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paulpoteet.com

No prob-llama!

The brilliance of the 4-H Fair's Llama Costume Contest

By **AIDA KARIM**
news@readthereporter.com

Real fashion icons are woolly, rugged, and surprisingly sassy.

Each year the 4-H Fair hosts a llama costume contest consisting of three divisions: senior, intermediate, and junior, depending on age range.

The Reporter spoke with this year's grand champion of the llama costume contest, Bennett Walters about his experience running.

According to Walters, he has been participating in the 4-H costume contest for five years, with his family regularly visiting the llamas and caring for them throughout the year.

Walters said he received inspiration for his costume from a summer camp experience that "holds a very special place" in his heart.

This year, Walter said, he decided instantly that he needed

to be a camp counselor for his costume.

According to Walters, both he and his mom tend to overprepare for things.

"We have a saying in our family that is, 'It's better to have it and not need it, than need it and not have it,'" Walters said.

Walters told The Reporter he and his mom decided the theme was going to follow being over-prepared for camp, and it had to be "the craziest thing ever."

"I kind of joked around [with my mom] and I was like, 'We should put a kitchen sink on there,'" Walters said. "Then she said something like, 'Actually, we probably could do that.' And we ended up doing that. It was really awesome."

Walters said another reason why he chose this costume was because the belongingness, friendship, and inclusion surrounding his camp experience.

See *Llamas!* . . . Page 2



Photo provided
Bennett Walters was a "happy camper" when he learned he and his llama had won on Saturday, July 18.

The power of nature

One of my favorite parts about riding in the duo bike, are the things I see along the way. Each time, there is some magical piece of nature that sends a thrill up my spine.

My mom was a flower enthusiast when I was growing up. Her garden of flowers in our backyard was stunning and could have won awards, had she been into that kind of thing. She was a humble gardener with an immense knowledge of plants that she taught anyone who was interested.

My sister inherited her green thumb and has a beautiful collection of flowers of her own. I enjoy looking at the beauty of it, but gardening is not really an interest of mine. It feels unattainable to me because my disability does not allow me to be physical in the yard.

When my husband and I got married and bought our first house, I could see that he too was passionate about landscaping and creating a beautiful yard. He finds immense joy and peace spending hours in the yard on the weekends, just as my mom always did.

Lucky me, I get to sit back and reap the rewards of the stunning landscapes.

Over the years, I have gotten into planting a few pots here and there around my yard. That is really the extent of my gardening. I also find it peaceful to go out in the evenings on my scooter and water the plants. I guess you could call me an adaptive gardener.

I have learned to embrace nature in a whole new way since I started riding in the duo bike along the many different paths and trails in Hamilton County.

The Monon Trail is my favorite in the early morning light, just as the sun is rising. I love to see how the light dances on the leaves and trees as the sun rises and peeks in and out as we run. It truly is magical and a wonderful time for spiritual connection.

See *Nature* . . . Page 2



COLUMNIST

AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

Folds of Honor Indiana brings in \$129K at expanded fundraising event

The REPORTER

On Saturday, July 25, Folds of Honor Indiana and The Bridgewater Club held their second annual charity golf and sports outing for members of the Club.

The purpose of the outing is to raise awareness and funds to further Folds of Honor's mission to provide scholarships for Hoosier spouses and children of fallen and disabled service members and first responders.

This year's outing raised over \$129,000 for Folds of Honor Indiana scholarship recipients.

New this year, the fundraising outing expanded to a two-day event, with a cocktail reception on Friday, July 24, giving attendees the opportunity to meet and mingle with



service members, veterans, and Folds of Honor Indiana scholarship recipients.

The fundraising tournament also grew to include court sports, giving members the option to play pickleball or tennis. Patriotic festivities took place throughout the day, including a static helicopter display from the Columbus Indiana Huey and a Civil War Cannon Firing for every \$5,000 donation.



Photos provided

Rotary Club of Westfield lives "Service Above Self" at Cool Creek Concert Series

By **NAJLA JEFFERIES**
Rotary Club of Westfield

The Rotary Club of Westfield once again demonstrated its commitment to Service Above Self during the Cool Creek Park Concert Series on Friday, July 24, as concertgoers gathered to enjoy an evening of great music, food, and philanthropy.

Headliner Cornfield Mafia energized the crowd with a lively mix of '90s country favorites, classic '80s hits, and today's country music. Guests sang along, danced, and enjoyed the festive atmosphere while Rotarians worked behind the scenes to make the evening both memorable and meaningful.

At the Rotary brat booth, Rotarian Sandy Cunningham grilled fresh brats and hot dogs while fellow club members served chips and cold sodas. Nearby, other Rotarians mingled throughout the crowd

selling 50/50 raffle tickets and sharing Rotary's mission with concert attendees.

When patrons learned that half of the raffle proceeds would benefit Heart and Soul Free Clinic, a local nonprofit that provides compassionate healthcare to those in need, enthusiasm grew even stronger. Despite a smaller-than-usual crowd, the raffle raised an impressive \$850, with \$425 awarded to the lucky winner and \$425 donated to Heart and Soul Free Clinic to support its vital work in our community.

Throughout the year, the Rotary Club of Westfield can be found cleaning sections of the Midland Trace Trail, delivering Meals on Wheels, raising funds for Westfield Youth Assistance, supporting Open Doors of Westfield, and partnering with numerous local organizations to improve the lives of others.

See *Rotary* . . . Page 2



Photo provided by Rotary Club of Westfield
Rotarians John Salladay and Bruce Watson weave through the crowd, enthusiastically selling raffle tickets and engaging with concertgoers. Their efforts represent just one example of the many ways Rotary members invest their time and talents to strengthen the Westfield community.

Carmel Fire warns of lithium-ion battery and charger fire risks

By **HANNA MORDOH & JUSTIN RAZAVI**
WISH-TV | wistv.com

The Carmel Fire Department is warning people to watch out for lithium-ion batteries and charging equipment.

Early last week, firefighters said their crews responded to a garage filled with smoke. The cause was batteries that had been left charging.

"If you walked into your garage right now, would you find a drill, weed trimmer, leaf blower, e-bike, scooter, or other battery-powered tool plugged in? Most of us would," Carmel FD posted on Facebook. "Unfortunately, we're responding more than ever to house fires and close calls caused by lithium-ion batteries and charging equipment."

The department's public information officer, Tim Griffin, said in an interview, "Over the last year, we've seen such an uptick in fires in garages and areas where chargers are."

Griffin estimated that at least half of the garage fires the agency has seen in the last year were related to charging instruments and battery-powered devices. He said his best advice to prevent this type of fire is to avoid buying replacement batteries for devices that are made by third-party manufacturers.

"So you have a brand name tool and then you get on Amazon when the battery goes bad, or you damage it, and you buy an off-market brand," he said. "[Instead] you really want to make sure that you're buying the same brand."

According to the fire department, charging batteries is not inherently dangerous, but leaving them plugged in indefinitely,

See *Charger Fire* . . . Page 2

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ROTARY

LLAMAS!

from Page 1

from Page 1

Whether serving meals, organizing fundraisers, or volunteering at community events, Rotarians are united by a shared commitment to making a positive difference.

The Rotary Club of Westfield invites anyone with a heart for service to learn more about becoming a member. In addition to hands-on volunteer opportunities, members enjoy outstanding weekly programs featuring local leaders, community organizations, and inspiring speakers.

You'll have another opportunity to meet Westfield Rotarians at the final Cool Creek Park concert of the season this Friday, where they'll once again be serving food and selling 50/50 raffle tickets. This week's beneficiary is Special Olympics of Hamilton County, with half of the raffle proceeds supporting its incredible athletes and programs. Concertgoers can also enjoy a performance by Midtown Madmen.

If you're looking for a meaningful way to give back, build lasting friendships, and make a tangible impact in the community, consider joining the Rotary Club of Westfield. Visitors are always welcome at meetings and events.

The club meets almost every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at The Bridgewater Club in Westfield.

To learn more about upcoming events, weekly speakers, or membership opportunities, visit westfieldrotaryin.com.

Together, we can continue living Rotary's motto: "Service Above Self."



Reporter photo by Aida Karim

Llama fashionistas and their human handlers strut their stuff at the 4-H llama costume contest on Saturday, July 18.

It reminded him of his uncle who had passed away a couple of years ago.

Once Walters found out he won grand champion, he said he felt surprised and "unbelievably excited."

"We [Walters and his mother] keep joking around that we keep raising the bar on ourselves," Walters said. "I don't really know exactly what our costume is gonna be next year, but it's gonna be bigger and better."

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CHARGER FIRE

from Page 1



using damaged batteries or chargers, or charging them in areas with combustible materials can increase the risk of fire.

Crews are urging people to unplug tools and devices once they are charged.

Fire crews offer these simple reminders:

- Charge batteries according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Unplug electronics once fully charged.
- Charge them in a well-ventilated area away from anything that can burn.
- Never use damaged batteries or chargers.

The Facebook post read, "Take a minute tonight to walk through your



Photos provided by Carmel Fire Department

garage. Unplug anything that's finished charging; it only takes a few seconds and could help prevent a fire."

The Carmel Fire Department said, thankfully, in this most recent case, the smoke was noticed early, and a quick response by

firefighters prevented what could have become a much more serious fire.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/news/local-news/carmel-fire-department-warns-of-lithium-ion-battery-and-charger-fire-risks](https://www.wishtv.com/news/local-news/carmel-fire-department-warns-of-lithium-ion-battery-and-charger-fire-risks).

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CFD Public Education Officer Renee Butts rbutts@carmel.in.gov

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NATURE

from Page 1

Nature is a reminder that there is something so much bigger than the small lives we sometimes limit ourselves to. It feels like there are endless possibilities and sparks a creative energy in me.

Before the duo bike, I had not experienced nature like that since I was a little girl when I was able to ride my bike all over town. I was not noticing the same beauty then, as I do now.

My son, who recently went on a hiking trip to The Grand Tetons, said, "at times, the scenery was so beautiful it was hard to focus my eyes." I loved that, and I understand what he means.

It can be hard for our minds to comprehend that such beauty can exist.

To me, nature now serves as a reminder that there are possibilities that I have not yet explored. I can find peace and calm, in a sometimes grueling and stressful life.

The best part about it is, that it is free and open to anyone who has a desire to connect. While the world is shouting, nature whispers. The sounds and smells of nature can be every bit as intoxicating as what our eyes can see.

A couple of weeks ago,

I was sitting on my back patio reading a book. I was in a bit of a funk because things were just feeling so heavy and difficult that day. As I sat there, I kept hearing chirp, chirp, chirp. At first, I did not look up and kept reading, but it felt so near and was so persistent. I looked up to see a stunning cardinal staring back at me.

In that moment, the heaviness vanished and turned to peace, as the cardinal and I looked at one another. He chirped a few more times while staring at me and then flew away.

If life is feeling heavy right now, or you just need a reminder that there is more to life than the woes of our physical bodies, get outside. Go for a bike ride, a walk or just simply sit and be still.

We all deserve a warm embrace from Mother Nature.

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 hum-blycourageous.org and reach her on Instagram @ashinneman.

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‘Mega breaches’ and AI drive surge in data breach notifications

By KARA KENNEY
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A new report highlights the growing impact of “mega breaches,” data breaches that result in more than 100 million victim notices.

When a company or government agency experiences a data breach, it is legally required to notify individuals if their personal information was compromised.

The Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC) released its **Data Breach Report** for the first half of 2026. It found that 471.2 million victim notices were issued in the first six months of the year, far surpassing the 297.5 million sent in 2025.

“If you stacked up all of the victim notices that were issued in the first six months, they would reach into space,” said James Lee, president of the ITRC.

Mega breaches, like the one that affected the **education platform Canvas**, are driving the increase, Lee said. The Canvas compromise prompted an estimated 275 million victim notices.

“We have already surpassed the number of victim notices issued last year, and if we stay on the same pace we’re on for actual data breaches this year, we will set another record,” Lee said. “We’ll exceed 3,600 data breaches in a single year for the first time if we stay on this same pace.”

Lee said artificial intelligence is also driving the increase. AI software can find software flaws at a rate humans cannot match.

The ITRC report also notes a spike in malicious insider attacks, which can include employees, former employees and vendors with access to personal information.

“The most we had ever seen data breaches caused by insider employees was two, and that was several years ago. We’ve already had 21 instances just this year,” Lee said. “That stands out to me that what is going on with the economy right now, with mass layoffs – particularly in the technology sector – is having an impact.”

The ITRC recommends that individuals freeze their credit files via **FrozenPIL.com**, switch to **passkeys** to prevent credential theft and enable multifactor authentication.

For businesses, the ITRC advises adopting a “zero-trust” architecture, implementing “least-privilege” access controls to combat insider threats, vetting supply chain vendors in real time and prioritizing transparency by voluntarily

disclosing attack vectors to build consumer trust.

“Don’t wait to fight back,” Lee said. “Go ahead and build your defenses before any of this ever happens.”

Due to the Canvas breach, the technology sector saw the highest volume of victim notices. By sector, financial services recorded the highest number of compromises at 387, according to the ITRC.

Healthcare compromises rose to 281, reversing a slight downward trend from the previous year. Manufacturing also experienced a surge, producing 74 million victim notices compared to 1.97 million in 2025.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/i-team/mega-breaches-driving-increase-in-victim-notifications-hits-record-high.

Indiana said no to phones in school. Now parents have to say it at home.

As the new school year starts, Indiana students will spend their school day without the constant pull of smartphones. Governor Mike Braun and the Indiana General Assembly deserve credit for recognizing what teachers have known for years: children cannot learn when every lesson competes with a notification. In an era when nearly every issue becomes political, this one should not.

Indiana’s new bell-to-bell cellphone law is one of the most meaningful child wellness policies our state has adopted in recent years. The average American teenager spends more than seven hours a day on screens outside of school, more time than most of them sleep, and among heavy users, roughly one in four reports symptoms of anxiety or depression. Teen depression doubled between 2011 and 2021, a period that tracks almost exactly with the rise of smartphones as constant companions. The law sends a clear message that schools exist to educate children, not to compete with social media companies for their attention.

As a physician, I applaud that decision. As a father, I know it is not enough. I remember a night not long ago when my daughter was telling me about her day while I nodded along, phone in hand, half-reading an email I had already read twice. She stopped talking. Not because she was angry. Not because she was hurt. She simply learned, somewhere along the way, that she was competing with something she could not beat. That moment has

stayed with me far longer than the email ever did.

If a physician who spends his career studying health behavior still struggles with these habits, I can only imagine how difficult they are to overcome after a long shift or a day that left nothing in reserve. We are raising children in a world deliberately designed to distract all of us. For years, we have asked schools to solve a problem we created at home.

The biggest obstacle to this law’s success is not sitting in a classroom. It is sitting around our dinner tables. It is resting in our pockets. Our children are watching us far more than they are listening to us. We tell them to put their phones away in class, then they watch us answer texts during dinner. We tell them to pay attention, then they watch us interrupt conversations because our watch vibrated. We tell them relationships matter, then they watch us choose a screen over the people sitting beside us. Children learn far more from what we model than from what we say.

Parents sometimes talk about smartphones as though they simply appeared in childhood. They did not. Children do not buy smartphones. They do not pay wireless bills. They do not decide whether phones belong at the dinner table, in bedrooms, or on family vacations. Those decisions belong to us and that reality is uncomfortable precisely because it places responsibility exactly where it belongs.

See *Phones . . .* Page 5



Westfield International Passport invites residents to explore a world of local flavors

Submitted by
City of Westfield

The City of Westfield is launching the Westfield International Passport, a free digital experience that encourages residents and visitors to explore more than 30 locally owned restaurants, markets, and businesses offering international cuisine and experiences.

From Korean barbecue and Japanese ramen to Venezuelan dishes, Mediterranean favorites, Mexican cuisine, Italian meals and French-inspired pastries, the passport showcases a side of Westfield’s dining scene that people may not expect.

“Westfield has developed an exciting and increasingly diverse food

scene,” Mayor Scott Willis said. “The International Passport gives residents and visitors a fun reason to try somewhere new while supporting the local entrepreneurs and businesses that help make our community unique.”

Participants can sign up for the passport at DiscoverWestfieldIN.com/wip. No app download is required. After registering, participants can use their phones to check in when they visit participating locations. Each check-in earns 100 points that can be redeemed for prizes while supplies last.

Participating locations include restaurants and markets serving food inspired by countries and

cultures across Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. Featured businesses include Chiba, Jawdi Grill, Kizuki Ramen & Izakaya, Korean BBQ & Chicken, Pasto Italiano, Thai Isaan, Tous Les Jours, Venezuelan Cheat Meal, and many more.

The passport will also offer special check-in opportunities at the Westfield Farmers Market and Westfield International Festival, where visitors can experience additional international food vendors and cultural activities.

Whether planning a date night or gathering the family for lunch or dinner, participants can use the passport to discover the variety of cuisine available

throughout Westfield.

The Westfield International Passport is available year-round. The list of participating businesses and prize information may change as new locations join and supplies are available.

To register and view the complete list of participating locations, visit DiscoverWestfieldIN.com/wip.

How the passport works

- Visit DiscoverWestfieldIN.com/wip.
- Register for the free digital passport.
- Visit a participating restaurant, market, or event.
- Check in using your phone to earn 100 points.
- Redeem accumulated points for available prizes.



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Abrams EyeCare announces major leadership transition

Welcoming Dr. Chandler Mitchell & celebrating Dr. John Abrams' retirement

Submitted
Abrams EyeCare, 1320 City Center Drive, Carmel, announces the retirement of founder and ophthalmologist Dr. John Abrams, who will conclude his distinguished clinical career on July 31 after four decades of dedicated service to patients throughout Central Indiana.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Abrams has cared for generations of families while helping establish Abrams EyeCare as one of Central Indiana's most respected eye care organizations. Known for his commitment to clinical excellence, compassionate patient care, and community service, Dr. Abrams has made a lasting impact far beyond the scope of the practice of ophthalmology.

In addition to his work caring for thousands of patients, Dr. Abrams has maintained a long history of philanthropy and community involvement. He has been an active supporter of numerous charitable organizations and initiatives throughout Indiana, including his involvement with the Dropping Dimes Foundation, Damar Services, the Pacers Foundation, and other community-focused efforts.

Dr. Abrams has also played a significant role in Indiana's sports community. Throughout his career, he has served as an ophthalmologist for the Indiana Pacers, Indiana Fever, Butler University Athletics, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, local high schools, and numerous other athletic organi-

zations, providing specialized eye care services to professional, collegiate, scholastic, and recreational athletes. While retiring from clinical practice at Abrams EyeCare, Dr. Abrams plans to continue caring for sports teams for at least 10 more years with a goal of reaching 30 seasons as the eye physician for the Indiana Pacers.

"It has been a tremendous privilege to care for patients and families throughout Central Indiana," Dr. Abrams said. "I have been equally fortunate to work with outstanding community organizations, charitable causes, and athletic programs over the year. The relationships I have built with patients, colleagues, coaches, athletes, and community leaders have been among the greatest rewards of my career. I am deeply grateful for the trust our patients have placed in me. I know Abrams EyeCare's future is in excellent hands."

As part of a long-planned leadership transition, Dr. Leslie Abrams Tobe and Dr. Michael Hopen will assume expanded ownership and leadership responsibilities while continuing to provide exceptional patient care.

"What Dr. Abrams built extends far beyond a medical practice," Dr. Tobe said. "He created a culture centered on exceptional patient care, integrity, service, and community involvement. His influence can be seen not only

in the patients he cared for, but also in the people he mentored, the organizations he supported, and the countless lives he touched throughout his career. We are grateful for his leadership and committed to carrying his vision forward."

Today, Abrams EyeCare serves patients across three Central Indiana locations with a comprehensive team that includes three ophthalmologists, four optometrists, and more than 50 dedicated employees. The organization remains committed to providing the same personalized, high-quality care that patients have trusted since Dr. J.J. Abrams began his optometry practice in 1950.

To support continued growth and patient access, Abrams EyeCare is also pleased to announce the addition of ophthalmologist Dr. Chandler Mitchell, who will join the practice on Aug. 3. Dr. Mitchell grew up on the southside of Indianapolis, attended Butler University, and the Indiana University School of Medicine.

Dr. Mitchell brings advanced ophthalmic training, a patient-centered approach, and a commitment to clinical excellence. His arrival strengthens the organization's ability to provide comprehensive medical and surgical eye care services throughout Central Indiana and reflects Abrams EyeCare's commitment to investing in the future of patient care.



Abrams

Community News

Donate school supplies at Culver's of Westfield

Culver's of Westfield is assisting the Options School of Westfield with a Fill the Bus with School Supplies Event from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4.

No purchase is required; all the community needs to do is donate school supplies.

Culver's is located at 17651 Sun Park Drive, Westfield.

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McCool's Flooring expands Carmel presence with new 10,000 square-foot showroom

Submitted
McCool's Flooring has opened its new Carmel showroom at 146th Street and Carey Road, marking the next chapter for a company that started as a small family business in Kokomo in 1967 and has grown into one of the largest independent flooring retailers in Indiana.

McCool's Flooring credits its growth to an exceptional work ethic, long-standing partnerships with leading manufacturers, and convenient locations serving Hamilton, Howard, and Hendricks counties.

Just as importantly, the company gives God the glory, honoring Him in everything it does and trusting that His wisdom, favor, and blessings have guided its journey.

After 25 years in its boutique showroom on West Carmel Drive, McCool's Flooring invested in a stand-

alone facility designed to better serve its customers, support its team, and position the company for continued growth and success.

The new showroom spans more than 10,000 square feet and offers an interactive, curated shopping experience where customers can explore a wide selection of flooring materials, compare products, and collaborate with flooring consultants who combine design insight with in-depth technical knowledge to help clients select the right products for their homes.

"Our new showroom reflects who we are today and our commitment to the future," said Doug McCool, owner of McCool's Flooring. "It gives us a permanent home in Carmel where we can continue building lasting relationships, providing



exceptional service, and creating an even better experience for everyone who walks through our doors. Everything we do has always been guided by our commitment to faith, family, and flooring, and this new showroom allows us to continue living out those values every day."

Founded in 1967 by Virgil and Carole McCool, McCool's Flooring remains proudly family-owned and operated. Today Doug and Carmen McCool, alongside children Luke and Raegan, lead the company, continuing its legacy of quality, service, and values.

The expanded space features an enhanced product assortment, including hard-

wood, carpet, waterproof flooring, laminate, and custom area rugs, while creating a more welcoming and comfortable environment for homeowners, designers, contractors, and other industry professionals to explore products and plan projects of any scale.

While the address has changed, McCool's Flooring's mission remains the same: "Guided by How We Serve: Faith, Family, Flooring."

The new Carmel showroom is now open, inviting visitors to experience the McCool's Way of doing business, where its values guide everything it does.

Find out more at mccoolsflooring.com.

PHONES

These platforms are not designed to help our children put them down. They are designed to keep them scrolling. Every notification is engineered to capture one thing: attention. Adults struggle to resist that same pull, and we should not be surprised that children do too. Schools can set boundaries during the day, but only parents can shape habits for life.

That does not require an elaborate family technology plan. It begins with a few quiet decisions. Phones stay off the dinner table. They charge in the kitchen instead of the bedroom. When your child wants to tell you about their day, your phone stays in your pocket. Not because they need another lecture about screen time, but because they need your undivided attention, and they will remember whether you gave

it to them.

Perhaps the defining parenting mistake of the past decade has been confusing presence with availability. We have made ourselves available to everyone through our phones while becoming less present for the people sitting right in front of us. Those are not the same thing, and children understand the difference even if they cannot explain it. We cannot ask schools to teach attention while we model distraction.

The state has acted. In signing this law, Governor Braun did something rare in American politics: he prioritized the long-term health of children over short-term convenience. Now it is time for parents to do the same. Years from now, our children probably will not remember whether we answered one more email or responded to one more

text. They will remember whether we looked up.

Dr. Raja Ramaswamy is Vice President and Physi-

from Page 4

cian Director of Health and Wellness at IU Health and author of "YOU Are the New Prescription."

The Dani Robinson difference

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- What is my process for buying a home?
- Who should I call for home repairs/remodeling?
- How do I learn about building a new home?
- Who should I call to refinance my home?
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Carmel Gateway celebrates completion of KSM headquarters

Submitted

Carmel Gateway, a large suburban office park in Central Indiana, celebrated the completion of the new Katz, Sapper & Miller (KSM) headquarters on the connected campus with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, July 16.

The move of KSM from the 800 building at Carmel Gateway to a larger office space on campus represents growth, success, and a continued partnership with the professional services firm as it expands its footprint to meet the unique needs of their team. Carmel Gateway works closely with tenants to create spaces that align with their unique needs and goals, fostering a workplace that enhances productivity, satisfaction, and work-life balance.

Founded in Indianapolis in 1942, KSM is a leading employee-owned accounting and advisory firm. Its new headquarters inside the 600 building of Carmel Gateway spans more than 98,500 square feet of space, including the full third and fourth floor of the building and partial use of the first and second floors. Burnside Builders completed the construction project, with design by DELV Design.

KSM's new footprint features a welcome café with a Starbucks menu, training center, grand staircase between levels, and a second-floor recreation area.

Eye-catching design details throughout the space include leather panel walls,



Photo provided by Carmel Gateway

collaborative seating spaces, meeting spaces equipped with the latest modern technology, trellis features with plants as well as heavy interior landscape and natural lit workspaces thanks to the open floor plan and intentional window lines connecting the space.

“Carmel Gateway continues to set itself apart through intentional investments that elevate the tenant and employee experience,” Carmel Gateway Property Manager Patrick Moyers said. “Our commitment to innovation and thoughtfully-designed amenities has positioned us as a leader in the office market, which is reflected in the growing number of companies choosing Carmel Gateway as their workplace or in this case, expanding their current footprint to meet the needs of their growing business.”

KSM moved from the east side of the Carmel Gateway campus to the 600 building on the west side of campus, in close proximity to the PARC amenities building featuring a café, conference space, and state-of-the-art fitness center. The new office space is right across the street from the newly opened Carmel Gateway West Lawn, a more than two-acre green space with tiered limestone block seating, a waterside backdrop, and amphitheater space with full AV capabilities.

Carmel Gateway is owned by the affiliates of Philadelphia-based Rubenstein Partners, L.P., a registered investment advisor and fund manager, and leased by Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), a global provider of real estate and investment management services. The Indianapolis-based team at JLL won

Transaction of the Year in 2024 from NAIOP Real Estate Awards for this deal.

In 2026, Carmel Gateway also welcomed Evans May Advisory, Proteus Capital, UnitedHealth Group, NVR Title, and Ryan Homes to campus. The growth comes on the heels of the office park undergoing more than \$52 million worth of capital improvements in recent years to benefit the tenant and employee work experience with upgrades such as a state-of-the-art gym, designer lobbies with lighting, and artwork selections imported from Europe, development of outdoor green spaces inclusive of both the East and West Lawns, bike trails, gated pickleball courts, on-site café with expansive menu options, and outdoor meeting areas.

For more information, visit CarmelGateway.com.

Indiana State of Owner Readiness Survey can help business owners plan their next steps

Submitted by Office of Governor Mike Braun

Governor Mike Braun, in partnership with the [Exit Planning Institute®](https://ExitPlanningInstitute.com) (EPI), announced on Tuesday, July 28, the launch of the Indiana State of Owner Readiness™ Survey, a statewide initiative designed to assess how prepared Indiana business owners are for future ownership transitions and long-term sustainability.



Braun

The survey supports the work of the Keep IN Initiative, created Gov. Braun's administration earlier this year. Led by the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (OEI), the initiative helps Indiana business owners access the education, resources and planning tools needed to keep their businesses strong by reducing avoidable closures resulting from poor succession and transition planning.

“Indiana’s small businesses are the backbone of our state’s economy and helping them remain strong is a cornerstone of my administration,” Gov. Braun said. “The Keep IN Initiative gets to the heart of that work, making sure government is working entrepreneurially alongside business owners to strengthen businesses and communities across our state.”

Indiana business owners are encouraged to participate in the confidential survey, which will provide critical insights into the current state of business owner readiness throughout the state. Findings will be compiled into the inaugural Indiana State of Owner Readiness™ Report, a first-of-its-kind assessment intended to help business owners, advisors, policymakers, and economic development leaders better understand the chal-

lenges and opportunities surrounding business transition planning.

“Too many business owners don’t begin planning for the future until a transition is already on the horizon,” said Josh Koza, Director of Strategic Relationships at the EPI. “This partnership is an opportunity to change that by equipping Indiana entrepreneurs with the education, resources, and framework they need to build stronger, more valuable, and transition-ready businesses. When business owners are better prepared, the impact extends far beyond the individual company – strengthening families, preserving jobs, and contributing to a more resilient economy across Indiana.”

Research has shown that three out of four business owners profoundly regret selling their business within one year of the transaction, often because they were not adequately prepared for the transition. Understanding where Indiana business owners currently stand is essential to developing effective support systems and educational resources that lead to stronger business outcomes.

The Indiana State of Owner Readiness™ Survey is intended for owners of privately held businesses located in Indiana and takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Responses are completely confidential; no personally identifiable information is collected, and individual responses will never be published. Results will be reported only in aggregate form.

Hoosier business owners are encouraged to participate in the Indiana State of Owner Readiness™ Survey at [this link](https://thislink).

Orr Fellowship opens applications for 2027 cohort

Submitted

Orr Fellowship, an early career development program for versatile high-achievers and future-focused businesses in Indiana, announced Tuesday, July 28, it is accepting applications for its 2027 cohort of Orr Fellows in both Indianapolis and Evansville. Applications are due by Sept. 25.

Founded in 2001, Orr

Fellowship recruits, assesses, and matches university graduates with high-agency roles in growing Indiana businesses in Central Indiana and Southwest Indiana. Together, Orr Fellowship and its partner companies give



Orr Fellowship

graduates the professional development resources and support network they need to accelerate their careers.

By providing immersive professional experiences, mentorship and leadership opportunities, Orr Fellow-

ship strengthens Indiana’s workforce pipeline, empowering early-career talent to grow and thrive here, now and into the future. Notably, one in four members of the most recent graduating class of Orr Fellows come from outside the Hoosier State, bringing top talent and future leaders to Indiana.

See *Orr . . . Page 7*

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Grand opening set for Traditions of Westfield senior community

Submitted
Initial construction is now complete at Traditions of Westfield, a new 147-unit senior living community serving Central Indiana and bringing up to 80 jobs to the area.

Residents, guests, and community leaders will celebrate with a special Grand Opening ceremony from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, at 17939 Dartown Road.

“Traditions of Westfield is a beautiful new community that we’ve created to maximize the quality of life for residents by making them feel at home and empowering the staff who care for them,” said Bill Morton, managing director of Leo Brown Group. “The design and construction here reflect care and excellence, because we know we are creating not just homes for our guests but also welcoming spaces for their families and friends.”

Traditions of Westfield offers best-in-class amenities and a convenient location. Residents have access to restaurant-style fine dining, an outdoor rooftop lounge, a fitness center, beauty salon/barber, library, chapel, 24-hour nursing, emergency response systems, transportation, and other amenities. As residents’ needs evolve, they can easily transition between independent living, assisted living and memory care, all in the same community.

Early interest in Traditions of Westfield has been so positive that an expansion is already underway, with a



recent groundbreaking for 25 additional independent living villas at the site.

Located near the intersection of Dartown Road and State Road 32, Traditions of Westfield offers convenient access to walking trails, restaurants, shopping and the 400-acre Grand Park Sports Campus, site of the Indianapolis Colts’ Training Camp.

Information about Traditions of Westfield is available at traditionswestfield.com or by calling (317) 666-9654.

Traditions Management, an affiliate of the Leo Brown Group, will manage the day-to-day operations of Traditions of Westfield. Traditions operates from headquarters in Carmel, from which it owns or operates 30 senior living communities in Florida, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Kentucky. The Varietas Memory Care Program by Traditions is a person-centered model with intentional thought in the physical environment,



Photos provided by Traditions

meaningful engagement and continuing education for staff and family.

About Leo Brown Group
Formed in 2006, Leo Brown Group, LLC is a privately held company located in Carmel with a primary focus on the development, ownership, and operations of senior living properties.

About Traditions
Based in Carmel, Traditions Management is the senior living operating arm of Leo Brown Group and currently manages over 2,500 units of senior living

throughout the Midwest and Florida. Traditions is consistently ranked in Argentum’s annual list of the largest senior living operators in the U.S. Traditions’ mission is to maximize the quality of life for each and every resident by providing the highest level of care and service.

ORR

“Every year, Orr Fellowship brings together some of the brightest emerging professionals who are eager to make an impact in Indiana,” Orr Fellowship President Steven Emch said. “We’re excited to welcome the next class of ambitious, dedicated and purpose-driven candidates who are ready to launch meaningful careers while helping shape the future of our communities. If you’re looking for an opportunity to grow as a leader and accelerate your career, this is where your journey begins.”

Orr Fellowship boasts a network of more than 700 alumni from universities across the U.S. The program’s recent graduates have worked with some of Indiana’s most dynamic and high-growth companies and organizations, including Indiana University, Old National Bank, OPENLANE, Robert Dietrick Company, The Annex Group, The MJ Companies, Stitch, Cloud Accountant Staffing, Covideo, and The Heritage Group.

Fellows are hired full-time for a variety of job functions, ranging from marketing to engineering to consulting, sales and more. These roles span industries, from small startups to enterprise-level global organizations.

“Orr Fellowship gave me the chance to start my career in a role where I could experiment, build new skills and be trusted with meaningful work early,” said Bo

Dietrick, president of Robert Dietrick Company and alumnus of Orr Fellowship. “Now, as a partner company, we see that same drive in the Fellows who join our team. They bring curiosity, energy and new perspectives that push us to think differently and move faster as a business. For students who want to make an impact right away, and for companies that want to invest in the next generation of leaders, Orr continues to be an incredible opportunity.”

Qualified candidates for the upcoming cohort must be anticipating graduation in August 2026, December 2026, or May 2027 and have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.2 or higher. Orr Fellows must have authorization to work in the United States and commit to living in Indianapolis or Evansville for two years. Candidates should demonstrate a desire to grow; previous internships and campus or extracurricular work experience; and leadership involvement in academic, professional or community settings. The Fellowship is a two-year commitment, with many Orr Fellows remaining with their partner company as they progress in their careers.

In addition to full-time employment with a partner company, Orr Fellows gain unparalleled career development, [an expedited pathway into the Kelley Evening MBA program](#) and [Butler University MBA program](#),

from Page 6

formal leadership training, networking opportunities, mentorship and community building within Indiana’s thriving business ecosystem.

College seniors who are anticipating graduation in the coming months or spring 2027 and are interested in pursuing Orr Fellowship can apply at orrfellowship.org/apply.

Orr Fellowship is also accepting partner company applications for both the Central Indiana and Evansville Region chapters. Apply to become an Orr Fellowship partner company at orrfellowship.org/partners.



NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS

Board Highlights

June & July 2026 Meetings

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

- The board recognized Noblesville High School students for their top placement in the state in an academic medical health competition.
- 2026 Teachers of the Year were recognized.
- Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) educators across the district were recognized for receiving Noblesville Schools’ ninth consecutive national STEM distinction.
- The board was recognized with highest honors by the Indiana School Boards Association.
- A presentation was made on the Superintendent Student Advisory Council.
- The board heard a strategic plan update on demographics and enrollment.
- Superintendent Hile presented on the referendum. Watch his remarks [here](#).
- Hamilton East Public Library presented its annual update to the school board.
- Noblesville Youth Baseball presented an update on the construction project at Hazel Dell Elementary. Go to noblesvilleschools.org/leadership/school-board for meeting agendas, minutes, videos, and more.



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Sen. Young introduces SAFE Act to crack down on “chameleon carriers”

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

On Tuesday, July 28, U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Andy Kim (D-N.J.) introduced the *Safety and Accountability in Freight Enforcement (SAFE) Act*, legislation to crack down on so-called “chameleon carriers” – unsafe trucking companies that evade federal oversight by shutting down and reopening under new identities to avoid penalties, enforcement actions, and poor safety records.

The legislation would require a comprehensive study to determine the scope and severity of the problem and direct the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to develop a mechanism to accurately detect chameleon carriers in the registration process, ensuring they are subject to enforcement for violations under the law.

“In recent years, we’ve seen chameleon carriers become a major issue on Indiana’s roads, putting Hoosiers at risk and punishing law-abiding truckers,” Sen. Young said. “When unsafe trucking companies evade enforcement by reopening under a new identity, everyone who shares the road with them is put at greater risk. Our bill will help federal regulators to identify these fraudulent operators before they hit the road, strengthening highway safety, and potentially saving lives.”

Comments from those in the industry

Gary Langston, President and CEO, Indiana Motor Truck Association:

“For too long, chameleon carriers have been able to shed their identities, reopen under new names, and escape accountability for serious safety violations. By exploiting weaknesses in the federal registration system, they have created an

uneven playing field where responsible carriers invest in compliance, training, and safe operations while bad actors simply start over with a clean slate. The SAFE Act would give federal regulators stronger tools to identify suspicious registration applications and stop these rogue operators from operating on our highways. We applaud Senator Young for his longstanding leadership to improve highway safety and support the hardworking trucking companies that play by the rules every day.”

Alex Rosen, SVP of Legislative Affairs, American Trucking Associations:

“Chameleon carriers are a plague on our nation’s highways, putting all motorists at risk while undercutting the vast majority of trucking companies that operate safely and play by the rules. This legislation will give FMCSA a more powerful and proactive tool to identify and stop these bad actors before they can evade accountability by reappearing under new names, ownership, or USDOT numbers. By leveraging advanced automation to flag suspicious registration applications, the agency will be better equipped to detect fraud, close loopholes, and keep unsafe carriers off our roads. Safety is a priority for our members, which is why we are grateful for the leadership of Senator Young and Senator Kim to strengthen federal oversight and build on the progress we’ve made alongside USDOT to remove high-risk carriers from our nation’s highways.”

Jim Mullen, President, Truckload Carriers Association:

“America’s trucking industry relies on a regulatory system that rewards safe and responsible operators. When bad actors evade enforcement and reenter the market through affiliated

entities, both safety and fair competition are compromised. The SAFE Act will strengthen industry trust by promoting accountability, protecting responsible carriers, and preventing those with serious violations from gaining an unfair advantage. This legislation fosters a healthier freight marketplace where safety and compliance are prioritized, and shippers can have greater confidence in their carriers. Ultimately, these measures will benefit motor carriers, drivers, customers, and the public by reinforcing a safe and competitive trucking industry. We applaud Senator Young and Senator Kim’s commitment to advancing transportation safety and urge Congress to enact the SAFE Act without delay.”

Ryan Streblov, President and CEO, National Tank Truck Carriers:

“Every motor carrier should be held to the same standards for safety accountability. Chameleon carriers undermine that principle by exploiting loopholes to evade enforcement, endangering the motoring public while creating an unfair disadvantage for responsible and compliant carriers. The SAFE Act will strengthen FMCSA’s ability to identify these bad actors before they can return to our roads under a new identity. NTTC strongly supports this commonsense legislation and commends Senator Young and Senator Kim for their leadership in protecting the integrity of the trucking industry and improving highway safety.”

Shannon Everett, Founding Partner, American Truckers United Inc.:

“American Truckers United supports the introduction of Senators Young’s



Young

and Kim’s SAFE Act, which reinforces oversight within the USDOT registration process and enhances accountability measures for carriers seeking to obtain or retain a USDOT number.

Todd Spencer, President, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association:

“Chameleon carriers have undermined America’s highway safety and damaged the professionalism of the trucking industry by evading enforcement, dodging penalties, and reopening under new identities. Law-abiding small business truckers strongly support Senator Young and Senator Kim’s bipartisan SAFE Act. This legislation

will help identify and weed out bad actors before they have the opportunity to ever become chameleon carriers, helping stop fraud before it occurs. OOIDA and our members applaud the introduction of this important bill in the Senate.”

Abby Godines, victim-volunteer with the Truck Safety Coalition:

“I lost three generations of family in a preventable truck crash caused by a chameleon carrier. It’s not a question of if, but when, these bad faith carriers will kill more people on our roads. The SAFE Act will save lives, and I am grateful for Senator Young and Senator Kim’s commitment to truck safety.”

The *Safety and Accountability in Freight Enforcement (SAFE) Act* would:

Require the Government

Accountability Office to study the prevalence of chameleon carriers, the crashes and fatalities associated with them, and provide recommendations for strengthening enforcement.

Direct FMCSA to develop, test, and implement an advanced automated tool that identifies applications exhibiting characteristics commonly associated with chameleon carriers, while ensuring final decisions remain with agency personnel.

Improve information sharing among federal and state agencies to better detect fraudulent registration applications.

Establish an appeals process for applicants incorrectly flagged by the system and require an audit of the tool’s effectiveness after implementation.

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

Limited opportunities remain to buy new home in Westfield’s Bonterra community

Submitted

Homebuyers have one final opportunity to own a townhome by residential homebuilder M/I Homes of Indiana in the Bonterra community.

The Westfield-area community of two-story townhomes is approaching closeout with fewer than 10 homesites remaining. Designed to offer the space and functionality of a single-family home, the neighborhood is located within the highly regarded Westfield Washington Schools district. The community has attracted buyers seeking a combination of modern home design, low-maintenance living,

and access to one of the area’s most sought-after school systems.

The remaining homes in Bonterra feature modern farmhouse-inspired architecture and open-concept floor plans beginning at approximately 2,000 square feet. Available layouts offer two or three bedrooms, two-car garages, and flexible living spaces that can accommodate home offices, guest rooms, or additional recreational use.

Community amenities include scenic ponds, green spaces, a dog park, and direct access to the Midland Trace Trail. Bonterra is near Westfield and Noblesville, providing residents

with convenient access to regional shopping, dining, and entertainment destinations. The planned Shops at Bonterra development is expected to add walkable retail and restaurant options within the community.

“This is the last opportunity to own a low-maintenance townhome in this highly desirable Westfield community, where flexible, modern layouts offer the perfect fit for a variety of lifestyles,” said Cassian Bernard, Area President of M/I Homes of Indiana.

For more information about Bonterra, [click here](#), and to learn more about M/I Homes of Indiana, [click here](#).

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Submitted by Tipton Community School Corp.

Tipton Community School Corporation Board Briefs is designed to share highlights from the most recent School Board of Trustees monthly meeting. Official minutes of each Board meeting are posted on the district website and are available for public viewing.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of School Trustees is Aug. 11. School board meetings are conducted from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the TCSC Board Room at the Administrative Offices and are open to the public.

Blue Future Awards

Superintendent Scott Jaworski and Missy Henry, Head Volleyball Coach, presented this month's Blue Future Award to members of the Tipton High School Volleyball team who helped the program earn the 2025-26 IHSVCA Team Academic Award.

The Blue Devils VB team is one of just 67 teams to earn the award out of more than 400 high schools across the state. To qualify, the cumulative grade-point average for the entire team for the year must be 3.5 or better. The team exceeded that benchmark with a GPA of over 3.6.

Congratulations to Chidalynn Beach, Addyson Chesshir, Anya Cline, Kelyn Everling, Shelby Fernung, Isabella Henderson, Sarah Jane Hill, Sophia Lopez, Natalie Moreland, Shaylan Morris, Emilie Mumbower, Lucy Roach, Makayla Schinlaub, and Olivia VanHook.

Board Secretary Kim-



(ABOVE LEFT) The Tipton High School Volleyball team was recognized with the Blue Future Award after earning the 2025-26 IHSVCA Team Academic Award, one of just 67 teams statewide to achieve a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5. The Blue Devils exceeded that benchmark with a team GPA above 3.6. (ABOVE RIGHT) Tipton High School senior Darci Dunn (center) is pictured with TCSC Ag Educators and Tipton FFA Chapter sponsors Jessica Higgenbotham and Stacey Hartley. She was recognized with a Blue Future Award for being selected as the District IV FFA President and Executive Committee member at the State FFA Convention, representing all 17 chapters across the district.



Photos provided by Tipton Community School Corporation

berly Fague recognized senior Darci Dunn who was sworn in as the District IV FFA President and an Executive Committee member at the State FFA Convention in June. The District IV President serves as the student leader for all FFA chapters in the district, not just their own chapter. There are 17 chapters in our district, and Darci is the student leader representing all of them. Congratulations on this tremendous accomplishment.

Spotlight on Schools

Superintendent Scott Jaworski provided facility updates and reviewed the district's Meal Debt Policy and Transportation Fee.

• Under the Meal Debt Policy, student accounts should remain funded; students may receive hot meals until their balance reaches \$30, after which an alternate reduced-price meal is provided. A la carte purchases will not be permitted

while accounts are negative, and unpaid balances may be sent to collections.

• The Transportation Fee remains at \$5 per student per round trip, designed for partial cost recovery with flexible funding options and protections for student participation. The fee is temporary and will be reviewed in June 2027.

Starting last year, as permitted under state provisions, Jaworski shared the rationale for assessing a nominal student fee. The fee supports essential instructional and communication tools, including PowerSchool Student Information System (SIS), ParentSquare Mass Communication, and paper resources for Grades K-2, as well as Communications/Supplemental Resource Fees for Grades 3-12. A fee will be assessed again this year pending Board approval.

In addition, Jaworski

provided updates on district facilities, the new Referendum Information segment on the district website, and details on Tipton's new Wireless Communication Device Policy. He said the transformation of the new elementary playground is nearly complete and it has been exciting to watch the progress. A special note of recognition was extended to the district's facilities and maintenance staff members, Eric Johnson and Mark Webster, for their extensive work along with Jessica Henricks, city partners, and community members who repurposed materials for the Kirkendall Trail. Johnson and Webster put in extra hours to refill the north half of the old playground with dirt and planted grass. Hendricks repainted the activity area north of the playground to give it vibrant colors. The city helped with removal of the old turf.

Recent facility improvements also include refreshed gym floors at Tipton Middle School and the Tipton High School Auxiliary Gym, creating a clean, updated multi-use space. The district's Referendum webpage continues to expand with factual, easy-to-access information for the community. Additionally, the new Wireless Communication Device Policy has been posted online to help families understand expectations and access key details.

Jaworski's preview for the August meeting topics include: 2026-27 Certified Appraisal Plan, Second Reading of Updated Food Service Policies, Extracurricular Accounts Schedule of Balances, and Beginning of School Year Highlights.

Assistant Superintendent Report
Prepared by Dr. Ryan Glaze

Key updates highlight-

ed district sponsorships and upcoming professional learning events, recent assessment developments, accountability planning, and notable staff contributions across the district.

Preliminary 2026 ILEARN data remains under embargo until after the August State Board meeting with finalized results expected in August or September. Because the new testing model combines checkpoints with the summative assessment, year-to-year comparisons will be limited. Early districtwide results are encouraging, with strong math performance across several grades and areas for improvement in elementary ELA, sixth-grade ELA, and overall seventh-grade results. With staffing changes in sixth-grade ELA, the district anticipates positive instructional gains. Based

See Board . . . Page 11



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BOARD

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on current data, Tipton Elementary and Tipton High School appear well positioned under Indiana’s new A–F accountability model, while middle school results present mixed performance and clear opportunities for targeted improvement.

The high school completed its first administration of the Grade 12 Government ILEARN assessment this spring. While the results do not impact the school’s accountability grade, they provide useful curriculum insights and may contribute additional points under the new model. Combined with a strong graduation rate and solid Biology performance, Tipton High School is well positioned as accountability calculations are finalized. As more state data is released, a full analysis and projected accountability grades will be shared with the Board.

Shout Outs:

- **Custodial Team:** Recognized for exceptional work restoring the middle school’s terrazzo floors.
- **Eric Johnson & Mark Weaver:** Commended for preparing and reseeding the former playground area, creating a new green space.
- **Steven Gingerich & Peggy Georgi:** Applauded for developing the district’s referendum website, ensuring clear, accessible communication for the community.
- **Scott Jaworski:** Praised for outstanding leadership.

Director of Food Service Report
Prepared by
Adam Proloux

The 2025-26 school year has officially closed, with kitchens cleaned and shut down for summer. Staff are preparing software, orders, menus, schedules, and other operational needs for the coming year. Summer meal service averaged 24 students per day. The department is filling one open high school position and continues reviewing candidates for two openings in the middle school/elementary school kitchen.

New Business
2027 Budget
Timeline approved

The Board approved the 2027 Budget Timeline as required annually by the Department of Local Government Finance. The

calendar outlines key dates for the upcoming budget process including the public hearing on Sept. 22 and final adoption on Oct. 13, 2026. Approval of the timeline allows the district to proceed with the required development, public notice, hearing, and adoption steps.

2026-27 Handbooks
approved

The Board approved the updated 2026-27 student handbooks, which reflect recent legislative changes and other necessary revisions for the upcoming school year pending recommended updates to personal days and new and existing driver language in the Transportation segment. Each handbook was accompanied by a memo outlining updates from 2025-26 school year previously shared with the Board for review and comment.

KASEC Joint Services
Agreement approved

The Board approved the annual Joint Services Agreement with the Kokomo Area Special Education Cooperative (KASEC) formalizing TCSC’s continued participation in the cooperative alongside other member districts. This agreement ensures ongoing access to special education programs, services, staffing, and supports for eligible students while maintaining TCSC’s responsibilities as a member district.

Franciscan Health
Sports Medicine MOU
Agreement approved

The Board approved a three-year memorandum of understanding with Franciscan Health to continue athletic training and sports medicine services for Tipton High School contingent on recommended updates by board member, Tami Brown. The agreement provides athletic trainer coverage for high school athletics, support for home IHSAA events, coverage for away varsity football games, physician support for varsity football, and consultation, injury prevention, and treatment services. Costs are set at \$18,000 in year one, \$21,000 in year two, and \$25,000 in year three, covering July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

Communications/
Supplemental Resource
Fee for 2026-27 approval

The Board approved the

2026-27 Communications/Supplemental Resource Fee, permitted under HEA 1002 (2023), which allows schools to charge reasonable fees for non-curricular materials that support instruction. Based on projected costs, the fee will be set at \$40 for students in grades K-2 and \$45 for students in grades 3-12.

Professional Services
Agreement with
Dr. Melody Marley
approved

The Board approved a professional services agreement with Dr. Melody Marley for the 2026-27 school year. Under the agreement, Dr. Marley will review and sign Medicaid orders generated by TCSC with total compensation set at a flat fee of \$500.

First Reading:
Wellness & Meal Debt
Policy update

Following the Food Service Audit this spring, the district is required to update Policy A275, F175, and F176.

• **Policy A275** establishes the Corporation’s commitment to student wellness through nutrition education, healthy food standards, physical activity, public participation, and regular review of wellness practices.

• **Policy F175** establishes procedures for collecting debts owed to the school corporation, documenting collection efforts, authorizing limited debt forgiveness or write-offs under defined circumstances, and properly handling remaining positive account balances.

• **Policy F176** establishes procedures for managing unpaid student meal balances, including family notifications, charging limits, alternate meals, collection efforts, appeals, and the handling of inactive accounts.

ClaimAid School-Based
Medicaid Billing
Services Agreement
approved

The Board approved an agreement with ClaimAid Consulting Corporation to support school-based Medicaid billing. ClaimAid will handle claim preparation, submission, follow-up, and reconciliation, while TCSC maintains responsibility for eligibility, documentation, program oversight, and compliance. ClaimAid will receive 8 percent of the federal portion of success-

ful reimbursements with no fee for denied claims. The agreement meets the requirements of Indiana Senate Bill 200.

2026-27 Advisory
Committees formed

TCSC has established its 2026-27 School Board Advisory Committees. Each focuses on key areas of district operations and planning and first meeting dates:

- **School Finance Committee:** Eric Underwood, Rob Cochrane, and Tami Brown

- **Academics & Teacher Development Committee:** Beth Woelfert and Jennifer Humrichous

- **Communications, Public Relations, & Culture Committee:** Andrea Campbell and Kimberly Fague

- **Wellness Committee:** Tami Brown

- **Safety Committee:** Kimberly Fague.

In other board activity, TES Teacher Paula Stevens was recognized for perfect attendance for both 2024-25 and 2025-26. Superintendent Scott Jaworski commented that this is truly an outstanding achievement. TMS Principal John Ayars introduced and welcomed Ashley Higgins, the new sixth-grade English Language Arts teacher.

THS Student Body President Kennedy Lancaster requested permission to revive the tradition of decorating senior parking spots with students submitting designs in advance and repainting spaces to original condition at year’s end. Board President Rob Cochrane asked Dr. Glaze to work with Principal Leach to determine feasibility, outline guidelines, and explore directing any associated fees toward meal account balances.

Important Dates

- Aug. 3: TMS Rocks (sixth grade)
- Aug. 4: Teacher Work-day
- Aug. 4: THS Blue Devil Kick Off (freshman)
- Aug. 4: Blue Devil

Bash/Open House, 4 to 7 p.m.

- Aug. 5: Staff Prof. Development Day

- Aug. 6: First Day for Students
- Aug. 11: TCSC School Board Meeting

— CARMEL —

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received:
By: Carmel Clay Schools
5201 East Main Street
Carmel, IN 46033
For: Carmel High School Stadium Phase 3
2390 E. Smoky Row
Carmel, IN 46032
At: Carmel Education Services Center
5201 East Main Street
Carmel, IN 46033
Until: 2:00 PM (local time), August 11, 2026
Bid Opening: Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00PM (local time), August 11, 2026, at the Carmel Education Services Center, 5201 E. Main Street, Carmel, IN 46032.
All work for the complete construction of the Project will be under one or more prime contracts with the Owner based on bids received and on combinations awarded. The Construction Manager will manage the construction of the Project. Construction shall be in full accordance with the Bidding Documents which are on file with the Owner and may be examined by prospective bidders at the following locations:
Office of the Construction Manager
The Skillman Corporation
3834 S. Emerson Avenue, Building A
Indianapolis, IN 46203
Prime and Non-Prime Contract Bidders must place an order on www.skillmanplanroom.com to be able to download documents electronically or request printed documents. There is no cost for downloading the bidding documents. Bidders desiring printed documents shall pay for the cost of printing, shipping and handling. Reprographic Services are provided by:
Eastern Engineering 9901 Allisonville Road, Fishers, IN 46038, Phone 317-598-0661.
WAGE SCALE: Wage Scale does not apply to this project.
A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on July 28, 2026 at 10:00AM, local time via Microsoft Teams Meeting (link below). Attendance by bidders is optional, but recommended, in order to clarify or answer questions concerning the Drawings and Project Manual for the Project.
Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/285890964316773?p=IVgk9vILnTv6bL46F5
Meeting ID: 285 890 964 316 773
Passcode: MU3QD6i2
Need help? | System reference
Dial in by phone
+1 317-762-3960, 96898483# United States, Indianapolis
Find a local number
Phone conference ID: 968 984 83#
Bid security in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.
The successful Bidders will be required to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds for one hundred percent (100%) of their Contract amount prior to execution of Contracts.
Contractors submitting bids for the performance of any Work as specified in this building Project should make such Bids to Carmel Clay Schools. Contractors are advised that the Contract as finally entered into with any successful Bidder may be entered into with either the School Corporation or the Building Corporation or certain portions of the Contract may be entered into by both the School Corporation and the Building Corporation.
The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid (or combination of Bids) and to waive any irregularities in bidding. All Bids may be held for a period not to exceed 60 days before awarding contracts.
CARMEL CLAY SCHOOLS
By: Toby Steele, Director of Facilities
R8369 7/29/26, 8/3/26, 8/5/26, 8/10/26

— WESTFIELD —

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Westfield-Washington Township Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana, or in a virtual format viewable at https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofWestfieldIN, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and reviewing and acting on the following petitions for the purpose of reviewing and acting on the following petitions:
2608-VS-07: 18010 Gasparilla Court, Kathy Miracle requests approval of a Variance of Development Standard to encroach three (3) feet into the twenty-five (25) foot Rear Yard Setback to accommodate a covered patio where an open-air patio currently exists on 0.21 acres +/- in the SF4: Single-family High-Density District (Article 4.7(D)(3)); and
2608-VS-08: 3155 Joshua Circle, Justin and Samantha Olson by Tyler Stupp requests approval of a Variance of Development Standard to encroach eighteen (18) feet into the thirty (30) foot Side Yard Setback to accommodate a detached garage on 1.2 acres +/- in the AG-SF1: Agriculture/Single-Family Rural District (Article 4.2(E)(2)).
Specific details regarding the cases may be obtained from the Westfield Community Development Department, 2728 East 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074 or by calling (317) 804-3170.
Westfield-Washington Township Board of Zoning Appeals
Westfield Community Development Department
2728 East 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074
www.westfield.in.gov
R8384 7/29/26, 8/3/26

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

CITIES OF REFUGE

“If anyone strikes someone a fatal blow with an iron object, that person is a murderer; the murderer is to be put to death. Or if anyone is holding a stone and strikes someone a fatal blow with it, that person is a murderer; the murderer is to be put to death. Or if anyone is holding a wooden object and strikes someone a fatal blow with it, that person is a murderer; the murderer is to be put to death. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death; when the avenger comes upon the murderer, the avenger shall put the murderer to death. If anyone with malice aforethought shoves another or throws something at them intentionally so that they die or if out of enmity one person hits another with their fist so that the other dies, that person is to be put to death; that person is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when they meet.

“But if without enmity someone suddenly pushes another or throws something at them unintentionally or, without seeing them, drops on them a stone heavy enough to kill them, and they die, then since that other person was not an enemy and no harm was intended, the assembly must judge between the accused and the avenger of blood according to these regulations. The assembly must protect the one accused of murder from the avenger of blood and send the accused back to the city of refuge to which they fled. The accused must stay there until the death of the high priest, who was anointed with the holy oil.

Numbers 35:16-25 (NIV)

Meeting Notice

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold a Budget and Finance Committee meeting at 7:30 a.m. Friday, July 31, 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.

Get your tickets right now for Showcase & Taste of Westfield

Submitted

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce will bring you the fourth annual Showcase & Taste from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22 at the Community Health Network Events Center inside the Droplight Grand Park Sports Campus.

Showcase & Taste is one of the community’s premier networking and business showcase events of the year.

This high-energy event gives businesses the opportunity to connect directly with residents, fellow professionals, and potential customers while highlighting the products, services, and experiences that make Westfield’s business community thrive.

Open to the public, Showcase & Taste of Westfield continues to grow each year, with record-breaking exhibitor participation and



Graphic provided by Westfield Chamber

attendance, reflecting the momentum of the rapidly expanding community.

Businesses of all kinds are encouraged to participate, including restaurants, retailers, healthcare and service providers, legal professionals, entertainment venues, nonprofits, and more. Restaurants, caterers, win-

eries, breweries, and other food and beverage establishments are also invited to offer tastings throughout the evening.

Explore the **exhibitor**

and **sponsorship** opportunities and be part of one of Westfield’s most anticipated community events. More than 90 exhibitors have already signed up!

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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.

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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 firepit, 3-car garage, and community pool on the B&O Trail. Listed at \$449,900	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	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	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	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	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	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	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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