

**THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026**

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



**TODAY'S WEATHER**



**Today:** Mostly cloudy. Spotty showers and storms possible.  
**Tonight:** Partly cloudy.  
**HIGH:** 81 **LOW:** 65



# See the Revolutionary Lantern this weekend in Hamilton County

**The REPORTER**

Hamilton County will host Indiana's Revolutionary Lantern June 26 to 28 as part of the state's America 250 celebration.

The lantern represents the signal displayed in Boston's Old North Church on April 18, 1775, helping alert colonists that British troops were on the move. The signal helped begin Paul Revere's famous ride and became a symbol of the American Revolution.

While it's here, the Hamilton County Historical Society asks residents to record and preserve their own family memories and personal experiences and share them with local historical organizations.

"History isn't just found in books and archives," Hamilton County Historian Jessica Layman said. "It lives in the memories of the people who experienced it. By recording and preserving family stories today, we ensure that future generations understand not only what happened in Hamilton County, but how it felt to

live, work, celebrate, and build a community here."

Community members will have several opportunities to see the lantern during its Hamilton County visit. On Friday, June 26, the lantern will be displayed at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center in Noblesville between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. before traveling to the Time Traveler's Ball at Coxhall Gardens in Carmel.

On Saturday, June 27, the lantern will be on display at the Arcadia Train Depot from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the Nickel Plate Express' caboose rides. Later that day, the lantern will be featured during Spark!Fishers Parade.

The lantern's final stop in Hamilton County will be on Sunday, June 28, at the Westfield Washington Public Library, where it will be on display from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution and the Indiana America 250 Commission are touring 10 symbolic lanterns across all 92 counties.



Layman



Photo provided

**The Revolutionary Lantern will make stops in Noblesville, Carmel, Arcadia, Fishers, and Westfield this weekend.**

They will ultimately be enshrined in a permanent display at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis.

## Here's to 10 years

My fundraising consultancy, Green Avenue, is celebrating 10 years next month. I've obviously known this moment was coming, yet I still practically pick my jaw up off the floor in amazement from time to time.

I used to call myself The Reluctant Grant Consultant. I loved working on grant research and proposals in my "comfort zone" at the City of Noblesville and later, Hamilton County. I've also performed grant work for other nonprofits since my first son was born over 25 years ago.

When my Hamilton County position stubbornly stayed part-time vs. full-time, I began to realize consulting on the side for someone else wasn't going to cut it anymore. Despite my fears, I knew it was time to start my own business.

Grants Avenue became official with the State of Indiana on July 18, 2016. I came up with the name to go with the tagline, "Your Road to Grant Success." At the time, I had one client, a nonprofit near central Indiana who filled me with promises of growth.

Those promises were so enticing; I left my Hamilton County position in May of 2017 to be a full-time consultant. For a while, I loved working for this organization and immersing myself in all things STEM and space related.

However, by the spring of 2018, they stopped paying me – not for one month, but two. I quickly realized they couldn't keep their promises. I finally had to leave them, feeling terrified. I learned a hard lesson to never put my eggs in one basket.

Thanks to the Grant Professionals Association and other connections, I soon gained other clients. I was finally a full-time consultant, happily working for a variety of nonprofits. By the summer of 2019, I regularly had to turn down potential clients.

I began to wonder if I should hire subcontractors. I resisted this idea just as much as I had resisted starting my own company. I once said I never wanted to supervise people. As I've written before, I've learned to "never say never."

See 10 Years . . . Page 2

**COLUMNIST**



AMY SHANKLAND  
Perfectly Imperfect

# Local farmer continues family legacy by creating opportunities for others

**Submitted**

When Amanda Egler sits on the porch swing at her Hamilton County home, she can look across the same farm where generations of her family have lived and worked.

"There are pictures of me in the front yard as a little kid," she said. "Now my grandkids are here, sitting on the porch swing that I sat on with my grandpa."

As a fifth-generation farmer and co-manager of W. Lee Egler Farms, Amanda helps oversee approximately 1,800 acres of corn and soybeans in Hamilton County. But her path back to the farm was anything but traditional. After earning a degree in biology, Amanda spent years working as a hydrologist and environmental scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey. Her career took her from



**Amanda Egler and her family are carrying on the legacy of the W. Lee Egler Farm.**

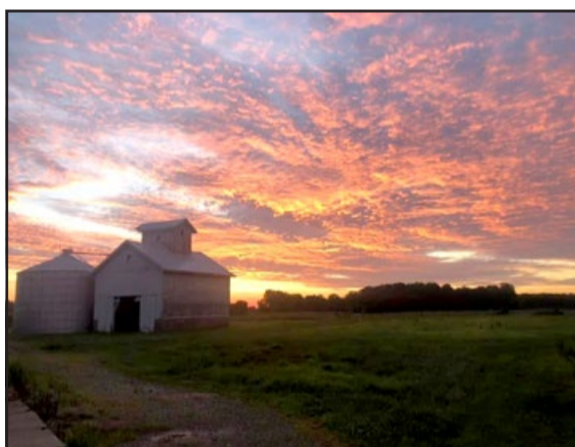
Indiana to California before family circumstances eventually brought her home. Rather than leaving that experience behind, she brought it back to the farm.

"A lot of farmers around here have ag degrees," Amanda said. "I don't have that. I have a back-

ground in looking at data, looking at numbers, and figuring out what the data really says."

Today, Amanda applies that analytical mindset to farming while continuing a family tradition of conservation leadership. Her grandfather supported local conservation efforts, her

Photos courtesy W. Lee Egler Farms



father served on the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District board and helped transition the farm to no-till practices decades ago, and Amanda now serves on the SWCD board herself.

See Legacy . . . Page 2

# You can help Little Angel Gowns continue their mission of compassion

**Submitted**

Little Angel Gowns Ltd of Noblesville will hold its annual "On the Wings of Angels" fundraising gala on Saturday, Aug. 8, when a beautiful scene will be set within the venue at The Mill Top Banquet & Conference Center, 802 Mulberry St., Noblesville.

Under the soft glow of lighting and décor, the perfect backdrop will be set for highlighting our special event and giving our Little Angel Gowns a display worth remembering.

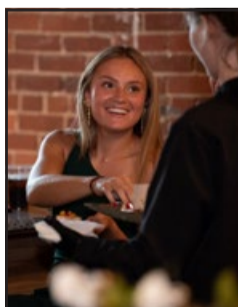
Expect the night to be filled with live music, delicious food, special guest speakers and auctions. All proceeds that are donated go right back into Little Angel Gowns' mission. Last year, every ticket was sold, and that is expected again this year.

Executive Director Judy Hafler Stewart has been involved with this delicate mission for several years, serving on the board for five years and

acting executive director for two. She spends most of her time at Little Angel Gowns collecting donated wedding gowns and putting together grief packets. Alongside her many volunteers, she makes sure grieving parents never have to worry about what their sleeping baby or babies will wear. Little Angel Gowns has provided burial gowns, tuxedos, and Angel pods for more than 400 funeral homes, NICUs, and labor and delivery units around the country.

Through your generous donation comes a huge relief for grieving parents during their most vulnerable time. Each burial piece is thought out and sewn with love and care by hands that have either personally been affected by child loss or knows someone who has. Love is the mission.

Established in 2014, Little Angel Gowns Ltd has helped bring peace to thousands of



Photos provided by Little Angel Gowns Ltd

**Your generous donation becomes a huge relief for grieving parents during their most vulnerable time.**

families. How can you be a part of this precious mission? There are several ways. Little Angel Gowns Ltd accepts wedding gowns and monetary dona-

tions. Please visit [littleangelgowns.org](http://littleangelgowns.org) for details and regulations policy.

See Angels . . . Page 2



**Gathering House** reopens thanks to overwhelming community support

**Submitted**

When a fire damaged the large group meeting space in the garage at The Gathering House on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, the future of a vital community space was thrown into question. Because the building was underinsured, Faith Community was left facing a \$70,000 bill for cleanup, remediation, and a full rebuild.

But instead of a setback, the community saw an opportunity to come together.

Thanks to an outpouring of local support – including a wildly successful "Pizza, Puzzles, and a Bourbon Pull" fundraiser hosted by the Nickel Plate Express – the community rallied to raise nearly \$20,000 of the \$45,000 insurance gap. Today, the garage is fully finished, climate-controlled, and ready to welcome neighbors back for community dinners, nonprofit board meetings, training sessions, fitness classes, and casual hangouts.

To say a massive thank-you and show off the restored space, The Gathering House will hold a Grand Re-Opening on Tuesday, July 7 at 1372 Cherry St.

**An evening of gratitude & gathering**

The celebration will be split into two parts to honor both the hands that rebuilt the space and the community it serves. At 6 p.m., the invite-only

See Gathering . . . Page 2

## GATHERING

VIP Appreciation Hour will begin. This is a special reception for the neighbors, local businesses, and donors who financially stepped into the gap to make the rebuild possible.

Then at 7 p.m., the doors swing wide open to the entire community. Anyone and everyone is invited to tour the newly refurbished large meeting space, explore the rest of The Gathering House, and enjoy a relaxed evening of connection. It's amazing to see what has come together in such a short period of time, all because the community made it possible through their support, encouragement, and financial generosity.

"The Gathering House

has always been about organic connection and real-life relationships," said Patrick Propst, Minister of Faith Community. "When the fire happened, we didn't just lose a building; we temporarily lost a place where neighbors meet, heal, and grow together. Seeing our community step up to help us rebuild is a beautiful reminder of what happens when people look out for one another regardless of their faith or other differentiating factors. We can't wait to open the doors and celebrate that goodness together."

Faith Community extends its deepest gratitude to the key organizations and individuals whose generosity fueled this recovery,

including:

- **Local Partners:** Nickel Plate Express (and Executive Director Emily Reynolds), Gaylor Electric, Peterson Architecture, BamRaisers, and Genesis Restoration.

- **These Incredible Community Supporters:** Bruce and Ann Lemna, Julia and Jeff Kozicki, Lisa and Jeff Dick, Beth and Bob Niedermeyer, Bryan Glover, Mary Burns, Emma St. Dennis, Michelle Schmidt, Matthew Doudt, Kaye and Mike Propst, Bret and Tammy Richardson, James Drago, Adriann and Aaron Young, Darren Peterson, Donna Hess, Chris Hartig, Ross Brodhead, Sandra Lynch, Mark and Sue

Fouch, Jim and Kathy Hines, Steve Ingram, and Olivia Schmidt.

Come as you are, bring a neighbor, and help us celebrate a space built by the community, for the community.

**About The Gathering House & Faith Community**

The Gathering House is a community space owned and operated by Faith Community in Noblesville, focused on connection, learning, and service. Safe, hospitable, and intentionally non-institutional, it serves as a hub for House Church, Dinner Church, and local neighborhood gatherings aimed at pursuing Goodness, Beauty, and Truth in everyday life. Learn more at [tghnoblesville.com](http://tghnoblesville.com).

## ANGELS

from Page 1

Do you want to volunteer your time but don't live close to Little Angel Gowns Ltd? No worries. The organization has seamstresses all over the country. But you're always welcome to come to Little Angel Gowns Ltd and engage in the many activities going on right here in Noblesville at 1175 S. 10th St.

The greatest cost to running this much-needed organization is the amount of money spent shipping these delicate packages to families and facilities. Some must be overnighted. Sewing supplies and materials are also routinely needed to help finish and embellish an outfit.

These gowns, suits, and pods are shipped almost daily, and making sure each need is met requires hands-on dedication and time. Little Angel Gowns Ltd strives to bring hope, show love, and provide empathy to every grieving family who has a sleeping baby. All it takes is one small act of kindness to make a lasting impact.

So, mark your calendars for Aug. 8 at The Mill Top for another opportunity to come together and not only celebrate angel babies but to give to a beautiful non-profit organization. Be a part of something special.

Learn more at [littleangelgowns.org](http://littleangelgowns.org).

## LEGACY

from Page 1

The operation utilizes long-term no-till farming, grass waterways, filter strips, and other conservation practices that protect soil and water resources while supporting productivity for future generations. For Amanda, however, stewardship extends beyond the land itself. Recognizing that access to land is one of the biggest barriers facing new farmers, she has opened portions of her family's property to beginning agricultural entrepreneurs, including Tilling Family Pastures and City Limit Microfarm.

"I was lucky enough to be born into it," Amanda said, reflecting on her own access to farmland and agricultural resources.

By sharing land, resources, and mentorship, Amanda is helping other farmers build businesses of their own while expanding local food production in Hamilton County.

"It doesn't take anything away from me," she said.

Amanda's story is one example of the many ways women are shaping the future of agriculture and conservation in Indiana.

Women landowners, farmers, and conservation-minded community members are invited to learn more during two upcoming Women4theLand Learning

Circle events hosted by The Nature Conservancy, Women4theLand, and the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The first session on July 15, Conservation Values & Challenges, will help participants identify their land management goals, discuss conservation priorities, and connect with local conservation professionals and fellow landowners.

The second session on Aug. 12, Conservation Planning & Farm Field Trip, will provide an opportunity to explore conservation practices in the field while learning practical strategies for managing farmland and working lands.

Women4theLand Learning Circles are designed to create a welcoming environment where women can ask questions, share experiences, and build connections with others who care about the future of their land. Women4theLand programs are offered in partnership with local conservation organizations and focus on helping women gain the knowledge and confidence needed to make informed land management decisions.

Registration is free, but space is limited.

Learn more about Amanda and these upcoming events at [women4theland.org](http://women4theland.org).

## 10 YEARS

I gave one of my friends who wanted to learn about my profession a "Grants 101" training and brought on another grant professional. We had our first meeting/orientation in the fall of 2019. Grants Avenue now had a team.

By 2020, we were off and running. Despite the world falling apart due to COVID-19, our business thrived. I began to work with a good friend of mine who was also a grant professional, Anne. She subcontracted with me and I

was impressed with her capabilities.

A thought kept nagging me. What if I made Anne a partner in my business? This was another "never." I had a partnership years ago for a home daycare and it ended badly. But something made me keep moving forward. By January of 2022, Anne became my partner. It's one of the best decisions I've ever made. We work incredibly well together – in fact, we think we share the same brain – and she's helped our company grow

and improve.

By the summer of 2022, we had a total of six team members, and we expanded beyond fundraising. To reflect this, we needed to change our name. I offered a contest with a \$100 prize to a team member who came up with the best new one. Green Avenue was the winner, so it is our current d.b.a.

We kept steadily growing our client base and services. We survived taking a client to small claims court for non-payment (two years of frustration, but we eventually won!). Green Avenue also survived some untrustworthy clients that we had to bid farewell to. These experiences helped us refine our policies and procedures and work smarter.

Through these bumps, we kept learning. Green Avenue worked in 2024 to create our values. In the summer of 2025, we brought

on another partner, Leigh. She is well-known in the central Indiana fundraising community. She works full-time for a community foundation and helps us on the side. We also received our Women-Owned Business Certification through the State of Indiana, which was a harder process than any grant application I've ever experienced.

As we celebrate 10 years in 2026, with seven team members, I can't help but shake my head in amazement. I'm thrilled at how far we've come, and I hope with all my heart that our next 10 years will be even better than the first.

*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).*



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# Your go-to guide for CarmelFest 2026

## The REPORTER

Get ready for the return of Carmel's most anticipated summer tradition!

CarmelFest 2026, presented by the Rotary Club of Carmel, is set to light up Civic Square and Carter Green on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4. As the city's premier two-day festival celebrating the Fourth of July, this beloved annual event promises a patriotic extravaganza for tens of thousands of attendees.

Festival hours for both days will run from noon to 10 p.m. across Civic Square and Carter Green. The celebration features live entertainment on two stages – with the full lineups available via the [Gazebo Stage schedule](#) and [Carter Green Stage schedule](#) – alongside family-friendly activities, favorite local food and beverage vendors, the annual CarmelFest Parade and a spectacular fireworks grand finale.

## Exciting new additions & family fun

This year, CarmelFest

introduces several brand-new attractions including:

- The Community Lounge at the Gazebo, presented by Lilly
- The Family Leisure Fun Zone at Carter Green
- A free mechanical bull ride, also located at Carter Green

Children of all ages can also look forward to the KidsZone, sponsored this year by Meijer. Located south of City Hall, this vibrant and exciting area offers a variety of mechanical rides, engaging activities and a brand-new mini race track.

## Saturday, July 4 event highlights

### Allied Solutions CarmelFest Parade

The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 4, with local roads closing at 9 a.m. Attendees should keep a few important details in mind:

- **Accessibility:** A reserved ADA parking and viewing area will be located at the southwest corner



of Main Street and Range Line Road.

• **Restrictions:** The area in front of Flanner & Buchanan on Carmel Drive is reserved for parade staff. Any chair or items in this reserved area will be removed.

• **Where to watch:** Community members can also enjoy the parade from Midtown Plaza where the live broadcast will be on the big screen. Other livestream options can be found on the [CarmelFest Parade webpage](#).

• **The Fireworks Finale!** The festival will con-

clude on Saturday night with a breathtaking fireworks display from 9:45 to 10:15 p.m. (with the official livestream beginning at 9 p.m.).

This year's fireworks show will be synchronized with music broadcasted on WHJE 91.3 FM. To fully enjoy this immersive experience, attendees are encouraged to bring a radio, since streaming apps will likely experience audio delays.

For the complete event schedule and further details, please visit the official [CarmelFest website](#).

## New IURC chairman vows to scrutinize utility rate hike requests

By MARGUERITE INCARDONE  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](#)

The newly appointed chairman at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission vowed to "heavily scrutinize any requests" from utilities to increase their rates.

Governor Braun announced on Monday that IURC Commissioner Anthony Swinger will replace Andy Zay as IURC chairman.

"I'm honored at the opportunity," said Swinger on Wednesday.

The IURC is the state agency that regulates utilities. When your power company wants to raise your rates, it's the IURC that makes the ultimate decision.

Kara Kenney with Indiana's I-Team spoke with Swinger after a meeting on Wednesday morning.

**Kenney:** Anthony, people cannot afford their utility bills. What are you going to do about that as chairman?

**Swinger:** What I'm going to do is make sure that we heavily scrutinize any requests that come in from utilities; they have the burden of proof in these cases, and it behooves the regulators to have a healthy skepticism as we look at any such request. I can assure you that's what we'll be doing.

Just last week, the IURC approved a \$71 million rate increase for AES Indiana.

Swinger had to recuse himself in the AES case because he worked on it under a different role at the Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC), a state office that advocates for consumers on utility matters.

**Kenney:** How will your experience with OUCC play into your new role as chairman?

**Swinger:** I think it plays in, in terms of institutional knowledge, I think it plays in, in terms of background, of course. I'm in the role now of being an impartial regulator.

**Kenney:** What about transparency? That's one thing that we have heard. What will you do as chairman to improve transparency with IURC, with utilities, etc.?

**Swinger:** Well, one thing is that in the past, a lot of times, the conferences that have been held that you just observed were very perfunctory in nature. I made

a point of making several comments during conference today. I've been doing that since I've been a commissioner since January. So, I will be continuing that.

While Braun appointed him, Swinger emphasizes that the Governor does not make the decisions for the IURC.

"We are required by law to balance the evidence that comes before us, so we have to base our

decisions on the evidence that is in the record that the formal parties present," said Swinger.

Indiana's I-Team wanted to hear what Swinger's old employer, OUCC, had to say about his appointment.

"Chairman Swinger worked in our office for over 25 years, so he has a background in consumer advocacy and understands affordability with a perspective that we haven't seen on the commission, possibly ever," said Olivia Rivera, a spokesperson for OUCC.

OUCC received more than 7,000 consumer comments in the most recent AES rate case.

OUCC urged the IURC to reject the rate hike, but regulators approved an increase anyway.

"I understand that rate payers are upset, and we are pretty upset and disappointed too," said Rivera. "We're working very hard on reviewing that order and hope to file a petition for reconsideration and rehearing in July."

Rivera said they are not done fighting for ratepayers in the AES case.

"We will continue to advocate for the public," said Rivera.

As of now, ousted chairman Andy Zay remains on the commission.

Swinger said the Governor told him why he chose Swinger to take over as chairman.

"Simply that he trusted in my leadership ability, and that they thought that I was the right person at the right time," said Swinger.

Swinger wants ratepayers to know they have a voice.

You can file a complaint online with the IURC [here](#).

If you would like information on a specific rate case, [please click here](#) to contact OUCC.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/swinger-appointed-iurc-chairman](#).



Swinger

## F.C. Tucker donates to Noblesville Boys & Girls



Photo provided by F.C. Tucker Noblesville

Earlier this month, the F.C. Tucker Noblesville office collected snacks and supplies for the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville's Summer Learning Lab. The Summer Learning Lab supports students who benefit from continued summer learning and enrichment opportunities to strengthen their math and reading skills. Through a free five-week program, Boys & Girls Club members receive daily instruction from a licensed teacher in math and reading while enjoying engaging summer activities and experiences. This year, the Club is hosting two classrooms, one for rising second graders and one for rising fifth graders. F.C. Tucker's generous support will provide teachers with valuable tools and resources to enhance learning, engagement, and academic growth throughout the summer.



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# Meals on Wheels Hamilton County welcomes Jennifer Sturges as development & outreach director

**Submitted**

Meals on Wheels Hamilton County (MOWHC) recently named Jennifer Sturges as its development and outreach director. The addition of Sturges reflects the organization's continued investment in strengthening its leadership team and expanding community engagement, fundraising, and outreach efforts throughout Hamilton County.

In her role, Sturges leads MOWHC's fundraising strategy, donor and sponsor cultivation, community partnerships, grant management, and stewardship efforts. She also oversees the organization's fundraising events including the Al Haimbach Memorial Golf Classic and Dancing with Our Stars.

"As we look toward the future, strengthening our development and community engagement efforts is essential to meeting the growing needs of Hamilton County residents," said Tricia Hudson, executive director and CEO of MOWHC. "Jennifer's combination of business leadership, relationship-building, and event management experience makes her an ideal fit for this role. She understands the importance of building meaningful connections that support our mission and ensure long-term sustainability."

Sturges brings a unique blend of healthcare administration, entrepreneurship, event production, and community engagement experience to the organization. Her career began in

pediatric administration at Troy Beaumont Hospital in Michigan, where she spent a decade coordinating teams and supporting patient care. She later founded and operated four Anytime Fitness franchises across Indiana for 13 years, with all locations earning the company's prestigious "Club Purple" performance designation. During that time, she also produced two of Indiana's largest National Physique Committee bodybuilding competitions, managing events attended by more than 1,000 participants and spectators.

Most recently, Sturges worked as a Realtor with Match House Realty Group while volunteering with 2025 Meals on Wheels Hamilton County's Al Haimbach Memorial Golf Classic. She recognized the development and outreach director position as an opportunity to combine her professional experience with a mission she already supported.

"Two things drew me to this role," Sturges said. "First, the mission is something I can feel every single day. When you know that the work you're doing translates directly into meals reaching our neighbors, including older adults and individuals with disabilities who oth-



Sturges



**MEALS ON WHEELS**  
HAMILTON COUNTY

erwise might not have them, it's impossible not to bring your best self to the office. Second, this role allows me to bring together every chapter of my career, from business ownership and healthcare administration to relationship-building and event management serving a

cause that truly matters."

Originally from Richmond, Mich., Sturges now calls Westfield home. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Central Michigan University and is a licensed Indiana Realtor and Notary Public. She is a member of the National Association of REALTORS®, Indiana Association of REALTORS®, and MIBOR REALTOR® Association.

Outside of work, Sturges enjoys staying active, tackling home improvement projects, exploring Hamilton County's growing restaurant scene,

and spending time outdoors with her husband, Duke, and their Miniature Schnauzer, L.J.

Meals on Wheels Hamilton County serves older adults and individuals with disabilities facing food insecurity or unable to prepare meals for themselves, supporting both short- and long-term needs with dignity, reliability, and care. Through nutritious meal delivery, wellness checks, and compassionate connections, the organization helps residents maintain independence and quality of life throughout Hamilton County.

For more information, visit [mealsonwheels.org](http://mealsonwheels.org).

**About Meals on Wheels Hamilton County**

Meals on Wheels Hamilton County serves older adults and individuals with disabilities facing food insecurity or unable to prepare meals for themselves, supporting both short- and long-term needs with dignity, reliability, and care. Through nutritious meal delivery and supportive services, the organization helps residents maintain independence while remaining connected to the community they call home.

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- Veterans benefits
- Passport assistance
- IRS questions

**US Flag Requests**  
Obtain commemorative flags flown over the US Capitol from my office.

**Military Academy Nominations**  
High school students in our district may contact my office to request a nomination to attend one of our nation's service academies.

**US Capitol and White House Tour Requests**  
My office can help arrange tours throughout our nation's capital.

## Kroger Symphony on the Prairie opens Friday at Conner Prairie

### The REPORTER

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) will launch the 44th season of *Kroger Symphony on the Prairie* on Friday, June 26, at Conner Prairie, continuing one of central Indiana's most beloved summer traditions.

Running through Labor Day weekend, the outdoor concert series features performances by the ISO, nationally recognized tribute artists, family programming, patriotic celebrations, and fireworks.

"Kroger *Symphony on the Prairie* has become a defining summer tradition for generations of Hoosiers," said Sara Galer, vice president of marketing. "As we celebrate our 44th season, we look forward to welcoming audiences back for unforgettable evenings of music and community."

The 2026 season opens June 26 and 27 with Face 2 Face: A Tribute to Billy Joel and Elton John, a high-energy celebration of two of popular music's most iconic performers. Backed by the ISO and featuring several new arrangements by conductor David Baker, the concert features beloved hits and symphonic arrangements under the summer sky.

The following weekend, the ISO will celebrate America's 250th anniversary with Star-Spangled Symphony, featuring the Indianapolis Opera Chorus, tenor Jim Cornelison, and guest conductor Alfred Savia, culminating in the series' signature fireworks and cannon finale. Additional sea-

son highlights include the ISO performing The Music of Earth, Wind & Fire, Yacht Rock Classics, and Disney in Concert featuring a preshow installment of the Teddy Bear Concert Series. Additional summer shows include Let's Sing Sabrina & Harry, One Night of Queen, a tribute to the Beatles, the Phil Collins Experience, and more.

Tickets for all Kroger *Symphony on the Prairie* performances are available now. For a limited time only, use the code SUMMER30 when checking out at [IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://IndianapolisSymphony.org) to receive 30 percent off tickets to any concert. Tickets are also available for purchase at most central Indiana Kroger stores.

For a complete schedule and ticket information, visit [IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://IndianapolisSymphony.org).

### Know before you go

Gates open at 6 p.m., and concerts begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at [IndianapolisSymphony.org](http://IndianapolisSymphony.org), at most central Indiana Kroger stores, or at the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office.

Patrons may bring their own food and beverages or enjoy on-site refreshments, including beer, wine, and spirits.

Reserved seating, table rentals, and Huntington Bank Sunset Lounge tickets are available in limited quantities.

Groups of 30 or more receive a 10 percent discount on tickets. Email [groups@indianapolissymphony.org](mailto:groups@indianapolissymphony.org) for more information.

### Letter to the Editor

## Kokomo reader sends gratitude to State Senator Jim Buck

Dear Editor:

In appreciation for Senator Jim Buck ...

- for his integrity and compassion.

- for valuing the lives of both veterans and pre-borns, and all in between.

- for counting all Hoosiers his family.

- for the changes he accomplished, within the judicial system, to protect the innocents.

- for loving Indiana, his home.
- for his aim to lead by example.

- for his conviction that the state budget within their means.

- for his accomplishments toward getting Indiana further and further out of debt.

- for his goals to put money back into the pockets of Hoosiers wherever he could.

- for his mission to not dump this Indiana's financial mess on our children.

- for his dream that other states, then country, would follow.

- for his heart to love our children enough to leave this world a better place.

- for the years of his life he gave up, for the betterment of Indiana.

- for his stand against political agendas that weren't in Hoosiers' best interest.

- for his level of accountability, to bow to no one above God.

- for his faith that follows him wherever he goes.

*Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find? The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him. Proverbs 20:6-7*

A big Thank You, to Indiana's Senator Jim Buck! Senate District 21

**JC Lock**  
Kokomo

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.

## Carmel students take top honors at 2026 National History Day Contest

### The REPORTER

Four Carmel High School students earned a first-place finish, and many other students from across Indiana earned multiple Top 10 placements and additional honors at the 2026 National History Day® National Contest, held June 14 to 18.

Leading Indiana's accomplishments, Katie Zhao, Olivia Lim, Stephanie Tan, and Valerie Fu of Carmel High School earned first place in Senior Group Website for their project, *The War Powers Resolution: Redefining the Separation of Powers in the Vietnam Era*.

Indiana's delegation to the national contest included

50 students from 16 schools who advanced through local and state contests held throughout the spring. They joined nearly 3,000 students from across the United States and international schools at the weeklong competition. Students presented original historical research through exhibits, documentaries, performances, papers, and websites, with projects evaluated by panels of judges from across the country.

Additional Top 10 projects were recognized, including Katelyn Chen of Carmel High School, who placed ninth in Senior Individual Website for *Resisting Hate: Notre Dame Students'*

*Revolutionary Reaction to the Ku Klux Klan*, and Eryn Arockia, Jeonghu Yang, and Luke Zhang of Carmel High School, who placed 10th in Senior Group Website for *The Wounds of Labor Justice: Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in the Indianapolis Streetcar Strike of 1913*.

Indiana students also earned four Honorable Mentions, recognizing projects that ranked among the top 20 entries in the nation. Honorees included Stephen Olson of Zionsville, Amos Groothuis of Indianapolis, Benjamin Lu, Divya Ariyur, Emma An, and Shawn Feng of Carmel, and Iman Hallab of Fishers.

"We were so excited to return to the National Contest this year! Indiana's students explored this year's theme of Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History by creating exhibits, performances, websites, documentaries, and papers," said Lexi Gribble, HIS Manager of Education and National History Day in Indiana Coordinator. "I am incredibly proud of the work they put in to prepare and present their projects for the judges at the National contest. I hope this experience inspires them to continue to explore history and develop strong research skills!"

Two Indiana students also received special recognition through National History Day's Outstanding Affiliate Entry awards, which honor one junior division project and one senior division project from each state:

- Amos Groothuis of Northview Middle School earned the Junior Division recognition for his website, *Saving Our Birds: How the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Brought Birds Back From*

*Near-Extinction*.

- Iman Hallab of Eman Schools received the Senior Division recognition for her website, *The Catalyst for Change: Rachel Carson's Silent Spring and the Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in Environmental Policy*.

Indiana students were also selected to participate in national showcase programs in Washington, D.C. on June 17. Isabella Henderson and Kate Templeman of Carmel High School were selected for the Exhibit Showcase at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History for their project, *Dorothea Dix and the Central State Hospital*. Abhijay Masetty of Penn High School was selected for the White House Historical Association's Paper Showcase for *The Battle of Blair Mountain: The Revolution Against Oppression That Shocked America Forever*.

National History Day in Indiana (NHDI) engages students in grades 4 through 12 in historical research, critical thinking, and communication through an annual project-based competition. This year's National theme, "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History," challenged students to examine moments of significant change and the responses they inspired, exploring how individuals, groups, and institutions shaped the course of history.

The 2026 NHDI Contest is presented by the Rooker Family Foundation, with support from the Vigran Family Foundation.

For more information about National History Day in Indiana, visit [indianahistory.org/historyday](http://indianahistory.org/historyday).

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# Delta helps Habitat help Habib family



Photos courtesy Cantaloupe TV

On Monday, June 22, approximately 100 Delta Faucet Company employees volunteered their time to help build a Habitat for Humanity home for the Habib family, who recently moved to central Indiana from Afghanistan. Headquartered in Carmel, Delta Faucet Company has partnered with Greater Indianapolis Habitat for Humanity for more than 25 years. Over the years, Delta has contributed more than \$2.6 million in support, donated kitchen and bath products for every home built, and provided thousands of volunteer hours to expand access to affordable housing in the community.

## A&B's wonderful window wows Peony people & wins creative contest

### The REPORTER

The Indiana Peony Festival organization has announced its 2026 Brunch & Blooms Window Contest winner, sponsored by Hometown Window & Door Company.

This year's winner was A&B Farmhouse. Andy Stone's display perfectly blended creativity, whimsy, Hoosier pride and, of course, all things peony.

What makes this win even more special is that Stone didn't stop with his storefront window. From his award-winning display, to decorating neighboring business windows, to styl-



ing Bar Ellis for the Brunch with 46 & Spruce activation, to transforming the South Alley into a peony-filled garden party on festival day, to creating his own custom peony tees and photo opportunities, his creativity and enthusiasm could be found throughout Downtown Noblesville all festival season long.

Thank you for your talent, generosity, and willingness to jump in wherever needed to help make this year's festival so special.



Photo provided

### Letter to the Editor

## Shaffer points to 'imbalance' in Carmel's public employee salaries

Dear Editor:

Official Carmel public servant salaries posted with the state show Carmel in imbalance.

The mayor is paid \$177,508.

Some 31 city employees make more than she, and 23 of them make more than \$200,000 a year.

The caper makes \$312,646 according to data the city lists with the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

**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.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

DIVIDING THE SPOILS

Moses and Eleazar the priest accepted from them the gold—all the crafted articles. All the gold from the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds that Moses and Eleazar presented as a gift to the Lord weighed 16,750 shekels. Each soldier had taken plunder for himself. Moses and Eleazar the priest accepted the gold from the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds and brought it into the tent of meeting as a memorial for the Israelites before the Lord.

Numbers 31:51-54 (NIV)

Cheryl Darlene Cooper

January 13, 1947 – June 19, 2026

Cheryl Darlene Cooper, 79, Atlanta, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, June 19, 2026, at Riverview Health in Noblesville. She was born on January 13, 1947, to Russell and Verna (Pratt) Cuddy in Hazard, Ky.



Darlene worked as a beautician and was a member of the Eastern Star. She enjoyed crafts, quilting, and traveling. Darlene was an avid gardener who loved collecting clothes.

She is survived by her husband, Earnest Eugene Cooper; daughters, Susan Cooper, Kim (Dickie) Small, and Lori (Steven) Millares; grandchildren, Ryan Byrd, Bethany Elliott, Kelsey (Brandon) Cline, Nicholas Small, Joshua Millares, and Robby (Jessica) Nilson; and her great-grandchildren, Maison Thomas, Paisley Cline, Jaylah Small, Emery Cline, Raye Millares, Brooks Nilson, and Iris Small.

In addition to her parents, Darlene was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Lindsay Small; brother, Bruce Cuddy; and her sister, Peggy Day.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with services at 1 p.m., on Friday, June 26, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers. Burial will be at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to Humane Society for Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, IN 46038 (hamiltonhumane.com).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

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The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

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

Westfield Chamber checks the pulse on healthcare

The REPORTER

On June 4, the Westfield Chamber of Commerce held its second annual State of Healthcare Luncheon. Three local healthcare executives spoke to attendees about how their healthcare systems are leading the way in regional collaboration. Thank you to Julie Nix of Riverview Health, Jordan Allred of Ascension St. Vincent, and Derek McMichael of Community Health Network for sharing your time and insights.



Photo provided by Westfield Chamber of Commerce

(From left) Chamber President Courtney Albright, Julie Nix of Riverview Health, Jordan Allred of Ascension St. Vincent, and Derek McMichael of Community Health Network.

The Chamber extends a special thank you to Apex Benefits for supporting State of Healthcare as the Title Sponsor. Thank you to our sponsors Prairie Waters Event Center, KLR Med-

ical Certification Training School, Gaylor Electric, Skender, Heart and Soul Free Clinic, Paychex, Re-

newal by Andersen, and Westfield Flower Box for making this event possible. The Chamber's State

of Nonprofits Luncheon is schedule for Thursday, Aug. 6. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

Dr. Brian Murphy joins Indiana Orthopedic Institute

Submitted

Indiana Orthopedic Institute (IOI) announced this week that fellowship-trained hip and knee replacement surgeon Dr. Brian Murphy is joining IOI and will see patients at its flagship Noblesville facility and Greenwood clinic.

Dr. Murphy begins treating patients Aug. 1.

"I jumped at the opportunity to be part of Indiana Orthopedic Institute because it's physician-led and patient-focused," Dr. Murphy said. "The emphasis is on the physician-patient relationship, with highly

coordinated care throughout for the benefit of patients."

Dr. Murphy strives to be a partner in his patients' health, providing them with comprehensive information so they can make their best decision regarding surgery or other treatments for damaged or deteriorating hips and knees. He loves being in orthopedics because of the dramatic improvements he sees in patients' quality of life.



Murphy

A native of northwest Indiana, Dr. Murphy most recently practiced as a joint replacement surgeon for Optum's American Health Network division in the Indianapolis area. He also has spent much of his career in Bloomington.

He graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine. His training includes completing an Orthopedic Surgery Residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago and an Adult Reconstruction Fellowship at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL.

Dr. Murphy and Dr. Michael Meneghini, founder and CEO of Indiana Orthopedic Institute, also trained together early in their careers in Chicago.

"Dr. Brian Murphy is a skilled hip and knee replacement surgeon who always puts the patient first," Dr. Meneghini said. "We're honored to have him join Indiana Orthopedic Institute. He's a great fit for our culture of building a staff and facility where patients feel cared for and valued from their first phone call to their final follow-up visit."

The addition of Dr. Murphy is part of a wider expansion by IOI that includes the addition of sports medicine, foot and ankle, and spine care in 2026. IOI this year will expand to 17 surgeons providing comprehensive musculoskeletal care in Noblesville, Terre Haute, and Fort Wayne.

WESTFIELD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Westfield-Washington Township Advisory Plan Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m., Monday, July 6, 2026, at Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana, or in a virtual format viewable at https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofWestfieldIN, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and reviewing and acting on the following petitions:

- 2606-ZOA-03 Creation of Grand Park Zoning District (Ord. 26-32); The City of Westfield requests various text amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance generally pertaining to Chapter 2 Basic Provisions, Chapter 3 Administration, Chapter 4 Zoning Districts, Chapter 10 Processes and Procedures, and Chapter 12 Definitions.
• 2607-ZOA-05: The City of Westfield request various text amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance generally pertaining to Art. 6.17 Sign Standards, 8.6 Easement Standards, and Art. 13.2 Use Table.

Specific details regarding the requests may be obtained from the Westfield Community Development Department, 2728 East 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074 or by calling (317) 804-3150, option 5.

Written suggestions or objections relative to the requests may be filed with the Secretary of the Commission at the Westfield Community Development Department, 2728 East 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074 at or before the hearing will be considered. Oral comments concerning the proposals will be heard at the aforementioned public hearing. In the case of a virtual meeting, written comments concerning the proposals can be provided before and during the aforementioned public hearing by emailing planners@westfield.in.gov. Such hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

Westfield-Washington Township Advisory Plan Commission
Westfield Community Development Department
2728 East 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074
www.westfieldin.gov
R8147

6/25/26, 6/29/26

Meeting Notice

The Westfield City Council will hold a special meeting has been rescheduled to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 26, 2026, in the Assembly Room of Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn St. Resolution 26-143: Finding Property Owners in Substantial Compliance for Tax Abatement Purposes will be discussed and eligible for adoption that evening.

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

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Real estate listings grid. Includes properties: 7389 E 209TH ST. NOBLESVILLE (SOLD! \$449,900); 20971 Shoreline Unit 410 NOBLESVILLE (JUST LISTED! \$339,900); 6178 NORTH WOODHAVEN DR. MCCORDSVILLE (ACTIVE \$309,900); 18532 ORIENTAL OAK COURT NOBLESVILLE (PENDING! \$559,900); 365 BEECHWOOD DR. NOBLESVILLE (SOLD! \$324,900); 5527 BRUCE BLVD. NOBLESVILLE (SOLD! \$359,900); 2707 Kilgobbin Cres BROWNSBURG (PENDING! \$449,900).

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# REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

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

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



Photo provided

Westfield's Braden Smith is officially a member of the NBA. Smith was selected 38th by the Chicago Bulls, who traded him to the Indiana Pacers. Smith is seen embracing Shamrocks coach Shane Sumpter.

## Smith selected in NBA Draft, will join the Pacers

By RICHIE HALL  
sports@readthereporter.com

Westfield's Braden Smith is headed to the NBA, and he will join his hometown team.

The Shamrocks and Purdue University star was selected 38th in the NBA Draft's second round on Thursday by the Chicago Bulls, who then traded Smith to the Indiana Pacers. ESPN's Shams Charania reported that the Pacers traded "Kam Jones, future swaps and cash" for Smith.

Smith will see a familiar face at the Pacers: the team's general manager is Chad Buchanan, father of Westfield graduate Trey Buchanan. Smith and Trey Buchanan were teammates for the Shamrocks' historic 2022 sectional championship, the first one ever for Westfield boys basketball.

"We have a connection with the Buchanans," said Shane Sumpter, who coached Smith at Westfield. "Chad Buchanan has watched Braden play from a young age. It's just awesome for everybody, awesome for the Westfield community."

Smith was at a watch party at Crafters in Westfield, with family, friends, Sumpter and Purdue coach Matt Painter when he received the news.

"It's awesome that he's going to be an Indiana Pacer and we're all excited," said Sumpter.

Smith was named the 2022 Indiana Mr. Basketball.

He went on to have a stellar career for the Boilermakers, helping them to the 2024 NCAA national championship game.

Not many college players can match Smith's numbers. He graduated Purdue as the NCAA Division I record-holder in career assists, with 1,103. Smith is the only player in NCAA Division I history to compile 1,500 career points, 1,000 assists and 500 rebounds. He was a consensus First-Team All-American in his junior and senior seasons.

His nba.com draft profile has high praise for Smith, calling him a floor general that "does it cleanly, maintaining one of the best assist-to-turnover ratios in the country while carrying a massive playmaking burden."

The report also projects a solid career for Smith. "His playmaking volume, turnover avoidance, pull-up shooting and steal generation fit a clear archetype of smaller guards who have carved out long NBA careers."

"I've seen Braden playing basketball since he was in fifth grade," said Sumpter. "Very proud of him. Excited for him to prove the doubters wrong. That's been a theme with Braden."

Smith's Purdue teammate, Trey Kaufman-Renn, was selected 59th by the Minnesota Timberwolves, giving the Boilermakers two picks in the draft.

## Caleb Small hits the ground running for Huskies

Coaching his alma mater: 'It's my dream job'

By RICHIE HALL  
sports@readthereporter.com

ARCADIA — Caleb Small was back on the Hamilton Heights football field on Wednesday, still wearing orange.

Instead of a uniform, Small was sporting an orange sweatshirt, not unlike coaches do. The 2008 Heights graduate is now the coach of the Huskies football team, and he was calling out plays to the Huskies as they held a scrimmage with Greenwood.

After nearly two decades, Small is back where he wants to be. After the scrimmage, Small spoke with The Reporter and said that coaching for his alma mater is "my dream job."

"Having the opportunity to come back, in a place that you already have pride in and seeing some familiar faces has been really good for me," said Small. "It's really lit a spark in myself personally, as much as anything."

The Huskies assistant coaches list includes men who coached Small, were coached by Small, or played for Heights. That list includes Gene "Smoke" Starrett, a longtime Huskies coach that Small said is one of his mentors.

"Coach Smoke has been around for a long, long time," said Small. "For him to be able to put orange back on has been really cool for me."

Another assistant is Luke Melloh a Noblesville graduate that Small coached when he was on the Millers' staff.

"My first quarterback I'd ever coached was Luke," said Small.

Jesse Brown played for the Huskies, graduating in 2017 — "a little bit younger than me, but he's an alum," said Small.

"We've got five or six alum on staff, which is huge," said Small.

Adam Hughes, the Huskies' head baseball coach, is another alumnus and is the football team's co-offensive coordinator.

"He's been very, very



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Hamilton Heights head football coach Caleb Small (left) and Greenwood head coach Justin Boser (right) had their teams face off in a scrimmage Wednesday at the Huskies' field. The two coaches took a moment for a picture with longtime Heights coach Gene "Smoke" Starrett, who coached them when they played at Heights. Boser graduated in 2007 and Small graduated in 2008.

selfless into his role as an offensive coordinator the last three years," said Small. "He's kind of taken a step back, but he's also been in a leadership role that's been really good for me in that I can really focus my time in coaching the quarterbacks. I feel good that everything else is getting done on the other side, and that's a good feeling."

**Solid track record**

Small was a three-sport athlete for the Huskies, playing football, basketball and baseball. After graduating from Heights, Small played football and baseball for Marian University; he was part of the Knights' 2012 national champion NAIA football team.

Once in the coaching ranks, Small put together a solid track record of success. He was an assistant football and baseball coach at Noblesville and was part of the staff on the Millers' 2014 state champion team.

Small assisted under Jason Simmons at Noblesville, then followed Sim-

mons to Ben Davis after he became the head coach in 2018. The Giants won three consecutive Class 6A regional championships during the tenure of Simmons and Small.

Small got his first head coaching job in 2024 at Northwestern, helping the Tigers to improve a 3-7 record the previous season to a 9-2 mark in 2024. Small coached at Kokomo in the 2025 season before he came to Hamilton Heights in February of this year.

Small was welcomed with open arms. He credited administration — superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood,

Heights principal Whitney Gray and assistant principal Mitch Street with finding a way "to allow for me to get into the building for the rest of the year."

Small said it's "been good to build the relationships with our players first and foremost," but also with the people in the building, who helped learn the lay of the land.

"I was very thankful for that opportunity," said Small.

**TOMORROW:**  
Small talks about the facilities and how he's teaching selflessness and toughness to the Huskies.

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Joshua Herd / File photo

Smith was a two-time consensus All-American at Purdue and graduated as the NCAA Division I career assists leader.

# HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

## Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper

# HSE's Sloane May named Gatorade Indiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year

## The REPORTER

In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Sloane May of Hamilton Southeastern High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Indiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes May as Indiana's best high school girls soccer player, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs.

The 5-foot-8 senior midfielder and forward led the Royals to a 22-0-1 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. May scored 15 goals and passed for 17 assists, breaking the school single-season record in the latter category in addition to the record for consecutive games of goal-involvement (19). May was named as the Indiana Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year and the United Soccer Coaches 2025 National Player of the Year.

May has volunteered locally with the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program, serving young athletes with physical and intellectual challenges. A member of the National Honor Society, she's also donated her time in association with her church



Julie Brown / File photo

Hamilton Southeastern's Sloane May was named the Gatorade Indiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year. May led the Royals to the Class 3A state championship this past fall.

group.

"What impressed me the most about Sloane was how she set her teammates up for success," said Harold Spooner, head coach of Fishers High School. "She was more than capable of taking over games by scoring herself and she showed that throughout her high school career, but what made her an elite player was how she did all the little things to make her teammates better. The way she could dictate the terms of a game through her distribution and (ball-holding) play set her apart from other high school players who put up impressive goal scoring stats like she did. Her impact was more

than just the counting stats, it was the control she took over the game."

May has maintained a 3.45 grade-point average in the classroom. She has committed to play soccer on scholarship at Indiana University this fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the winners in each sport.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

## Boys Golf

# Six local players reach Round of 16 at Boys Junior State

## The REPORTER

There were quite a few Hamilton County battles at the Indiana Boys State Junior Championship Wednesday at Purdue University's Ackerman-Allen Course.

Five matches in the tournament's Round of 32 saw local players go head-to-head for a place in Thursday's Round of 16. The five winners of those matches were joined by a victorious Dane Starnes of Fishers, giving the county six players in the Round of 16, which begins at 8 a.m. this morning.

In an all-Westfield battle, Ryan Cesare beat Keaton Knott 3&1. Fishers' Mattingly Upchurch beat Westfield's Jude Kaufman 4&3, while Noblesville's Tyler Marucci got past Fishers' Zach Kinzer 1 Up.

Carmel's Patrick Wolf won the toughest match of all, edging past Fishers' Tommy Klinker in 25 holes. Indianapolis' Eli Wessel, a Guerin Catholic graduate, beat Fishers' Brody Colburn 6&5.

Starnes was the only county winner who didn't have to face a fellow local player. He beat Greenwood's Gabe Baxter 3&1.

Westfield's Hudson Kutchna dropped a second-round match to Elkhart's Benjamin Divido 5&4, while Carmel's Max Huffman fell 2&1 to Middlebury's Luke Haarer.

### First-round matches

Thirteen local players reached the Round of 32 by winning first-round matches on Wednesday morning. Knott beat Valparaiso's Reid Carlson 1 Up, while Cesare defeated Bloomington's Karl Bailey 5 Up.

Upchurch got past Pendleton's Hayden Fox 1 Up, with Kaufman beating St. John's Cole Sullivan 4&2.

Westfield's Hudson Kutchna beat Pendleton's Zachary Zoeller 2&1. Marucci defeated Ladoga's Austin Foley 5&3. Kinzer was a 3&2 winner over Fort Wayne's Pierce Talarico.

Klinker took care of Zionsville's Oliver Schlegel 6&4. Wolf beat Fort Wayne's Caden Matthias in 19 holes, while Wessel was a 6&5 winner over Indianapolis' Luke Leaman.

Colburn beat Logansport's Graham Taylor 5&4, while Starnes beat Bloomington's Ryan Decker 4&3. Huffman won 3&1 over Zionsville's Brycen Tisch.

In other first-round matches, Noblesville's Myles Ray fell to Greenwood's Nathan Springer 4&3, while Noblesville's Luke Decker dropped a 2&1 match to Spencerville's Christian Hicks. Another Noblesville golfer, Vaughn Twilla, was edged out 1 Up by Fort Wayne's Camden Meyers.

Fishers' Gavin Davis dropped a 3&2 match to Fort Wayne's Caden Baker, while Carmel's Luke Moore fell to Fort Wayne's Cohen Stringer 5&4.

### Today's Round of 16

Round of 16 matches begin at 8 a.m. today, with the winners playing the quarterfinals immediately afterwards.

Cesare plays Hicks, Upchurch faces off against Gas City's Landon Tropf, while Marucci takes on Divido. Wolf plays Wessel in the only all-local match and Starnes will play Haarer.



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# Charlie Hughes boys basketball tournament begins Friday

## Carmel, Westfield to host games

## The REPORTER

The annual IBCA/IH-SAA Boys Team Showcase in Memory of Charlie Hughes begins on Friday, with games taking place throughout the weekend.

Games will take place at four sites, two each in Carmel and Westfield. Both cities' high schools will host games, along with the Aletto Sports Center (5459 E. Main St., Carmel) and the Pacers Athletic Center (200 E. 186th St., Westfield).

Eight Hamilton County teams will compete in the showcase. Game times and opponents for each school are listed below.

### Carmel

(All games at Carmel High School main gym)  
Saturday, 1:45 p.m. vs. Terre Haute North  
Saturday, 4:05 p.m. vs. South Bend St. Joseph  
Sunday, 1:30 p.m. vs. Bloomington North  
Sunday, 3:50 p.m. vs. Franklin Central  
**Fishers**  
Friday, 2:40 p.m. vs.

Penn, Westfield High School Main Gym  
Friday, 5:05 p.m. vs. Silver Creek, WHS Main Gym  
Saturday, 10:10 a.m. vs. Crown Point, CHS Main Gym  
Saturday, 12:30 p.m. vs. Homestead, CHS Freshman/Auxiliary Gym  
**Guerin Catholic**  
Friday, 1:30 p.m. vs. Lawrence North, CHS Freshman/Auxiliary Gym  
Friday, 5:05 p.m. vs. Homestead, CHS Blue Gym  
Saturday, 10:10 a.m. vs. Chesterton, WHS Main Gym  
Saturday, 12:30 p.m. vs. Portage, WHS Main Gym  
**Hamilton Southeastern**  
Saturday, 2:55 p.m. vs. Delta, WHS Fieldhouse Court 1  
Saturday, 5:15 p.m. vs. Gibson Southern, WHS Main Gym


Sunday, 10 a.m. vs. Ben Davis, Pacers Athletic Center Court 7  
Sunday, 12:20 p.m. vs. Fort Wayne Wayne, WHS Main Gym  
**Noblesville**  
Friday, 10 a.m. vs. Bloomington South, CHS Gold Gym  
Friday, 12:20 p.m. vs. Westview, CHS Freshman/Auxiliary Gym  
Sunday, 12:20 p.m. vs. Blackford, WHS Fieldhouse Court 2  
Sunday, 2:40 p.m. vs. Cathedral, WHS Fieldhouse Court 1  
**Sheridan**  
Saturday, 9 a.m. vs. NorthWood, CHS Main Gym  
Saturday, 11:20 a.m. vs. Heritage Christian, CHS Fieldhouse 4  
**University**  
Friday, 10 a.m. vs. Western, WHS Fieldhouse Court 4  
Friday, 12:20 p.m. vs. Woodlan, WHS Fieldhouse Court 2  
Sunday, 1:30 p.m. vs. Lafayette Central Catholic, WHS Fieldhouse Court 1  
Sunday, 3:50 p.m. vs. Metropolitan, WHS Fieldhouse Court 1  
**Westfield**  
(All games at WHS Main Gym)  
Saturday, 1:45 p.m. vs. Oak Hill  
Saturday, 4:05 p.m. vs. East Chicago Central  
Sunday, 11:10 a.m. vs. Cathedral  
Sunday, 1:30 p.m. vs. Fort Wayne South Side


# ADLER attorneys

136 SOUTH 9TH STREET  
SUITE 400  
NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060  
317-773-1974

1010 WEST 8TH STREET  
SUITE 5  
ANDERSON, IN 46016  
765-642-2080

CONTACT US





RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE at the Historic Adler Building. Contact Kim Watson at 317-773-1974 for details.



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