

**VOTE FOR CHADWICK HILL**  
**SUPERIOR COURT 4**  
**MAY 5TH**

CHADWICK HILL  
 FOR JUDGE

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Chadwick Hill

**THE HAMILTON COUNTY**  
**REPORTER**  
 Your Hometown Newspaper

**THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026**

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



**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Today: Partly sunny.  
 Tonight: Mostly cloudy.  
 Scattered showers after sunset.



HIGH: 60 LOW: 42

# Westfield Fire coaches Lions on emergencies

## *Equipment plus training can save lives*

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

At a recent Westfield Lions Club meeting, Westfield Fire Department (WFD) Community Paramedic Walter Rippey, III and WFD Community Risk Reduction Specialist Thida Donel provided training to the Lions on various emergency equipment and supplies located in the Lions' community center. This included explaining what specific equipment and supplies are on hand and how to use them.

The Westfield Lions Foundation, the Club's 501(c)(3) charitable organization, purchased the equipment and supplies for the Club and installed them in the building so that the Lions and renters of the community center would

have them available in case of an emergency. Those supplies include AED machines, multiple first aid kits, NARCAN doses, burn kits, and fire extinguishers.

The Lions will get additional Westfield Fire Department training on how to apply doses of NARCAN. Theft will also get CPR training and certification. Eventually the Lions and WFD plan to extend this training to the public at no charge.

For more information on the Westfield Lions Club, how to become a member, and how to rent their community center, go to [WestfieldLions.org](http://WestfieldLions.org).

For more information on the Westfield Lions Foundation, including how your donations could be tax deductible, go to [WestfieldLionsFoundation.org](http://WestfieldLionsFoundation.org).



Photo provided by Westfield Lions Club  
**Walter Rippey, III and Thida Donel of the Westfield Fire Department recently educated the Lions on different types of emergency equipment.**

# Books with a little extra

After last week's rather heavy column, I'm moving on to a cheerful topic. Or sort of a weird one, depending on your point of view.

If you're a writer like me, chances are you're a reader, too. I've loved books ever since I can remember.

With my children grown and out of the house, I probably read one to two books per week now. I don't hold on to them, though. Instead, I enjoy passing good ones along to family members and friends.

My mother, sister, niece, and I traded books for years. Now that Mom's gone, and my sister and niece live far away, we don't continue this tradition as often as I'd like. But I do trade books almost every month with one of my dearest friends, Cynthia. Of course, I don't share "meh" books with her. Thankfully I rarely encounter those.

See *Little Extra* . . . Page 2



# HSE School Board appoints Dr. Matt Kegley as Superintendent

Submitted by **Hamilton Southeastern Schools**

The Hamilton Southeastern Board of School Trustees unanimously voted Wednesday evening, April 29 to appoint Dr. Matt Kegley as superintendent of HSE Schools, following a public hearing held earlier on the proposed superintendent's contract held.

Dr. Kegley is a familiar and trusted leader within HSE Schools. He most recently served as deputy superintendent and stepped into the role of interim superintendent during the district's leadership transition. He brings 30 years of experience in education, including 20 years serving HSE Schools.

Board President Tiffany Pascoe issued the following statement:

"The Board of School Trustees is proud to appoint Dr. Matt Kegley as Superintendent of Hamilton Southeastern Schools. Dr. Kegley brings a deep understanding of our district, a proven record of leadership, and strong, trusted relationships across our schools and community. His steady guidance during times of transition has demonstrated both



Photo provided by HSE Schools  
**The Hamilton Southeastern Schools Board of Trustees with Superintendent Matt Kegley. (From left) Ben Orr, Sarah Parks-Reese, Tiffany Pascoe, Supt. Kegley, Dawn Lang, Dr. Juanita Albright, Suzanne Thomas, and Latrica Schooley.**

his capability and his commitment to those we serve.

"He has long been an invaluable contributor to the success of HSE Schools, and we are grateful for his dedication to our students, staff, and families. We are confident that he will build upon the strong foundation already in

place while guiding our district toward continued growth and excellence.

"We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to our staff and families for their patience, understanding, and continued support throughout this period of transition. Your

partnership is essential to the strength and success of our schools.

"On behalf of the Board, we extend our sincere congratulations to Dr. Kegley and his family on this well-deserved appointment.

See *Kegley* . . . Page 2

Submitted

With its quick wit, soaring score, and timeless charm, *Kiss Me, Kate* has been a staple of musical theater since its premiere in 1948. A "show within a show," it follows the antics of leading lady Lilli and her actor-director ex-husband, Fred, as his theater company mounts a production of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Winner of the first Tony award for Best Musical, the show seamlessly blends sophisticated comedy with timeless music by Hoosier native Cole Porter. *Kiss Me, Kate* also shines with its high-energy choreography, particularly in the crowd favorite "Too Darn Hot."

At Footlite Musicals, this production tells a story that goes far beyond what audiences will see onstage.

Behind the curtain, the show celebrates community, bringing together performers and creatives from all walks of life. Assistant Director and Fishers resident Lauren Werne noted the unique blend of experience among those involved.

"This show has such a broad spectrum of wonderful people," Werne said. "There's a handful of folks who are completely new to Footlite and theater, and many very seasoned people [in the] staff, cast, and crew. It's a really special mix."

Director Paula Phalen further emphasized the collaborative nature of the group, especially during the rehearsal process.

"People are all working together in every aspect," Phalen said. "We have no divas here. Everyone helps with whatever they are asked to do."

See *Shews* . . . Page 3

**VOTE SWENSON MAY 5TH 2026**

★ DEDICATED  
 ★ EXPERIENCED  
 ★ INTEGRITY

**ANGELA SWENSON FOR JUDGE**

HAMILTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT 4

U.S. ARMY VETERAN

PAID FOR BY THE SWENSON FOR JUDGE COMMITTEE

**Come meet the candidates**

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

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

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



INDIANA  
**PEONY**  
*Festival*

INDIANAPEONYFESTIVAL.COM

**MAY 16**

SPONSORED BY  
*Smith's*  
JEWELERS

*peonies*  
**IN THE PARK**

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 6-9PM  
HISTORIC SEMINARY PARK

SPONSORED BY **cch+a**  
ARCHITECTS AT CCA

**BRUNCH & BLOOMS**

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 10AM-4PM  
DOWNTOWN NOBLESVILLE

SPONSORED BY **46&SPRUCE**  
BY STRADLATE

## 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.

### 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.

## Early Voting Totals

Below are the number of early voters as of Wednesday, April 29, listed by polling location. [Click here](#) for more information on early voting.

Judicial Center	1,762
4-H Fairgrounds	2,466
Roy G. Holland Park (Fishers)	604
Billericay Park (Fishers)	756
Westfield City Hall	292
Washington Twp. Office	235
Cool Creek Nature Center	587
Jill Perelman Pavilion (Carmel)	532
Wilfong Pavilion (Carmel)	293
Carmel Clay Public Library	754
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,281</b>

## Where to vote early

### Noblesville

**Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square**

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

## LITTLE EXTRA

from Page 1

Unfortunately, sometimes Cynthia gets a little extra something with these books. See, I love to read at mealtimes, specifically breakfast and lunch. While I try to be careful, at least once every two weeks or so, I accidentally smooch a bit of food on a page when I turn it. This is typically peanut butter, as shown in today's photo, as I often eat peanut butter on toast for lunch.

I'm trying to do better. In fact, I've been dropping major hints to my husband about book weights (Mother's Day is around the corner ... gotta help with those gift ideas when we can). These wonderful devices keep a book open in front of you on a table, so you don't have to mess with it much while eating.

We'll see if this prevents me from accidentally sharing food with people. I'm not the only one who leaves a little extra in a book, however. Since I typically get my books from Little Free Libraries, thrift stores, and family and friends like Cynthia, I've found the follow-

ing items:

1. Bookmarks, obviously. As you can imagine, I love having many of these on hand. One of my favorite finds was a bookmark featuring a panda. So cute!
2. Business cards.
3. Coupons, which of course were expired.
4. Prayer cards (yay!)
5. Obituaries.
6. Highlighted sentences and paragraphs along with notes in the margin.
7. Author signatures.

All of this makes me wonder sometimes when I hold a used book in my hands about its journey. Who first bought it? What's going on in the lives of everyone who has read it since? What are these people like? Was the book originally a gift? I like to see when the book was published and estimate how many people could possibly have read it over the years. Yes, I'm a word nerd through and through.

Cynthia hasn't complained about the mysterious, multi-colored, dried food in the books I've passed along to her (thank you, my

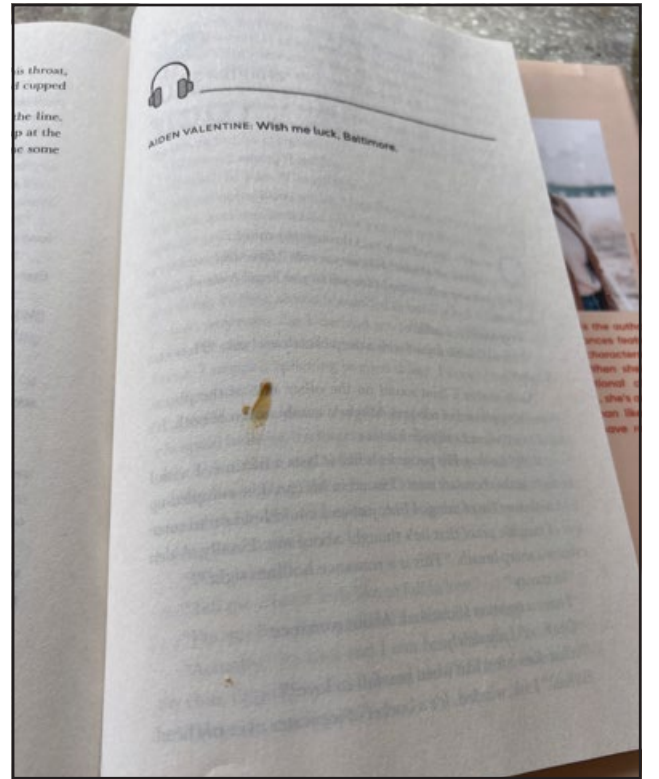


Photo provided by Amy Shankland

**Our columnist likes to share a little something extra when she passes a book along, such as this smudge of peanut butter.**

friend). I figure a real, true, "hold in your hand" book is pretty special these days. Why not give people a little mystery as well?

Amy Shankland is an

empty-nester, writer, and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John and two dogs. You can reach her via email at [amys@greenavenue.info](mailto:amys@greenavenue.info).

## KEGLEY

from Page 1

We look forward with optimism and confidence to the future under his leadership."

Throughout his career in HSE, Dr. Kegley has held several leadership roles across the district, including principal of Riverside Junior High School and Hamilton Southeastern High School, before moving into district administration. He also served as interim superintendent in 2023 and most recently helped support the district during its leadership transition.

"I am honored by the opportunity to continue serving Hamilton Southeastern Schools as superintendent," said Dr. Matt Kegley. "Our district is built on strong partnerships among students, staff, families, and the community, and I remain committed to supporting the important work happening in our classrooms every day."

Dr. Kegley is a longtime Fishers resident and is deeply connected to the HSE

community. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three children, all graduates of Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

The contract is a three-year agreement extending through April 2029, with an opportunity for extension beginning in December 2027. The contract includes a base salary of \$206,250. A final copy of the superintendent's contract will be available on the district's website.

\*\*\*

Board President Tiffany Pascoe provided the following additional statement regarding the superintendent selection process:

"As we arrive at this important moment, it is appropriate to briefly reflect on the journey that has brought us here. Throughout this process, the Board's highest priority has been to act with both urgency and care to ensure continuity, stability, and strong leadership for our district.

"In that spirit, I want to

share that I have personally reached out to each member of our administrative team, as well as every building leader – nearly 40 individuals in total – to listen, gather perspective, and ensure that the path we are taking reflects what is in the best interest of our district as a whole.

"We are also mindful of the broader conversation within our community. While there have been concerns expressed by some regarding administrative structure – particularly during a time of fiscal constraint – it is important to note that this Board has consistently demonstrated its commitment to thoughtful governance, including its full support of administrative contracts at the March 11 meeting.

"With that context, we are pleased to highlight that the agreement before us tonight reflects both fiscal responsibility and strategic awareness. In comparison to

prior structures, and based on the current organizational configuration, the district is currently realizing an annual savings of \$280,895.

"For the sake of transparency, I would like to briefly revisit the timeline that has guided this process:

- On March 2, Mr. Mapes formally announced his resignation, effective April 13.

- On March 11, Dr. Kegley was appointed Deputy Superintendent.

- The Board convened executive sessions on April 2 and again on April 22 to carefully consider next steps.

"Throughout this process, we remained committed to transparency and due diligence. We thoughtfully reviewed and responded to two counteroffers, ensuring that all legal considerations were addressed and that Board feedback was incorporated at each stage. This deliberate approach has led us to the agreement now before us."

# 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**



Photo by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com

ANNOUNCING OUR CAST

Fred / Petruccio	.....	Aaron Mann
Lilli / Katherine	.....	Jessica Hawkins
Lois / Bianca	.....	Paige Penry
Bill / Lucentio	.....	John Sullivan
Hattie	.....	Kelly Berryman
Paul	.....	Michael Sherman
Gremio	.....	Jo Burke
Hortensio	.....	Brett Edwards
First Man	.....	Mitchell Hammersley
Second Man	.....	Ryan Bridges
Harry / Baptista	.....	Dan Flahive
Harrison Howell	.....	Kevin Caraher
Stage Manager (Ralph)	.....	Jeremy Crouch
Stage Doorman (Pops)	.....	Duane Leatherman

Ensemble

Owendolyn Arvas	Shawn Hunt	Danny Roberts	Emily Thaurer
Kevin Bell	Logan Laffin	Claire Slaven	Dan Vice
Ashley Bennett	Kendall Maxwell	Brianne Snow	Chris Vojtko
Awbrey Brosseit	Maggie Meier	Jay Stanley	Karen Woods
Guy Drubbs	Leigh Query	Derek Sumpter	Shelley Young

Graphic provided

One of the most striking aspects of this specific production is its strong connection to education. More than 22 educators – from preschool teachers to college professors – are part of the all-volunteer cast, crew, orchestra, and staff. Their presence brings an added layer of purpose and passion, underscoring the role the arts play in learning and community-building.

To recognize Teacher Appreciation Week, Footlite is offering a special promotion: theatergoers can use the code APPLE to receive \$5 off tickets during that week's performances (May 7 to

10). In the spirit of community, Footlite Musicals has also partnered with the Little Free Courthouse Library initiative, which is dedicated to placing libraries in each of Indiana's 92 county courthouses. Patrons are encouraged to bring new or gently used books to performances to help expand access to reading materials for courthouse visitors and families.

At its core, *Kiss Me, Kate* is a show about relationships onstage and off, and this production leans fully into that theme. As Phalen puts it, "[It's] the best of theater, but also

the best of humanity. See what can be accomplished when we work together with a purpose."

*Kiss Me, Kate* runs May 1 to 17 at the historic Hedback Theatre, 1847 Alabama St., Indianapolis. Performances take place Thursday to Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Senior, youth, student, and group discounts available, as well discount days on the first Sunday of shows and all Thursday performances. Use promo code APPLE for \$5 off tickets from May 7 to 10.

Tickets and additional information available at [footlite.org/buy-tickets](http://footlite.org/buy-tickets).

## Volunteers needed for Stamp Out Hunger

### The REPORTER

Each year on the second Saturday in May – this year, May 9 – letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food donations for local pantries as part of the National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive: the largest one-day food drive in the nation since its launch in 1993.

Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank needs your help to collect the donated food from local post offices. Volunteers are needed



for two-hour shifts, and you can select the location where you'd like to volunteer. It can be a great way to fill end-of-year volunteer hour requirements.

Families, groups, or teams are welcome as volunteers. However, volunteers must be over 16 years

old to come without a parent or responsible adult and must bring a waiver signed by a parent. Other volunteers will be required to sign waivers when they come to volunteer.

The need is great, but helping is simple. [Click here](#) to sign up.

# Kiss me, Kate

MUSIC and LYRICS by COLE PORTER  
BOOK by SAM and BELLA SPEWACK

MAY 1-17

Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 PM  
Sunday at 2:30 PM

1847 N. ALABAMA ST, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46202

Tickets Available At

FOOTLITE.ORG • (317) 926-6630 • BOXOFFICE@FOOTLITE.ORG

KISS ME, KATE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Trams-Witmark LLC. www.concordtheatricals.com

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Mayor of Fishers

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# DIXON FOR SHERIFF

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DUSTIN DIXON



- ✓ Veteran Who Served Our Country
- ✓ Leader Focused on Public Safety
- ✓ Strong Community Relationships
- ✓ Proven to Deliver for Hamilton County

## ENDORSED BY 3 MAYORS

SUE FINKAM, CARMEL  
SCOTT FADNESS, FISHERS  
CHRIS JENSEN, NOBLESVILLE

## ENDORSED BY 4 FOP'S



DIXON FOR SHERIFF

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DUSTIN DIXON

# DIXONFORSHERRIFF.COM

# Peony Season is here! Are you ready for it?

By **KELLY McVEY**  
President, Indiana  
Peony Festival, Inc.

The Indiana Peony Festival, established in 2021, created the Indiana Peony Trail to celebrate Indiana's state flower, foster community engagement and beautification, and support environmental sustainability. By transforming Noblesville into a premier destination for peony enthusiasts, our organization has established peony gardens in various businesses, public buildings, parks, and nonprofit locations.

To enhance our trail, **SMC Corporation of America** collaborated with us to develop the Peony Passport, an innovative tool for peony enthusiasts! The passport, available both physically and digitally, serves as a guide to navigate the trail, discover different peony varieties, and track progress. This

initiative aims to provide peony enthusiasts with more exposure to our state flower beyond the festival weekend.

Pick up a FREE peony passport at one of our three listed locations, at our Hospitality tent on festival day, or engage on your journey virtually by visiting any spot on the Peony Trail. We hope that you will relish the trail and the peonies as much as we do!

**Peony Passport pickup locations**

- Noblesville Ace Hardware: 603 Westfield Road, Noblesville
- Just Lagom Boutique: 876 Logan St., Noblesville
- Promenade Trails: 17780 Navigator Trail, Noblesville

**Peony Planting Day**

We were honored to host a special planting day at two meaningful Noblesville locations, each celebrating community, legacy, and the beauty of peonies. From the new Hall of Fame

Courtyard at Noblesville Schools to the historic courthouse grounds, these plantings symbolize both deep roots in our community and growth for future generations. Each location tells a unique story of connection, recognition, and support for the Indiana Peony Festival.

**Noblesville Courthouse Planting**

At the Noblesville Courthouse, we were proud to plant stunning Sarah Bernhardt peonies thanks to the generous support of our premier sponsor, Smith's Jewelers. This iconic peony – celebrated for its full, romantic blooms – is the featured variety of this year's festival and inspired the design of the commemorative charm created by Smith's. Known as one of the most beloved peonies, the Sarah Bernhardt perfectly represents the timeless beauty and charm that draw people to the festival each year.

**Noblesville Schools Hall of Fame Courtyard**

At Noblesville Schools' new Hall of Fame Courtyard, peonies were generously donated and planted by CCHA attorneys in celebration of the inaugural Hall of Fame Class of 2025. The evening marked a historic moment for the district, honoring distinguished inductees including Julia Kozicki – who not only helped plant the peonies but is also a member of this first class. This planting serves as a lasting tribute to the achievements and legacy of those recognized, creating a space that will continue to inspire students and visitors for years to come.

**Peony Beautification Sponsor**

**GKM Property Services** has been instrumental in the creation of our trail. Specializing in landscaping and property services, GKM caters to homeowners, municipality leaders, property managers, and others in central Indiana.



Photo provided

**This year's Premier Sponsor, Smith's Jewelers, supported the peony planting at the Courthouse.**

This spring, as our Beautification Sponsor, GKM will be transforming our park, courthouse lawn, and other Noblesville areas with their expert landscaping services. Additionally, they will enhance the beauty of our

(new!) Ninth Street music lounge by adding stunning flower boxes. Don't miss out on this opportunity to witness GKM's exceptional work on festival weekend.

Learn more at [Indiana-PeonyFestival.com](https://Indiana-PeonyFestival.com).

## From the desk of Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update No. 171

As we move into a month filled with special recognitions, I want to pause and share why these moments matter so deeply to me. Public education is built on people – the ones who greet our students each morning, who guide their learning, who care for their wellbeing, and who create the conditions for every child to grow. Recognizing them isn't simply a tradition; it's a reminder of the dedication, skill, and humanity that make Hamilton Heights such an extraordinary place for students to learn and thrive.

Friday is National Principal's Day, and we are fortunate to have an incredibly talented and dedicated group of principals who set the tone



**DR. DEREK ARROWOOD**  
Heights Superintendent

for that experience every day. They are steady, student-centered leaders who balance vision with compassion, ensuring our schools remain safe, welcoming, and focused on success. Their work is often behind the scenes, but their impact is felt in every classroom, every hallway, and every student interaction.

We also honor our remarkable food service team on Friday for Lunch Heroes Day – the individuals who nourish our students and create a warm, caring environment in our cafeterias. They rise early, prepare meals with pride, and greet students with kindness. Their work fuels learning, builds connection, and strengthens our sense of community.

They are heroes in every sense of the word.

Next week, we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, a time to recognize the educators who inspire, mentor, challenge, and support our students. Teachers shape futures in ways that extend far beyond academics. They build confidence, spark curiosity, and create connections that last a lifetime. Their influence is profound, and our gratitude is endless.

On Wednesday, May 8, we will shine a spotlight on the compassionate professionals we honor on School Nurse Day – the individuals who safeguard the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. Our nurses are trusted advocates and calm problem-solvers, offering care, reassurance, and expertise when it's needed most. Their work keeps our schools safe, healthy, and

ready for learning.

Each of these groups plays a vital role in the story of Hamilton Heights. Together, they form a network of support that surrounds every student – academically, emotionally, and physically. I am deeply grateful for their dedication and proud to recognize the essential work they do for our schools and our community.

As we celebrate the dedicated professionals who make Hamilton Heights such a special place for students, it's also a joy to spotlight the remarkable work our students are doing in their own programs – a reminder that everything we do begins and ends with them. Their growth, leadership, and curiosity are at the center of our mission, and the opportunities they embrace are made possible by the educators and staff who

guide, mentor, and encourage them every day. This week, that leadership and hands-on learning are on full display in two meaningful, student-driven events.

Our annual **FFA Plant Sale** is underway, inviting the community to browse a beautiful selection of vegetables, hanging baskets, and annuals. This student-run effort is a hallmark of our FFA program, with students leading every part of the process. All proceeds support the Hamilton Heights FFA chapter and the future leaders it continues to shape.

On Friday, students will also take the lead in our Ryan White Legacy Fest, raising funds and awareness for the Ryan White Scholarship Fund – a scholarship that honors Ryan's enduring legacy and supports Hamilton Heights students who exemplify compas-

sion, resilience, and community leadership. The decades-long event not only celebrates Ryan's impact but empowers today's students to contribute to a cause rooted in kindness, service, and community strength.

These student-led efforts reflect the heart of Hamilton Heights: young people stepping forward with purpose, supported by adults who believe in their potential. And while the FFA Plant Sale and Ryan White Legacy Fest shine brightly this week, they are just two examples of the meaningful learning, leadership, and service happening across our campus every day. We are truly fortunate to be part of a community that shows up for one another. Thank you for supporting our students, our staff, and the programs that help them thrive.

#WeAreHuskies

**D.C. DARK MONEY GROUPS ARE SPENDING OVER \$1 MILLION LYING ABOUT JIM BUCK**

**HERE'S THE TRUTH.**

Jim Buck voted for the first law in Indiana history to block foreign adversaries like China from buying farmland near our military bases.

Then he voted to expand that protection statewide.

Now no foreign adversary can buy Indiana farmland. Period.

**PROUDLY ENDORSED BY:**



**OUR FARMERS TRUST JIM BUCK.**

**YOU SHOULD TOO.**

**ON OR BEFORE MAY 5**

**VOTE JIM BUCK**

Conservative Republican for State Senate



Paid for by Citizens for Buck.



Letter to the Editor

# Mental Health Awareness Month: understanding its importance & the reality of suicide

Dear Editor:  
Each year, May is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month, a national observance established in 1949 to highlight the importance of mental health and promote support for those experiencing mental illness. This month serves as a reminder that mental health is just as important as physical health and that millions of people are affected by mental health conditions every year.

Mental Health Awareness Month focuses on reducing stigma, encouraging open conversations, and connecting individuals to resources and support systems. Despite increased awareness in recent years, many people still hesitate to seek help due to fear, misunderstanding, or lack of access to care. In the United States, approximately one in five adults experiences a mental illness each year, demonstrating how widespread these challenges are.

One of the most serious consequences of untreated mental health

conditions is suicide. Suicide remains a major public health issue in the United States. It is consistently ranked among the leading causes of death, including as the second leading cause of death for individuals ages 15 to 24. Research shows that more than 90 percent of people who die by suicide have an underlying mental health condition, such as depression or anxiety. These statistics highlight the critical connection between mental health and suicide prevention.

Recent data show both concern and progress. Over the past decade, the U.S. has experienced a significant number of suicide deaths, with more than 500,000 lives lost between 2014 and 2024. However, initiatives such as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline have begun to make a positive impact. Studies indicate that suicide rates among young people declined by about 11 percent after the hotline was introduced, demonstrating how access to support can save lives.

Mental Health Awareness Month

is not only about statistics – it is about action. Individuals, schools, workplaces, and communities are encouraged to participate by sharing resources, supporting those in need, and learning how to recognize warning signs of mental health struggles. Simple actions, such as checking in on a friend, promoting mental health education, or seeking help when needed can make a meaningful difference.

The Jason Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to the prevention of the “Silent Epidemic” of youth and young adult suicide through educational and awareness programs that equip young people, educators, and parents with the tools and resources to help identify at-risk youth who may be struggling with their mental health.

For more information or to locate the nearest Jason Foundation Affiliate Office, visit [JasonFoundation.com](http://JasonFoundation.com).

**Scott Knight**  
Senior Director of Operations  
The Jason Foundation, Inc.



## Help save food from local farmers markets

### The REPORTER

Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank (HCHFB) needs your help to save fresh produce from ending up in the trash. Starting Saturday, May 2, volunteers can transport fresh food from local farmers markets to HCHFB’s warehouse in Cicero.

HCHFB receives produce donations from various farms across Hamilton County from May to October. During the season, donations are picked up from the Fishers and Noblesville Farmers Markets

each Saturday.

Volunteers will be trained, and once at the warehouse, donated produce will be unloaded, weighed, logged, then put away.

This is a great activity as you are able to bring family members along, and any type of vehicle should work. Because this activity requires training, HCHFB prefers to find volunteers who can commit to helping at least three times through the season.

[Click here](#) to learn more and sign up.

## Fun community-wide effort to support families & children in foster care

### Submitted by The Cooper House

This May and June, The Cooper House is inviting families across Hamilton County to be part of something simple, meaningful, and full of purpose: a garage sale!

At The Cooper House, we often say it takes a village, and the truth is, every family needs one. This initiative is a chance for our community to be that village in a tangible, hands-on way.

Our goal is to mobilize 20 driveways across Hamilton County to raise awareness and support for local families and children who are in crisis and/or involved with the child welfare system.

You host a typical garage sale, but the impact is so much more!

Every dollar raised helps create a safe, home-like environment where families are welcome and able to connect, as well as begin to rebuild and restore relationships, where foster children feel safe, loved, and cared for during a traumatic transition, and where individuals who are in crisis can find a judgement free zone where they receive encouragement, prayer, resources, and support in their time of need.

Hosting is easy and it’s meant to be fun! Gather your family, invite neighbors or friends, and make it a full experience. Add a concession stand, get your kids involved, and turn it into a meaningful way to serve together.



The Cooper House will come alongside you with a Garage Sale Host Guide and Digital Toolkit to make it simple, and we’ll help promote your sale through our social media channels. You can donate your proceeds (minus any personal costs if needed), knowing it’s going directly to support families and children right here in Hamilton County.

Clear out that garage! Purge from within your home! Make it fun and invite your people to join in! Let’s show up for one another! Let’s choose to be part of the village that every family deserves. Let’s ensure families and children in our community are seen, heard, chosen, and loved.

To learn more or sign up, visit [TheCooperHouseIndiana.com](http://TheCooperHouseIndiana.com), click on Upcoming Events, and click Sign up to Host a Garage Sale, or email us at [HamiltonIN@thecooperhouseindiana.com](mailto:HamiltonIN@thecooperhouseindiana.com).

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

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**REPUBLICAN PRIMARY - MAY 5TH, 2026**

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## JOHN LOWES

YOUR CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF

## EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Hamilton County Sheriff — Side by Side Comparison

QUALIFICATION	JOHN LOWES	OPPONENT
LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE		
Officer	✓	✓
Mid-Level Supervision	✓	✓
COMMAND EXPERIENCE		
Patrol Division Commander	✓	✗
Investigations Division Commander	✓	✗
Chief Deputy / Assistant Sheriff	✓	✗
Manages \$34 Million Budget	✓	✗
EDUCATION		
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.

Endorsed by:  
**SHERIFF DENNIS QUAKENBUSH**

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

PAID FOR BY LOWES FOR SHERIFF COMMITTEE

Letter to the Editor

# Endorsed by experience: why John Lowes stands out

Dear Editor:

I am writing to offer my full endorsement of John Lowes in his candidacy for Sheriff of Hamilton County. It is with great confidence that I support John, based on both my personal interactions with him and my professional observations of his leadership and character.

I first met John four years ago at the 71st SPIAA Conference in Covington, Ky. At the time, I did not know anyone attending and happened to sit at his table. John immediately made me feel welcome with his friendly and approachable demeanor. Throughout the remainder of the conference, we had numerous conversations, which allowed me to quickly recognize his professionalism, knowledge, and genuine passion for law enforcement.

Since that initial meeting, I

have had the opportunity to observe John's continued involvement and leadership within the Southern Police Institute Alumni Association (SPIAA). During his tenure as Secretary, John consistently provided thoughtful, positive input at every meeting and was always willing to step in and assist wherever needed. His commitment to the organization and its members was evident in both his work ethic and his collaborative approach.

Following his two-year term as Secretary, John was elected as 2nd Vice President, a role he has served in with the same level of dedication and professionalism. In July of this year, he is set to be elevated to 1st Vice President, a testament to the trust and confidence his peers have in his leadership abilities.

Beyond his accomplishments and

leadership roles, what truly sets John apart is his character. He is an honorable individual who demonstrates a high level of integrity in all that he does. Through our many conversations and interactions, I have consistently observed his commitment to doing what is right, even when it may not be the easiest path. His integrity, combined with his experience and leadership, makes him exceptionally well-suited for the role of Sheriff.

I strongly believe that John Lowes possesses the qualities necessary to effectively lead, serve his community, and uphold the highest standards of the profession. I am proud to offer my endorsement and support for his candidacy.

**Raymond W. Beltz**  
President, Southern Police Institute Alumni Association  
Jacksonville, Fla.

## 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.

Please send your letters to [News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com).

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



Letter to the Editor

# Westfield attorney: Barrows has both experience & integrity to serve as judge

Dear Editor:

I am honored to have the opportunity to share my support for Christopher Barrows as the first Judge of Hamilton County Superior Court 9.

I had the privilege of working with Commissioner Barrows prior to his time on the bench in Title IV-D Court, and I have also practiced in front of him over the last four years. What I know that I can always count on when I am interacting with him is that he is going to treat my client and myself with respect, he is going to have sound judgment rendering, and he is going to be thoughtful and intentional with both.

As a practitioner whose majority caseload is representing clients in Hamilton County, it matters deeply to me who the judicial officer is go-

ing to be in Superior Court 9 because my client's lives, their finances, and their children - and the children that I advocate for - will be directly impacted by who is in the black robe sitting approximately a foot higher than everyone else in the courtroom. For the sake of my clients, I want that person to have experience and integrity. I truly believe that both of those qualities can be found in one candidate running for this seat, and that is Commissioner Barrows.

To give you a glimpse into why I am supporting him, I want to share with you a personal story. Early on when multiple individuals, including other judicial officers, announced their candidacy, I heard from a number of colleagues a feeling of anxiety about pledging support to any candi-

date out of concern that there may be a direct impact on their cases tried in a particular court if they supported a candidate that ultimately was not the one elected. When I shared this with Commissioner Barrows, his demeanor was tangible. I could see on his face and hear in the words that followed that he was genuinely disappointed at the idea that anyone would fear that a judicial officer would keep score or hold grudges toward those who opted to support someone else. That is integrity.

I urge voters to understand the impact and importance of their vote in the upcoming judicial races and to support Christopher Barrows for Hamilton County Superior Court 9.

**Jessie Cobb-Dennard, Esq.**  
Westfield

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Superior 9

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

# Young introduces bill to advance AI innovation & reliability for Americans

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

On Wednesday, April 29, U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), and Cory Booker (D-N.J.) reintroduced the Creating Resources for Every American to Experiment with Artificial Intelligence Act (CREATE AI Act), legislation that would establish the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR).

The NAIRR is a shared national research infrastructure to connect American researchers and educators to data, software, and tools necessary to advance AI research and development (R&D) and develop AI skills for the U.S. workforce. The

legislation will also focus on improving the safety, reliability, and trustworthiness of AI for Americans.

"The United States cannot cede leadership in AI development to China," Sen. Young said. "For both our economic and national security, we must harness AI's potential and mitigate its risks. By establishing the National AI Research Resource in statute, the CREATE AI Act will give incredible access and resources to America's brightest, allowing for advancements in AI innovation, deployment, and safety for our country and ultimately

the world."

The CREATE AI Act would establish NAIRR to do the following:

- Spur innovation and advance the development of safe, reliable, and trustworthy AI research and development.
- Improve access to AI resources for researchers and students

• Expand capacity for AI research in the United States

• Develop tool AI tools for the U.S. workforce

The legislation is supported by Indiana University, AI Policy Network, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), Cognizant, SeedAI, and Business Software Alliance.

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

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# Immigration issues drive some voters ahead of primaries

By GARRETT BERGQUIST  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

An immigration attorney and a supporter of tougher immigration policies both said the issue is top of mind going into Indiana's May primary election.

Daniel Poynter is the co-founder and executive director of [Save Heritage Indiana](http://SaveHeritageIndiana.org), a group that advocates for stricter immigration controls. He told News 8 he used to be a Democrat and did not vote for Donald Trump in 2016 but became concerned about the influx of large numbers of people who lacked proper documentation.

Immigration has long been central to Trump-era Republicans' campaign platform. In his 2015 campaign launch speech, Trump accused immigrants of being a public safety threat. This has been a common theme ever since. Undocumented immigrants have been accused in several high-profile murders and fatal crashes, including one that killed four Jay County men earlier this year, but statistics paint a different picture. [A 2024 study](#)

[of historic incarceration rates](#) by Northwestern University found immigrants were 60 percent less likely to be incarcerated than native-born Americans. Poynter said for voters like him, public safety is a concern but cultural cohesion is the biggest issue.

"These small towns had a shared culture. We all celebrated Christmas. There were Christmas lights everywhere. It was a shared culture. It was a shared heritage, shared memories," Poynter said. "We all looked at the Founding Fathers with pride. And we were mostly proud to be Americans, both Democrats and Republicans. We had a shared culture. A shared identity. And that's really fraying today."

Besides the cultural aspect, Poynter said large influxes of migrants raise national sovereignty concerns. "If we don't control our borders, are we even a people? If somebody forced people to live in your house against your will, are you even king of your castle?" he said.

Immigration attorney Paul Gresk sees the impact of the Trump administra-

tion's deportation policies firsthand. Gresk said he averages 20 to 25 new clients every day, most of which are facing removal proceedings.

"Every one of these is a heartbreak story," Gresk said. He says he currently has a client who is a lawful permanent resident and has three U.S. citizen children but her husband faces deportation. "So this is all about dividing families. Families that, American families that have children that are dependent on their parents, like all children, to provide not only for their emotional support but their financial support. And when you eliminate that by deporting the parents, now you have these children that you have to deal with."

Gresk said he takes issue with the idea that immigrants to the United States somehow undermine cultural cohesion. He specifically pointed to Latinos' strong cultural emphasis on family and religious belief, both of which have historically been major Republican Party tenets. Pew Research surveys show [53 percent of Hispanic Protestants](#) reported attending

religious services at least once a week, compared to [35 percent of white Protestants](#). About one-quarter of both Hispanic and non-Hispanic Catholics report attending religious services weekly or more.

Both Gresk and Poynter said immigration is driving their decision-making going into the May primary. Poynter said he considers it more important than traditional conservative causes such as the national debt because he considers it an existential matter in ways the national debt is not.

Gresk, who once worked for then-Indianapolis Mayor Dick Lugar, said the Trump-era GOP's immigration policies have driven him away from the party. He said he expects Congress will at long last pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation after Trump leaves office, but not before.

Early voting ends at noon on May 4. Primary Day itself is on May 5.

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/election/immigration-issues-drive-some-voters-ahead-of-primaries](http://wishtv.com/news/election/immigration-issues-drive-some-voters-ahead-of-primaries).*

## State Road 37 Improvement Project public information meeting planned in Noblesville

### The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will play host to a public information meeting to present proposed design concepts for the State Road 37 Improvement Project in Noblesville.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7 at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St. Doors open at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held in Room A214 on the second floor.

Representatives from INDOT, the City of Noblesville, and American Structurepoint, the consultant leading the design improvements, will share updates about the project and gather additional feedback from attendees.

The project includes improvements along SR 37 from south of Greenfield Avenue to north of State Road 32. The project team will be presenting proposed plans for the entire corridor; however, there is currently

only construction funding for work from Greenfield Avenue up to and through Town & Country Boulevard.

When complete, the improvements will result in reduced traffic congestion and improved pedestrian and vehicular safety along the SR 37 corridor.

A virtual, livestreaming option will also be available on Microsoft Teams for those who are unable to attend in person. You can access the meeting on the

project website or by [clicking here](#). Project materials, including a recording of the presentation will also be shared on the website following the meeting.

INDOT is partnering with the city for this project, and the entire project team is committed to public involvement and gathering feedback. Visit [SR37Improvement.com](http://SR37Improvement.com) for more information about the project and access the meeting livestream.

Letter to the Editor

## Shaffer questions claims of local revenue drops due to property tax relief

Dear Editor:

When the state cut property taxes, many of us were grateful for a break – up to \$300 per taxpayer.

In Carmel, however, the mayor and school board warned of average \$15 million and \$12 million per year shortfalls in revenue, respectively.

This seems odd when compared to what those entities reported as property tax revenues in their last four annual financial reports to the state.

Carmel reported an average of \$45 million per year and the schools, \$24 million.

What public officials claim then, is a one-third drop (\$15 million of \$45 million) in the case of the city and the schools, one-half (\$12 million of \$24 million).

This is absurd on its face.

But in Carmel it's crisis as usual where total debt is \$1.6 billion for the city and \$350 million for the school system.

Bill Shaffer

Carmel

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

## Two men arrested after shooting near I-69 & I-465

### Submitted by Indiana State Police

Two men have been arrested for their alleged role in an interstate shooting on Saturday, April 25 near Interstate 69 and Interstate 465 on the northeast side of Indianapolis.

At approximately 1:17 p.m. Indiana State Police Dispatchers received a 911 call from a victim indicating she had been shot at by a man in another vehicle on I-465.

Detectives were able to use Flock traffic cameras and other investigative means to identify the suspect vehicle and subsequently the two suspects. The temporary license plate on the vehicle was registered to a different vehicle.

On Monday, April 27, detectives got information that the suspect vehicle, a grey Ford Escape, with the same false temporary plate was pulled over by the Lawrence Police Department. The driver was detained for not having a driver's license. He was transported to the Indiana State Police Post for follow-up investigation in reference to the shooting.

Detectives interviewed the man, Hector Galves Flores. Detectives later identified and detained a man who they believe was the passenger in the Ford Escape during the shooting and was responsible for firing the shots; that man was identified as Lester Yair Ramos

See [Shooting . . . Page 9](#)

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# Gov. Braun signals openness to marijuana legalization as outside report outlines policy considerations

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ**  
*Indiana Capital Chronicle*

consider allowing medical-use sales, but not recreational, Fox59 reported.



Braun

Indiana Governor Mike Braun has signaled a growing willingness to legalize marijuana, noting the Hoosier State is “surrounded” by states that have legalized the drug to some degree.

Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio allow recreational use, while Kentucky has authorized medicinal.

“I’m going to do what makes sense,” Braun told reporters Tuesday. “I’ve said law enforcement will be important. I’ve been talking to them, and now, the amount of traffic that crosses the border, you know, it’s noticeable. So, all of that will be taken into consideration.”

President Donald Trump’s administration this week **rescheduled** medical marijuana – subject to a state license – to a less restrictive category, but kept recreational use in the list of drugs with the highest potential for abuse. But the administration has also kicked off an expedited administrative hearing process to consider reconsider that classification.

“I think the fact that the feds made that move, that makes it more likely,” Braun said.

“You’re going to need to ask the legislators and the leaders in those two chambers to see what they’re thinking, because I’m clear in terms of where I’m at,” he continued. “You’ve got to take what’s evolved over time. [If you] stick your head in the sand, you’re generally going to make the wrong decision.”

As a gubernatorial candidate in 2024, Braun said he was possibly willing to

The governor’s comments on Tuesday came shortly before the release of a study on the current status of marijuana and other intoxicating cannabinoids in Indiana, and another study on considerations for marijuana regulations if the state did decide to ease up on the drug.

The pair of reports were conducted by RAND on behalf of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, which seeks to advance health, education and more in the city of Indianapolis.

Emi Whitesell, the vice president of impact and evaluation, said Fairbanks commissioned the research in 2024 to fill a gap in reliable data centered on Indiana.

“We don’t have a position,” Whitesell said of marijuana legalization. “This is purely informative. We know there have been so many conversations ... about potentially changing our marijuana policies. ... It’s so complex and it’s sometimes hard to get really good data and really good information about it.”

Much of the research on legalization focuses on states that already have already authorized the drug for medicinal use, unlike Indiana, the foundation found.

The Hoosier State is one of 10 states that hasn’t legalized medical marijuana, let alone recreational.

Despite that, residents can access intoxicating cannabinoids and marijuana itself relatively easily, accord-

ing to Fairbanks.

That’s because Indiana hasn’t banned or regulated the sale of products with delta-8 THC, THCA or other intoxicating cannabinoids. State legislative efforts have failed repeatedly. Now, such products are “ubiquitous,” researchers wrote. A federal ban will go into effect in November, although several bills have been filed to delay that.

Additionally, researchers found that 44 percent of Hoosiers, or nearly 3 million people, live within a 50-mile drive of at least one licensed dispensary in another state. A whopping 96 percent, or 5.6 million people, live within a 100-mile drive.

“In practical terms, almost all Hoosiers who wish to purchase cannabis from a retail store can do so with a roundtrip drive of fewer than four hours,” they wrote.

Researchers estimated that residents spend about \$1.8 billion on marijuana annually, and that Indiana’s criminal justice system spends \$10 million to \$20 million on enforcement annually.

They also explored a range of policy routes Indiana could pursue.

The first, in which the state maintains its prohibition, involves no change.

The state could also reduce criminal penalties for marijuana possession by directing law enforcement to treat it as low priority, reduce fines or jail time, or eliminate criminal penalties for small amounts in favor of civil citations. The state could make it easier to ex-

punge or seal past convictions for possession, or even automatically perform those actions for convictions after a set period.

Indiana could also join the 24 states that have legalized marijuana for recreational use. Researchers laid out 14 major policy decisions leaders would have to make, including: who could grow, refine, and sell marijuana; at what level to tax marijuana and more.

All of those policy levels would figure into a medical marijuana system, according to Fairbanks, along with four more considerations: what conditions qualify for use, what medical professionals could recommend someone obtain a license, the cost of a license and who could procure the marijuana for patients who can’t travel to buy it or grow it at home themselves.

The state and local governments would still spend money on enforcement even if marijuana is legalized in some form, researchers noted. Driving under the influence and possessing the drug underage would likely remain banned, for instance. New costs could include licensing, inspections, testing and more.

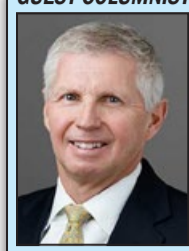
But legalization could bring in \$180 million in tax revenue annually by the fifth year, researchers estimated – or 1 percent of the state’s \$18 billion General Fund. Revenue depends on a variety of factors, however, and could range from \$100 million at the low end to \$270 million at the high end.

Reporter Mackenzi Klemann contributed. This story was published on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at [indianacapitalchronicle.com](http://indianacapitalchronicle.com).

# Choosing a surgeon shouldn’t be a leap of faith

Americans rarely make choices blindly. They compare prices, read reviews, and study ratings before buying products, choosing restaurants, or booking trips.

GUEST COLUMNIST



DR. MATHIAS P. BOSTROM

Yet many people don’t realize they can – and should – take a similarly deliberate approach when making important health-care decisions, like where to have surgery and who should perform it.

For major procedures, most patients depend on a referral from a primary care doctor or on advice from a loved one. While well-meaning, these recommendations aren’t always based on measurable performance data – and that data can make all the difference.

Surgical outcomes often differ sharply across hospitals. Research **demonstrates** that institutions handling higher volumes of complex, high-risk procedures consistently achieve better recovery rates than their less-experienced counterparts. This same pattern **holds** true for joint replacements, where lower-volume hospitals have been linked to a greater risk of complications.

Variation exists at the in-

dividual surgeon level as well, where repetition and technical skill play a critical role.

Surgeons who perform a procedure more frequently tend to develop sharper

judgment, more consistent technique, and a stronger ability to anticipate and avoid complications. In orthopedics, that experience often shows up after surgery – in lower infection rates, fewer follow-up procedures, reduced readmissions, and steadier recoveries. **Studies** of shoulder operations, for instance, find that surgeons who perform a higher volume of procedures have better outcomes.

Despite the stakes, most patients never ask about this data – many don’t even know it exists. That’s concerning to me. Speaking from experience as an orthopedic surgeon, I always encourage these conversations, and my colleagues do, too.

Anyone preparing for surgery ought to feel comfortable asking direct questions about a surgeon’s experience and results. *How many times each year do you perform this*

See Choose . . . Page 10

## SHOOTING

from Page 8

Posadas, 19. On Tuesday, April 28, he was taken into custody at an apartment on east 40th Street in Indianapolis by member of the Indiana State Police SWAT Team.

Both men were arrested and preliminarily charged with criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon and intimidation. Posadas was also wanted on an unrelated

federal arrest warrant.

The charges listed are preliminary; formal charges will be determined by the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office upon review of the case. Both men are being held in the Marion County Jail.

All crimes mentioned are alleged and all suspects are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

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<b>LIBERTY NICKEL</b> 	<b>WHEAT PENNIES</b> 	<b>BUFFALO NICKEL</b> 	<b>SILVER DOLLARS</b> 	<b>BARBER COINS</b> 

# Westfield Farmers Market returns to Grand Junction Plaza on Thursday, May 7

Submitted by City of Westfield

The award-winning Westfield Farmers Market, presented by Community Health Network, returns for the 2026 season from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 7 at Grand Junction Plaza, 225 S. Union St.

“There’s a reason the Westfield Farmers Market recently won a Best of Suburban Indy Award,” Mayor Scott Willis said. “Our market continues to grow and evolve each year, and this season will be no exception. I’m looking forward to supporting small local businesses all summer long.”

The 2026 season will feature more than 50 vendors at each event, including an expanded selection

of produce sellers. Popular returning vendors include Almost Paradise Farm (smashburgers and farm-raised meat), Promise Land Farm (produce), Wild Loaf (fresh sourdough bread), and Tulip Tree Creamery (cheese).

The market will also welcome new vendors this year, including Bear Fruit Farm (microgreens, produce, and pasta), Generations Pie Company (baked goods), Stuckey Farm (apples), and Wilson Farm Market (produce, cheese, and baked goods).

In addition to weekly markets, the Westfield Farmers Market is expanding its popular themed nights:

- May 14: Race to the Market (Indy 500 celebra-

tion)

- June 11: Sweet Summertime
- July 2: Red, White, and Bloom (as part of America 250)
- July 23: Dog Days of Summer
- Aug. 6: National Farmers Market Week
- Aug. 20: Par-tee at the Market

Attendees are encouraged to park at the parking garage at The Union (first three hours are free), the Westfield Washington Public Library lot (with a free shuttle to-and-from Grand Junction Plaza), or along nearby streets where free parking is available.

For more information, visit [westfieldin.gov/farmersmarket](http://westfieldin.gov/farmersmarket).

# Rep. Spartz: this week’s vote will show who stands for affordability

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

On Tuesday night, April 28, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz’s (R-Ind.-05) amendment to exempt large farm tractors, combines, and sprayers from unreasonable emissions standards, consistent with military equipment, was made in order by the Rules Committee. It will receive a floor vote this week.

Under one-size-fits-all EPA regulations, farm diesel engines were swept into burdensome emission standards, adding unreasonable costs to farmers, causing damaging delays, creating fire hazards, and leading to higher prices at grocery

stores. Farm machinery and input costs have surged from 30 percent to 100 percent just in the last five years, pushing food prices higher and putting family farms on the brink of widespread bankruptcies.

“Food security is national security,” Rep. Spartz said. “Congress cannot continue failing American farmers and consumers. This week’s vote will show who truly stands for affordability and American families.”

Rep. Spartz’s amendment is endorsed by the



Spartz

Indiana Farm Bureau.

“Indiana Farm Bureau supports Rep. Victoria Spartz (IN-05) on her amendment #49 to the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

Amid continued tight margins, this amendment would make it easier and more affordable to operate and maintain the equipment essential to producing the food, fuel, and fiber our country depends on.”

Click [here](#) to read the text of the amendment. You can watch Rep. Spartz’s testimony at [this link](#).

## CHOOSE

procedure? How often do your patients experience complications? What are your infection rates? How often do patients need to come back to the hospital or undergo another operation?

Patients should also ask how a surgeon stays current. Medicine changes constantly. New methods, devices, safety practices, and recovery strategies continue to emerge. While all physicians complete ongoing education, some are far more engaged than others in research, teaching, and continuous review of outcomes. That level of involvement can meaningfully influence the quality of care patients receive.

Academic medical centers may offer an advantage here because they’re often more likely to track results closely, evaluate performance, and incorporate new findings systematically. Excellent care is certainly not limited to those institutions, but settings that rigorously measure outcomes are better positioned to improve them.

Still, patients shouldn’t have to piece this together on their own. Hospitals and health systems should make outcomes data readily available and easy to compare. Before making a life-changing medical choice, individuals should be able to compare complication levels,

return visits, repeat procedures, and reported recovery experiences.

More openness would benefit not only individuals but the broader system. Visibility drives accountability, helping reduce complications while lowering costs for patients and payers alike.

Americans routinely compare ratings for everyday decisions. Choosing a surgeon or hospital should be no different – and the healthcare system should take the lead in providing clear, accessible evidence.

*Mathias P. Bostrom, MD, is Associate Surgeon-in-Chief & Director, Quality & Safety at the Hospital for Special Surgery.*

from Page 9



Photos provided by Westfield Chamber of Commerce

# VitaFlex+ wins this year’s Westfield High School Innovation Competition Luncheon

The REPORTER

Last Thursday, April 23, Westfield High School students impressed Westfield Chamber partners, members, and guests at the annual WHS Innovation Competition Luncheon. Congratulations to this year’s winner VitaFlex+, who received \$1,300 to invest in their innovation.

John Moore’s entrepreneurial students raise the bar every year with their creative innovations and inventions. Congratulations to all 15 student groups who competed. The selected five groups moving on to the final round of competition on May 12 are VitaFlex+, Pocket Polish, Templ, clea-



noutcashion, and NeoBait. This annual luncheon is always a powerful reminder of what is possible when education, business, and community come together to invest in student talent and entrepreneurial thinking.

Thank you to Title

Sponsor Elements Financial and sponsors Indiana Members Credit Union, Skender, Gaylor Electric, and Homes with Laura for helping make this possible for these bright minds. Thank you to everyone who attended to support these students.

# IMCU announces 10th anniversary Cancer Awareness Card beneficiary

The REPORTER

Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU) celebrates the 10th anniversary of its Cancer Awareness Debit Card by naming Pink Ribbon Connection as the 2026-2027 member-nominated beneficiary.

The IMCU Cancer Awareness Debit Card provides members an opportunity to support a different cancer-related organization each year. A portion of each signature transaction made with this card through Feb. 28, 2027, up to \$10,000, will be donated to Pink Ribbon Connection.

The card is available for issue to members at IMCU’s 33 Indiana branch locations. The IMCU Cancer Awareness Debit Card is an option to members with a free checking account and can be issued immediately through IMCU’s instant issue program, allowing members to receive their debit card on the spot.

Pink Ribbon Connection was founded in 2006 with the mission to strengthen the Indiana breast cancer community by ensuring equitable access to free resources, meaningful education, and heartfelt emotional support to ensure no one faces breast cancer alone.

“To be chosen by IMCU members as the 2026-2027 beneficiary is both humbling



Graphic provided

and deeply meaningful to us, and especially exciting as we celebrate both IMCU’s 10th anniversary of this initiative and Pink Ribbon Connection’s 20th anniversary of service,” said April Williams, Executive Director of Pink Ribbon Connection. “Every swipe of this card helps us provide free, immediate support to individuals and families when they need it most. We are incredibly grateful to IMCU and its members for standing with us in this work.”

“IMCU is honored to partner with Pink Ribbon Connection and support their mission of ensuring no one faces breast cancer alone,” said John Newett, President and CEO of Indiana Members Credit Union. “As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Cancer Awareness Debit Card, we are especially proud to name Pink Ribbon Connection

our very first beneficiary, as the recipient. Collaborating with organizations that make a real and lasting difference for individuals and families in our communities is something we take great pride in.”

For more information about the IMCU Cancer Awareness Debit Card, visit [imcu.com](http://imcu.com) or stop by an IMCU branch for details.

### About Pink Ribbon Connection

An Indianapolis-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Pink Ribbon Connection serves residents across Indiana diagnosed with breast cancer by providing free resources including wigs, mastectomy bras, prostheses, education, and peer mentoring, touching the lives of over 4,000 individuals each year. Our hope is to ensure no one faces breast cancer alone. For more information, please visit [PinkRibbonConnection.org](http://PinkRibbonConnection.org).

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# Weekend ramp & lane closures planned to open new Binford Boulevard ramp

*New traffic pattern on I-69 expected Sunday, May 3*

**The REPORTER**

The new ramp from southbound Interstate 69 to southbound Binford Boulevard is expected to open on or after Sunday, May 3. To prepare, Clear Path crews will implement several weekend closures and lane restrictions, followed by a new traffic pattern for drivers on southbound I-69.

**Weekend closures & restrictions**

Drivers can expect the following restrictions beginning Friday night:

**Friday, May 1 around 9 p.m. to Sunday, May 3 by 6 a.m.**

- Ramp from southbound I-69 to southbound Binford Boulevard closed
- Ramp from 96th Street to southbound I-69 closed
- Ramp from 82nd Street to southbound I-465 closed

**Friday, May 1 around 11 p.m. to Saturday, May 2 by 6 a.m.**

- Ramp from southbound I-69 to southbound I-465 closed. Signed Detour: Southbound I-69 to westbound I-465 and turn around at Michigan Road (U.S. 421)

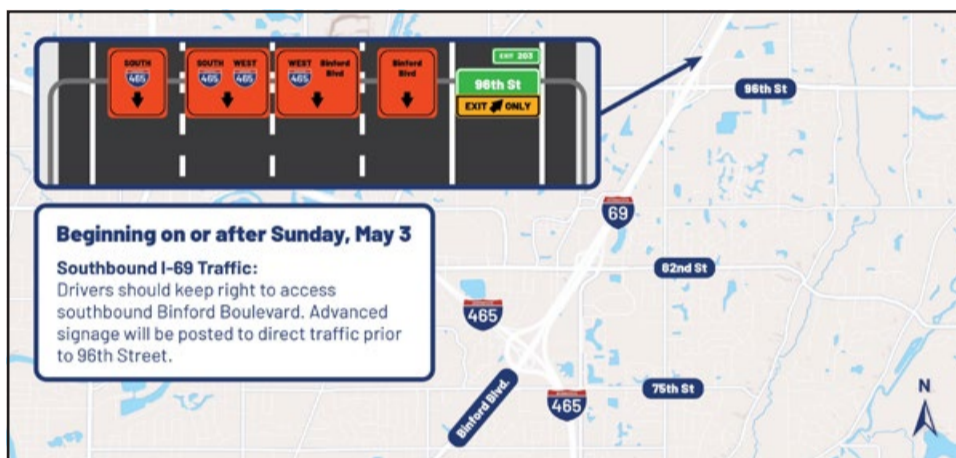
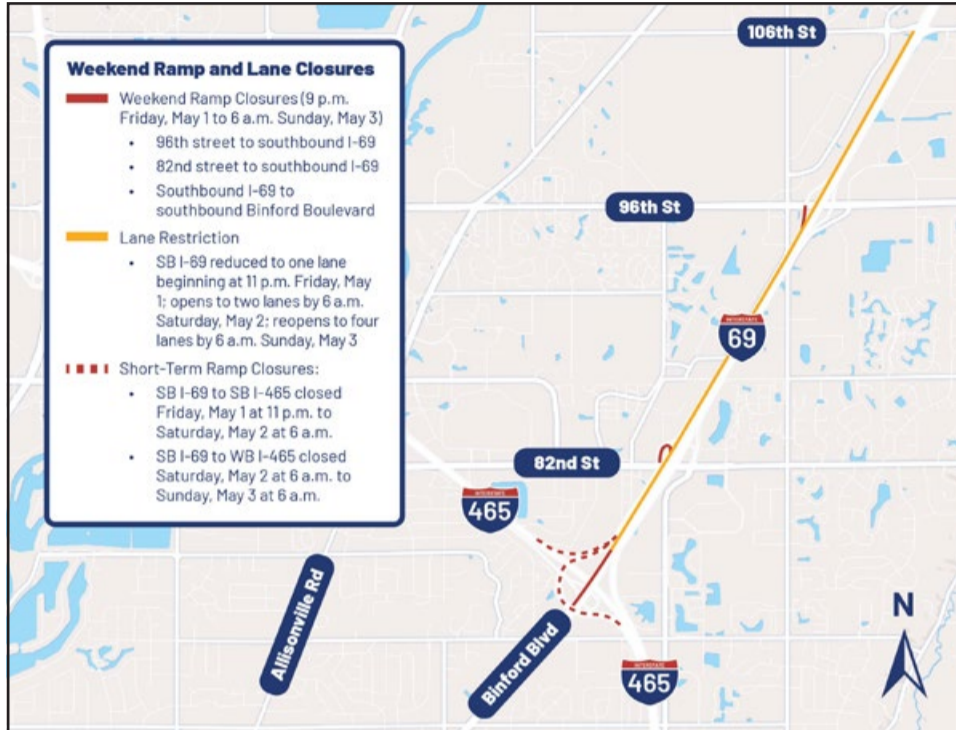
- Southbound I-69 reduced to one lane between 116th Street and the I-465/I-69 interchange

**Saturday, May 2 around 6 a.m. to Sunday, May 3 by 6 a.m.**

- Ramp from southbound I-69 to westbound I-465 closed. Signed Detour: Southbound I-69 to eastbound I-465 and turn around at Pendleton Pike (U.S. 36).
- Southbound I-69 reduced to two lanes between 116th Street and the I-465/I-69 interchange

**New traffic pattern begins Sunday, May 3**

Crews will stripe pavement, move barrier wall, and adjust overhead signage to open the ramp and shift southbound I-69 traffic to new roadway. Beginning on



Graphics provided by INDOT

or after Sunday, May 3, there will be a new traffic pattern for drivers on southbound I-69:

- Drivers traveling from southbound I-69 to southbound Binford Boulevard or westbound I-465 should keep right before reaching 96th Street (The current Binford Boulevard exit is on the far left).
- Drivers traveling from southbound I-69 to southbound I-465 should keep left before reaching 96th Street.

**Overnight & daytime restrictions this week**

In addition to the weekend work, overnight and daytime restrictions will continue this week as crews

prepare for the traffic shift: **Tuesday, April 28 (9 p.m. to 6 a.m.)**

- Ramp from southbound I-69 to southbound Binford closed

- One lane closed on northbound Binford and northbound I-69 between the I-465/I-69 interchange and 96th Street

**Tuesday, April 28 at 9 p.m. to Wednesday, April 29 at 4 p.m.**

- Ramp from eastbound I-465 to southbound Binford Boulevard reduced to one lane

**Wednesday, April 29 and Thursday, April 30 (8 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly)**

- Ramp from south-

bound I-69 to southbound Binford closed

- One lane closed on northbound Binford and northbound I-69 between the I-465/I-69 interchange and 96th Street

Drivers should expect delays and seek alternate routes when possible. Actual dates and anticipated work may be adjusted if inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances occur. Emergency access will be maintained during the work.

**Thanks for reading**

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**Meeting Notices**

The Cicero Town Council Executive Session scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, 2026, has been changed to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 14, 2026, pursuant to Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(D). A real property transaction including: (i) a purchase; (ii) a lease as lessor; (iii) a lease as lessee; (iv) a transfer; (v) an exchange; or (vi) a sale; by the governing body up to the time a contract or option is executed by the parties. This clause does not affect a political subdivision's duty to comply with any other statute that governs the conduct of the real property transaction, including IC 36-1-10 or IC 36-1-11.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Council's Finance Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026, at BRU Burger, 350 Westfield Road, Suite 100, Noblesville.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Personnel Committee will meet to discuss personnel issues at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 6, 2026, in Conference Room 1A of the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

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

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**TODAY'S BIBLE READING**

**BALAAAM'S DONKEY**

*Then the angel of the Lord moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat it with his staff. Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"*

*Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now."*

*The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?"*

*"No," he said.*

*Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.*

*The angel of the Lord asked him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me. The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared it."*

*Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back."*

*The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you." So Balaam went with Balak's officials.*

*Numbers 22:26-35 (NIV)*

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**The Reporter's policy on obituaries**

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

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

**N**

**NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS**

**Board Highlights**

*April 28, 2026 Meeting*

**Submitted by Noblesville Schools**

The school board has responsibility for major district functions including school district governance and oversight, setting school policies, approving funding, strategic planning, and hiring and evaluating the superintendent.

- The board recognized several student groups for their state achievements including NEMS & NWMS wrestling and show choirs, NWMS robotics, and NHS journalism, jazz, gymnastics, and swimming and diving.
- White River Elementary presented on the "little things" that make their school culture so special and honored their PTO president with an award.
- Dr. Ryan Rich, Assistant Superintendent of Learning, presented on the state's new accountability system. This was an update on the district's strategic plan element of Academic Excellence.
- The board approved new property and casualty insurance at a cost savings thanks to the district's strong risk management policies and practices.
- Meal prices for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year were approved to address rising costs, with an increase of 15 cents to breakfast and 40 cents to lunch. [Click here](#) to learn more about our free and reduced meal pricing for families in need.
- Superintendent Dr. Dan Hile shared that he will be presenting a financial update at the May 19 school board meeting that will include analysis and initial thoughts regarding a potential continuation of the district's operating referendum. The current referendum generates approximately 20 percent of the district's operating budget and is scheduled to expire at the end of 2026. The board will decide at their June 9 meeting whether to move forward with a community vote on the matter.

Go to [noblesvilleschools.org/leadership/school-board](http://noblesvilleschools.org/leadership/school-board) for meeting agendas, minutes, videos, and more.



**Gerald A Simpkins**

*d. April 23, 2026*

Gerald A Simpkins passed away April 23, 2026 peacefully at his home at the age of 83.



He is survived by his wife, Kathy, of 61 years; his sister Wanda and her family; his children, Krissie, Jack, Elena, Scott, and Barbie; his grandchildren, Ashley, DJ, Sebastian, and Jasmine; and his great-grandchildren, Ava and Brynleigh.

Jesus Christ is his Lord and Savior.

A private graveside service was held at Carmel Cemetery in Carmel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675 ([support.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://support.woundedwarriorproject.org)).

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

**George "Bill" W. Hookey**

*May 13, 1943 – January 1, 2026*

George William Hookey, known to just about everyone as Bill, passed away on January 1, 2026. He was 82 years old. Born on May 13, 1943, in Brazil, Ind., Bill lived a life full of laughter, love, and an uncanny ability to make everyone around him feel like an old friend.

Bill was a teacher through and through. He dedicated years of his life to education, and anyone who crossed his path in a classroom knew he genuinely loved the kids. Teaching wasn't just a job for Bill; it was a calling. Even after he retired, he couldn't stay away. He drove a school bus for the elementary kids, who affectionately called him Mr. Bill, and he quickly became a favorite all over again. Whether he was in front of a chalkboard or behind the wheel of a big yellow bus, Bill had a gift for connecting with young people and making them smile.

Beyond the classroom, Bill was a dedicated coach in baseball, golf, and swimming, and he also served as a swim official. Sports ran deep in his blood. He was a lifelong fan of the Indianapolis 500, attending every single race from his youth until just two years ago. He also loved golf, fishing, woodworking, and traveling. Bill explored Hawaii, Las Vegas, California, and plenty of places in between, often serving as a top-notch tour guide for those lucky enough to tag along.

Bill was a proud member of the Noblesville Elks and Moose clubs, where he could regularly be found playing cards with his buddies and cracking jokes. He was a true joker who never met a stranger and always had a smile on his face.

On September 2, 1992, Bill married Marlene Nichols Short in Las Vegas, and the two built a beautiful life together.

Bill is survived and deeply loved by his wife, Marlene; his children, Shawn Hookey, William Hookey, Nicole Short (AJ), and Natalie Olson (Lamar); his grandchildren, Lily Dutchess (Xavier), Ava Smith, Luke Smith, Chris Smith, Caleigh Smith, Nova Olson, Memphis Olson, and Rosemarie Hookey.

May he rest in the peace and joy he so freely gave to others.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 30 at the Noblesville Elks Club. His son-in-law, Arthur Tompkins (AJ), will officiate. He will be missed more than words can say.

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**204 Surrey Hill**  
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**PENDING!**

**550 PITNEY DRIVE**  
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# REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

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

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## Swimming



Photo provided

**Fishers Area Swimming Tigers' Grace Gannon received the 13-Year-Old Girls National Swimmer of the Year award at the inaugural ORCA Awards.**

## FAST's Grace Gannon named Girls 13 Year Old Swimmer of the Year

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

The future of the Fishers Area Swimming Tigers is strong, as the club can claim two national Swimmers of the Year at the International Swim Coaches Association's ORCA Awards.

Grace Gannon was named the 13-Year-Old Female Swimmer of the Year during the ORCA Awards, which took place April 17 and 18 in St. Petersburg, Fla. Gannon joins Gabriel Brown, who won the Boys 9-Year-Old Swimmer of the Year. (Read about Gabriel's story [here](#).)

It was the second big award for Gannon during the past year. She won the "Swammy" Award as the country's top 11-12 female swimmer. The "Swammy" was awarded by [SwimSwam.com](#), a swimming website that features aquatics news from around the world.

"You're blessed that your kid works so hard and is in a really good program and there's a lot of friends and people that help you along the way," said Mike Gannon, Grace's father. "When you combine all that, you're very appreciative as a parent. You appreciate the relationships you develop through swimming that helps inspire your kids and pushed them to work hard."

During the short course season, Grace Gannon led the nation in the 50 butterfly, 100 butterfly, and 200 individual medley, while ranking in the national top 10 across multiple events including distance freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and IM.

Her success continued in long course competition, where she led the country in five events: the 1500 freestyle, 200 breaststroke, 100 butterfly, 200 butterfly, and 400 individual medley, while also earning additional top-10 national rankings.

At the championship level, Gannon was the 2025 Indiana Age Group State Championship High Point Champion in both short course and long course, winning 11 of 12 individual state titles. She also captured the USA Swimming Central Zone High Point Championship, winning all six of her individual events.

Grace Gannon is off to a great start in 2026. At the 2026 Indiana Age Group State Championships, competing in the 13-14 division, Gannon captured five individual state titles in the 1000 free, 1650 free, 400 IM, 200 butterfly, and 200 breaststroke. She also earned runner-up finishes in the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke, and contributed to four relay state championships, securing High Point honors for the 13-14 girls age group.

Gannon followed that performance with a strong showing at Speedo Sectionals, placing third in the 400 IM and fourth in the 200 breaststroke.

Above all, Mike Gannon is happy about what kind of person his daughter is, calling her "a humble kid and a good teammate and very respectful of her peers. My wife and I are very proud of her."

Mike Gannon credited Grace's coaches, including Steve Sanchez, Grace's age group coach "since she was 6 years old," and of course FAST head coach Joe Keller.

"It's not by chance that athletes achieve this type of level," Keller said of Gannon, Brown and his other swimmers. "It takes a lot of effort on everyone's part and planning and the execution of it. That's the involvement and engagement of our coaches, our families and our athletes. Just really proud that people are supporting what we deem as our culture of excellence. They want to be really good at what they do."

## Boys Basketball

# Miles Wayer hired as new Fishers boys basketball coach

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

The Fishers boys basketball team will have a familiar face as its new head coach.

Miles Wayer was hired in that role Wednesday at the Hamilton Southeastern Schools board meeting. Wayer had been an assistant coach for the Tigers for three seasons (2022-25), and spent the 2025-26 season as the head coach for the Greenfield-Central boys team.

Wayer told The Reporter it's "always good to back to a place that's been home for you," reflecting on his years assisting former coach Garrett Winegar, who is now the head coach at Iowa United Prep.

"Being at Fishers, I know the expectations," said Wayer. "I know how high-profile of a job that is."

Wayer's one season at Greenfield-Central was a rebuilding one. The Cougars had graduated pretty much their entire varsity lineup, including 2025 Mr. Basketball Braylon Mullins, after three consecutive 20-win seasons. But Wayer helped the team to a respectable 12-12 season and a place in the sectional championship game.

"We were able to exceed expectations," said Wayer. "We were able to get a lot out of those guys. Players

found a lot of joy in that."

Wayer said coaching at Greenfield let him move "one seat over" and gave him the opportunity to make the big coaching decisions himself, as well as to help the program grow.

"Greenfield was great to me," said Wayer. "It's tough to leave after one year. It's definitely helped me to prepare for this position."

Wayer also credited Winegar, saying he wouldn't be in this position were it not for Winegar. The two coached Fishers to the 2024 Class 4A state championship and a 4A runner-up finish in 2025. Wayer said Winegar "showed me the way, which I'm beyond appreciative for forever."

Wayer is a 2016 graduate of Mt. Vernon and was part of the Marauders' 2012-13 team that finished 24-2 and reached the semi-state. It was Mt. Vernon's best post-season finish in boys basketball until this year's Marauders squad won the 4A state title. In college, Wayer played for the University of Indianapolis men's team, graduating in 2020.

"We are excited to welcome Coach Wayer back to Fishers," said Fishers Athletic Director Rob Seymour in a news release on the Fishers Athletics website. "He understands our culture, values the development of the whole student-athlete,



Photo provided

**Miles Wayer is returning to Fishers as the head boys basketball coach. Wayer was an assistant coach for the Tigers for three years before spending the past season as the Greenfield-Central head coach.**

and brings a proven ability to build relationships, develop talent, and lead a program with purpose. His energy and vision align with what we expect from Fishers Basketball."

Wayer said he is ready to "hit the ground running" and is excited to see the players that he got to know during his time as an assistant, the "kids and players that I've

built relationships with over the past three years."

"Even the freshman class, it's kids I've been building relationships with since youth camp in the fifth grade," said Wayer. "That's the most exciting part. The families and the players that I've already known for so long and get to go back and keep building relationships with."

## Softball

# Huskies score in bunches to take down Golden Eagles

By **CRAIG ADKINS**  
For The Reporter

**NOBLESVILLE** — Hamilton Heights visited Guerin Catholic in an all-county softball matchup Wednesday night.

The Huskies got started early and scored often in winning their fifth game in a row over the host Golden Eagles, 11-1 in five innings.

Heather Crays led off the game with a double down the left field line. Crays scored immediately on Taya Trospers triple to deep right center for the early 1-0 score.

Kamryn Rhoton also doubled, sending Trospers home. McKenzie Jackson's base hit scored Rhoton for a

3-0 lead.

The top of the second produced even more for Heights. Lily Cash singled to right center to start off. A pair of walks from Ellie Engle and Trospers loaded the bags with two outs.

Hannah Dent sent a hit to right, reaching on an error and wound up at third. Cash, Engle and Trospers scored on the play. Dent also ran home on the throwing error, increasing the margin to 7-0.

Rhoton walked for runners at the corners. Jackson drove a hit to center, plating Rhoton for 8-0.

"One of the things that we always focus on is having a complete lineup," said Hamilton Heights head

coach Shelby Wills. "Even our nine hole (hitter) has to hit. Before the game, I told them not to play scared and to let it come to them. They really did that and I'm excited for them going into Friday's game."

Cash struck out all three Guerin hitters in the first, along with the first two in the second. Guerin's lone hit came in the bottom of the second. Izzy Phillips launched a solo home run over the fence in left to make it 8-1.

To say the least, Cash was dialed in and focused in the pitching circle. It helps out that Wednesday was her 18th birthday, according to Coach Wills.

"Today is actually her 18th birthday. So, she was locked in from the time we got on the bus today. She's one of my most focused girls I have on my team," Wills said of Cash. "I can always count on her. She pitched probably the best game of her season so far."

It's not easy to game plan for a pitcher like Cash.

"Right now, our philosophy is to keep swinging and get better each pitch," said Guerin Catholic head coach Jeff Buckner. "Eight of our 13 players are freshmen. That's probably some of the best pitching they have seen this year. I thought she got

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Girls Tennis

# Blazers tennis wins

**The REPORTER**

The University girls tennis team beat Pendleton Heights 5-0 on Wednesday. In singles play, No. 1 Laurel Buttrick won 6-0, 6-1. No. 2 Duygu Arseven and No. 3 Zoe Walters both won their matches by 6-1, 6-1 scores. The Trailblazers

swept the doubles matches with victories from No. 1 Sara Coleman and Lauren Quinto and No. 2 Tess Eggeson and Ainsley Hensel. Scores were not available. University is 4-1 for the season and plays at the Whiteland Invitational this weekend.

Softball

# Millers fall to Cathedral

**The REPORTER**

The Noblesville softball team dropped a 2-0 game to Cathedral on Wednesday. The Irish scored one run in both the fourth and the sixth innings. Addison Retzinger had two hits for the Millers, with Bella Walk-

er hitting a triple, Izzy Zapp cracking a double and Reese Newsom hitting a single. Retzinger pitched a complete game, striking out four. Noblesville is 7-3 and plays this evening at Pendleton Heights.

HUSKIES

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us the first time through the order. The next time, we put the ball in play a little bit. We didn't hit it really hard, but we were making adjustments and getting better." Three more hits and three walks got the runners on, helping manufacture another three runs to account to give the Huskies the 10-run win in five. Guerin pitcher Ava Augustinovicz was completely composed, despite that rough outing. She gave up nine hits, allowed 11 runs (five earned), struck out six and walked seven. "She (Ava) competes. She wants to win, do well. It's tough for a pitcher to let that stuff go when things ar-

en't going your way," said Buckner. "Whether they're hitting the ball or we're helping them a little bit. She fights through all of that and keeps battling." Guerin Catholic (4-5) gets the weekend off and hits the road at Sheridan on Monday, followed by a Tuesday road trip to Roncalli in Circle City Conference play. The Golden Eagles return home next Wednesday against Covenant Christian. The Huskies totaled nine hits, including two-hit nights from Crays, Trosper and Jackson. Hamilton Heights (10-1) hosts Danville (10-4) tomorrow night at 6 p.m.

Girls Lacrosse

# Carmel drops tough game to Chatard



Reporter photo by Julie Brown

The Carmel girls lacrosse team played a tough game at Bishop Chatard on Wednesday, with the Trojans winning 12-10. Ellie Espey (pictured) scored two goals and made two assists for the Greyhounds. Liv Coellner, Julianna Mancini and Gia Ferrettie also each scored two goals, with Annabell Gripe and Lila Hammons both scoring one goal. Mallory Wingenroth and Ferrettie both handed out one assist. Goalkeeper Sophie Anthony made 11 saves. The Greyhounds are 7-7 and have two more games on the schedule. Carmel hosts Cathedral at 7:30 p.m. tonight then finish the season by welcoming Detroit Country Day on Saturday evening.

Baseball

# Golden Eagles split with Roncalli

Teams finish tied for first in Circle City Conference

**The REPORTER**

The Guerin Catholic baseball team split its Circle City Conference series with Roncalli this week, with the result a tie for first place in the conference between the two teams. The series began at the Golden Eagles' field on Tuesday, with the Royals winning 6-5 in eight innings. Guerin Catholic scored first after Luke Gremel-spacher hit a two-run home run in the second inning. Karson Smith also scored. Roncalli tied the game with two runs in the top of the sixth inning and the score stayed 2-2 through the regulation seventh inning. The Royals put up four runs in the top of the eighth. The Golden Eagles fought back in the bottom of the eighth: Ian Taylor scored after Smith reached on error, Jackson Baker got home after Bryce Kissell reached on error, loading the bases. Smith scored after Nolan Ratcliff drew a walk, but Roncalli got the third out to take the game. Kissell hit a double, one of GC's four hits. Tate Troxell pitched 5.2 innings, striking out eight. Guerin Catholic turned

the tables on the Royals at their field on Wednesday, beating Roncalli 7-6. The Golden Eagles scored two runs in the top of the first inning. Ben Canada hit a double and was batted in by Carson Kail, who was later singled home by Grant Beard. The Royals scored three runs in the bottom of the third and extended their lead to 5-2 in the second inning. Smith got a run back for GC in the third as he singled in Canada, who led off with a double. Guerin Catholic zoomed ahead with four runs in the fourth inning. Brody Cain scored on a wild pitch, then Smith blasted a triple to bring in Taylor and Kail. The Golden Eagles were now ahead 6-5. Roncalli hit a home run in the fifth inning to tie the game at 6-6. But Guerin Catholic scored the go-ahead run in the sixth inning, as Taylor doubled in Ratcliff. The Golden Eagles and the Royals both completed the CCC season 5-1. Guerin Catholic is 13-2-1 overall and hosts Southport on Friday. Hamilton Heights was

swept by Logansport in a Hoosier Conference series this week. The Huskies dropped their first game 3-0 Tuesday at the Berries' field. Josh Newton hit two doubles for Heights. Kaden Lawson threw six strikeouts in a complete-game effort. The series moved to the Huskies' field on Wednesday, with Logansport winning 5-3. The Berries scored a run in the top of the third inning. Heights answered with three in the bottom of the inning. Owen Hughes scored on PJ Wright's RBI fielder's choice, Dillon Pitts doubled in Lawson, and Logan Hickman batted in Wright with a single. Logansport tied the game with two runs in the fifth inning, then scored two more in the seventh to clinch the series. Hickman and Hughes both had two hits. The Huskies are 1-5 in the conference and 4-9 overall. Heights plays this evening at Lawrence Central. University picked up two wins this week. On Tuesday, the Trailblazers beat Lapel 14-4

in a five-inning game at RoundTripper Academy. Cooper Cammack hit a two-run home run in the first inning, then Beckett Suh blasted a three-run homer in the fourth inning. Suh, Ryan Castetter and Phillip Jacobs each hit one double. Suh drove in four runs and scored three, with Oliver Kingery batting in three runs and Castetter scoring three runs. Caleb Stocker pitched 4.2 innings for the win, striking out six. University traveled to Lafayette Jefferson Wednesday and won that game 6-2. The Blazers put up five runs in the fourth inning. Ethan Cutsinger batted in Finn Steiner and David Gasper for the first two runs. Castetter singled Braxton Sparks home, Kingery batted in Cutsinger and Suh singled Castetter home. University's sixth run came in the seventh inning when Quinn Green tripled Steiner home. Green finished 3-for-4 at the plate. Kingery also hit a triple, while Steiner hit a double. Cammack pitched six innings for the win, striking out three. The Trailblazers are 13-5 and play Tuesday at Brebeuf Jesuit.

# SPORTS SCHEDULE

**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**  
 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.

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## Men's Volleyball

### Riverview Health Arena to host NCAA Men's Volleyball Regional

#### The REPORTER

Riverview Health Arena at Innovation Mile in Noblesville is hosting the NCAA Men's Volleyball Regional this weekend, bringing top collegiate programs to central Indiana. Two matches will take

place at the Arena. On Friday, Pepperdine plays Fort Valley State at 7 p.m. The winner of that match will play Ball State for the regional championship at 6 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are available at [this link](#).

## Motorsports

### Rookie Collet tows to top on final day of Indy 500 Open Test

#### Submitted by IMS

One day after veterans dominated the speed chart, rookie Caio Collet rode the aerodynamic wave to the fastest overall speed of the Indianapolis 500 Open Test on Wednesday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

2025 INDY NXT by Firestone series runner-up Collet turned a top lap of 226.381 mph in the No. 4 A.J. Foyt Enterprises Chevrolet during the early moments of testing Wednesday, the start of which was delayed 75 minutes by damp track conditions created by overnight and morning rain. That speed was better than Tuesday's best of 225.394 by Conor Daly in the No. 23 Dreyer & Reinbold Racing Chevrolet, as drivers with at least 10 Indy 500 starts posted the five fastest speeds on the first day of the test.

"No, no, never expected that," Brazilian driver Collet said. "Obviously, the team has a good background here and has done really, really well the last couple of years, especially last year. As a rookie, I was just trying to learn things and see how everything went. But the team, they did a really good job and got me up to speed quickly, and I got really comfortable."

"Obviously, a lot of things I still have to learn, especially in traffic. I have to understand how to manage traffic and how to get by people. But I think by myself I felt really good, and the team gave me a really good car both days."

Two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Josef Newgarden was second at 226.223 in the No. 2 Team Penske Chevrolet, also turned early in the session. Newgarden also led the afternoon session at 225.617.

Reigning Indianapolis 500 winner and NTT INDYCAR SERIES champion Alex Palou stepped up the speed chart by ending up third at 225.272 in the No. 10 Chip Ganassi Racing Honda. Two-time "500" runner-up Pato O'Ward was fourth at 225.109 in the No. 5 Arrow McLaren Chevrolet.

Two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Takuma Sato rounded out the top five today at 224.957 in the No. 75 Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing Honda.

All the top speeds over the two-day test on the his-

toric 2.5-mile oval were boosted by a "tow," the phenomenon when cars deeper in a line gain speed due to the leading cars creating a slipstream.

Once again, veteran Jack Harvey was the fastest driver running without a "tow." His top solo lap of 221.112 in the No. 24 Dreyer & Reinbold Racing Chevrolet was even faster than his best solitary lap of 220.318 that led the "no-tow" charts Tuesday. But there was a dampener to Harvey's continued solo speed. A large, billowing plume of white smoke erupted from the rear of his car between Turns 3 and 4 in traffic midway through the afternoon, and Harvey hurried into the pits. His day was over due to a mechanical problem.

"I had a little bit of a hesitation on the exit of (Turn) 3 and just looked down and saw the smoke immediately," Harvey said. "I've had engines that have had issues here in the past, and when it happens it's normally very obvious. What happened then wasn't. "Not how we wanted to end the day, but I still think overall it's been a pretty productive test."

Katherine Legge completed her veteran refresher test in the No. 11 HMD Motorsports with AJ Foyt Racing Chevrolet. All 33 drivers are eligible to participate when practice for the 110th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge opens Tuesday, May 12, as all four rookies and four other veterans completed their required testing Tuesday.

All 33 cars combined to turn 4,697 incident-free laps – 11,742.5 miles – over the two-day test. Other than Harvey's mechanical problem, the closest thing to an incident Wednesday occurred when a fox ran on the racing surface from the infield, triggering an immediate caution flag until the animal scurried from the facility.

Up next for the NTT INDYCAR SERIES is the Sonsio Grand Prix, which opens the Month of May on May 8-9 on the IMS road course. The 110th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge is scheduled for Sunday, May 24.

For more information or to buy tickets for both events, visit [IMS.com](#).

## Universal Cares seeks teams & sponsors for community-impacting Softball Slamfest

#### Submitted

Universal Cares is calling on local businesses, community groups, and residents to step up to the plate by registering teams and becoming sponsors for its upcoming Softball Slamfest, taking place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 6 at Morse Park & Beach Softball Fields, 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville.

This community-driven event is more than just a morning of softball – it is a critical fundraiser that helps Universal Cares continue its work serving families across Indiana. Proceeds from the event will directly support the organization's Back-to-School Drive, providing essential items such as backpacks, headphones, tissues, cleaning wipes, and hand sanitizer to students in need.

With planning underway, organizers say team registrations and local sponsorships are essential to making the event a success and sustaining the nonprofit's outreach efforts throughout the year.

"Events like Softball Slamfest allow us to meet real needs in our community," said Jill Hinds of Universal Cares. "But we can't



Photos provided by Universal Cares

As expected, last year's Softball Slamfest knocked it out of the park.

do it without teams on the field and sponsors who believe in what we do. Their support truly makes the difference."

Universal Cares invites businesses to partner as sponsors for visibility at

the event while supporting a meaningful cause. Community members are also encouraged to gather a team, participate, or attend to show their support.

About Universal Cares

Universal Cares is a

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening Indiana communities through service, outreach, and partnerships that meet real, everyday needs. Learn more at [universal-cares.com/softball-slamfest](#).

## Women's Basketball

### Indiana Fever seek local artist for mural inside player garage at new sports performance center

#### Submitted

The Indiana Fever are searching for a central Indiana artist to design and hand-paint a mural on the interior wall of the player parking garage at the new Indiana Fever Sports Performance Center, currently under construction.

Applications are due by July 5 and an artist will be selected by July 31. The mural will be painted in early 2027, ahead of the facility's opening.

Measuring 21 feet by 10 feet, the mural is intended to energize and inspire players as they enter the facility. The design will illustrate the intensity, excitement, and elite skill of professional women's basketball through a fun, street-art-inspired aesthetic. While the mural may incorporate Fever colors and uniforms across eras, it will take an interpretive approach and will not include player portraits or official team logos.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released Monday, April 27. Interested applicants may attend a [virtual workshop](#) on June 15 to learn more about the project and how best to present their interest.

Eligible applicants are professional mural artists over the age of 18 and living in central Indiana, including Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, or Shelby

counties. Interested artists may apply online through the Indy Arts Council's application portal at [indyarts.grantplatform.com](#).

The mural initiative,

which includes the previously announced north wall mural project, underscores a commitment to supporting local artists and enhancing the facility experience

with high-impact artwork. To learn more about the Fever, purchase tickets or join the season ticket priority waitlist, visit [FeverBasketball.com](#).

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