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REPORTER

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026

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Today: Mostly sunny.
North northeast wind
around 9 mph.
Tonight: Mostly clear.
North wind 3 to 8 mph.
HIGH: 75 LOW: 56



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County earns national recognition for Excellence in Digital Government

Ranks third in nation for technology innovation among mid-sized counties

The REPORTER
Hamilton County has been recognized as one of the nation's leading counties for the innovative use of technology, earning third place in the 2026 Digital Counties Survey conducted by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) in partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo).
Hamilton County ranked third nationwide in the population category of 250,000 to 499,999 residents, placing among the country's top-performing counties for strategic technology planning, cybersecurity, digital services, data management, and innovation.
Now in its 24th year, the Digital Counties Survey recognizes counties that are using technology to improve government operations, strengthen public services, and better serve residents.
"This award is the result of a countywide commitment to using technology as a tool to better serve our residents," Hamilton County Director of Information Technology Chris Mertens

said. "Whether we're strengthening our cybersecurity posture, modernizing county systems, or improving online access to services, every project is focused on making local government more secure, efficient, and responsive."
Award recipients were recognized during the National Association of Counties Annual Conference in New Orleans last week. County Commissioners Mark Heirbrandt and Christine Altman were on hand to celebrate the IT team.
"This recognition reflects the incredible work our Information Technology team does behind the scenes every day," said Altman, President of the Hamilton County Commissioners. "Technology touches nearly every service we provide. Chris Mertens and his team continue to find innovative ways to improve efficiency, strengthen cybersecurity, and ensure Hamilton County is prepared for the future."
[Click here](#) for more information about the Digital Counties Survey.



Photo provided
(From left) Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt, County IT Director Chris Mertens, and Commissioner Christine Altman.

The road to Sydney

COLUMNIST


AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

In about one month, we will begin our journey to Sydney, Australia, to run the Sydney Marathon. For those who are new to my story, this will be my sixth full marathon and fifth world major marathon. My husband has pushed me across each of these finish lines in our duo bike.
Last weekend we had a 20-mile training run. Trying to avoid the summer heat is not easy. For my husband, it is important to get out early before the sun comes up and it becomes scorching hot.
I have never been able to run, but I can gather by watching those who run that running in the summer heat looks torturous.
To beat the heat, we rise around 4 a.m. on Sunday mornings, which is our normal long training run day. I am typically an early riser, but that is a little earlier than I would like to roll out of bed on a Sunday morning.
After a long run like that his body is obviously exhausted. Anyone would guess that as we know what physical exertion does to our bodies. For me, although I did not run 20 miles, I am exhausted by a different kind of stress and muscle exhaustion.
I feel weak when I get out of the bike. My diseased muscles are always very weak, but it is on a different level. It affects me the rest of the day as I attempt to outrun the exhaustion.
For both of us, the end goal is the same, crossing the finish line of the Sydney Marathon.
Although we are running together, the way we achieve that goal is so vastly different. We are connected and running as he holds onto the bike, but each of us has a completely different experience despite being connected.
We see and hear different things while running. Our focus is on different things, yet we communicate effectively and often.
Not being able to see him is one of the hardest parts for me. When I am in the bike, I surrender all control and trust. I do not have a brake or steering of any kind.

Beef & Boards' new summer play is just 'Wrong' – in all the right ways!

The REPORTER
Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre's new summer play is going "wrong" – in the most hilarious ways! The award-winning comedy *The Play That Goes Wrong* is now on stage through Aug. 23.
It's opening night for the Cornley University Drama Society's newest production, *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. This 1920s whodunit has everything theatres never want in a show: an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines).
Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call, with hilarious consequences! Part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes, this Olivier Award-winning comedy is a global phenomenon that's

leaving audiences aching with laughter!
Making their disastrous debuts at Beef & Boards in *The Play That Goes Wrong* are Nic Nightingale as Chris, and Tophir Adam Embrey as Robert. Returning at the "wrong" time are Cynthia Collins (*Tootsie*, *Annie*) as Dennis, Logan Hill (*Singin' in the Rain*, *A Beef & Boards Christmas*, *Tootsie*) as Sandra, and Joey Boos (*Tootsie*, *Waitress*, *Jersey Boys*), as Max. Also making their Beef & Boards debuts are Jesse Bhamrah as Jonathan, and Kevin Toniazzo-Naughton as Trevor.
Rounding out the cast is Nathalie Cruz (*Tootsie*, *A Christmas Story*, *The King and I*) as Annie, with Jaddy Ciucci (*Murder on the Orient Express*, *Legally Blonde*, *Grumpy Old Men*), and Hannah Elizabeth Boswell (*Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Grumpy Old Men*) as the onstage crew.



Photo provided by Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre
Offstage actors – including one portraying a character who is supposed to be dead – reach through a set window to remove Sandra (Logan Hill), who was knocked unconscious onstage during a chaotic performance of *The Murder at Haversham Manor* in Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre's production of *The Play That Goes Wrong*.

See *Wrong* . . . Page 2

See *Sydney* . . . Page 2

Noblesville PD partners with Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville for National Night Out & 75th Birthday Bash

Submitted by Noblesville Police Department
The Noblesville Police Department (NPD) announces a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville (BGCN) to bring together two community events in one night and one location: National Night Out and the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville's 75th Birthday Bash.
The community is invited to join the celebration from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4 at the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, 1700 Conner St., Noblesville.



**TOM & SONI SHEEHAN
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF NOBLESVILLE**

National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that promotes strong partnerships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. The event provides an opportunity for residents to meet the officers who serve their neighborhoods and strengthen relationships that help make communities safer and more connected.
"Both organizations recognize that thriving neighborhoods are built when families, youth, community organizations, and public safety professionals come together. Together we're celebrating the relationships that make Noblesville such a special place to live, work, and raise a family," NPD Sgt. Marley Pagel said. "We also would like to thank our sponsors, Martin & Martin Insurance, who



have supported our event year after year."

See *Night* . . . Page 2



tipton county public library
always new. always connected.

Tipton County Public Library to host author visit with Dr. Alex Kor & Graham Honaker

The REPORTER
At 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 27, the Tipton County Public Library will welcome Dr. Alex Kor and co-author Graham Honaker at the Main Library, 127 E. Madison St., Tipton, for a free, community-wide author event.
Dr. Kor and Honaker will speak about their powerful book, *A Blessing, Not a Burden*, which chronicles Dr. Kor's unique journey as the son of Holocaust survivors, Mickey and Eva Kor, and shares their inspiring legacy of resilience and the power of forgiveness. Dr. Kor will also share how the life lessons learned from his parents helped him overcome hardships in his own life, including confronting antisemitism and a cancer diagnosis.
This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Tipton Library. The Friends group will have a table at the event with information about the organization, and attendees can sign up for a chance to win a copy of the book.
This event is free and open to all ages, though registration is requested. Register online at [this link](#) or at the library's main desk. Call the library at (765) 675-8761 for more information.

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SYDNEY

from Page 1

At times, I get extremely anxious and filled with adrenaline in the duo bike. If I can tell he is struggling, which of course happens during a marathon or long training run, I get worried. I feel a rush of guilt for being the person in need of the ride to the finish line. My negative thoughts can really take over in those moments.

While he is training his legs, I am busy training my mind. Training my mind to stay calm and do my part as the “coach” of our team. I go through my checklist of questions I ask when he is struggling to keep him safe, hydrated and properly nourished. I can whip out an energy gel packet like no other

and fill water bottles on the go over the side of the bike.

With this being our sixth marathon together, we have ironed out most of the kinks, but there are always surprises. It could be with him or me. That is also part of our training and preparation. Talking through scenarios.

It is ideal when our sons run with us. It gives us both a feeling of security. Unfortunately, they will not be able to join us this time around. College does not allow for such an extended period away.

We are both excited and nervous for the unknowns of this entire process, just the two of us. We have conquered many mountains for

a long time. I have no doubt that we will continue to face this one with confidence and a vision of success.

So far, the Humbly Courageous Corporation has raised \$5,000 to go towards buying a duo bike for another duo who wants to run their race together. We want others to have the same experiences we do. Our generous donors help to make this possible.

It is not lost on us how incredibly unique the experiences we have conquered across the world in this bike have been.

My disability has opened our eyes to possibilities we never would have seen without it. This truth forces the

narrative of gratitude for the things it brings to our lives, rather than the sorrow of the things it destroys.

There is much more to come in the weeks ahead on the road to Sydney. I look forward to writing about our trek there, during and back. Stay tuned!

Until next time ...

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

WRONG

from Page 1

The Play That Goes Wrong is directed by Brett Mutter (Waitress, A Christmas Story, The Wizard of Oz), who also directed last season’s A Beef & Boards Christmas.

Tickets are currently on sale exclusively through Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre at BeefAndBoards.com or by calling the box office at (317) 872-9664. Patrons are advised that tickets purchased from third-party sellers may not be valid for performances and may include additional fees.

The Play That Goes Wrong falls apart in 47 performances through Aug. 23. Regardless of the catastrophe on stage, Beef & Boards’ tasty dinner buffet is just right, and always included – along with coffee, tea, or lemonade. Gourmet desserts and bar beverages are available for purchase.



Photo provided by Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre

(From left) Not sure how to handle a sticky situation with a prop, Robert (Topher Embrey), Dennis (Cynthia Collins), and Max (Joey Boos) try to disappear behind the grandfather clock

The Play That Goes Wrong is rated PG for mild adult themes.

Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Indiana’s only year-round professional dinner theatre, has been serving up exceptional entertainment since 1973.

NIGHT

from Page 1

This year’s event is especially meaningful as it coincides with the 75th Anniversary of BGCN, an organization that has positively impacted generations of local youth and families. For 75 years, BGCN has provided a safe, supportive environment where young people can learn, grow, build confidence, and develop the skills needed to reach their full potential. The Birthday Bash Open House will feature kid-friendly activities and alumni engagement opportunities for an

up-close look at what the Club has to offer. Families, supporters, and community members are invited to celebrate the Club’s past, present, and future.

The partnership between National Night Out and BGCN’s 75th Birthday Bash highlights a shared mission: building a stronger community through positive relationships, engagement, and investment in future generations.

“At the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, we know the strength of our community is built by con-

nection. Partnering with the Noblesville Police Department for National Night Out as part of our 75th Birthday Bash Open House is a wonderful way to celebrate our shared commitment to creating safe, welcoming spaces for our community’s families,” BGCN Director of Club Operations Abigail Stutesman said.

Attendees can look forward to an evening filled with family-friendly activities, opportunities to meet first responders and community partners, entertainment, food, and much more.

Whether you’re a longtime supporter of BGCN, interested in learning more about public safety programs, or simply looking for a fun evening with your family, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

The Noblesville Police Department and the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville encourage all residents to come out, celebrate 75 years of service to our community, and take part in a national tradition that strengthens the bonds between neighbors and those who serve them.



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Latest updates from Civic Theatre

The REPORTER

Here is the latest news from the Civic Theatre, 3 Carter Green, Carmel.

Get your tickets for Chicago: Teen Edition

In "Roaring Twenties" Chicago, chorine Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband, Amos, to take the rap ... until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie.

Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another "Merry Murderess," Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the American Dream: fame, fortune, and acquittal. This sharp-edged satire features a dazzling score that sparked immortal staging by Bob Fosse.

Civic Theatre's 2026 YAP musical brings together talented high school performers from all over central Indiana for an ex-

citing, fully staged production. This dynamic program provides young actors the opportunity to build their skills, collaborate creatively, and shine on the Civic Theatre stage.

[Click here](#) to purchase tickets.

Auditions

- Auditions for *Annie* are set for Aug. 17 and 18. More information and audition forms will be available soon.

- Auditions for Jr. Civic Company are set for 4:30 p.m. Aug. 25 and 26. Auditions are open to students ages 10 to 14 with Jr. Civic class or comparable experience. Students are only required to attend one audition date. More information and audition forms will be available soon.

- Civic Theatre is looking for string players interested in joining the pit orchestra. Auditions will be held Aug. 16. [Click here](#) to learn more.

5 ½ dump trucks later, Morse Reservoir is clean once more

The REPORTER

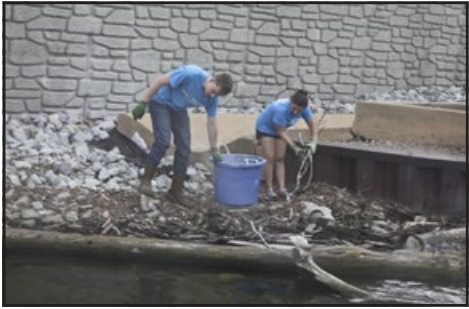
The annual Morse Reservoir Cleanup took place Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18. A total of five-and-a-half dump truck loads and one dumpster load of debris were removed from the reservoir.

On Friday, a volunteer team from Duke Energy cleaned the public docks near The Boathouse and Red Bridge Park. Two three-axle dump trucks of debris were sent to Green Cycle for recycling.

On Saturday, the community collected three-and-a-half dump trucks of debris and filled a dumpster full of trash.

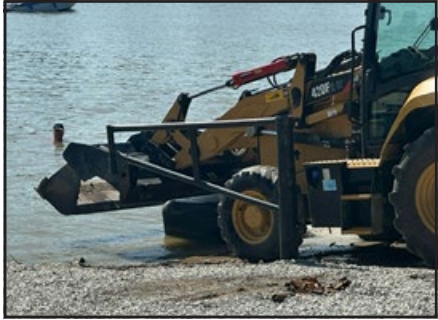
The Town of Cicero provided a front-end loader and operator to fill the dumpster and trucks.

The Morse Waterways Association chain saw crew cut the long stuff down to size.



Photos provided by Mike Berry

A Duke Energy volunteer team cleaned the public docks on Friday.



Photos provided by Pat Kelleher

The Town of Cicero provided a front-end loader and operator to fill the dumpster and trucks.

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Six local Democrats make 2026-2027 class of Emerging Leaders Project

Submitted

The Indiana Democratic Party has announced the members of the 2026-2027 Emerging Leaders Project, welcoming the program's 13th class of rising Democratic leaders from communities across Indiana.

This year's cohort includes 40 talented young Hoosiers selected through a highly competitive application process. Over the coming year, participants will receive training in campaign strategy, fundraising, communications, public policy, and leadership – preparing them to make a lasting impact as candidates, campaign professionals, party leaders, and community advocates.



Locally, six people from the area are on the list:

- Justin Canady-Flatt, Noblesville
- Dakota Crawford, Carmel
- Deanna Dwenger, McCordsville
- Joshua Nunez, Cicero
- Devon Wellington, Noblesville
- Alexandra Wilson, Carmel

"The Emerging Leaders Project provides free, high-quality training for young Democrats who are

passionate about public service and strengthening our party," said Jeff Harris, Chair of Emerging Leaders Project, Inc. "Each year, we select an exceptional group from hundreds of applicants, and this class continues that tradition. Our alumni have gone on to serve in the Indiana General Assembly, run statewide campaigns, hold local elected office, lead Democratic organizations, and manage winning campaigns across Indiana. I'm excited to see the difference this new class will make in the years ahead."

Since its founding in 2011, the Emerging Leaders Project has helped develop hundreds of Democratic leaders who continue to shape the future of Indiana through public service, political engagement, and community leadership.

Hamilton County Reporter

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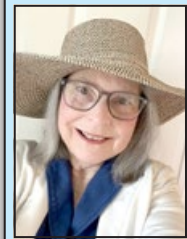
To the Moon & beyond

The evening of July 20, 1969, I sat transfixed staring at the television along with other staff members of the summer camp where I was working. We were watching the unbelievable. In awe, we saw astronaut Neil Armstrong step onto the lunar surface with the words, "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind."

In the 57 years since, we have seen other spectacular space flights. Most recently, the Artemis II Orion spacecraft rocketed into space with a diverse crew of four astronauts. Their mission? To travel into space farther than any human being had ever traveled before. Their space voyage to the moon captured the imagination and emotional investment of innumerable people back on Earth. It was exciting and uplifting to share the adventure taking place 238,856 miles away!

USA Today writers, Amanda Lee Myers and

COLUMNIST



NANCY KELLY SMITH
Civility Counts

Marc Ramirez in their article in *The Indianapolis Star* April 12, 2026, wrote that the impact in the USA was "The wonder of it all helped us forget our differences — at least for a few spins of the Earth." In this same article, an aerospace watercolor painter, Jade Boudreaux, was quoted as saying, "There is something special inside of you that you have in common with every other person watching ... It's innate. It's in your heart and it's in your soul. It's very human."

The mission pilot, Victor Glover, spoke for all the members of the crew when he observed while in space that "We're still able to feel your love from Earth. And to all of you down there on Earth, and around the Earth, we love you from the moon." The power of love knows no bounds!

A time capsule buried in Philadelphia on July 4, 2026, will be unearthed 250 years from now. What contents for

that time capsule — what objects, what documents, what history — would we choose to represent the USA in 2026? What message would we want to communicate to those in 2276 who would be "discovering" who we were July 4, 2026? Would that message relay that we were "One nation under God?"

The Artemis II astronauts also experienced something that other astronauts sensed when looking out of their spacecraft and viewing our planet Earth — the "overview effect." *The Indianapolis Star* published an article on April 11, 2026, explaining this phenomenon further. "Space philosopher Frank White coined the phrase in 1987, and astronauts for decades have described a similar feeling: the realization that everyone back on Earth shares more in common than we realize. The phenomenon leads to the realization that borders and divisions aren't visible from space."

In England when I was a graduate student, I shared the experience with 49 other students chosen from around

the world. The first week I met three women: an Italian, a German, and an Iraqi. We four began to spend our free time together. By the end of the second week, I was astonished to realize "We're becoming FRIENDS!" We grew up in different countries! How could this be?

The answer? We are all human beings made in God's image. The foundation of civility is the simple truth that human beings are ALL deserving of respect. We can choose to live "beyond borders" that divide us. We can choose to love and not hate. We can take time to get to know someone different from us.

A final reflection: these words from author Rick Warren are worth pondering: "The best use of life is love. The best expression of love is time. The best time to love is now."

Nancy Kelly Smith is a retired English professor and published author. She is also an Ambassador for the national civility organization *Civic Renaissance*. Learn more at civic-renaissance.com.

Six local students make UW-Madison dean's list

The REPORTER

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized six Hamilton County students who made the Dean's List for the spring semester of the 2025-2026 academic year.

- Caroline Burns, Carmel, College of Letters and Science
- Madison Featherstone, Carmel, College of Letters and Science
- Lauren Kennedy, Carmel, School of Education
- Tim Lawrence, Fishers, College of Letters and Science

• Charles Miller, Carmel, College of Letters and Science

• Brooke Thoren, Carmel, College of Letters and Science

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean of their school or college at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

Four local students graduate from UW-Madison

The REPORTER

More than 9,100 students, including four from Hamilton County, earned degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2026.

- Caroline Burns, Noblesville, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Science, Neurobiology
- Gavin Hinshaw, Westfield, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Science, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
- Noah Lancaster, Noblesville, College of Letters

and Science, Doctor of Philosophy, Chemistry

• Marin Rosen, Noblesville, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Arts-Journalism, Journalism

The university held its Spring 2026 Commencement ceremony for doctoral, MFA, and medical professional candidates at the Kohl Center on Friday, May 8, and its ceremony for undergraduate, law, and other Master's degree candidates at Camp Randall Stadium on Saturday, May 9.

Zionsville Plan Commission approves new gas station despite resident protests

By GREGG MONGTOMERY
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The Zionsville Plan Commission on Monday night approved a plan to build a Friendly Market convenience store and gas station in the town, despite widespread protest from nearby residents who are concerned about its possible environmental impacts.

The commission voted in favor of the plan 5-1.

Mann Brothers Holdings LLC years ago purchased the land in the Holliday Farms district. One of the co-owners said he hopes the gas station will be open by the end of 2026.

Prior to the vote, community members voiced their concerns about the project, which included the possibility of increased traffic and noise, a lowering of property values, and negative environmental impacts including air pollution and gas spills.

"There [are] very serious health risks, all the benzene ... which is a Class 1 Carcinogen," said Holliday Farms resident Kory Geyer. "This is in a major environmental risk area. It's part of the Eagle Creek Watershed, which feeds all of central Indiana's water supply."

After the vote, some people at the meeting voiced their displeasure, and the majority immediately left the

meeting.

"No one that you saw tonight will ever step foot in the Friendly Market in Holliday Farms," said resident Patrick Leone. "There will be a boycott, and no one from Holliday Farms will go there. They won't even go there [for gas]. ... Now our kids are at risk. I have a 14-year-old daughter 150 feet from it."

One of the co-owners of Mann Brothers Holdings LLC told News 8 that he's thankful to the commission for the support, and he's committed to building a clean site.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/politics/zionsville-indiana-plan-commission-approves-new-gas-station-despite-resident-protests.

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"I was told before this from one of the members that this was actually, and I quote, 'completely ceremonial', and this meeting was to give the illusion that the townspeople had a say in what happened in their community — that hundreds of people did not know it was only ceremonial and that we really didn't have a say."

— Zionsville resident Patrick Leone



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Anyone want to play duck, duck chick?



Reporter photo
We all know the story of the ugly duckling that grows up to be a swan, but no one ever told The Reporter the story of the chicks and ducklings who were raised together. Maybe our photographer was a little dopey from the relentless 100-degree heat index days. Maybe he just likes birds. Either way, when walking past this scene at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds he said to himself, “Hmm. That’s not something you see every day. I’ll bet our readers would love this!” You tell us if he was wrong.

Hamilton County’s own Casey Crouse receives 2026 Daniels Prize Award

The REPORTER

The Mitch Daniels Leadership Foundation (MDLF) will honor four Hoosier leaders whose work has strengthened Indiana through business, philanthropy, innovation, and service at its Annual Event set for 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10 at the Indiana State Museum.

Former Eli Lilly and Company Chairman and CEO Dr. John Lechleiter and civic and philanthrop-

ic leader Sarah Lechleiter will receive the 2026 Daniels Prize, MDLF’s highest honor. Casey Crouse, founder and executive director of New Shoe Day, will receive the Driving Change Award, and the privately held agri-tech startup Anu founder and CEO Scott Massey will be recognized as the Class VIII Outstand-



Crouse

ing Fellow. **Casey Crouse: Driving Change Award**
Class VII Fellow Casey Crouse transformed his Fellowship Capstone into **New Shoe Day**, one of Indiana’s fastest-growing nonprofits. The organization has distributed more than 14,000 pairs of new shoes to children across 12 counties, established 14

community shoe pantries, and expects to provide more than 10,000 pairs in 2026.
“Casey identified a simple problem with profound consequences and created a solution with extraordinary impact,” MDLF Fellowship Chair Maureen Weber said. “His work is changing thousands of young lives, one pair of shoes at a time.”
The public is invited to attend. Tickets and event information can be found at [this link](#).

Learn to play Mahjong at beginner-friendly event in Carmel

The REPORTER

Community members interested in learning one of the world’s most popular strategy games are invited to a beginner-friendly Learn to Play Mahjong event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8 at MCL Restaurant & Bakery, 1390 Keystone Way East, Carmel.

Designed for first-time players, the event includes step-by-step Mahjong instruction, guided open play

to practice new skills, and a Mayfield Plate lunch. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet fellow players and shop with a special Oh My Mahjong wholesaler on-site.

The cost is \$59 per person, and advance registration is required. Tickets are available by visiting MCL Carmel or calling (317) 257-5425, Option 4. Questions may be directed to catering@mclhomemade.com.

TODAY: Indianapolis Zoo to close early to celebrate National Zookeeper Week

Submitted

The Indianapolis Zoo will close at 3 p.m. today, July 22, in honor of National Zookeeper Week, which is an annual celebration of the hard work, passion, and conservation efforts of animal care professionals.

National Zookeeper Week began in 2007 at the urging of the American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK) to highlight their roles in animal welfare and education. The Indianapolis Zoo is proud to honor the incredibly hard-working animal care and horticulture teams at the Zoo.

“Every employee and volunteer at the Indianapolis Zoo contributes in different ways to the welfare of animals in our care and the world-class experience

we provide to more than 1 million guests who come to see our collection each year,” Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer John Gullion said. “The entire Zoo team helps us succeed as a conservation-focused organization.”

While the Zoo is closed Wednesday evening, animal care and horticulture teams will participate in Zookeeper Games. It is a time for staff to relax and take part in some friendly competition against each other.

Follow along this week on the Indianapolis Zoo’s **Facebook** and **Instagram** to cast your vote in an awkward photo contest, see pictures of the Zookeeper Games and share notes of appreciation for the Zoo team.

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THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

2026 HAMILTON COUNTY 4-H RESULTS

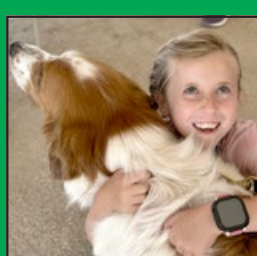
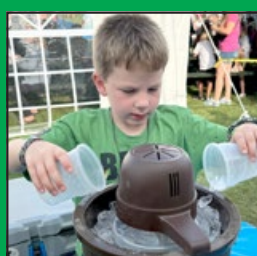
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to have their name in the newspaper**

Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper *prints* 4-H results, making sure every kid's name with every result is included in a special edition which is delivered to our subscribers and made available for families across the county.

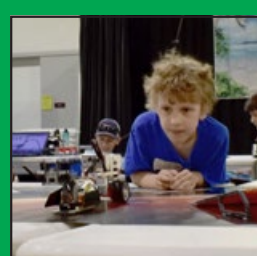
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We could not publish our massive 4-H Special Edition or donate to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank without you.

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Are these shirts spit-resistant?



Reporter photo

Some people go to the fair to show off their talent. Some go for the camaraderie. Some people go for the food. And then there are the llama people. They go ... well ... for the llamas. If you ignore the spit, the attitude, and the fact that they are basically South American mountain sheep dogs we brought here because we thought they were cute, then you too can join the ranks of the llama-lovers. If your fandom goes far enough, you can even buy a shirt to let the world know you are rooting for team llama. Maybe this county really does need a mascot.

Westfield awarded \$121,500 Homeland Security grant for new Emergency Operations Center

Submitted by City of Westfield

The City of Westfield has been awarded \$121,500 through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) State Homeland Security Program for the Federal Fiscal Year 2025. The grant will support technology upgrades for the city's new Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which is being developed as part of the new Westfield Police Department headquarters. The project will provide updated communication tools, digital displays, secure access technology, and other equipment

that will help Westfield Police, Westfield Fire, Emergency Management, the city's Informatics Department, and regional partners share information and coordinate more effectively during emergencies. "This investment will help ensure our public safety teams have reliable technology and timely information when every second matters," Mayor Scott Willis said. "As Westfield continues to grow and host major events, we must also continue strengthening our



Willis

ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies. We appreciate the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's support of this important project." The EOC will serve as a central location for coordinating responses to severe weather, public safety incidents, cyber threats, large-scale events, and other emergencies. The grant-funded improvements will make it easier for multiple agencies to work together, view the same information, and make informed decisions

in real time. The project will also strengthen the city's technology systems by improving reliability, protecting sensitive information, and reducing the risk of interruptions during an emergency. City assessments, training exercises, and reviews of previous events identified the need for more secure and connected communication tools. The State Homeland Security Program provides federal funding to help state and local agencies prepare for, protect against and respond to terrorism, natural disasters and other major emergencies.

American Structurepoint CEO Rick Conner named to IBJ Media's 'Indiana 250' for second consecutive year

The REPORTER

American Structurepoint Chief Executive Officer Rick Conner has earned a spot on the IBJ Media's 2026 Indiana 250 list, marking his second consecutive year among the state's most influential and impactful business and community leaders. IBJ Media selects the Indiana 250 list to highlight leaders across business, philanthropy, the arts, government, and more. Executives, editors, and news-

room staff from *Indianapolis Business Journal*, *Inside Indiana Business*, and *Indiana Lawyer* compile the list through nominations, independent research, and ongoing conversations with community leaders throughout the state. "I'm honored to be included among the influential leaders on the 2026



Conner

Indiana 250 list," Conner said. "This recognition reflects the dedication and excellence the entire American Structurepoint team, past and present, has delivered for nearly 60 years. Our work continues to positively impact the clients and communities we serve." Conner began his career with American Structure-

point as the 12th employee, delivering blueprints part-time. After graduating from Purdue University, he joined the firm full-time in 1976, became president in 1990, and stepped into the CEO role in 2024. The firm has grown from a small, Indiana-based company into a nationally recognized architecture and engineering consulting firm with more than 800 employees spanning 11 disciplines at 18 design centers across the country.

Sheridan Public Library releases its August calendar

Submitted

The Sheridan Public Library, 103 W. 1st St., has all sorts of fun activities available for all ages. See the list below and visit sheridan.lib.in.us for more information. Support your local library!

Babies & Toddlers
Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 10:30 a.m. | Discovery Time

Preschool
Aug. 4 at 6 p.m. | Pajama Story Time
Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10:30 a.m. | Little Learners
Aug. 6, 7 during library hours | Painters Tape Obstacle Course-Drop-in

Grades K-5
Aug. 6, 7 during library hours | Painters Tape Obstacle Course-Drop-in
Aug. 11 at 3:30 p.m. | Back to School Makers
Aug. 25 at 3:30 p.m. | Lego Wind Racer Challenge

Grades 6-12
Aug. 18 at 3:30 p.m. |

Teen Volunteer Club

Adults
Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26 at 11 a.m. | Needle Crafters
Aug. 5, 19 at 3 p.m. | Adult Bingo (sponsored by Robert Owen)
Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. | Pinners
Aug. 19 at 5:30 p.m. | Sheridan Readers: Flesh by David Szalay

All ages
Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 at 4 to 6:30 p.m. | Chess Club (hosted by William Oliver)
Aug. 13 at 10:30 a.m. | Homeschool Meetup
Aug. 13 at 6 p.m. | Family Bingo Night
Aug. 20 at 3:30 p.m. | Family STEAM Challenge

For more information on programming and services, please visit sheridan.lib.in.us. Thank you for your patience during the library's renovation.

Sen. Jim Banks introduces resolution calling for FTC investigation into fire truck manufacturing industry

Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Jim Banks

U.S. Senators Jim Banks (R-Ind.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) introduced a bipartisan resolution directing the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate potential anticompetitive practices in the fire truck manufacturing industry. The resolution calls on the FTC to examine allegations of price fixing, price gouging, serial acquisitions, monopolization, and other potential violations of federal antitrust laws that have driven up costs and delayed the delivery of critical fire-fighting equipment. "When anticompetitive practices leave firefighters without the equipment they need to save lives, it becomes more than just an economic issue," Sen. Banks said. "This is about public safety and I'm proud to join this bipartisan investigation as we fight to put the safety and security of the American people first."

at risk. I'm grateful to Senator Banks and Warren for leading this bipartisan effort to help communities put lifesaving equipment into service faster." As the resolution notes, just three manufacturers control between 70 to 80 percent of the U.S. fire truck market. Since 2013, the cost of a pumper truck has nearly doubled, from approximately \$500,000 to nearly \$1 million, while ladder truck prices have climbed from roughly \$900,000 to nearly \$2 million. Meanwhile, delivery times have increased from one to two years to as long as four-and-a-half years. The resolution directs the FTC to submit a report to Congress within one year detailing:

- The extent of anti-competitive practices and potential violations of federal antitrust laws in the fire truck manufacturing industry, including price-fixing, price-gouging, serial acquisitions, and monopolization.
- The impact of these practices on firefighters, fire departments, municipalities, states, and small businesses.
- Recommendations for legislative or other actions to restore competition and protect public safety.

The resolution also requires the FTC to notify Congress if companies fail to cooperate with its investigation.



Banks



Finkam

The resolution follows concerns raised by firefighters, local officials, and municipalities in Indiana, Massachusetts, Vermont, Virginia and across the country about skyrocketing fire truck prices and growing delivery backlogs. "Public safety is measured in minutes, not years," Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam said. "The faster our first responders reach someone in need, the better the outcome. Delays in getting the equipment they need put lives and property

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

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Gas Tax Holiday reimbursements to local governments approved

Comptroller’s Office accelerating distributions to local government partners

**Submitted by
Office of Comptroller
Elise Nieshalla**

On Tuesday, July 21, the State Board of Finance voted unanimously to approve reimbursement for the April and May collections to Indiana’s counties, cities, and towns related to Governor Mike Braun’s temporary Gas Tax Holiday and the goal to make local units whole.

The Indiana State Comptroller’s Office will begin issuing payments to local government partners today so that the full roadwayfunding revenue they would have otherwise collected during those months is restored. Distributions for the remaining months affected will occur pending future State Board of Finance approval. All reimbursements are expected to be completed by Nov. 1.

A total of \$121,159,722 for the suspension period between April 8 and May 31 will be reimbursed to the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund (MVH), the Local Road and Street Fund (LRS), and the Local Road and Bridge Matching Fund. Of this amount, local units of government will receive \$37,834,329.55. The distribution amount broken out for each local unit can be found [here](#).

“We want our local partners to know that the State Comptroller’s Office stands at their service, and their

distributions have been moved to the front of the line,” Comptroller Elise Nieshalla said. “Local governments depend on these dollars to maintain essential, budgeted operations and the reimbursements will be received in their bank accounts within two to three days.”

“Today’s unanimous approval reflects the Board’s shared priority of keeping local governments whole,” State Budget Director Chad Ranney said. “Our team worked closely with the Department of Revenue to determine the statewide impact, and we appreciate the Comptroller’s readiness to distribute these funds as soon as possible.”

Understanding the revenue impact & distribution process

Indiana’s local governments receive roadway funding each month through two primary statutory accounts: the MVH account and the LRS account. These distributions rely heavily on fuel-related tax collections remitted each month to the Department of Revenue.

Two taxes make up this roadway revenue:

- **Gasoline Excise Tax**



Nieshalla



Elliott

(GET) – Distributed according to state law and shared among MVH, LRS, the State Highway Fund, counties, cities, and towns.

- **Gas Use Tax (GUT)** – Distributed across several transportation related funds, including MVH, the Local Road and Bridge Grant Fund that both state and local entities share.

During the Gas Tax Holiday, monthly GET and GUT collections have been temporarily suspended, affecting the portion of revenue that flows into both MVH and LRS. In collaboration with the State Budget Agency, the Comptroller’s Office calculated the statewide impact using Department of Revenue data and the Board of Finance authorized today’s reimbursements to ensure local governments remain whole. The State Comptroller’s Office is responsible for issuing the reimbursements and delivering the restored funding to counties, cities, and towns.

“Indiana’s sound fiscal policies allowed this Board to take quick and decisive action to make local governments whole so they can meet the needs of Hoo-

siers across Indiana,” State Treasurer Daniel Elliott said. “This critical step ensures that cities, counties, and towns can continue to address infrastructure needs for their communities while taxpayers are given continued relief at the gas pump. It’s good governance at its best.”

What local governments can expect

- The reimbursement, covering April 8 through May 31, was issued Tuesday, July 21.
- Additional reimbursement requests will be presented at upcoming Board of Finance meetings.
- All reimbursements are expected to be completed by Nov. 1, pending further approvals through the Board.
- Other revenue sources distributed through MVH and LRS have continued on their regular distribution schedules.
- Reimbursement amounts for each local unit follow the same statutory MVH and LRS formulas used for normal monthly distributions.

Where to find distribution amounts & additional information

- To see how much your local unit is receiving, [click here](#).
- For more information, including MVH/LRS context, statutory references, distribution formulas and gas tax holiday FAQs, [click here](#).

Ruckelshaus proposes state ‘Water Czar’ to safeguard Indiana’s water future

Water is one of Indiana’s most precious resources. We need to nurture and protect our state’s water system, not just for today, but for generations to come. Having grown up on the Eagle Creek Reservoir, I have a deep, personal connection to our local waters. I know firsthand how vital these resources are to our communities, our wildlife, and our way of life.

The current water issue at Eagle Creek, however, is not unique around the state. It is a symptom of a much larger, systemic problem that demands immediate and decisive action.

The controversy surrounding the Boone County LEAP Innovation District project has exposed significant gaps in Indiana’s water-rights laws. Currently, our state lacks a formal framework for assessing large-scale water withdrawals. This regulatory void leaves state leaders to manage our most critical resource through a patchwork of quasi-governmental agencies, such as the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) and the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA), and other agencies. This approach is unsustainable and inefficient. We cannot continue to view water merely as a tool for near-term, opportunistic economic development.

Citizens, industry, and agriculture all need water. Therefore, it is in everyone’s best interest to have one point person who can constantly monitor our state’s reservoirs, lakes, rivers, streams, and underground sources of water. We need a centralized regulatory authority – a Water Czar – to oversee and protect our water resources comprehensively.

The Office of the Water Czar would be appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Legislative Council, ensuring bipartisan oversight from leadership in both chambers. Operating under the umbrella of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) and funded through the state’s general fund, this office would serve as the ultimate guardian of Indiana’s water.

This role would encompass several critical responsibilities. First and foremost, the Water Czar would oversee a stringent permitting process for any entity seeking to withdraw massive amounts of water – such as more than 10 million gallons per day – to be transported across watersheds.

Furthermore, the office would focus on long-term strategic planning, balancing



JOHN RUCKELSHAUS



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TODAY’S BIBLE READING

BOUNDARIES OF CANAAN

“For your northern boundary, run a line from the Mediterranean Sea to Mount Hor and from Mount Hor to Lebo Hamath. Then the boundary will go to Zedad, continue to Ziphron and end at Hazar Enan. This will be your boundary on the north.

“For your eastern boundary, run a line from Hazar Enan to Shepham. The boundary will go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain and continue along the slopes east of the Sea of Galilee. Then the boundary will go down along the Jordan and end at the Dead Sea.

“This will be your land, with its boundaries on every side.”

Numbers 34:7-12 (NIV)

Meeting Notice

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold a Budget and Finance Committee meeting at 7:30 a.m. Friday, July 24, 2026, at 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

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



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The Reporter’s policy on obituaries

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

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

Read it here.
Read it first.
THE REPORTER



Gerald Lenz
January 30, 1942 – July 12, 2026

Gerald Lenz, 83, Noblesville, passed away Sunday, July 12, 2026. He was born on January 30, 1942, in Houghton, Mich., to Joseph Martin and Lucille (Manderfield) Lenz.

As a field engineer with Hughes Aircraft Company, Gerald’s career allowed him to become the company’s most experienced specialist on the TOW anti-tank missile system. His work took him around the world including Vietnam, South Korea, and Thailand, training and supporting allied military forces. Gerald received many honors including Achievement Awards from Hughes; letters of commendation from senior U.S. and South Vietnamese Generals during the Vietnam War. Also, repeated letters of appreciation from the Republic of Korea Army, and a recognition plaque from the U.S. Military Advisory Group in Thailand.

Gerald was an avid golfer and enjoyed reading war and science fiction. He was a longtime and committed parishioner at St. Matthew Catholic Church.

In addition to his parents, Gerald was preceded in death by his siblings, Bernice (Jim) Dunn, Jack (Grace) Lenz, Paul (Joann) Lenz, Jim (Joyce) Lenz, Frank (Adele) Lenz, and Bob (Tila) Lenz.

Survivors include his wife, Nuanchan Lenz; children, Christopher Lenz and Douglas (Jessica) Lenz; grandchild, Lyric Lenz; and siblings, Peter (Carolyn) Lenz, Tom Lenz, and Joan Wendt.

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

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

WATER from Page 9

the needs of high-tech manufacturing with the essential requirements of manufacturing, farming, and pharmaceuticals across all 92 counties. The Water Czar would also manage concerns regarding wastewater and environmental impact, ensuring that any water reintroduced into our systems meets Clean Water Act standards and does not degrade local ecosystems.

Crucially, this office would mandate public engagement. It would provide a much-needed forum for public input – something critics rightly claim the IEDC currently lacks – by hosting public hearings and ensuring genuine collaboration between state and

local governments. This office will be a direct contact point for citizens to log complaints, seek clarification, and ensure that all rules and laws are being enforced.

Where agreements are made between stakeholders and water systems, this office will ensure that promises made will be promises kept. We cannot afford to gamble with our water. It is time for Indiana to establish a Water Czar to protect our citizens, our environment, and our future.

John Ruckelshaus is a former Indiana State Senator who is running in the Republican primary for a seat to represent Indiana Senate District 29.

Steven “Steve” Bridges

July 13, 1950 – July 17, 2026



Steven “Steve” Bridges, 76, Noblesville, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, July 17, 2026. He was born on July 13, 1950, in Evanston, Ill., to the late William (“Bill”) and Joy (Wescott) Bridges. He graduated from North Central High School and went on to graduate from Indiana University with a degree in Business where he met many of his lifelong friends.

Steve built a successful career in sales, owning his own manufacturers’ rep business, Bridges & Associates. After completing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in 1998, he embraced the Catholic faith and remained a devout and faithful member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church (OLG) throughout his life. His faith served as a guiding force in how he lived and cared for others. In fact, he met his wife, Barbara, at OLG and asked her out (in front of her mother) in the parking lot after mass one Sunday in January of 2000.

Steve will be remembered for his love of chocolate chip cookies and Hershey Chocolate bars, crazy dance moves, his passion for golf, and his enthusiastic support of Indiana University athletics.

Music was also an important part of Steve’s life. He sang and played guitar with the OLG Mosaic music group for many years. In his retirement, he enjoyed playing guitar in a bluegrass band with his friends and sharing his love of music with others. He also cherished his daily two-mile walks with his beloved dog, Bailey and giving one too many treats to his children’s dogs.

Above all else, Steve treasured time with his family. Nothing brought him greater happiness than watching his children grow up and excel in their various extra curriculars and respective career paths. In recent years, he found immense joy in cheering on his grandson Oakley as he competed in soccer, football, baseball, and basketball. Steve was his family’s biggest fan, never missing an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and encourage them along the way.

Steve is survived by his wife, Barbara Bridges; children, Elizabeth (Jack) Bridges, Andrew Bridges, Christopher Irlbeck, and Cayla Irlbeck; sisters, Jody (Tom) Schmith and Laura Bridges; grandson, Oakley Irlbeck; aunt and uncle, Richard and Maureen Davis; nephews, Jim (Lyzzy) Davis and Gabriel (Delmy) Bridges; nieces, Renee (Tim) Phares and Jamie (Ben) Havens; as well as 14 great-nieces and great-nephews and many close friends that were like family to him. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Joy Bridges.

Steve’s family and friends will forever cherish memories of his goofy personality, infectious laughter, love of music, and unwavering support of all of those in his life. His legacy lives on through the family he treasured and the many lives he touched with his kindness, faith, and friendship.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville.

A second public visitation will be held from 10 to 11 a.m., with a Mass of Christian Burial beginning at 11 a.m. Friday, July 24, 2026, at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 9900 E. 191st St., Noblesville, with The Very Reverend Clayton Thompson officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 9900 E. 191st St., Noblesville, IN 46060 (ologn.org); or Breast Cancer Research Foundation, 28 W. 44th St., Suite 609, New York, NY 10036 (bcrf.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com



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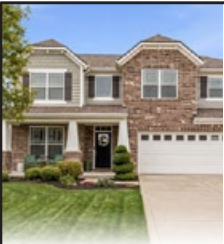
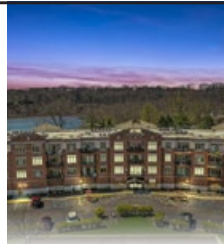
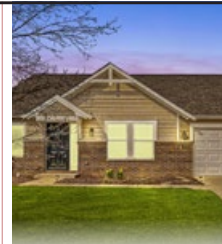
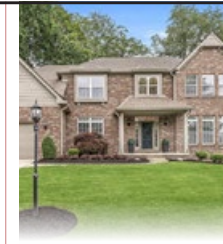
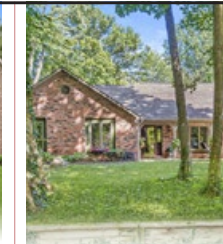
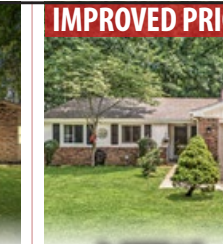
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 SOLD! 2707 Kilgobbin Cres BROWNSBURG Beautifully maintained 4BR, 3BA home in Birch Run at Wynne Farms. Features an open kitchen, gas fireplace, main floor bedroom/office, spa-like primary suite, large backyard with fire pit, 3-car garage, and community pool on the B&O Trail. Listed at \$449,900	 LAKEFRONT! 20971 Shoreline Unit 410 NOBLESVILLE Enjoy low-maintenance waterfront living in this gated 2BR, 2BA Morse Lake condo. Features include fresh paint, new carpet, boat slip, two garage spots, storage, and stainless kitchen. Luxury meets convenience. Listed at \$339,900	 PENDING! 6178 NORTH WOODHAVEN DR. MCCORDSVILLE This turnkey 3BR, 2BA ranch in McCordsville features fresh paint, granite counters, and LVP flooring. Enjoy the new wood privacy fence and covered deck. Community pool and playground are steps away! New price \$304,900	 PENDING! 18532 ORIENTAL OAK COURT NOBLESVILLE Beautiful 4BR, 2BA 2 half baths in Oakmont of Noblesville. Home is situated on over half an acre (.68) wooded lot featuring a screened porch and finished basement along with a three car tandem garage. This move-in ready property awaits you. Listed at \$559,900	 SOLD! 112 PINEHURST AVENUE FISHERS Discover this hidden gem in Fishers. This stunning 3BR, 2BA custom brick ranch sits on a secluded .65-acre wooded lot. Features a new roof, remodeled kitchen, great room, sunroom, and heated/cooled garage. A private, paradise awaits you! Listed at \$579,900	 PENDING! 18716 PRAIRIE BAPTIST ROAD NOBLESVILLE Attention investors and homeowners! Hard-to-find country ranch on .39 acres. Featuring 2BR, 1BA, spacious family room, kitchen with appliances, and attached garage. Updates include 2022 roof, plumbing, and 2023 AC. Listed at \$172,900	 PENDING! 2525 COLONY COURT CARMEL Find character in this charming Carmel home with no HOA! Features 3BR, 2 living areas, spacious kitchen with appliances, and a park-like backyard with a heated/cooled workshop shed. Newer HVAC and water heater remain. Listed at \$319,900	 IMPROVED PRICE! NEW LISTING! 2513 SHERIDAN COURT CICERO This desirable 3BR, 2BA Cicero ranch on .44 acres features a remodeled kitchen with quartz counters, wood-burning fireplace, spacious primary suite, and private, wooded backyard with two storage sheds. Includes lake access and boat docks. Listed at \$339,900
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REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

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

Noblesville Boom Jr. Camp focuses on growth & positivity

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

NOBLESVILLE – The Riverview Health Arena at Innovation Mile is hosting the future of Indiana youth basketball this week.

The Noblesville Boom is hosting its second annual Jr. Hoops Summer Basketball Camp. The Boom is partnering with The National Basketball Academy to host the camp, which runs through Friday.

Rose Skripsky, the Youth Program Director for the Indiana Pacers and Fever, is leading the camp again this year. She told The Reporter that 51 young players, between the ages of 7 and 15, are participating. While most of the players are from Hamilton County and nearby cities such as Indianapolis and Pendleton, others are coming from Yorktown, Muncie and Delphi.

The camp is focusing on individual skill development and offers drills, skills contests and live games. The Tuesday edition of the camp finished with a live game that were competitive, with Skripsky and her four-person staff cheering everyone on.

The coaches on the staff are Warren Wallace, Amber Jackson, Michael Joseph Cook and Mya Parker. Skripsky noted that all four played basketball at the college level.

“These are very selfless coaches,” said Skripsky. “They are so focused about the kids’ development and it’s been awesome to watch.”



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

(ABOVE) The Noblesville Boom is hosting its second annual Jr. Hoops Summer Basketball Camp this week at the Riverview Health Arena at Innovation Mile. A total of 51 young players are participating in the camp, which is being conducted in partnership with The Indiana Basketball Academy. (BELOW) Amber Jackson (right) is one of the staff members helping coach the young players.

Skripsky was happy with the growth the young players were showing, starting with “the growth from drill to drill, as well as the skill and how it translates to gameplay.”

“These kiddoes push each other a lot,” said Skripsky. “They want to compete but they want to be the best teammates that they can be, too. A lot of that hype is actually cheering on their teammates, cheering on siblings or whatnot. A lot of growth has gone into that.”

The campers will all get a tangible way to measure their growth during the

camp.

“By Friday, each player will have an individualized player evaluation,” said Skripsky. The coaches have been making notes about the growth they have been seeing each day.

In addition, the staff will be giving out player shoutouts – if one camper sees that another camper is doing something well, then they tell a coach to give their fellow player a shoutout.

“Definitely peer positive, but also they will be receiving skill development feedback from each coach,” said Skripsky.



Golf

Junior golf results

The REPORTER

Here are Indiana Junior and Prep golf results for area players in tournaments that took place Monday and Tuesday.

July 20

Crestview Golf Club, Muncie

Boys 9-10: 1. Logan Carter, Carmel 38.

Boys 11-12: 2. Carsen Fegan, Fishers 79, 4. Noah Dailey, Westfield 85.

Boys 13-15: 2. Luke Moore, Carmel 72, 3. Austin Zimmer, Fishers 73, 5. Alex Witt, Westfield 76, 6. Xavier Flannery, Carmel 80, T7. Caleb Seaman, Noblesville 81, T9. Logan Worthington, Westfield 82; Vidyut Anand, Carmel 82, T14. Tripp Mundt, Westfield 85, T18. Gabriel Brown, Fishers 87, 20. Bradley Zelik, Westfield 88, 21. Reid Lassiter, Noblesville 89, 22. Jayden Yoo, Carmel 90, T24. Caleb Smith 93.

Boys 16-19: T2. Evan Back, Fishers 75, T4. Grayson Cole, Fishers 78; Brady McIlvenna, Carmel 78, T7. Jack Lux, Fortville 79; Sean Hess, Westfield 79, T10. Mason Gladson, McCordsville 80; Karson Bowen, Noblesville 80; Ethan Gould, Fishers 80, 18. Jack Burton, Carmel 83, 21. Aiden Campbell, Westfield 85, T22. Ryan Hoagland, Carmel 87, 26. Drew Hoagland, Carmel 89.

Girls 13-15: 1. Adalyn Malicoat, Noblesville 74, T2. Aubrie Gift, Westfield 81, 4. Madison Yeoman, McCordsville 83, T6. Ella Marrs, Fishers 87, 8. Kennedy Howard, Carmel 88, 9. Chloe Paul, Westfield 90, 11. Olivia Banks, Fishers 96.

Girls 16-19: 5. Brianna Howard, Westfield 83, 9. Aleah Miller, Fishers 89.

See Results . . . Page 12

Wessel, Kutchma make U.S. Junior Amateur cut

The REPORTER

Two Hamilton County golfers have made the cut for the Junior U.S. Amateur and will be playing this morning for a place in the final 64.

Eli Wessel, a Guerin Catholic graduate, and Hudson Kutchma, a Westfield graduate, both finished

right on the cut line of five over par after the second day of stroke play at the tournament, which is taking place this week at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, Pa. Both men played on the club’s Old Course for their Tuesday second round.

Kutchma scored a two

under par 69 on Tuesday to reach the cut line, making four birdies during his round. Wessel also made four birdies and finished even par 71 on Tuesday.

The official standings showed a 14-way tie for 63rd place, meaning there are 14 players vying for the final two match play posi-

tions. A playoff will take place this morning to determine those last two players.

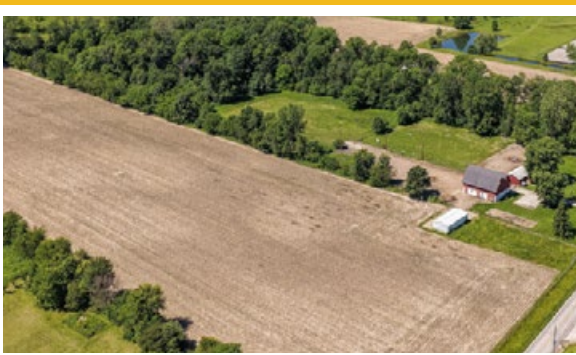
Elijah Lemmon of McCordsville also competed in the stroke play round, finishing at 17 over par. Lemmon scored 77 on the first day and 81 on the second day, which he played on Saucon Valley’s Grace Course.

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Pacers Foundation Charity Softball Classic is Aug. 24

Tyrese Haliburton to captain event at Victory Field

The REPORTER

Indiana Pacers star Tyrese Haliburton is inviting fans to Victory Field for an unforgettable night of softball and community impact at the Pacers Foundation Charity Softball Classic on Aug. 24.

The charity event will bring together some of Indiana's biggest names in sports and entertainment to raise funds and awareness for youth food insecurity across the state. General admission tickets are \$10, benefiting the Pacers Foundation, and will go on sale at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 24.

"The Pacers Foundation Charity Softball Classic is about bringing people together for a fun, memorable night while shining a light on an issue that affects too many young people across Indiana," said Corey Wilson, Pacers Sports & Entertainment SVP of community engagement. "We're grateful to Tyrese and the incredible

group of athletes and entertainers joining us at Victory Field, and we're excited to give fans a unique experience that will help support the Pacers Foundation's efforts to address youth food insecurity."

Athletes scheduled to appear include Indiana Pacers players Aaron Nesmith, Andrew Nembhard and T.J. McConnell, as well as other members of the Pacers and Indiana Fever, and Indianapolis Colts players Daniel Jones, Jonathan Taylor, Alec Pierce, Sauce Gardner, Cam Bynum, and Mo Alie-Cox. Former Colts punter and sports personality Pat McAfee will emcee the event. Additional participants will be announced in the coming weeks.

The evening will also feature appearances by Pacers mascot Boomer, Indiana Pacemates, Hype Crew, Fever Inferno, and Fever mascot Freddy Fever.

Gates will open at 6 p.m.



Graphic courtesy Pacers Sports & Entertainment

at Victory Field on Aug. 24, with the first pitch scheduled for 7 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit Pacers.com/Softball. Player appearances are

subject to change.

The Pacers Foundation Charity Softball Classic supports Drive & Dish, powered by Gleaners2Go, a free program founded by Pacers Head Coach Rick Carlisle and supported by the Pacers Foundation to connect Indiana families with nutritious food. The softball game will help support and drive awareness for youth food insecurity, which affects approximately 260,000 Hoosiers under the age of 14. Since its launch, Drive & Dish has delivered more than 1.2 million pounds of food to Hoosiers in need across 21 sites throughout the state.

The Pacers Foundation invests in programs and initiatives that strengthen communities across Indiana, with a focus on creating opportunities for youth and supporting critical community needs. Visit PacersFoundation.org to learn more.

Swimming

Senior State swim results Day 2: three Carmel swimmers pick up wins

The REPORTER

Three Carmel swimmers picked up individual victories during Day 2 of the Indiana Swimming Senior State meet, which took place last week at the IU Natatorium.

Molly Sweeney placed first in the Women 100 butterfly, clocking in at 1 minute, 0.71 seconds. Zarek Wilson followed her with a victory in the Men 100 butterfly, finishing that event in 54.83 seconds.

Kayla Barr got the third Carmel win, claiming the 400 individual medley in a time of 4:56.81.

Here are top 16 results from Hamilton County swimmers during Day 2 of the meet. More results will appear tomorrow.

Women 200 freestyle relay: 2. Carmel Swim Club "A" (Grace Dougherty, Molly Sweeney, Aubrey Simmons, Lucy Enoch) 1:47.74, 3. Southeastern Swim Club "A" (Ellason Miller, Payton Walker, Naomi Haines, Kiley Zoeller) 1:47.84, 10. Fishers Area Swimming Tigers "A" (Haddie Vohs, Larkin Lee, Ella Hare, Maryn Sims) 1:51.97, 11. Carmel "B" (Erin Cummins, Claire Cate, Addy Czamecki, Lily Clark) 1:52.06.

Men 200 freestyle relay: 2. Carmel "A" (Jake Tarara, Zarek Wilson, Donald Zhao, Bryce Lowe) 1:33.30, 8. Noblesville Swim Club "A" (Joshua Naas, Brayden Wright, Jackson Teske, Liam Hayward) 1:38.42, 11. Carmel "B" (Aaron Trinh, Luke Pugh, Anderson Kopp, Conner Fletchall) 1:38.71, 13. Southeastern "A" (Braeden Van Hyfte, Zachary Marchisin, Jagger Chan, Camden Bailey) 1:40.30.

Women 200 freestyle – "A" Final: 5. Kayla Barr (CSC) 2:05.83, 8. Vohs

(FAST) 2:06.63. **"B" Final:** 11. Claire Parsons (CSC) 2:08.05, 14. Czamecki (CSC) 2:09.94, 15. Cummins (CSC) 2:10.05, 16. Enoch (CSC) 2:10.69.

Men 200 freestyle – "A" Final: 2. Tarara (CSC) 1:52.57, 7. Lowe (CSC) 1:56.40, 8. Michael Edson (CSC) 1:57.71. **"B" Final:** 11. Kopp (CSC) 1:56.71, 12. Pugh (CSC) 1:57.19, 14. Carter Kellett (CSC) 1:57.89.

Women 50 breaststroke – "A" Final: 5. Dougherty (CSC) 33.37, 7. Zoeller (SSC) 33.84. **"B" Final:** 12. Noa Calili (CSC) 34.05.

Men 50 breaststroke – "A" Final: 7. Jihoon Jung (FAST) 30.09. **"B" Final:** 9. Griffin Barents Froman (Westfield Aquatics) 30.16, 11. Esteban Roussel (WA) 30.40.

Women 100 butterfly – "A" Final: 1. Sweeney (CSC) 1:00.71, 8. Vohs (FAST) 1:03.32. **"B" Final:** 12. Miller (SSC) 1:03.98, 16. Maria Daily (CSC) 1:05.35.

Men 100 butterfly – "A" Final: 1. Wilson (CSC) 54.83. **"B" Final:** 9. Naas (NOB) 57.14, 10. Garreth Thomas (WA) 57.31, 16. Pugh (CSC) 58.81.

Women 400 individual medley – "A" Final: 1. Barr (CSC) 4:56.81, 2. Kinsey Bogaards (SSC) 5:04.18, 3. Ayla Madara (FAST) 5:07.71, 4. Daily (CSC) 5:10.03, 5. Alex Nguyen (FAST) 5:14.15. **"B" Final:** 10. Izzy Schmitt (SSC) 5:17.60, 12. Brooklyn Penn (SSC) 5:20.79, 14. Nora Sperry (CSC) 5:25.60, 15. Gracie Alley (CSC) 5:26.39.

Men 400 individual medley – "A" Final: 4. Kellett (CSC) 4:22.83, 5. Will Chambley (WA) 4:42.89, 6. Thomas (WA) 4:44.57. **"B" Final:** 10. Naas (NOB) 4:45.23, 13. Bryce Salvadori (SSC) 4:49.17, 14. Tyler Johnson (CSC) 4:52.70.



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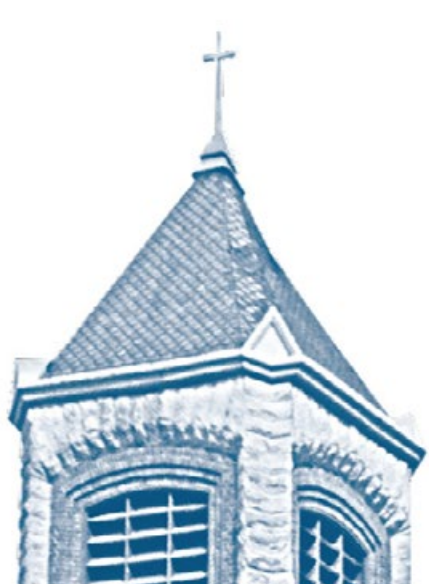
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RESULTS

July 21 Chestnut Hills, Fort Wayne	July 21 Highland Lake, Richmond	from Page 11
Boys 13-15: 6. Caleb Seaman, Noblesville 84, T12. Steven Schloss III 93.	Boys 9-10: 1. Luke Hill, Carmel 56.	MacDonald, Fishers 81; Jonas Harley, Noblesville 81, 10. Aiden Campbell, Westfield 84, 14. Hayden McLaughlin, McCordsville 91.
Boys 16-19: T6. Sean Hess, Westfield 78, T35. Holden Gilmore, Fishers 95.	Boys 11-12: 1. Carsen Fegan, Fishers 70.	Girls 9-10: 1. Jennifer Sorrows, Fishers 49.
Girls 16-19: T11. Addison Ross, Westfield 99.	Boys 13-15: 4. Gavin Davis, Fishers 77, 5. Aleksander Nowacki, Fishers 80, 6. Lucas Graessle, Fishers 83.	Girls 13-15: 1. Katelynn Forrest, Fishers 86, 3. Celina Zhang, Carmel 107.
	Boys 16-19: T6. Chase	Girls 16-19: 4. Brianna Howard, Westfield 98.



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