerson Dierkes and Jilly Omer picked up a 6-0, 6-1 victory

and No. 4 Rebecca Doye and Reese Miller won 6-2, 6-2.

\*\*\*

University beat No. 30-ranked Mt. Vernon 3-2 on Tuesday.

No. 1 singles Laurel Buttrick clinched the victory for the Trailblazers, winning her match 6-3, 1-6, 6-3. University swept the singles, with No. 2 Duygu Arseven winning 6-1, 6-3 and No. 3 singles Sruti Alturi getting a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

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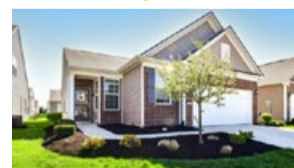
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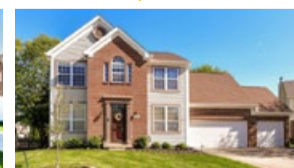
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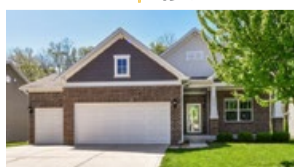
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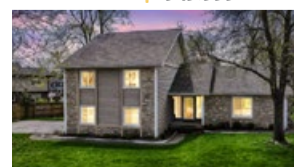
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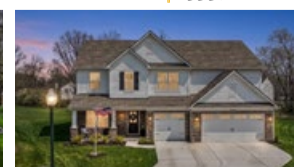
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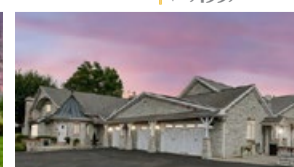
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## Correction

One of the Guerin Catholic girls tennis players mentioned in the Tuesday, April 28 article about the Golden Eagles' Carmel Invitational win was misidentified. Anna Kolb played at No. 3 singles for Guerin Catholic. The Reporter regrets the error.

## Girls Tennis

# Golden Eagles moves to top of coaches poll

### The REPORTER

The Guerin Catholic girls tennis team is making history this week, moving up to No. 1 in this week's Indiana High School Tennis Coaches Association poll.

The Golden Eagles moved to the top spot after winning the Carmel Invitational on Saturday, April 25. Guerin Catholic finished three points ahead (38-35) of Brebeuf Jesuit, now the

No. 2 team in the state.

The two teams will face off Thursday at the GC courts for a dual meet. The start time is 5 p.m.

Park Tudor is ranked No. 3, followed by Center Grove at No. 4 and Carmel at No. 5. Other ranked teams in the county are Westfield (11), Fishers (19) and Hamilton Southeastern (24). Nearby ranked teams include North Central (7), Zionsville (20) and Mt. Vernon (30).

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, April 29

#### BASEBALL

Guerin Catholic at Roncalli, 5:30 p.m.  
Logansport at Hamilton Heights, 6 p.m.  
University at Lafayette Jefferson, 6 p.m.

#### BOYS LACROSSE

Noblesville at Zionsville, 6 p.m.  
Westfield at Brownsburg, 6 p.m.  
Fishers at Perry Meridian, 7 p.m.  
Guerin Catholic at Cathedral, 7:30 p.m.

#### GIRLS LACROSSE

Harrison at Fishers, 6 p.m.  
Guerin Catholic at Brebeuf Jesuit, 7 p.m.

#### GOLF

Guerin Catholic, Westfield at Carmel Invitational, 3 p.m. at Woodland CC  
University vs. Hamilton Heights, 4:30 p.m. at Wood Wind

#### SOFTBALL

Hamilton Heights at Guerin Catholic, 5:30 p.m.  
Noblesville at Cathedral, 5:30 p.m.

#### TENNIS

Pendleton Heights at University, 5 p.m.  
Fishers at North Central, 5:30 p.m.  
Noblesville at Park Tudor, 5:30 p.m.

#### UNIFIED TRACK

Carmel at Westfield, 5:30 p.m.  
Delta at Hamilton Heights, 6 p.m.  
Hamilton Southeastern at Pendleton Heights (with Mt. Vernon), 5:30 p.m.  
New Palestine at Fishers, 5:30 p.m.  
Noblesville at Franklin Central, 6 p.m.

#### VOLLEYBALL

Guerin Catholic at Roncalli, 6:30 p.m.  
Fishers at Brownsburg, 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday, April 30

#### BASEBALL

Tri-Central at Sheridan, 5 p.m.  
Center Grove at Carmel, 6 p.m.  
Hamilton Heights at Lawrence Central, 6 p.m.  
Hamilton Southeastern at Fishers, 6 p.m.  
Noblesville at Westfield, 6 p.m.

#### GIRLS LACROSSE

Lawrence North at Fishers, 6:30 p.m.  
Cathedral at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.  
Hamilton Southeastern at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.

#### GOLF

Hamilton Southeastern vs. Noblesville (with Zionsville), 2 p.m. at Broadmoor CC  
Hamilton Heights vs. Lebanon, 4:30 p.m. at Bear Slide

#### SOFTBALL

Mt. Vernon at Fishers, 5:30 p.m.  
Rossville at Sheridan, 5:30 p.m.  
Noblesville at Pendleton Heights, 6 p.m.  
Tri-West at Carmel, 6 p.m.  
Westfield at Yorktown, 6 p.m.

#### TENNIS

Elwood at Hamilton Heights, 4:30 p.m.  
North Central at Carmel, 4:45 p.m.  
Brebeuf Jesuit at Guerin Catholic, 5 p.m.  
Avon at Hamilton Southeastern, 5:30 p.m.  
Noblesville at Franklin Central, 5:30 p.m.  
Westfield at Fishers, 5:30 p.m.

#### TRACK & FIELD

Eastern at Sheridan, 5 p.m.

#### UNIFIED TRACK

Fishers, Noblesville, Zionsville at Hamilton Heights, 6 p.m.

#### VOLLEYBALL

Guerin Catholic at Heritage Christian, 6:30 p.m.  
Noblesville at Westfield, 7 p.m.  
Hamilton Southeastern at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.

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

# Bonds, Spencer among IBCA scholarship winners

## Forty Indiana high school seniors selected

### The REPORTER

Carmel's Sydney Bonds and Sheridan's Chance Spencer are among the 40 Indiana high school seniors have been named winners of 2026 scholarship awards from the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association, it was announced Tuesday.

The IBCA – a statewide coaches group with about 2,400 members – this year is presenting a grant of \$500 to each recipient in the names of Marion Crawley, Junior Mannies Pat Aikman and Steve & Jeanie Witty.

Through the years, the IBCA has awarded about \$840,000 in scholarships to Indiana student-athletes.

"I would like to congratulate you for being selected as a recipient," IBCA executive director emeritus Steve

Witty wrote in informing winners of the various selections. "... Thank you for your contributions to Indiana high school basketball, and best of luck as you move on to the college of your choice."

Bonds and Spencer were among those that received Crawley Scholarships. A total of 34 Crawley Scholarships were presented to 12 boys' players, 16 girls' players, four student managers, one cheerleader and one student trainer/team statistician.

Criteria for the Crawley Scholarship includes achievement in basketball, achievement in academics, participation in extracurricular activities and service to one's school and community. Crawley was a former four-time boys basketball

state championship coach – two with the Washington Hatchets and two with the Lafayette Jeff Bronchos – who amassed 644 career wins. He later became the first executive director of the IBCA, serving in that role from 1970-74. He then served as the IBCA assistant executive director from 1974 until he passed away in 1982.

Two players – Grace Behny of the Knightstown girls' team and Jack Guerre of the Mt. Vernon boys' team – are recipients of the 16th annual Pat Aikman Character and Leadership Awards. This scholarship is named for Aikman, the Indiana All-Star games director from 1988-2007 and former IBCA Coordinator of Special Projects.

Criteria for the Aikman Award include achievements and contributions in basketball, scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, and service to school and community. Also, those considered for the Aikman Award are students who plan to enter the fields of journalism, sports management, athletic training or physical therapy. Behny and Guerre are the 43rd and 44th recipients of Aikman Awards presented since 2011.

Guerre's Mt. Vernon teammate Brady Webber also received a Crawley Scholarship.

"These are deserving young people who help make coaching a great profession," Witty said of the 40 winners for 2026.

## RALLY

second with a one-out double before senior Addison Richmond (4-for-4, 2 RBI) drove in a pair with a triple.

Two at-bats later, Jaycee McCarter (2-for-4, 3 RBI, double) broke the game open with a three-run home run that cleared the center-field wall with ease, marking her 31st RBIs of the season.

"I was looking to stay on top of the ball and hit a line drive," Jaycee McCarter said. "I just hit it. We knew our bats would come alive. We knew that having Kaleah on the mound, producing ground balls, there was no doubt."

Senior Kaitlyn Burdick (1-for-4, RBI) connected for a two-out, run-scoring double in the bottom of the fourth for HSE, which provided Kaleah McCarter (2-for-4) ample run support.

"I was just thinking that

I'm going to have to work as hard as I can to try to get the ball by them and try to get more ground balls," Kaleah McCarter said. "It's about my team, and how I don't want them to have to work harder because I'm not doing my job."

Kaleah McCarter's performance was needed with Swedarsky sidelined by a lower extremity injury. The senior and Virginia Tech commit has been out since facing Avon on April 21.

"Right now, we're thinking rest is going to help, and we're kind of looking big picture for her," Pusti said. "She's going to give everything she can until she listens to her body and is like, alright, that's it, so we're going to make sure she's healthy for bigger goals along the way."

HSE is navigating minus Swedarsky, junior pitcher

Carly McCall, senior catcher Kenzie Lee and junior pitcher Rylie Krzyminski.

The Royals' overall depth has kept them on track, winning four straight and claiming their fourth consecutive victory against Fishers dating back to 2023.

"Their pitching depth is probably one of the best in the state," Fishers coach Darren James said. "We knew it was still going to be a tough game, even with Grace not being out there."

Kaleah McCarter's lone earned run came off a fielder's choice by freshman Elizabeth Hammond (1-for-2) in the second. Senior Natavia Wright slammed the door with a clean, three-up, three-down top of the seventh.

"I've had to step up a good amount (with Grace out), but so is everybody else on the roster, too. I feel like, collectively, we're

from Page 13

handling it very well," said Kaleah McCarter, who improved to 3-0.

Kaleah's sister, Jaycee, made her first-career Mudsock game memorable.

"The thought went through my head to put her on and not pitch to her, and I didn't, and then she hit a three-run bomb," James said. "That kind of did us in pretty early tonight, but they didn't miss much."

Jaycee McCarter has eight multi-hit and two multi-homer games this season. She's driven in nine runs in the past four contests, including two homers.

"She's collected nine of those (HRs) to lead the conference right now, and as a freshman, it's pretty impressive," Pusti said. "What's good is her next at-bat, she hits a line drive double. She knows when to put the ball in play."

from Page 13

## BROWN

the top swimmers were and selected three preliminary finalists in each age group. From there the ISCA teamed with SwimStrong Dryland, an organization dedicated to dryland training to set criteria. Devon Brown said that criteria is "primarily skill based, but there is also some

intangible stuff," such as a swimmer's coachability and soft skills that include "if they do anything else in the community."

Gabriel, now 10 years old, is already a 23-time Indiana state champion and holds 34 Indiana Association records. He is ranked

in all 23 events of USA Swimming's Top 100 lists, including top 10 rankings in five events: the 200-yard, 400-meter and 500-yard freestyles, the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard backstroke.

Devon Brown said that Gabriel got a chance to

meet "other kids that were in the same mentality he was," who got the same joy out of competing at a high level.

"The festivities were amazing," said Devon Brown. "They did a workout with Swim Strong Dryland. They worked with some of the top age coaches in the country."

In fact, Gabriel got a chance to swim in a meet with the 11-year-old Girls winner, Anabelle Hayes of Irvine (Calif.) Novaquatics and 10-year-old Boys winner Luca Ferrera of SPA (Fla.). The three competed against each other in the 400 freestyle.

"They had three national champions all racing each other," said Devon Brown. "It was fun to watch."

And more opportunities are opening for Gabriel. The Browns will be traveling to Phoenix for a parent-athlete podcast with Herbie Behm, the Arizona State University coach who was named NCAA Division I College Coach of the Year at the ORCA Awards.

"We're giving Coach Behm his award and Gabe gets to see Arizona State," said Devon Brown. "That's a key to a door we can't normally unlock."

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## Baseball

# Brooks Riggs throws second no-hitter, Millers blank Greyhounds

By **CRAIG ADKINS**  
For The Reporter

**NOBLESVILLE** — When two rivals get together, it's always a heightened atmosphere and the intensity is higher than normal. That was the case on Tuesday at Dunker Field with the Millers and Greyhounds. It had been since 2019 that Noblesville won the White River Rivalry in the Battle for the Oar.

The Millers snapped their five-game regular season losing streak against Carmel with authority. Brooks Riggs threw his second no-hitter of the season, blanking the Greyhounds

13-0 in five innings.

The last time Noblesville beat Carmel was in the sectional semifinal (7-6) at Hartman Field in 2023. The Greyhounds had won four consecutive against the Millers.

Riggs also no-hit Lebanon in the home opener on April 6.

Ethan Clark got the bottom of the first off right with a walk. Two batters later, Zac Glander singled to left and moved to second on a passed ball. Clark scored for the early 1-0 lead.

Slade Hodges plated Glander (2-0) with a base hit and advanced to second on an error by first baseman

Jacob Behm. Jalen Stidham followed by lining a hit to center field to send Hodges home for 3-0.

Blake Riggs reached on an error by the third baseman Kane Hare. Then, Garrett Dixon hit a soft grounder to third, allowing Stidham to score, putting the Millers up 4-0.

Blake Riggs scored on an error by catcher Jackson Harris. The inning continued with a Chris Martz double to left, sending courtesy runner Ryan Ruse home for a 6-0 score after one.

Brooks Riggs let just one baserunner aboard in the first four innings and that was the first hitter of the

game.

The Miller bats kept pouring it on in the second. Aiden Reynolds started off with a double past Nate Steele in center. Glander bunted himself for two on and nobody out. Hodges roped an RBI single to center, scoring Reynolds for a 7-0 count.

Blake Riggs walked with two down. Next, with a 3-1 count, Dixon hit a bases-clearing double to the fence in right, sending Glander, Hodges and Riggs home for a 10-0 margin through two times up to bat.

Brooks Riggs continued to mow down the Greyhounds, striking out the side

in order in the third.

Reynolds made it 11-0 with his third home run of the season, a solo job to center. Hodges notched his third hit of the game, a double that scored Brooks Riggs for a 12-0 score. The Millers made it a baker's dozen lead on a Jalen Stidham liner to center that scored Hodges for the final count.

Just as he did against Lebanon, Brooks Riggs (2-0) threw five innings of no-hit ball, struck out six and did not allow a walk.

The trio of starter Silas Neal, Jeremy Millay and Jacob Behm combined to scatter 13 hits. At the plate, Carmel managed just four

baserunners. Two reached by errors, Mark Neels was hit by a pitch and Thomas Richason got on by a fielder's choice in the fifth.

Carmel (5-8) hosts top-ranked Center Grove (14-1) tomorrow night at 6 p.m.

Hodges had the hottest bat, going 3-for-3 with three driven in and three runs scored. Reynolds, Glander, Stidham and Dixon all had two hits as the Millers had 13 as a team.

Noblesville (10-6, 5-1) takes a short road trip west to Shamrock Field tomorrow night in the first game of their Hoosier Crossroads Conference series with Westfield (7-6-1, 4-2) at 6 p.m.

# Bochner pitches no-hitter for Hawks

## The REPORTER

The Sheridan baseball team picked up a 5-1 Hoosier Heartland Conference win over Tri-Central on Tuesday.

Braelan Bochner pitched a no-hitter for the Blackhawks, striking out seven in a complete-game effort. Bochner only allowed three walks.

Levi Gellert led off the game with a double for the Hawks, then was batted in by Braelan Bochner. The Trojans tied the game in the bottom of the first inning, but Sheridan took the lead for good in the fourth in-

ning when Jake Hall scored on an error.

Chance Spencer tripled in Gellert for a fifth-inning run, then was brought home by a Bochner single. Crew Spencer scored in the sixth inning on Chance Spencer's RBI fielder's choice.

Hall and Brayden Whisman both hit one double.

Sheridan dropped a 7-4 game to Tipton on Saturday, April 25. The Blackhawks scored all four of their runs in the sixth inning.

Whisman got the first run after Cesar Cuautle reached on a dropped third strike. Austin Hin-

shaw doubled in Cuautle and Hall, then scored on a Walker McWhorter single.

Hall struck out four in five innings.

Sheridan is 2-1 in the conference and 5-7 overall. The Blackhawks host Rossville on Thursday in another HHC game.

\*\*\*

Carmel split a Saturday, April 25 doubleheader with Fort Wayne Carroll at Hartman Field.

The Greyhounds won the first game 4-3. Carmel got on the board first with two runs in the second inning. Mark Neels led off

with a double and later scored on a Silas Neal double. Adam Fouts singled in Kane Hare to put the Hounds up 2-0.

The Chargers hit back-to-back doubles in the fourth inning to take a 3-2 lead. Carmel tied the game in the bottom of the fourth after John Zangril-

li doubled in Neels, then Fouts scored in the seventh inning to give the Greyhounds the win.

Cam Carmichael pitched a complete game, striking out 10 for the win.

Carroll won the second game 3-2. The Chargers led 2-0 midway through the fourth before Carm-

el got on the board in the bottom of the inning. Jackson Treadway scored on a passed ball.

Both teams added a run in the seventh inning. Nate Steele scored for the Greyhounds on a passed ball.

Jacob Behm hit a double. Eli Wier struck out five in four innings.

## Softball

# Westfield wins Kokomo Tournament

## The REPORTER

The Westfield softball team won the Kokomo Softball Tournament this past weekend with three convincing victories.

The Shamrocks began the event on Friday, April 24 by beating Illiana Christian 7-2. The Vikings led 2-0 through five innings, but Westfield came back in the last two innings, starting with four runs in the sixth.

Adelyn Kirth scored the first run on Alyssa Ayres' RBI groundout. Cam Pulice singled in Reese Mahannah, then Makayla Watson blasted a two-run home run, also scoring Dylan Todd. That gave the Rocks a 4-2 lead.

Westfield kept rolling in the seven inning with three more runs. Mahannah scored on a passed ball for a 5-2 lead. Todd singled in Pulice, then later scored on a wild pitch.

Olivia Sampia pitched four innings for the win, striking out six and allowing one hit.

On Saturday, April 25, the Rocks came back to beat Roncalli 5-4 to reach the championship game.

Sofia Easterhaus scored Westfield's first run, stealing home plate in the first inning. The Royals scored twice in the second inning, but the Shamrocks tied the game in the third. Easterhaus got home after Pulice drew a bases-loaded walk.

Roncalli scored one run in both the fifth and sixth innings for a 4-2 lead. The score stayed there until the bottom of the seventh. Brinna Dale smacked a right field hit to score Sydney

Jordan, then Dale got home an error to tie the game. Todd came up and hit a single, then scored the winning run on Sampia's double.

Carlyne Schrock also hit a double. Sampia picked up another pitching win.

Westfield took care of business in the championship game, cruising past Delta 13-4. The Rocks scored in all seven innings.

Watson and Easterhaus were both 3-for-4 at the plate; Watson drove in three runs and Easterhaus batted in two. Reese Gettinger hit a three-run triple in the sixth inning. Elaina Bottorff, Mariana Lopez and Hayden Rice all hit one double.

Starting pitcher Shea Vohs got the win, going three innings. Dale pitched four innings in relief, striking out seven.

Westfield is 8-5-1 and hosts Yorktown on Thursday.

\*\*\*

Hamilton Southeastern won both of its games at the Whiteland Warrior Invitational on Saturday, April 25.

The Royals took care of Brownstown Central 12-3 in their first game. The Braves scored a run in the top of the first inning, but Southeastern put up six runs in the bottom of the inning and led from there.

Addy Richmond smacked a two-run home run in the fifth inning, one of three hits. Kaitlyn Burdick hit two doubles, driving in two runs and scoring another two. Sophia Feher also had two hits, two RBIs and two runs scored.

Jaycee McCarter

pitched four innings for the win, striking out seven. Nativia Wright threw the other three innings, striking out three and allowing one hit.

The Royals toughed out a 4-2 win over Seymour in their second game.

Burdick scored HSE's first run in the second inning on an error. Madison Burlingame hit a third-inning double and scored on Tori Bricker's single. Haleigh Seitz scored a fourth-inning run on Lilly Palmer's RBI groundout, and the Royals led 3-0.

The Owls scored twice in the bottom of the fourth but would get no closer. Feher singled in Burlingame for a fifth-inning run.

Burdick was 3-for-4 at the plate. Kaleah McCarter pitched four innings for the win, striking out five. Wright threw four strikeouts in three innings of relief.

\*\*\*

Guerin Catholic sailed past Lafayette Central Catholic 18-2 in a five-inning Wednesday game.

The Golden Eagles were in control from the start, scoring 10 runs in the first inning. Ava Augustinovic hit two doubles and batted in five runs.

Gia Crishon hit a home run, one of three runs scored. Jillian Davis and Izzy Phillips both hit a double; Davis drove in three runs and scored another three. Emily Powers also scored three runs and batted in three more.

Crishon pitched all five innings, striking out seven.

Guerin Catholic is 4-4 and hosts Hamilton Heights this afternoon.



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# Pitts signs to play baseball at University of Saint Francis

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corp.

Hamilton Heights High School senior Dillon Pitts has signed a letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, where he will join the Cougars baseball program this fall. The University of Saint Francis competes in the Crossroads League as a NAIA institution. He is the son of Dana and Brad Pitts.

Pitts, who plans to study Business Management and Entrepreneurship, chose Saint Francis for its strong baseball program, player development culture, respected coaching staff, and its faith-based academic environment. He also noted the university's highly regarded business program as a key factor in his decision. After college, he hopes to pursue a career as a firefighter or launch his own business.

Wearing jersey #8, Pitts contributes as both a pitcher and outfielder. A four-year letter winner, he served as a team captain during his senior season. Throughout his high school career, he earned multiple accolades for his performance on the field. Pitts has been passionate about baseball for

as long as he can remember, dedicating countless hours to refining his skills and elevating his game.

He credits many individuals for shaping his development as a student-athlete, beginning with his father.

"I wouldn't be anywhere close to where I am without him," Pitts said. "He's been the biggest influence for me on and off the field. He also expressed deep gratitude for his mother's constant love and support. Beyond his family, he acknowledged Jason Taule (PRP Baseball), Randy Sullivory, Owen Young, the Fishers Sports Academy family, and the Hamilton Heights coaching staff for their guidance and encouragement.

Off the field, Pitts is a member of the National Honor Society and stays active in the community by umpiring, giving baseball lessons, and working with younger athletes.

"I am blessed for this next chapter in my life, as playing college-level baseball has been one of my biggest goals since I was young," Pitts said. "I'm excited to see what God has in store next in my life."

"Dillon is as competitive of a kid that I have coached," Hamilton



Photo provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation  
Hamilton Heights senior Dillon Pitts has signed a letter of intent to play football for the University of Saint Francis Cougars in Fort Wayne.

Heights Head Baseball Coach Adam Hughes said. "He works hard in the classroom and in the weight room. I will miss coaching him and look forward to watching him grow at the next level."

Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Director Kurt Ogden, added, "Dillon has been a solid contribu-

tor to the baseball program the past four years. "His commitment to the sport year-round has helped him develop into the player he is today. It has been fun watching him grow with the sport throughout his high school career and we are proud of him for his accomplishments and opportunity to play at the next level."

# Hall signs to play baseball at Marian University Ancilla College

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corp.

Hamilton Heights High School senior Chase Hall has officially signed his national letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at Marian University Ancilla College in Plymouth, Ind.

Marian University Ancilla College is a member of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) and the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), competing in NJCAA Region 12. He is the son of Tabitha Hull and Russell Huber.

Hall chose Marian University Ancilla College because it immediately felt like the right fit for both his future and his development as a student-athlete.

"It felt like a great opportunity for my future and a good place to call home for the next few years," he said. "Everyone there was so welcoming and respectful, and the coaches were great to me from the moment I met them. I'm really excited for the future."

Hall plans to study exercise science with the goal of becoming a sports physical therapist, a career path that will allow him to support and work with athletes

in the years ahead.

A passionate baseball player from the moment he first picked up a bat, Hall has built his athletic journey on discipline, purpose, and an unwavering work ethic.

"All I ever wanted to do was compete at the next level, no matter what it took," he said. "Even if that meant lifting twice a day or hitting 500 baseballs a day, I would do it. I treat every rep like it's my last, and because of that, I get the chance to play college baseball."

Hall credits his father, Russell Huber, as one of the strongest influences in his development.

"He has taught me almost everything I know about the game and has been there for me through this entire journey," Hall said. "Whether it was throwing extra BP after practice, hitting ground balls, or just playing catch in the backyard, it always meant a lot. He took time out of his day to help me get better, and I know I can always count on him. I couldn't thank him enough."

Outside of baseball, Hall enjoys spending time with friends, swimming, and working out but baseball has always been his greatest passion. He also

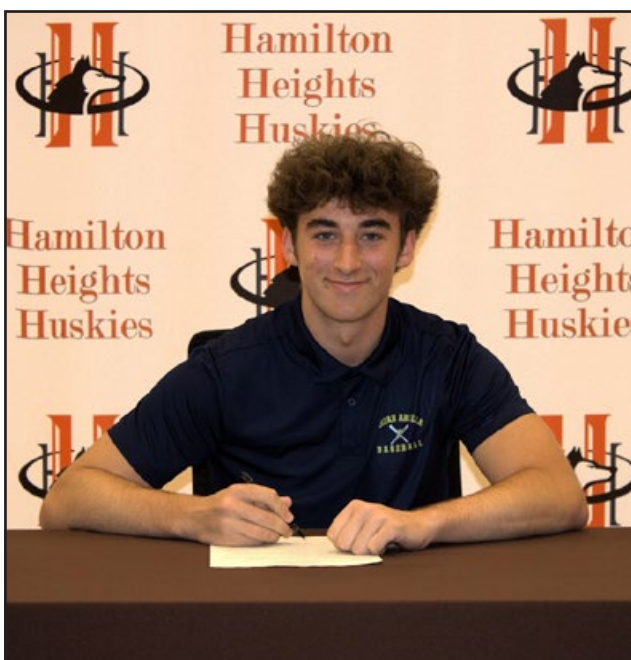


Photo provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation  
Hamilton Heights' Chase Hall has signed a letter of intent to play baseball for the Marian University Ancilla College Chargers in Plymouth, Ind.

expressed gratitude for the coaches who helped shape his high school career.

"I want to give a shoutout to Coach Pitts and Coach Hughes and thank them for everything they've done for me," he said. "They welcomed me with open arms my freshman year, and it's been an incredible ride these past four years. I wouldn't want it any other way."

Hamilton Heights High School Baseball Coach Adam Hughes said, "Chase

truly loves the game and has worked hard in the weight room and on the field to earn this opportunity. We expect Chase to have a productive senior year leading into the college game."

Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Director Kurt Ogden added, "We are excited that Chase gets an opportunity to continue his baseball career at the next level. He has dedicated himself to the sport and we are proud of him for earning this opportunity."

# Poll reveals exactly where Indiana sports fans want to be buried

Submitted

Sports fandom is often framed as a lifelong commitment, but for some supporters, it's something even more permanent. The kind of loyalty that doesn't just survive bad seasons, relocations, or heartbreak, but quite literally follows them to the grave.

A new survey of 3,013 sports fans by [SportsbookReview.com](https://www.sportsbookreview.com), a leading sports review site, set out to explore just how deep those allegiances run, asking a surprisingly revealing question:

*If given the choice, which stadium would you want your ashes scattered in?*

The results paint a picture of the venues fans feel most emotionally tied to and how those connections blur the line between tradition, identity, and ritual. The study also digs into how far supporters would actually go to make it happen, including whether they would bend (or quietly ignore) the rules to secure a final resting place on hallowed ground.

Indiana sports fans' choices were as follows:

## #1. Notre Dame Stadium, South Bend

Since 1930, Notre Dame Stadium has stood as one of college football's most sacred cathedrals. To be laid to rest here is to remain forever part of a tradition that transcends the sport itself. Touchdown Jesus watches over every game from the library mural beyond the North end zone, and the echoes of legends seem to drift through the autumn air. The Fighting Irish faithful don't just attend games here — they make pilgrimages.

## #2. Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis

When Lucas Oil Stadium opened in 2008, it gave the Colts a venue worthy of a franchise that has delivered some of the NFL's most memorable moments. Having ashes scattered here honors a connection to a building that Indianapolis embraced as its own from day one. The retractable roof and massive window overlooking downtown create an atmosphere unlike any other in professional football. Big Ten championships and Final Fours have only added to its legacy.

## #3. Hinkle Fieldhouse, Indianapolis

Standing since 1928, Hinkle Fieldhouse is a living museum of basketball history. Butler basketball has called this arena home for nearly a century, and the movie Hoosiers immortalized its timeless charm. The wooden rafters and classic sightlines transport you to an era when the game was simpler but no less passionate. While placing ashes on the hardwood itself isn't realistically feasible, the hypothetical speaks to something deeper — for those who

grew up revering the game in Indiana, choosing this as a symbolic final resting place feels like coming home.

## #4. Mackey Arena, West Lafayette

Since 1967, Mackey Arena has been the fortress where Purdue basketball comes to life. The steep upper deck creates a wall of sound that crashes down onto opponents, and the Paint Crew student section has earned a reputation as one of the most intimidating in the country. Boilermaker faithful know this building demands everything you've got. Even though scattering ashes across the court wouldn't be possible in reality, imagining it captures the devotion fans feel — a symbolic way to remain tied to a program that has produced legends and heartbreakers in equal measure.

## #5. Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Indianapolis

Home to the Pacers since 1999, Gainbridge Fieldhouse anchors the sports scene in downtown Indianapolis. The arena has hosted Final Fours, All-Star games, and countless nights where the hometown crowd refused to let their team lose quietly, all wrapped in a warmth that reflects the Midwestern hospitality surrounding it. Although impractical in reality, the sentiment behind it is symbolic — honoring a lasting connection to the court. To rest here is to remain connected to a franchise that helped put Indiana's love of basketball on the professional map.

## #6. Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall, Bloomington

On the Indiana University campus since 1971, Assembly Hall has witnessed some of college basketball's most glorious chapters. Five national championship banners hang overhead as proof of greatness achieved, while the candy-striped warm-up pants, the passionate student section, and the echoes of Bob Knight's dynasty all live within these walls. Although scattering ashes on the court itself isn't realistically possible, the hypothetical reflects the depth of connection fans feel. For Hoosier supporters who spent decades in these seats, the idea symbolizes becoming part of a venue where there's truly no place quite like it.

## Would fans bend the rules?

The survey also explored how far supporters would go to make this final wish a reality: 23 percent said they would still consider scattering ashes even if it wasn't allowed.

## Should stadiums allow it?

Opinion is split, but leans slightly in favor: 54 percent believe ash-scattering should be allowed in controlled circumstances.

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