

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Sunny, hot and humid.
 EXTREME HEAT WARNING
 THROUGH THURSDAY.

Tonight: Mostly clear
 and muggy.

HIGH: 94 LOW: 74



Riverview's Heartfelt Thanks Golf Tournament raises \$120K

The REPORTER

Riverview Health Foundation raised over \$120,000 at the 34th annual Heartfelt Thanks Golf Tournament at Pebble Brook Golf Club on Thursday, June 25. More than 300 golfers and volunteers attended this year's sold-out event, where proceeds will directly benefit patients and programs across Riverview Health, supporting the Foundation's mission as it marks its 50th anniversary of service to the community.

"This event reflects the incredible generosity and commitment of our community," said Megan Wiles, Vice President of Foundation and Community Affairs at Riverview Health. "As we celebrate 50 years of giving, we are proud that the proceeds from this tournament will support new equipment, patient care initiatives, and community health programs, ensuring Riverview Health can meet the evolving needs of the community we serve."

Polly Craig, Philanthropy Officer of Riverview Health Foundation, said, "Every dollar raised helps expand access



Photo provided

This year's tournament was special as the Foundation marks 50 years of service.

to high-quality care and supports the programs that make Riverview Health an essential resource for our community. We're grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's tournament."

The Heartfelt Thanks Golf Tournament was made possible

due to the support from Presenting Sponsor Gaylor Electric, Lunch Sponsors Blue & Co. and CMTA, and Dinner Sponsor Riverview Health Medical Staff. Additional support was provided by hole sponsors and attendees.

Contributions to the Riverview Health Foundation con-

tinue to fund life-changing care, innovative technology, and compassionate programs that benefit patients today and generations to come.

For more information about the Riverview Health Foundation or to support its mission, visit donate.riverview.org.

It won't grow

One of the things I had the hardest time with when my husband and I decided to move back to Indiana, after living in Memphis, Tenn., for about five years, was leaving our two giant magnolia trees that were in the front yard of our first home.



AMY SHINNEMAN
 Disability in the City

I had a deep attachment to those giant, beautiful, and fragrant trees. They were stunning! They brought me so much peace when I sat on the front porch of our home.

A couple of years after we moved back, my husband and I were thrilled when we came upon a tiny magnolia tree as we were plant shopping. It was the only one in sight. Without hesitation, we added it to our cart.

Everyone told us, "That tree won't grow here. It is not the right climate for it to thrive."

We planted "Memphis Maggie" and hoped for the best. Each year we said, "It is getting a little bigger and stronger!" It was hard to see, but there was a tiny bit of growth each year. Then people said, "It will never bloom."

It took several years before our beautiful tree began to grow substantially. It was adjusting to the environment. It had a few rough patches when we thought everyone was right, it would not make it.

I even remember a particularly bad storm when we watched that tree nearly bend to the ground. Surely it will break, we thought. The tree survived the storm.

Despite our doubts, we never gave up hope on that tree. When we added onto our home several years later, the contractor said we would have to remove the tree. We told him not a chance, and we designed around it.

As I sit here today, I marvel at Memphis Maggie's size and gorgeous, heavenly smelling blooms. *She made it despite all the doubts*, I think. Not only did she make it, but she is absolutely thriving. Each year, I have my husband or sons cut a few of the blooms, so I can examine them up close and smell their intoxicating smell.

See Grow . . . Page 3

It's time to light up Morse Lake!

The REPORTER

Cicero's Lights Over Morse Lake Festival kicks off this afternoon, July 1, and the party doesn't stop until the end of the weekend! The full schedule appears below, but you can also keep up to date on [Facebook](#) and at [LightsOverMorseLake.org](#).

Keep up with Cicero's weather at [MorseLakeWeather.com](#) and all of Hamilton County at [PaulPoteet.com](#).

Wednesday, July 1
 • **Carnival, 4 to 10 p.m., behind Hamilton North Public Library:** Don't miss your chance to ride, spin, and soar with The Carnival Company. Unlimited rides with a \$30 wristband.

• **Aim High Canines Stunt Dog Show, 4 to 4:30 p.m., Cicero Community Park:** Thanks Sponsor, Bowl 32 Noblesville. Get ready for flips, tricks, and tail-wagging talent that will leave you cheering. Watch these incredible dogs

leap, spin, and soar through the air in a high-energy, family friendly performance.

• **Cicero's Got Talent Show, 4:30 p.m., Hamilton North Public Library Pavilion:** Show off what you've got and grab your chance to shine on stage. All acts and all ages welcome. [Click here](#) to see the Talent Show Entry form.

• **Princess Showcase, 6:30 p.m. at Hamilton North Public Library:** The Princess Showcase is open to girls ages 4 to 7 (as of July 2) who reside within the Hamilton Heights School District. Each participant will receive a tiara. Space is limited to just 10 participants per age division, so be sure to register early. Registration is free! [Click here](#) to access the registration form.

• **Miss Lights Over Morse Lake Scholarship Pageant, 8 p.m. at the Hamilton North Public Library Pavilion:**



Photo provided

Come celebrate America's 250th birthday with the fine folks of northern Hamilton County all weekend long.

Thank you to sponsors, Hamilton County Tourism and Lunar Companies. Contestants must be 16 to 21 years old by Nov.

8, 2026 and reside in the Hamilton Heights School District or

See Lights . . . Page 2

Highlights of Westfield Rocks the 4th

The REPORTER

Westfield's America 250 celebration kicks off Thursday, July 2 and runs through Independence Day. Keep reading for highlights on the main events for each day.

Red, White & Bloom Farmers Market
 The America 250 in Westfield festivities begin at Grand Junction Plaza from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 2 with a patriotic theme night at the Westfield Farmers Market, presented by Community Health Network, called "Red, White, and Bloom."

Check out vendors with special themed products, Fourth of July specials, family-friendly activities, and renditions of Americana hits from the live musician on-site. For more information, [click here](#).

Freedom Parade & Kickoff Concert
 America 250 in Westfield will continue at 6 p.m. Friday, July 3 with the Freedom Parade, presented by Meijer. The parade will kick off on North Union Street and will extend to just south of Grand Junction Plaza at College Avenue. Following the parade, at-



Graphic provided by City of Westfield

On Friday, July 3, the intersection of State Road 32 and Union Street will close from 5:45 to 8 p.m. for the America 250 in Westfield Freedom Parade. The parade route on Union Street from North Union Street near IMMI to College Avenue will be closed from 5:45 to 8 p.m. Please detour using the route displayed above if you plan to travel in this area.

tendees can enjoy food vendors, local business activations, airbrush artists, balloon twisters, and more at Grand Junction Plaza. The Jason Lee McKinney Band takes the Main Stage for a free concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. Additionally, attendees can experience powerful stories from America's past through live

performances by the Basile Westfield Playhouse, bringing historical voices to life on stage.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Westfield Rocks the 4th
 The party continues on Saturday, July 4 when Westfield Rocks the 4th, presented by Community Health Network,

returns to Droplight Grand Park Sports Campus from 4 to 10:30 p.m. event is free and open to the public and will feature live music, food vendors, and a drone and fireworks show at 10 p.m.

To purchase a preferred parking pass, secure your Kids Zone passes, or to learn more, [click here](#).

Celebrate USA's 250th at CarmelFest with the CSO

The REPORTER

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) invites you to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our country. Enjoy classic patriotic tunes leading to the best fireworks display in the state of Indiana.



You will be among the first to welcome back **David Commanday**, who now serves as Music Director, for the CSO. He will be conducting the orchestra for the Fourth of July concert. This is a quintessentially patriotic way to celebrate our country's anniversary, gathering on the public greens, under the stars with family and friends to hear patriotic classics with a live full symphony orchestra. This experience cannot be duplicated.

A few of the pieces that will be performed include "The Star-Spangled Banner," patriotic George Gershwin and Duke Ellington tunes, Star Wars Suite and "Hymn to the Fallen" by John Williams, and "God Bless America." The concert's grand finale will be "The Stars and Stripes Forever" by John Phillip Sousa.

The CSO Concert will be immediately followed by the state's largest fireworks display at 9:45 p.m. as the epic end to the two-day CarmelFest celebration.



Photo provided

LIGHTS

attend Hamilton Heights. This could be your year! Sign up at [this link](#).

• **Outdoor Movie Night, 9 p.m. at Cicero Christian Church:** Watch the family-friendly Disney film *Hoppers* for free on the lawn at the church.

• **Thursday, July 2**
 • **Food & Craft Vendors, 2 to 9 p.m. at Cicero Community Park:** Come visit the food and craft vendors at Cicero Community Park! Enjoy great food, unique handmade items, and amazing local vendors.

• **Indiana National Guard Inflatables for Kids, 2 to 9 p.m., sound end of Cicero Community Park:** Stop by and visit the Indiana National Guard for fun inflatables just for kids! No charge ... come join the fun!

• **Music Bingo, 5 to 7 p.m., Cicero Community Park:** Join K & S Main Street Music for a Fun Evening of Music Bingo. Get

ready for an exciting night filled with music, bingo, and fantastic prizes. Whether you're a music lover or just looking for a fun activity, this event is perfect for everyone. Don't miss out on the fun!

• **Indy Biplanes Flyover, 7 p.m., Hamilton North Public Library Pavilion:** All eyes to the sky for the kick off of the Stella Luna & the Satellites concert with a thrilling flyover from the Indy Biplanes (weather dependent). It's the perfect way to start an unforgettable night of music and celebration.

• **Stella Luna & the Satellites, 7 to 10 p.m., Hamilton North Public Library Pavilion:** Thanks to sponsors, Elbrecht Concrete & Comprehensive Financial Consultants. Stella Luna has created a buzz with their high-energy shows performing today's current hits, crowd favorites, and timeless classics from many

different styles of music.

• **Friday, July 3**
 • **Kiwanis Breakfast, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., Red Bridge Park Community Building:** Start your day with a great cause by joining the Cicero Kiwanis for their breakfast fundraiser.

• **Kids Markets, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., behind the Hamilton North Public Library:** Calling all kid creators, makers, and future CEOs! Want to run your own booth at the Lights Over Morse Lake Festival? Sign up for a kid's booth and sell your awesome creations. [Click here](#) to register.

• **Facepainting by Grace, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Hamilton North Public Library Pavilion:** Stop by for some fabulous face painting by Grace. Kids can choose from a variety of fun and colorful designs that are sure to bring smiles and spark imaginations. Don't miss this fan-favorite activity.

• **Character Meet & Greet, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Hamilton North Public Library:** Once Upon a Princess will be at the Lights Over Morse Lake Festival. They're a high-quality character entertainment company based in Anderson bringing princesses, heroes, fairies, villains, and so much more to life.

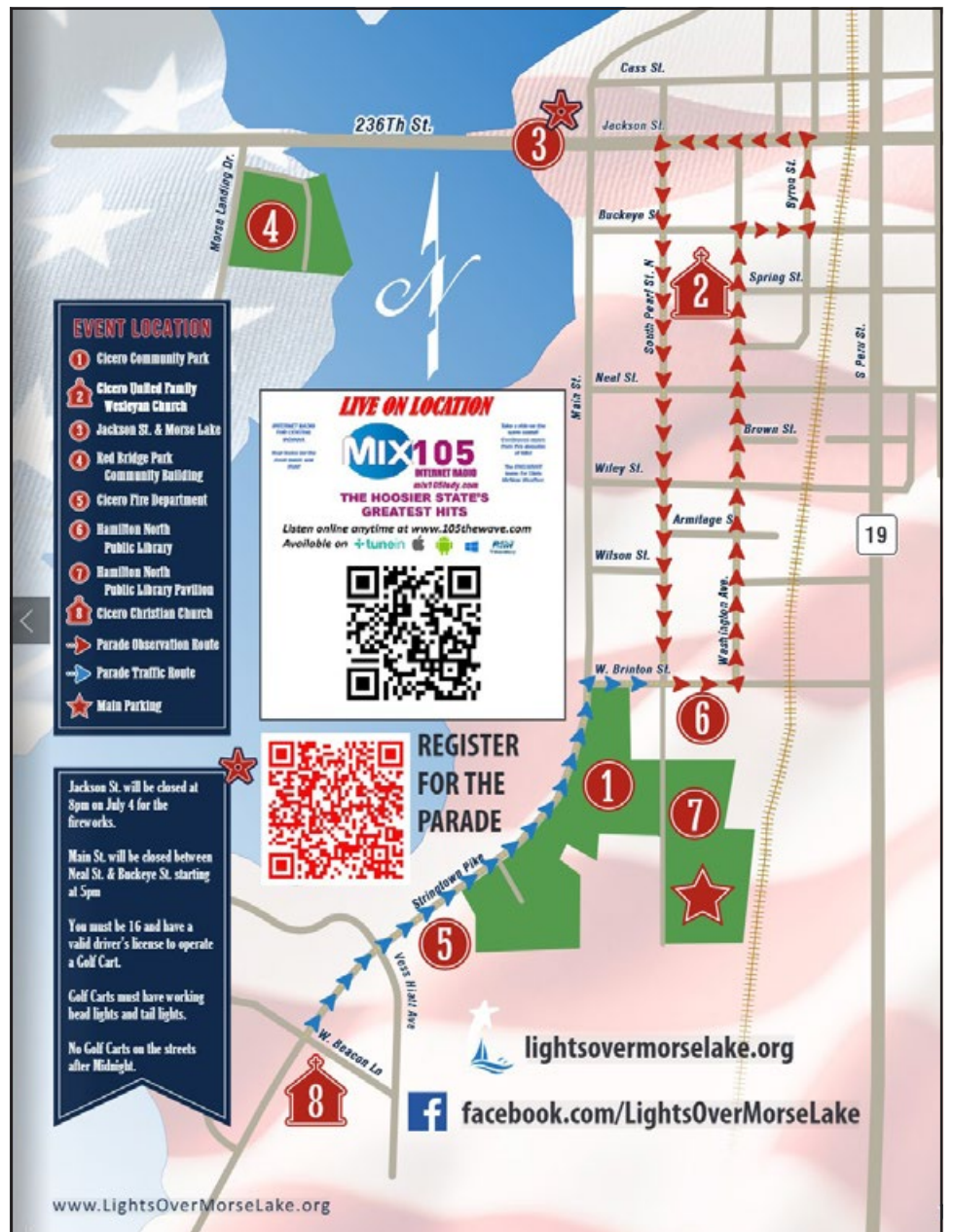
• **Golf Cart Poker Run, 10:30 a.m., Red Bridge Park:** Thanks to sponsor, Purkey's Heating & Cooling. Golf Cart Poker Run registration starts at 9:30 a.m. at Red Bridge Park. Poker Run starts at 10:30 a.m. Cruise around Cicero and go to different stops, then end at Hamilton North Public Library and draw your poker hand.

• **Caboose Rides, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., tracks east of the library on Brinton Street:** Thanks to sponsor, Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Come enjoy a fun ride aboard a historic caboose and kick off the holiday weekend. Tickets are \$5 per person and kids 12 and under ride free. All tickets will be sold onsite and credit card purchases are preferred. Rides will depart from Brinton Street in Cicero.

• **Brett Denney - Music in the Park, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Cicero Community Park Picnic Shelter:** Thanks to sponsor, 2nd Shift Garage Door Sales & Service. Brett Denney is a versatile artist whose sound spans pop, rock, country, and contemporary Christian. His performances blend authenticity, emotion, and musicianship - making him a standout wherever he plays.

• **Abraham Lincoln Impersonator, 11 a.m. to noon, Cicero Community Park Picnic Shelter:** How did Lincoln emerge from grinding poverty, numerous business failures, and one undistinguished Congressional term to become one of our greatest presidents? Hear this amazing story of Abraham Lincoln portrayed by Danny Russel. Thanks to Hamilton County Tourism for sponsoring this presentation.

• **Cornhole Tournament, noon, south end of Cicero Community Park:** Registration and check-in starts at 11 a.m. \$20 fee per person; \$40 per team. Prize payout based on number of



Graphic provided by Lights Over Morse Lake

This map shows the route for the Lights Over Morse Lake Parade on July 4.

entries.

• **Andy Aiken - Music in the Park, 3 to 5 p.m., Cicero Community Park Picnic Shelter:** Thanks to sponsor, 2nd Shift Garage Door Sales & Service. Join Andy Aiken for an afternoon of country music. Bring your friends, kick back, and let the summer vibes roll.

• **Golf Cart Scavenger Hunt, 4 p.m., United Family Wesleyan Church:** Thanks to sponsor, Prater & Sons Concrete. Gather your team, follow the clues, and explore the town. Cost is \$20 per Scavenger Hunt Card. New location: on the Pearl Street side of United Family Wesleyan Church.

• **Car Show, 4 to 7 p.m., South Pearl Street:** Sponsored by Specialty Paint Applications. Registration opens at 1 p.m. at Brinton and Pearl streets. Bring your favorite ride and enjoy free entry, fun door prizes, a 50/50 drawing, and special awards.

• **Friends of the Park Bingo, 5 to 7 p.m., Cicero Community Park Shelter:** Thanks to sponsor, Cicero Friends of the Park. Bring the family to the Community Park Shelter House and play BINGO during the Festival. Cost is \$1 per game and prizes for all ages. Kids under 18 must attend with an adult.

• **Balloon Rides, 7 to 9 p.m., Cicero Christian Church:** Thanks to sponsor, RE/MAX. Cost is \$10 per person. The RE/MAX tethered balloon rides lift you gently 25 to 40 feet above the ground for a peaceful three- to five-minute flight, perfect for families, first-timers, and anyone who wants a little adventure without leaving the festival.

• **The Doo Band, 7 to 10 p.m., Hamilton North Public Library Pavilion:** Thanks to sponsors, Lisa & Brian Bear, The Shack, and The Market. Indianapolis-based The Doo! Band is a high-energy dance band

known for soulful vocals and rock-solid beats. Their setlist includes hits from Disco, Motown, Retro, the '80s and '90s, classic rock, and today's Top 40 favorites.

• **Saturday, July 4**

• **Selah's Grace 5K Run/Walk, 7 a.m., Cicero Christian Church:** Thanks to sponsor, Cicero Christian Church. Take part in the annual 5K Run/Walk to support Selah's Grace, a local pregnancy loss nonprofit. Participants are encouraged to wear their best patriotic attire for a chance to win a prize.

• **Golf Cart Decorating Contest, 9 a.m., Hamilton North Public Library Pavilion:** Thanks to sponsors, Edwards Jones! Corey & Amanda Sylvester & Zach Rinehart. Bring your creativity and your decorated golf cart to the Library Pavilion. No pre-registration required. Cash prizes for the top three golf carts. All golf carts are welcome to participate in the 11 a.m. Fourth of July Parade.

• **Fourth of July Parade, 11 a.m.:** Thanks to sponsor, N3 Boatworks! Come out to see the annual Fourth of July Parade, with Former Indiana State Police Chief Doug Carter as the Grand Marshal. Parade lineup begins at 10 a.m. and the parade kicks off at 11 a.m. New this year ... cash prizes for top three entries. [Click here](#) to access the entry form.

• **Civil War Cemetery Tour, 1 p.m., Cicero Cemetery on 236th Street west of the bridge:** Cicero Cemetery holds the remains of 63 Civil War veterans from both sides of the conflict. Historian Kevin Yaney will talk about the men of Cicero and Hamilton County and their role in the Civil War. This is an outdoor walking tour. Cost is \$10 for adults. [Click here](#) to register.

• **Matthew Mark Montgomery - Music in the Park, 1 to 3 p.m., Ci-**

cero Community Park Picnic Shelter: Thanks to sponsor, 2nd Shift Garage Door Sales & Service! Settle in for an acoustic performance by Matthew Mark Montgomery. Expect a crowd-pleasing playlist ranging from Chris Stapleton to Fleetwood Mac.

• **Andy Schomburg - Music in the Park, 3 to 5 p.m., Cicero Community Park Picnic Shelter:** Thanks to sponsor, 2nd Shift Garage Door Sales & Service! Don't miss Andy Schomburg, whose signature blend of 12-string guitar and harmonica makes every performance feel like something special.

• **America 250 Celebration, 3 p.m., Cicero Community Park:** Come celebrate 250 years of America! Members of the Town Council will read the National Anthem, enjoy Cupcakes in the Park, and find out who won the Coloring Contest and the Essay Contest. Thank you to Hamilton County Tourism for sponsoring this event.

• **United Family Wesleyan Church Free Fair, 4 to 8 p.m.:** Celebrate the Fourth and enjoy karaoke, hot dogs, soda, water, games, prizes, face-painting, a cake walk, and so much more. Bring the whole family for an evening of summer fun.

• **Fireworks, 10 p.m.:** Come out for the fireworks extravaganza! Fireworks are shot off a barge just south of the Jackson Street Bridge in Cicero. Viewing spots are available on the bridge and also at Red Bridge Park.

• **Sunday, July 5**
 • **Outdoor Community Worship Service, 9:30 a.m., north lawn of Cicero Christian Church:** Join the Hamilton Area Pastors for a Community Worship Service. Bring your family, friends, and lawn chairs to gather for a morning of worship, fellowship, and faith. All are welcome.

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United in kindness: local Jewish organizations partner for Jim Irsay Acts of Kindness Day

Submitted

Three organizations from the local Jewish community are coming together to participate in the “Jim Irsay 1976 Acts of Kindness Day” which will take place on Aug. 5, 2026, to celebrate Carmel’s 50th anniversary as a city and to honor the memory of Jim Irsay.

Participants in the food/necessities collection for Popsie’s Pantry, Congregation Shaarey Tefilla and Congregation Beth Shalom along with ALO property group are combining efforts to help local kids start school strong in the fall by collecting much needed back-to-school items.

In Judaism, a Chesed Committee focuses on loving-kindness and community care, providing support during challenging times. This support can come in many forms. In Carmel,

these services are coordinated primarily through local synagogues and the broader Jewish community network.

Congregation Shaarey Tefilla (CST) is a modern Conservative Jewish congregation that serves as a hub for local Jewish life. CST is partnering with **Congregation Beth Shalom** to collect essential school supplies for kids heading back to the classroom. Congregation Beth Shalom is an intimate Reform congregation in Carmel focusing on Jewish life and learning for the whole family. **ALO Property Group** offers a full spectrum of commercial real estate and residential services to tenants, landlords, developers, investors, buyers, and sellers. Their clients are both big and small. They are working as sponsors for this event, as well as providing a

drop-off location.

All donations collected by these three entities will be directed to **Popsie’s Pantry**. Popsie’s Pantry was established to honor Anton (Popsie) Berkovits and Etta (Jacobson) Berkovits, survivors of a Russian labor camp during the Holocaust. It was set up by their family in response to an increase in requests for food support in the Jewish community in the early 2000s. This pantry is unlike others in that it is designed with special regard to people’s dignity in response to the way the Jewish were treated during the Holocaust.

Popsie’s Pantry delivered more than 3,000 bags of groceries to both Jewish and non-Jewish families in 2025 alone. Anton and Etta knew the harsh reality of not having enough food. They also had to rely on others to



help them escape the labor camps. So, the couple spent their whole lives helping others and providing them with the resources they needed to survive.

You’re invited to join the Chesed Committee to help deliver many acts of kindness for kids in need. You can help by donating much-needed back-to-school items such as kid-friendly snacks/chips, pretzels, granola bars, fruit cups, etc., tissues, hand sanitizer or gift cards (for clothing and shoes).

Donations can be

dropped off in the lobbies of CST and ALO. CST is located at 3085 W. 116th St., Carmel. ALO’s address is 9075 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Items will be collected from July 15 to Aug. 4, and will be presented to Popsie’s Pantry on Aug. 5, the date of the 1976 Acts of Kindness event.

The Acts of Kindness event is a community-wide push organized by the Rotary Club of Carmel and the Kiwanis Club of Carmel to complete an incredible 1,976 acts of kindness on Aug. 5. The collaborative,

community-wide initiative will feature multiple service projects across Carmel. Volunteers from Rotary, Kiwanis, other service organizations, local businesses and non-profits will complete 1,976 acts of kindness, honoring the memory of Jim Irsay.

This event is intended to inspire civic pride, expand community engagement, and leave a lasting, positive mark on the city of Carmel. The Jim Irsay 1976 Acts of Kindness Day has been approved by the Indianapolis Colts for Aug. 5, 2026.

Surgeon joins Franciscan Physician Network Indiana Colon & Rectal Specialists

The REPORTER

Samer Kawak, MD, has joined the team at Franciscan Physician Network Indiana Colon & Rectal Specialists.

Dr. Kawak received his medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine. He completed residency training in surgery at Beaumont Health in Royal Oak, Mich., and fellowship training in colon and rectal surgery at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics in Madison, Wis.



Kawak

He is board-certified in colon and rectal surgery.

The surgeons at Franciscan Physician Network Indiana Colon & Rectal Specialists perform more than 3,000 colorectal surgeries a year.

Franciscan Physician Network Indiana Colon & Rectal Specialists has offices in Indianapolis at 5255 E. Stop 11 Road, Suite 250, and in Mooresville at 1215 Hadley Road, Suite 201.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Kawak, call (317) 528-2270.

GROW

When my parents first started my diagnostic search, they heard similar statements. Things like, she may not survive or she will not be able to walk long. Preparing them for the worst. They knew better, even though there was not any good explanation.

Just as we did with our tree, they planted me anyway and were optimistic for my growth. They *expected* me to thrive despite the negative things they heard. It was a guessing game at that point, and they knew it.

There were setbacks and years I did not “bloom” as beautifully as others, but we kept pushing forward, and my roots began to spread. They kept believing that “growth” was possible.

My muscles did not become stronger, but my spirit did.

My doctors spent a lot of time talking about all the things I could not or would not ever do. And yes, there are many of those things, such as running, that I could never do in a “typical” way.

My family and friends helped and encouraged me to focus on what I could do. I found and created new ways to do things others told me I would never do. Just as I still do today.

I am thriving outside of my expected “climate.”

My life would look vastly different if my parents had not placed so much hope in me. My growth would not be the same, and I do not think I would have the same fighting spirit. All because they chose to fight for me from the beginning.

The trajectory of my life depended on decisions that were incredibly difficult for them to make. We lived with so much uncertainty because it took so long to diagnose me. We were truly pioneers of my long medical road.

With no one to depend on for a road map, we made our own.

I adjusted and bloomed right where I was, even if it was not the perfect climate. Just like our beautiful tree. Until next time ...

Amy Shinneman is a former



Photo provided

National Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, disability blogger, freelance writer, wife, and mom of two boys. She is the recipient of the Reporter’s Winter 2025 Ink-Stained Wretch award. You can find her blog at humblycourageous.org and reach her on Instagram @ashinneman.

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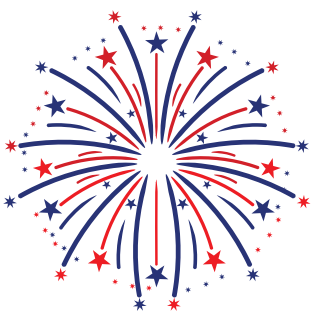
FRIDAY \$5 Adults
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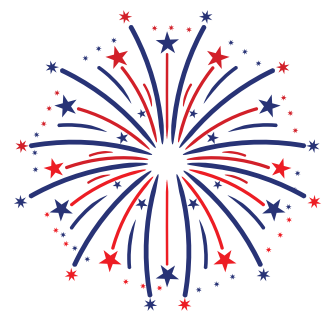


Mellencougar:

America 250 Celebration



July 10



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The Justus Companies opens new headquarters in Noblesville

Submitted

The Justus Companies recently celebrated the grand opening of its new corporate headquarters in Noblesville with its *Live. Work. Connect.* community event, welcoming business leaders, community partners, elected officials, residents, and team members to commemorate a significant milestone in the company's growth and continued investment in central Indiana.

The celebration began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony alongside community leaders, including Mayor Chris Jensen, and partners before guests gathered to experience the new headquarters and the company's vision for connection, collaboration, and community. Throughout the evening, attendees enjoyed live music, networking on the

rooftop terrace, a specialty coffee and smoothie bar experience, a sound bath meditation, and other interactive experiences designed around the *Live. Work. Connect.* theme.

"This new headquarters represents more than a building," said Walt Justus, CEO of The Justus Companies. "It reflects our commitment to our team, our partners, and the communities we serve. We are excited to create a space that fosters collaboration, innovation, and meaningful connections for years to come."

The new headquarters serves as a hub for the company's operations while providing gathering spaces that encourage teamwork, wellness, and engagement with clients, partners, and the broader community. The project reflects The Justus Companies' ongoing com-



Photo provided by The Justus Companies

mitment to creating places where people can live, work, and connect.

Founded in 1910, The

Justus Companies has spent more than 115 years developing and managing residential, commercial, and

senior living communities throughout Indiana and beyond. The new headquarters represents the next chapter

in the company's history and its continued dedication to serving the communities in which it operates.

Fountain Square is closer than you think – and it needs you this summer

By Craig Von Deylen
President, Deylen Realty

If you live in Hamilton County, you probably already know Indianapolis is investing in itself in a big way this year. The city's 2026 infrastructure program totals roughly \$279 million: new bus lines, rebuilt bridges, safer interstates, and a major drainage project that has Shelby Street and Virginia Avenue torn up in Fountain Square.

That last project is some-

thing this neighborhood has needed for decades. The pipes going in under Shelby will finally address the flooding that has plagued the area for generations. It's the right investment, and it's long overdue.

But here's something Hamilton County residents may not realize: Fountain Square is just a short drive from Carmel, Fishers, Westfield, and Noblesville. And right now, in the middle of that construction, the neighborhood's restaurants,

shops, and music venues are open and ready for you.

I bought the Murphy on Virginia Avenue in 2009 when it was sliding toward foreclosure. I've watched Fountain Square come back the way it always has: one reinvestment at a time, across generations of people who decided this place was worth the trouble. The people who make this neighborhood great are still here, still working, still welcoming guests.

What a construction

project like this needs to succeed – truly succeed – is for people to show up before the ribbon-cutting, not just after. The first success is when the pipe is in the ground and the road reopens. The second, and the one that matters most to the neighborhood, is when people come back and find the places they loved still standing. That second success depends on customers walking through the door now.

The city has done its part to keep access open – busi-

nesses are reachable, deliveries are getting through, and parking is available a block away. The rest is up to the rest of us.

Magdalena is shucking oysters on Shelby. HI-FI is pouring coffee every morning. From Hamilton County, you're talking about a 25- to 35-minute drive to one of Indianapolis's most distinctive and vibrant neighborhoods – and your visit this weekend genuinely matters

to the people who work there.

Walk past the equipment. Park a block over. Come before the ribbon-cutting.

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Braun says no decision yet on gas tax holiday extension

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Gov. Mike Braun on Monday said he won't make a decision on whether to extend Indiana's gas tax holiday until just before his current executive order expires.

The current gas tax holiday runs through July 7. Braun said he is still monitoring the situation in the Middle East and will decide just before that date whether the gas tax will be put back in place.

"With what we saw happening in the Middle East, it did catapult prices down, although there have been a few breaches of the kind of ceasefire, so we'll see," he said. "I'll make that decision right before I need to do it, extend it before the deadline would expire."

Both Indiana's use tax and excise tax on gasoline are currently suspended.



Braun

Data from AAA shows a gallon of regular gasoline costs \$3.21 on average statewide, down 12 cents per gallon from one week ago. Braun suspended first the use tax and then the excise tax in April and May, respectively, due to the ongoing war with Iran.

Although a ceasefire is officially now in place, Iran and the United States

continue to exchange fire sporadically. One-fifth of the world's oil is shipped through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway separating Iran from Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Braun has previously said if he decides to extend his gas tax order this week, it will be the last time he can do so without legislative approval.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/indiana-gas-tax-holiday.

Gov. Braun delivers bold leadership for Hoosier affordability

GUEST COLUMNIST



JIM PURUCKER

In a time when every extra dollar on a utility bill hurts working families, seniors and all Hoosiers, Governor Mike Braun has shown exactly the kind of decisive, ratepayer-first leadership Indiana needs. His swift decision to change leadership at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) sends an unmistakable message: utility companies must tighten their own belts before asking Hoosiers to dig deeper into theirs.

Just days after the IURC approved a \$71 million annual rate increase for AES Indiana – phased in starting this July – Governor Braun acted. He replaced the commission's chairman and installed Commissioner Anthony Swinger, a veteran with more than 25 years of experience at the Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, as the new leader. This wasn't political theater. It was a direct response to a decision that disappointed ratepayers and fell short of the governor's clear standard for protecting affordability.

Governor Braun has been consistent on this issue.

"My top priority is affordability," he stated, "which is why I am deeply disappointed by the IURC's approval of another AES rate increase. Hoosiers have spent years tightening their belts and making tough financial decisions. It's time for utility companies to do the same."

That single sentence captures the frustration felt across Indiana. Families are already navigating higher costs for groceries, housing, and fuel. Another increase on electric bills – on top of previous hikes – adds real pressure, especially for seniors on fixed incomes and households stretching every paycheck. The governor's mandate is straightforward and fair: utilities should pursue genuine efficiencies, cost controls, and operational discipline first. Only after demonstrating that discipline should they come to regulators asking customers to pay more.

By moving quickly to install new leadership at the IURC, Governor Braun is holding the regulatory process itself accountable. The commission exists to

ensure just and reasonable rates while maintaining reliable service. When a decision appears to give too much ground too easily, the governor has both the authority and the responsibility to refocus it.

Naming Anthony Swinger – who brings deep expertise from the consumer advocate's office – reinforces that focus. Swinger understands the real-world impact of rate cases from the ratepayer side, and his elevation signals that consumer protection will be a core priority moving forward.

This action fits a broader pattern. Since taking office, Governor Braun has made utility affordability a centerpiece of his agenda. He has appointed commissioners aligned with protecting families and businesses from excessive increases and has repeatedly called out the need for utilities to control costs rather than simply pass them along. The recent leadership change at the IURC is the latest and clearest demonstration that these words carry consequences.

Critics may call the move political. In reality, it reflects accountability. When regulators approve rate relief for a major utility while affordability remains a top concern for millions of Hoosiers, the governor is right to demand better. Leadership changes are a legitimate tool to realign an agency with the public interest it serves.

Indiana families deserve electric service that is reliable and affordable. Governor Braun's quick, bold response to the AES rate decision shows he is willing to use the tools of his office to fight for that balance. By insisting that utilities tighten their belts first, he is standing up for the very people who keep our state running every day.

Hoosiers are watching. They appreciate leaders who act decisively when costs threaten family budgets. Governor Braun has earned that appreciation with this move – and he has set a clear expectation for the IURC going forward: protect affordability first.

Jim Purucker is a public affairs consultant with 40 years' experience at the Indiana State House and does not represent any electric utilities.

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Former postal worker among trio charged with stealing \$255,000 in prepaid debit cards

The REPORTER

A federal grand jury has returned an indictment charging three individuals in a significant mail theft and fraud scheme targeting at least 3,000 victims.

Former United States Postal Service employee Janea Reaves, 38, has been charged with conspiracy to commit access device fraud and illegal transactions with an access device. Her co-defendants, Jermaine Reaves, 22, and Dejon Fox, 39, have also been charged with conspiracy to commit access device fraud, as well as two counts of mail theft.

According to the indictment, between May 2023 and March 2025, the trio conspired to use and possess unauthorized access devices and to engage in transactions using unauthorized access devices. The indictment alleges that the defendants stole mail containing prepaid debit cards issued to real individuals. Using her position at the USPS Indianapolis Processing and Distribution Center, Janea Reaves identified and stole mail con-

taining the prepaid debit cards. Jermaine Reaves and Dejon Fox, who were not USPS employees, also entered the facility and stole the mail.

The defendants activated the stolen cards and used them to pay for phone bills, DoorDash orders, and other personal expenses. The total loss is alleged to be at least approximately \$255,851.

While investigators believe all victims have been identified, efforts to locate them have been unsuccessful. If you believe you are a victim in this case, please contact the U.S. Attorney's Office via email at US-AINS-Reaves@usdoj.gov or online [here](#).

The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General investigated this case. U.S. Attorney Wheeler thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Meredith Wood, who is prosecuting this case.

An indictment or criminal complaint are merely allegations, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Westfield Police adds extra golf cart inspection date

The REPORTER

The Westfield Police Department is offering an additional golf cart inspection from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, July 17 at the Bridgewater Club, 3535 E. 161st



St. Advanced registration is not required, but please plan to bring proof of insurance, a valid driver's license, and payment method (check or credit card only).

Gov. Braun directs state to reimburse local governments for gas tax holiday revenue

Submitted by Office of Governor Mike Braun

Indiana Governor Mike Braun is directing his administration to make local governments whole for any gas tax revenues missed while the ongoing energy emergency is in effect.

At the Governor's direction, Secretary Lisa Hershman and the Office of Management and Budget will coordinate with the State Budget Agency and Department of Revenue to calculate the amount necessary to make local governments whole. State Budget Director Chad Ranney will bring the formal request to transfer funds from the State Highway Fund for April and May to the Board of Fi-

nance on July 21. Once the transfer is approved, local governments are expected to receive distributions from the Comptroller's Office within five to seven business days.

"This is only possible because Hoosiers demand commonsense fiscal management, and we've delivered," Gov. Braun said. "We are running government more efficiently and as a result, we have the resources to offer tax relief while supporting local partners."

Comptroller Elise Nishalla said, "The Comp-



Braun

troller's Office is committed to serving as a trusted partner to Indiana's local governments by ensuring these distributions are processed accurately and without delay. We

understand the importance of timely revenue distributions, and we remain focused on delivering taxpayer dollars with the transparency, accountability and fiscal stewardship Hoosiers expect."

State Treasurer Daniel Elliott said, "As State Treasurer, affordability and lowering costs for Hoosiers while providing local units

of governments the tools they need to operate has been my primary focus since day one. Governor Braun's decision to suspend the gas tax was the right thing to do. This proposal adds to that decision by making local governments whole without negatively affecting Hoosiers. It's a great example of what sound fiscal policies can accomplish. I look forward to working with the Governor, Comptroller Nishalla and their teams to get this done."

Similar requests will be made at the August and September Board of Finance meetings as needed. Local governments are expected to be made whole no later than Nov. 1.

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United Way of Central Indiana & its nonprofit partners strengthen region's economy, new report shows

Report examines economic impact of United Way grants over six years

The REPORTER

When United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI) talks about the organization's impact and its network of community-based organizations, oftentimes the tangible ways people and families are helped are highlighted: number of meals served, people housed, students tutored, financial coaching provided.

A new report published today examines a secondary benefit: United Way's grants and partnerships with hundreds of nonprofits stimulate significant economic activity in the region, contributing more than \$1.75 billion to central Indiana's gross domestic product (GDP) over a six-year period from 2020 through 2025. The report also includes an analysis of the economic benefits of services provided by United Way grantees.

The report, "United Way of Central Indiana's Economic Impact," was prepared by the Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC) at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. It analyzes the economic impact of 3,006 grants to 431 organizations totaling \$219 million from 2020 through 2025.

Click here to read the full report on United Way's website.

Key findings include:

- Every \$1 invested by United Way spurs an additional \$1.28 in economic activity for other businesses in central Indiana.

- United Way's grants to nonprofits contributed an average of \$52.4 million per year to the region's GDP.

- On average, United Way investments sparked \$79.9 million per year in economic activity between 2020 and 2025.

- United Way grants supported 860 local jobs per year, including 580 at local nonprofits.

The IBRC report also examines the economic impact of 363 tax-exempt nonprofits that received United Way funding. Key findings include:

- The 363 nonprofits employed 19,205 workers in central Indiana in 2025.

- With the "ripple effect" of those jobs, another 7,279 jobs were generated in the community.

- The combined effect of these 363 nonprofits contributed more than \$2.34 billion to Central Indiana's GDP.

"This report makes clear what we've long be-



lieved: Investing in people and communities isn't just the right thing to do – it's smart economic policy," UWCI President and CEO Fred Payne said. "Every dollar United Way and our nonprofit partners put to work in Central Indiana comes back multiplied, supporting jobs, strengthening neighborhoods and driving growth that benefits everyone. We're proud to work alongside hundreds of organizations that are not only changing lives but powering this region's economy."

The goal of the report was to measure and understand the economic impacts of United Way and its nonprofit partners across the region.

"United Way of Central Indiana has a remarkable investment track-record in this region," IBRC Direc-



Payne

tor Carol O. Rogers said. "This study shows just how much economic activity is powered by their direct investments."

Matt Kinghorn, IBRC principal analyst and author of the report, said, "We are proud to partner with United Way on this work, to show the economic value of these dollars alongside the very human benefits their network provides."

This is the second time UWCI has conducted an economic impact assessment. The first was published in 2023 and examined data from 2020 to 2023. This new report expands on that analysis, examining a six-year period from 2020 through 2025. The new report also examines the social return of service delivery on the economy.

Kebe names first co-chair for her state treasurer campaign

Submitted

Democratic nominee for Indiana State Treasurer Coumba Kebe announced on Tuesday, June 30 that State Representative Earl Harris Jr. (D-East Chicago) will serve as one of three co-chairs for her statewide campaign. The campaign will announce the remaining co-chairs in the coming days.



Kebe

Rep. Harris, the Assistant Democratic Floor Leader and a veteran member of the House Ways and Means Committee, brings extensive fiscal policy expertise and strong ties to Northwest Indiana to the campaign leadership team.

Kebe's campaign is built on three core pillars: Accountability, Transparency, and Security. Rep. Harris highlighted Kebe's private-sector background as a healthcare operations and compliance executive as exactly what Indiana needs to bring financial responsibility back to the state portfolio.

"Coumba Kebe is exactly the kind of leader Hoosiers need championing Indiana's economic stability," Rep. Harris said. "Coumba will fight to ensure public funds are invested with the sole goal of securing maximum returns for Indiana's workers, retirees, and local infrastructure. I am proud to co-chair her campaign because she will bring real accountability, compliance and clarity to how we invest taxpayer funds."

Rep. Harris's endorsement highlights the campaign's momentum following Kebe's official nomination at the Indiana Democratic State Convention earlier this month. As a key budget architect in the Statehouse, Rep. Harris emphasized that Kebe's commitment to transparency will directly benefit local communities that are starving for resources.

"I am incredibly honored to have Representative Harris join our team as a campaign co-chair," Kebe said. "Representative Harris has spent his career fighting for working families, fair wages, and robust investments in local infrastructure. He knows firsthand that if Hoosiers can't see their investments, it is hard to trust that the state is doing the right thing. Together, we are going to pull back the curtain on state finances, protect taxpayer dollars, and aggressively expand wealth-building tools like the CollegeChoice 529 program to ensure generational financial stability for all Hoosiers."

With Rep. Harris anchoring the campaign's leadership in Northwest Indiana, the Kebe campaign will continue traveling the state to discuss its vision for a transparent, people-focused treasury. The campaign plans to announce its additional statewide co-chairs over the coming weeks.

About Coumba Kebe

Coumba Kebe is a healthcare executive, entrepreneur, public health professional, and the 2026 Democratic Nominee for Indiana State Treasurer. Raised in Indianapolis, she is a first-generation American who holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management from Indiana University. Her professional career includes serving as a Corporate Compliance and Training Officer and Director of Field Operations, where she managed complex logistics and multi-million-dollar budgets. As the founder of Scope Consulting, she is dedicated to ensuring state financial decisions are transparent, secure, and accountable to working families.

Learn more about the candidate at KebeForIndiana.com.



AG Todd Rokita celebrates Supreme Court victory protecting women's sports

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita issued the following statement on the U.S. Supreme Court's historic ruling in *West Virginia v. B.P.J.* and *Little v. Hecox*, upholding states' authority to protect women's sports by keeping them separated by bio-

logical sex under Title IX:

"My team and I worked to support West Virginia and Idaho, and we are pleased with the High Court's reasoning here," Rokita said. "Every American should



Rokita

be highly concerned that the Supreme Court even had to decide on a basic question of biological reality like this. This ruling will protect women and girls for generations to come."

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Two Democratic Indiana House candidates endorsed by 'States Win'

Submitted

States Win, a national grassroots organization focused exclusively on building progressive power in state legislatures, has announced its endorsement of two Indiana Statehouse candidates: Tiffany Stoner (House District 25, Zionsville) and Kimberly Townsend (House District 36, Anderson).

Both challengers are running against Republican incumbents in competitive races.

"Last year, Indiana

showed that we are ready for change when we defeated Donald Trump's unethical redistricting scheme," said State Representative Phil GiaQuinta, Leader of the Indiana House Democratic Caucus. "This year, the Indiana House Democratic Caucus is capitalizing on that momentum and helping bring national attention to our incredible Statehouse candidates. These endorsements from States Win speak to the opportunities for Indiana Democrats to finally break the Republican

supermajority and end years of unchecked power that doesn't put Hoosiers first."

Since their founding in 2017, States Win has helped flip 10 legislative chambers to Democrats, while protecting fragile Democratic majorities and making inroads in chambers across the country to build power for future chamber flips. States Win works with candidates to provide campaign support, including grassroots organization, fundraising, and communications strategy.

"Tiffany Stoner lost by 64 votes in 2024, which was one of the closest state legislative races in the country," GiaQuinta said. "Kimberly Townsend is a hometown public servant in Anderson, and can help us win back District 36 which we held as recently as 2022. These districts are absolutely in play for Democrats. States Win recognizes that Democrats have a real shot at securing additional seats in the Indiana Statehouse to bring back balance for Hoosiers."

Donors needed now to keep nation's blood supply stable this summer

Red Cross & Warner Bros. Discovery team up & bring Looney Tunes to help save lives as seasonal challenges grow

The REPORTER

The American Red Cross is making an urgent call for blood and platelet donors to book an appointment to give now to ensure hospitals stay ready to help patients without delay.

As people get ready for summer adventures and big national festivities, the Red Cross and Warner Bros. Discovery Global Consumer Products are partnering to remind everyone of something important: the need for blood never goes on vacation. Individuals can join the squad to honor the country's 250th anniversary and America's spirit of service by giving blood: All who come to give now through July 12 will receive a classic Red Cross x Looney Tunes T-shirt, while supplies last.

See RedCrossBlood.org/LooneyTunes for details.

Celebrate stars, stripes and saving lives. Book a time to donate blood or platelets now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call-

ing 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Summer pressures rise

This Independence Day, along with the Looney Tunes characters, the Red Cross is inspiring a new generation of heroes — with a cartoon twist — at a time when every donation is critical to keeping the blood supply strong amid growing hurdles. Aside from summer travel and packed calendars, severe summer weather can also rapidly impact the ability to collect lifesaving blood products. Additionally, scheduled donations, which account for 90 percent of all Red Cross blood donations, have continued to drop sharply in recent weeks, highlighting just how essential it is to make and keep donation appointments all summer long.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767), or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to



Graphic provided

make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students

and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE TRANSJORDAN TRIBES

Then they came up to him and said, "We would like to build pens here for our livestock and cities for our women and children. But we will arm ourselves for battle and go ahead of the Israelites until we have brought them to their place. Meanwhile our women and children will live in fortified cities, for protection from the inhabitants of the land. We will not return to our homes until each of the Israelites has received their inheritance. We will not receive any inheritance with them on the other side of the Jordan, because our inheritance has come to us on the east side of the Jordan."

Then Moses said to them, "If you will do this—if you will arm yourselves before the Lord for battle and if all of you who are armed cross over the Jordan before the Lord until he has driven his enemies out before him—then when the land is subdued before the Lord, you may return and be free from your obligation to the Lord and to Israel. And this land will be your possession before the Lord."

"But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the Lord; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out. Build cities for your women and children, and pens for your flocks, but do what you have promised."

Numbers 32:16-24 (NIV)

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REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

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Boys Golf

Working man Stirrsman still has game

Carmel golfer in top 10 after Indiana Amateur second round

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

INDIANAPOLIS — The heroes of high school golf eventually become like everyone else: working for a living.

That doesn't mean they still can't play. Some of them play rather well, such as Clay Stirrsman. A two-time state champion for the Carmel Greyhounds, Stirrsman is taking a few days to compete in the Indiana Amateur Championship, which completed its second round of play Tuesday at the Broadmoor Club in Indianapolis.

Stirrsman is tied for sixth place after the first two rounds. He scored a two under par 70 for his second round; add that to a seven under 65 opening round performance, and Stirrsman currently sits at nine-under par for the tournament. He made three birdies in his second round.

In fact, Stirrsman briefly held the lead during the second round. He competed in the morning wave, so a few of the afternoon wave golfers moved ahead of him throughout the day. But Stirrsman is still in a good position, as he is only four strokes behind the leader, Indianapolis' Matt Vogt, who is 13 under.

Stirrsman told The Reporter that he is "super



(ABOVE LEFT) Carmel's Clay Stirrsman is in contention for the Indiana Amateur championship. Stirrsman is tied for sixth after the second round with a nine under par score of 135. (ABOVE CENTER) Westfield's Jake Cesare is tied for eighth place, totaling an eight under par 136. (ABOVE RIGHT) Fishers' Cole Starnes scored 138 for his first two rounds, putting him at six under par.

Reporter photos by Richie Hall

grateful to be in contention and in the hunt again." Stirrsman said he hasn't been "playing a ton of tournament golf," since he is in the working world now.

"I work at Collier's Capital Markets," said Stirrsman. "We represent institutional and private capital clients across the Midwest for their industrial disposi-

tion needs." Stirrsman is enjoying his job and also said he's "grateful to them for giving me the opportunity to get out here and play this week a little bit."

After winning two state championships with the Greyhounds, Stirrsman played golf for four years at Wake Forest University,

graduating in 2024. While he still plays "three times a week," Stirrsman said his last official tournament was last year's Indiana Amateur, "unless I'm missing something incredibly big," he said.

"I played some scramble tournaments since then, but for real individual golf, I think it was State Am last

year," said Stirrsman. And yet, Stirrsman is a viable contender for the championship. He credits maturity and an adult's perspective for his ability to be able to come out and play high-level golf, even after a long time away from tournament play.

"My mind has matured since I've been in the 'all

things golf' realm," said Stirrsman. "Now that I'm full-time working, it's pretty easy to understand that there's bigger problems than being upset with the way you're playing golf right now. I see different community impacts and what really happens in the

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Swimming

Enchanted Forest meet: 11-12 and 13-14 results

The REPORTER

Here are top-five finishers from the Noblesville Swim Club's Enchanted Forest Swim Meet, for the 11-12 and 13-14 age groups.

Noblesville's Maya Preston picked up six victories in the Girls 13-14 group, with Emily Wilhelm (1500 freestyle) and Cali Jones (200 backstroke) also winning an event.

In the Boys 13-14 division, Bryce Conner collected five event wins for Noblesville, while teammate Zach Biddle picked up three wins. Huck McGee was the 200 butterfly champion. Southeastern Swim Club's AJ Chesterfield was victorious in two events, the 50 and 100 freestyles.

Westfield Aquatics' Carli Griswold was a double winner in the Girls 11-12 group, finishing first in the 50 and 100 butterfly races. Noblesville's Taylor Preston won the 100 breaststroke, while Southeastern's Eleanor Chan won the 50 breaststroke.

Results continue tomorrow with the top-five finishers in the 10 and under categories.

Girls 13-14

Friday

400 individual medley: 1. Maya Preston (Noblesville Swim Club) 5:27.48, 2. Emily Wilhelm (NOB) 5:46.48, 3. Jen-

na Thorsen (Westfield Aquatics) 5:53.75, 4. Mallory Badgett (NOB) 5:57.15, 5. Kenna Arnold (NOB) 6:05.40.

400 freestyle: 1. Preston (NOB) 4:46.70, 4. Thorsen (WA) 5:10.01.

1500 freestyle: 1. Wilhelm (NOB) 19:18.86, 5. Cali Jones (NOB) 21:57.21.

Saturday

200 breaststroke: 1. Preston (NOB) 3:00.97, 2. Wilhelm (NOB) 3:05.24, 4. Megan Gater (WA) 3:08.39.

50 breaststroke: 3. Presley Barker (Southeastern Swim Club) 38.65, 4. Arnold (NOB) 39.24, 5. Natalie Gladieux (SSC) 39.37.

100 backstroke: 1. Barker (SSC) 1:12.53, 4. Gladieux (SSC) 1:16.87.

200 butterfly: 1. Preston (NOB) 2:33.50, 4. Wilhelm (NOB) 2:33.50, 5. Kinley Smith (WA) 3:12.62.

50 butterfly: T3. Barker (SSC) 33.16; Arnold (NOB) 33.16.

100 freestyle: 2. Preston (NOB) 1:02.16.

Sunday

200 individual medley: 1. Preston (NOB) 2:32.36, 2. Wilhelm (NOB) 2:43.59, 3. Arnold (NOB) 2:45.16, 5. Briella Distler (NOB) 2:46.64.

50 backstroke: 2. Gladieux (SSC) 35.81, 4. Sarah Ding (SSC) 37.23, 5. Grace Gowdamarajan (SSC) 37.65.

100 butterfly: 2. Preston (NOB) 1:08.50, 4. Distler



Noblesville's Drew Conner (left) finishes the Boys 13-14 Boys 100 backstroke race at the Enchanted Forest Swim Meet. At right is Huck McGee, who finished fifth in that race and later won the 200 butterfly.

Reporter photo by Richie Hall

(NOB) 1:14.19, 5. Thorsen (WA) 1:17.01.

200 backstroke: 1. Jones (NOB) 2:43.20, 3. Smith (WA) 2:51.95, 4. Thorsen (WA) 2:52.18.

50 freestyle: 4. Marisa

Crespi (SSC) 30.93, 5. Gladieux (SSC) 31.07.

100 breaststroke: 2. Wilhelm (NOB) 1:22.63, 5. Arnold (NOB) 1:26.08.

200 freestyle: 1. Preston (NOB) 2:15.46, 4. Mallory

Badgett (NOB) 2:29.37.

Boys 13-14

Friday

400 individual medley: 1. Bryce Conner (NOB) 5:12.04, 2. Keaton Hoffman (NOB) 5:16.32, 4. Huck McGee (NOB)

5:28.48.

400 freestyle: 1. Zach Biddle (NOB) 4:42.78, 2. Dane Teske (NOB) 4:46.36, 3. McGee (NOB) 4:49.38.

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Barnes runs to All-American honors

Noblesville star takes sixth in mile at New Balance Nationals

The REPORTER

Noblesville running star Banner Barnes can call himself an All-American boy.

The incoming Millers senior competed at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor meet this past weekend at the University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Field. Barnes had his best finish in the Championship Boys' Mile race, where he placed sixth.

The mile race took place on Saturday, June 20, with the top six runners earning All-American honors. Barnes clinched sixth place by finishing the mile in 4 minutes, 7.02 seconds. Barnes stayed in the top six for the entire race, running the final lap of the race in 1:00.80.

The race winner was Philip Cupial of Downers Grove (Ill.) Track Club, who paced the mile in

4:01.15, just ahead of Carter Smith, who represented the Juniata Valley (Pa.) Striders. Smith's time was 4:01.72.

Barnes competed in the Championship Boys' 800 run the next day (Sunday, June 21), where he finished 17th in a time of 1:51.07.

A few other runners competed at the New Balance Nationals. Annabel Pollert, an incoming Carmel senior, finished 19th in the Championship Girls' 2-Mile event on Friday, June 19, clocking in at 10:28.76. Pollert ran in the Championship Girls' Mile race the next day, placing 21st with a time of 4:48.91.

Another Carmel runner, incoming senior Cooper Szotek, ran in the Championship Boys' 800, placing 123rd in a time of 1:56.31.

Fishers' Garrett Rusnak competed in the Middle



(ABOVE LEFT) Noblesville's Banner Barnes (far left) finished in the top six of the Championship Boys' Mile at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor meet, which took place last week at the University of Pennsylvania. **By placing in the top six, Barnes earned All-American honors. (ABOVE RIGHT)** Banner Barnes is shown here with Carmel's Annabel Pollert, who competed in two races at the New Balance Nationals.

Photos provided

School Boys' Mile, where he finished 71st with a per-

sonal-best time of 4:45.32. Jillian Tichenor, also

from Fishers, raced in the Freshman Girls' 800, plac-

ing 81st in 2:22.96, a personal best.

Motorsports

Drake Edwards wins BC39 Tuesday feature

The REPORTER

Drake Edwards of Peoria, Ariz. won the feature event at the Stoops Star Spangled Showdown on Tuesday, the first night of the BC39 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway's Dirt Track.

Edwards paced the 30-lap feature, followed by Kevin Thomas Jr. of Cullman, Ala. in second place and Gavin Miller of Allentown, Pa. in third.

"Pretty special to be able to win in this facility," Edwards said in an [inter-](#)

[view](#) with USAC Racing afterwards. "It's definitely something you dream about growing up. Stressful with the lapped traffic there, but cool to get the win."

The BC39 is named after Noblesville's Bryan Clauson, honoring the USAC champion and Indianapolis 500 starter.

Gates open tonight at 4 p.m. for championship night of the BC39. Hot laps start at 6:30 p.m., followed by opening ceremonies at 7 p.m. The night culminates with the 39-lap feature event.

Soccer

Indy Eleven to host Indy-pendence Day celebration for America's 250th birthday

By VAUGHN JACOBSON
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

To celebrate America's 250th birthday, the Indy Eleven is hosting an Indy-pendence Day celebration during their match against Charleston Battery on Saturday.

Max Johnson, senior director of content communications and digital marketing at Indy Eleven, joined News 8 at Daybreak on Tuesday to talk about what to expect from the night's

celebrations.

"We're actually starting the game a little bit early, giving folks a chance to watch the match, and then make it out to all the various fireworks celebrations throughout the city," Johnson said. Saturday's game starts at 4 p.m. at Carroll Stadium.

Johnson says that, staying on theme with America's 250th birthday, there will be a deal for two tickets for \$25, as well as cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon for \$2.50.

Johnson is optimistic about the team's performance ahead of Saturday's game. He says that a big reason for that optimism is the support of the fans. Johnson says that the World Cup had sparked a growing interest in soccer as well.

"Currently we're sitting at sixth. The top eight make it to the playoffs. But with that being said, we're only three points behind third place. We're doing very well at home this year," said Johnson.

Indy Eleven is taking steps to make sure that fans stay cool during the heat. Johnson says that they will have cooling stations set up throughout the stadium. Kids will also be able to enjoy the Indy Eleven's Fun Zone, featuring crafts and photo ops.

Tickets and more information about the game can be found [online](#).

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/sports/indy-eleven/indy-eleven-celebrates-america.

WORKING

real world. It's been a little bit eye-opening and all that perspective has propelled me into a better seat now."

But as long as he's playing, Stirsman will do his best to get the trophy.

"I would love to be in contention and get an Amateur one day," said Stirsman. "I got the junior [championship] in 2020 and I've been looking for a State Am or a State Open ever since, and

that's what I'll always look towards is summer golf and trying to get one done in the summer."

Walters, Cesare in top 10

Two other Hamilton County golfers are in the top 10 after the second round of the Indiana Amateur.

Carmel's Michael Walters and Westfield's Jake Cesare are tied for eighth

place at eight under par. Walters went five under for the second round, scoring 67 with five birdies and no bogeys. Cesare scored a four-under 68 on Tuesday, making six birdies.

The field was cut to the top 60 and ties after

the second round finished, with 67 golfers making the cut of three over par. Today's final round begins at 8 a.m.

A list of Hamilton County golfers that made the cut now follows.

T6. Clay Stirsman, Carmel

65-70=135, T8. Michael Walters, Carmel 69-67=136; Jake Cesare, Westfield 68-68=136, T13. Cole Starnes, Fishers 67-71=138; Nicholas Dentino, Carmel 67-71=138, T17. Andrew Rhodes, Westfield 69-81=140, T22. Tyler Marucci, Noblesville 70-71=141, T27.

Bobby Delagrange, Carmel 71-71=142, T35. Connor McNeely, Noblesville 74-69=143, T42. Robert Wuethrich, Westfield 74-70=144; Dane Starnes, Fishers 72-72=144, T53. Matt Haneline, Fishers 75-71=146, T57. Drew Shafer, Carmel 73-74-147.

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SWIM

1500 freestyle: 1. Biddle (NOB) 18:35.89, 2. B. Conner (NOB) 18:59.71, 5. Hoffman (NOB) 19:15.53.

Saturday

200 breaststroke: 2. Biddle (NOB) 2:50.34, 3. Hoffman (NOB) 2:58.77, 4. Drew Conner (NOB) 3:01.44, 5. Luke Wyand (SSC) 3:07.85.

50 breaststroke: 1. Biddle (NOB) 34.35, 2. AJ Chesterfield (SSC) 35.13, 3. Landon Marini (SSC) 35.69, 4. Evan Calanog (SSC) 40.64, 5. Levi Behrle (WA) 42.97.

100 backstroke: 1. B. Conner (NOB) 1:04.09, 2. Hoffman (NOB) 1:08.13, 4. Teske (NOB) 1:11.89, 5. McGee (NOB) 1:13.87.

200 butterfly: 1. McGee (NOB) 2:28.61, 5. Cooper Adams (WA) 3:08.61.

50 butterfly: 1. B. Conner (NOB) 28.61, 2. Chesterfield (SSC) 29.13, 3. Noah Matthews (NOB) 31.43, 4. Teske (NOB) 31.60, 5. Marini (SSC) 32.04.

100 freestyle: 1. Chesterfield (SSC) 1:00.17, 2. B. Conner (NOB) 1:00.27, 4. Marini (SSC) 1:02.19.

Sunday

200 individual medley: 2. Teske (NOB) 2:30.53, 3. Hoffman (NOB) 2:30.86, 4. Biddle (NOB) 2:32.14.

50 backstroke: 1. B. Conner (NOB) 30.05, 2. Chesterfield (SSC) 32.12, 3. Marini (SSC) 34.71.

100 butterfly: 1. B. Conner (NOB) 1:04.88, 4. McGee (NOB) 1:08.24.

200 backstroke: 1. B. Conner (NOB) 2:18.81, 3. Teske (NOB) 2:31.08, 4. Hoffman (NOB) 2:32.30.

50 freestyle: 1. Chesterfield (SSC) 26.82, 2. Marini (SSC) 28.48.

100 breaststroke: 2. Marini (SSC) 1:17.62, 3. Biddle (NOB) 1:19.46, 4. Chesterfield (SSC) 1:21.85.

200 freestyle: 2. Teske (NOB) 2:17.32, 3. Biddle

(NOB) 2:17.57, 4. McGee (NOB) 2:17.91, 5. Hoffman (NOB) 2:19.69.

Girls 11-12

Friday

200 individual medley: 2. Parker Goff (NOB) 2:50.70, 3. Molly Daniele (NOB) 2:54.35, 4. Samantha Wilhelm (NOB) 2:57.43, 5. Carli Griswold (Westfield Aquatics) 2:57.54.

200 freestyle: 2. Eleanor Chan (SSC) 2:32.60, 3. Annistyn Worley (NOB) 2:34.62, 4. Cora Arnold (NOB) 2:35.24, 5. Casey Dailey (NOB) 2:35.43.

Saturday

100 breaststroke: 1. Taylor Preston (NOB) 1:28.35, 3. Dailey (NOB) 1:32.14.

50 freestyle: 2. Daniele (NOB) 30.90, 3. Arnold (NOB) 31.94, 4. Chan (SSC) 31.94, 5. Ari Friedman (SSC) 32.06.

50 backstroke: 2. Griswold (WA) 35.83, 3. Daniele (NOB) 37.47, 4. Preston (NOB) 38.01, 5. Dailey (NOB) 38.16.

100 butterfly: 1. Griswold (WA) 1:16.37, 2. Daniele (NOB) 1:17.20, 4. Preston (NOB) 1:18.35.

Sunday

50 breaststroke: 1. Griswold (WA) 32.67, 2. Daniele (NOB) 33.12, 3. Chan (SSC) 33.49, 4. Preston (NOB) 34.05.

100 backstroke: 2. Dailey (NOB) 1:19.41, 3. Friedman (SSC) 1:20.78, 4. Griswold (WA) 1:20.86, 5. Daniele (NOB) 1:22.47.

50 breaststroke: 1. Chan (SSC) 40.25, 3. Preston (NOB) 41.90.

100 freestyle: 2. Daniele (NOB) 1:07.86, 3. Friedman (SSC) 1:08.11, 4. Arnold (NOB) 1:09.25.

Boys 11-12

Friday

200 individual medley: 5. Lucas Witka (NOB) 2:56.70.

200 freestyle: 5. Massi Akhill (NOB) 2:40.15.

Saturday

100 breaststroke: 4. Akhill (NOB) 1:34.64, 5. Kellen Marsch (WA) 1:37.32.

100 butterfly: 2. Witka (NOB) 1:18.77.

Sunday

50 breaststroke: 2. Akhill (NOB) 41.67, 4. Victor Kemp (NOB) 42.96, 5. Marsch (WA) 43.32.

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