

County remains on alert as White River continues to rise

Webpage created to update residents on flood-related closures

The REPORTER

Hamilton County emergency officials continue to monitor rising water levels along the White River, which is expected to crest near 19 feet by tonight. The Hamilton County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains activated around the clock as flooding impacts roads, parks, and low-lying residential areas across the county.

Hamilton County remains under a Flood Watch until 10 a.m. today, Aug. 14, and a Flood Warning until 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16.

As water levels rise, flooding is expected to expand in Riverwood, Clare, Strawtown, Riverbend, Trails End, and surrounding low-lying areas. Residents in these locations should prepare now for significant water impacts and be ready to evacuate immediately if advised by emergency officials.

Several roads are already closed due to flooding, and additional roads could become impassable. Motorists should

never attempt to drive through floodwater. A temporary webpage has been established with the latest flooding-related closures, which you can access at [this link](#).

Sandbags available to residents

Hamilton County Emergency Management is providing free sandbags to Hamilton County residents on a first-come, first-served basis at the 4-H Fairgrounds, 1717 Pleasant St., Noblesville. Residents are responsible for loading, transporting, unloading, using, and disposing of the sandbags.

Parks & campground impacted

Flooding has also forced closures at several Hamilton County Parks locations, including:

- Geist Park
- Potter's Bridge Park canoe launch and White River Greenway trail
- Cool Creek Loop Road at Cool Creek Park



Photo provided

At this time the White River is still under Logan Street in downtown Noblesville. As of Thursday afternoon, it was at 13.5 feet, but is expected to hit 19 feet this evening.

- Prather Park canoe launch
- Lafayette Trace canoe launch
- Riverwood Canoe Landing
- Riverside and Lake parking lots at Strawtown Koteewi Park

White River Campground has been evacuated and will remain closed through Monday, Aug. 17. Parks staff will reassess conditions Tuesday morning. Once water levels recede, crews will need time to clean and inspect the campground before it can safely reopen. Guests with affected reservations will receive information regarding refunds directly from Hamilton County Parks.



The sweet return to community

Some places sell candy. Some places sell memories.

Recently, I was reminded of that in the most unexpected way. A friend's mom had just arrived from India and brought with her a simple packet of freshly baked biscuits from a local bakery back home.

I took one bite, and suddenly, I wasn't here anymore.

I was back in India, in that familiar neighborhood, following the smell of freshly baked cookies drifting from the bakery next door. I could almost see my younger self running toward that aroma, following it before I even knew where it was coming from. There was something about waiting for those cookies to come out fresh, warm, and fragrant, that made them feel like a treasure.

Today, we are fortunate to have almost every variety of cookie imaginable. Walk into Walmart, Meijer, or Kroger, and there are aisles filled with choices. We can buy chocolate chip cookies, butter cookies, biscuits, and treats from around the world whenever we want.

But none of them could recreate that particular cookie. I am glad to recreate that experience in some ways with my girls with a twist of Indian flavor like cumin seeds, tutti phuti.

Not because it was necessarily the best cookie I have ever tasted.

Because it carried a memory.



COLUMNIST

POOJA THAKKAR
Taste of Community

Rock The Block 2026 brings Westfield together for back-to-school celebration

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

Westfield Washington Schools (WWS) kicked off the new school year with an incredible evening of connection, community, and Shamrock spirit at the annual Rock The Block celebration on Monday, Aug. 10, at Westfield Middle School.

The free, districtwide back-to-school event brought students, families, educators, and community partners together from 5 to 7:30 p.m. for an evening designed to help families connect with their schools, discover resources, and explore the many opportunities available throughout WWS and the greater Westfield community. More than 120 school groups and clubs, local businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations participated.

"Rock The Block is about more than celebrating the start of school. It is about connection," said Ashley Knott, WWS Director of Community En-



Photo by Rocks Media House

gagement and Executive Director of the Westfield Education Foundation. "We want our families to know the people in their schools, understand the

resources available to them and see all of the opportunities their students have to learn, grow, get involved and find a place where they belong. When our

schools and community come together like this, our students benefit."

See *Rock* . . . Page 3

Westfield Rotarians explore science behind pest management at Insects Limited

Submitted by Michael Schramm
Rotary Club of Westfield

The Rotary Club of Westfield recently had the unique opportunity to visit Insects Limited, a globally recognized leader in integrated pest management and pheromone monitoring, during a special meeting hosted by CEO Tom Mueller at the company's state-of-the-art Westfield headquarters at 20386 Commerce Park Drive.

Mueller shared the remarkable story of the family-owned business, which was founded by his father, Dave Mueller, in 1981 in a garage. What began

as a small startup has grown into two successful companies: Insects Limited, which focuses on integrated pest management (IPM) and pheromone monitoring for stored product pests; and FSS, which provides pest management services. After expanding from a garage to an office building and later to a large log cabin in Westfield, the company moved into its impressive new facility just three years ago.

Throughout the presentation, Mueller introduced Rotarians to the fascinating and often unseen world of stored product insects. He explained how insects can



Photo provided by Rotary Club of Westfield

Members of the Rotary Club of Westfield recently took a tour of the Insects Limited pest control service in Westfield. CEO Tom Mueller (back) spoke to the group.

See *Pest* . . . Page 2



**Hamilton
Southeastern
Schools**

HSE Schools lowers initials referendum rate

Submitted by HSE Schools

With the recent release of the actual 2027 Certified Net Assessed Referendum values for Hamilton Southeastern Schools, the district has lowered the anticipated first-year rate for its proposed replacement operating referendum from \$0.2275 to \$0.2200 per \$100 of assessed property value.

At the revised rate, a homeowner with a 2026 gross assessed value of \$400,000 is estimated to pay approximately \$26 more per year in 2027 than under the current referendum. The district's previous estimate was \$37 per year.

The adjustment reflects HSE Schools' continued effort to balance the district's financial needs with the impact on taxpayers.

"We understand the responsibility that comes with asking our community for additional support," Superintendent Dr. Matt Kegley said. "As we have said



Kegley

See *Referendum* . . . Page 2

Rock

from Page 1

Throughout the evening, students stopped by their school booths to reconnect with principals, counselors, and educators before heading back to class. School clubs, athletics, and extracurricular programs gave students a chance to see possibilities for involvement beyond the classroom. For example, SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS brought robots for students to experience up close, while Westfield High School cheerleaders filled the building with Sham-rock spirit before the WHS Drumline brought the energy and sound of Friday nights.

Students of all ages took the stage throughout the evening, sharing their talents with family, friends, and fellow Sham-rocks. Longtime Rock The Block partner Carmel Music Academy once again provided Westfield students enrolled in its programs the opportunity to perform for their hometown community.

Community organizations also had the opportunity to meet directly with families and share services, programs, volunteer opportunities and resources available throughout Westfield and Hamilton County.

Community partners make the night possible

WWS is grateful for the generous support of Market District, Westfield Cycle Sports, and David Weekley Homes, whose sponsorship helped keep Rock The Block a free event for families.

Market District served as the presenting sponsor for this year's celebration and helped make the evening extra special for families. The Market District team served more than 1,200 free hot dogs, apple-sauce, and bottled waters, and sent families home with a complimentary box of oatmeal.

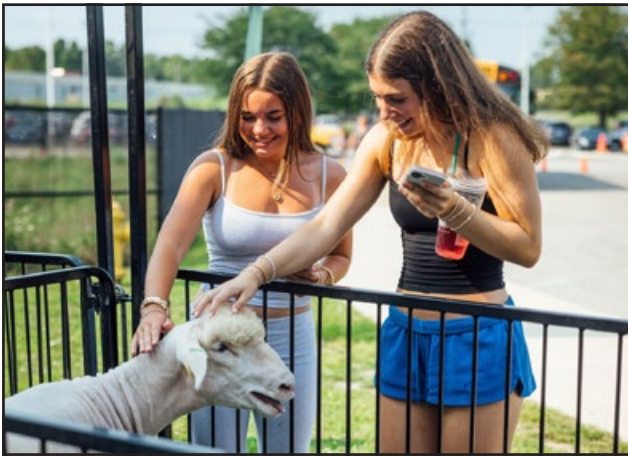
The oatmeal also provided a timely back-to-school reminder about the importance of beginning the school day with a healthy breakfast and making sure student meal accounts are ready for the new year.

Rock The Block gives back

The American Red Cross also held a blood drive in conjunction with Rock The Block, collecting 47 units of blood products. The drive was held in partnership with WWS, the Westfield Education Foundation, and the YMCA.

"The need for blood never goes away, but during this national blood crisis we are truly grateful for the support and help of the community," said Jennifer Duncan of the American Red Cross. "The 47 units collected at Rock The Block have the potential to impact 141 lives. We are truly thankful to everyone who rolled up their sleeves and gave."

WWS extends its sincere thanks to every sponsor, school, club, organization, business, volunteer, performer and family who helped make the 2026 Rock The Block celebration a success.



Photos by Rocks Media House



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Rep. Spartz to hold Veterans Roundtable at Noblesville VFW

By JON BALDWIN
Clay Township Military Library & Museum

Clay Township Military Library and Museum announces that Congresswoman Victoria Spartz will host a Veterans Roundtable right here in Hamilton County, giving local veterans a direct voice on the issues that matter most to them.

The roundtable will take place from 11 a.m. to noon on Monday, Aug. 17 at VFW Post 6246, 654 S. 9th St., Noblesville. There is no cost to attend, and it is open to veterans and the community.

Why this matters to our mission

As the county's only public military museum, our mission is to honor local

veterans through an online Honor Roll, recorded oral histories, and detailed Veteran Profiles – work that intersects directly with the topics Rep. Spartz plans to discuss.

Fixing funding for veterans: Rep. Spartz is pushing to fund the Major Richard Star Act, which would let combat-injured veterans forced to retire before 20 years of service receive both their full military retirement pay and disability benefits. This would end what advocates call the "wounded veteran tax." This bill has bipartisan support and remains before Congress as part of a



Spartz

a valorous unit award and potentially a Presidential Unit Citation for the Indiana Rangers (Company D, 151st Infantry) – the only Army National Guard ground maneuver unit to serve in Vietnam, decorated 537 to 538 times in a single year, including 18 to 19 Silver Stars and over 100 Purple Hearts. This story of valor is exactly the kind of local military history our museum exists to preserve

and share.

VA and federal agency assistance: Constituents needing help with VA claims or other federal agencies can contact Rep. Spartz's office directly at (317) 848-0201.

This roundtable is a rare chance for our community's veterans – and the families and volunteers who support our museum's Honor Roll and oral history projects – to speak directly with their representative about the funding, recognition, and support issues central to our shared mission.

Call to action

We encourage all veterans, family members, and supporters to attend and make their voices heard. Space at VFW Post 6246 is limited, so arrive early.

AG Rokita: Don't let scammers turn storm damage into financial disaster

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

With severe storms hitting across the state over the past couple of days and more expected, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers to stay vigilant against storm-related scams. As communities deal with storm damage, scammers are poised to exploit the situation, targeting residents with fraudulent repair offers and deceptive schemes.

A powerful derecho and severe thunderstorms on Tuesday brought destructive winds (gusts approaching 100 mph in parts of northwest Indiana), tornadoes, downed trees and power lines, and widespread damage across northern and central Indiana. Power outages peaked at hundreds of thousands of customers; NIPSCO described it as its

largest outage event in company history.

Additional heavy rainfall and storms on Wednesday produced significant flash flooding in many areas, including historic flooding in parts of east-central Indiana, road closures, evacuations, and rescues.

"These severe storms have already taken a heavy toll on Hoosier families and communities. The last thing anyone needs is for scammers to turn that hardship into financial devastation," AG Rokita said. "Our office is working to help Hoosiers recognize and avoid these scams so fraudsters cannot derail recovery efforts before they even begin."



Rokita

Storms often bring out unscrupulous individuals who prey on homeowners by promising quick fixes, only to disappear with down payments or deliver inferior work. AG Rokita offers the following tips to help Hoosiers stay vigilant and avoid storm-related scams:

Be skeptical of anyone offering immediate cleanup or repair services without proper vetting.

Know the facts: FEMA does not charge application fees. If someone demands payment to help you access FEMA funds, it's likely a scam.

Research contractors: Check reputations through references, online reviews, or the Better Business Bu-

reau before hiring.

Verify credentials: Ask for IDs, licenses, and proof that the contractor is bonded and insured.

Get multiple estimates: Compare offers to ensure fair pricing and scope of work.

Insist on written agreements: Don't trust verbal promises. Get everything in writing.

Avoid risky payments: Never pay with wire transfers, gift cards, cryptocurrency, or cash, and never pay the full amount upfront.

If you suspect a scam, AG Rokita encourages you to file a complaint at indianaconsumer.com or call his office at 1-800-382-5516.

The Consumer Protection Division is dedicated to safeguarding Hoosiers from fraudulent schemes year-round.

Gov. Braun declares statewide disaster emergency & mobilizes National Guard

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

On Thursday, Aug. 13, Governor Mike Braun declared a statewide disaster emergency and announced he has mobilized the Indiana National Guard. He continues leading Indiana's coordinated response to widespread damage, power outages and flooding caused by this week's severe storms and derecho.

The governor traveled to Cambridge City on Thursday to assess significant flash flooding and coordinate response efforts with local officials, first responders, and state emergency management officials. The community is among several across Indiana dealing with significant flooding.

"My heart goes out to every Hoosier impacted by these storms," the governor said. "My number one priority is protecting Hoosier lives, and our state and local teams are standing shoulder to shoulder to do just that. Our state's response is firing on all cylinders. I've declared a statewide disaster emergency, mobilized the Indiana National Guard, and directed state agencies to get people, equipment, and

resources where they're needed. Hoosiers can be confident that we are working around the clock to keep people safe and help our communities recover."

Gov. Braun declares statewide disaster emergency

On, Thursday, Aug. 13, Gov. Braun signed **Executive Order 26-21**, declaring a statewide disaster emergency. The declaration finds that state assistance is necessary to supplement local resources and directs the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) to enlist the support of other state agencies and provide needed emergency services to impacted counties. It also directs IDHS to coordinate necessary assistance among federal, state, and local agencies.

State agencies are responding to requests from communities across Indiana, including boats and personnel for water rescues, heavy equipment and crews for debris removal, traffic control, emergency generators, oxygen support, fuel, and evacuation assistance.



Braun

Indiana National Guard mobilized Gov. Braun also authorized the mobilization of the Indiana National Guard to provide additional manpower and resources in Gary, Munster, and Hobart. The Indiana National Guard is positioned for life-saving activities as well as cleanup and support.

State remains ready

The governor has directed state emergency teams to remain ready and is urging Hoosiers to do the same with another round of potential severe weather in the forecast for already impacted communities. Heavy rainfall on already saturated ground could quickly cause additional flash flooding.

"Even as we recover from what has already happened, we are preparing for what may come next," Gov. Braun said. "Our

teams are positioned, our agencies are coordinating, and resources are ready to move. I urge every Hoosier to stay weather aware, listen to local authorities and never drive through floodwaters."

Resources for Hoosiers

In an Emergency: Always call 911

Cooling Centers: Visit on.in.gov/coolingcenters

Red Cross Shelters: **Click here**, call 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767), or download the free Red Cross Emergency App for access to shelter information

Report Damage: Indiana 211 is activated for Franklin, Henry, Lake, LaPorte, Madison, Newton, Porter, and Pulaski counties. Call 211 (or 866-211-9966) or visit the **211 website** to report damage sustained on your property.

Lane Closures and Road Conditions: Visit 511in.org.

Travel Advisory Map: Visit on.in.gov/travel-status.

Community News

Mental health first-aid training sessions in September & October

The public is invited to participate in an eight-hour Mental Health First Aid training at the University of Indianapolis, led by Hamilton County Health Department and the Metropolitan Indianapolis-Central Indiana Area Health Education Center.

Sessions will take place on Sept. 11 and Oct. 6. They will provide practical skills to recognize and respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis.

[Click here](#) to register for a free session.

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NOTIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Adrian Solis, (1820 Bastian Ct., Westfield, IN 46074) is submitting a Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management of our intent to comply with the requirements of 327 IAC 15-5 to discharge storm water from construction activities associated with the Abbott Labs parking expansion. Project is located at 1820 Bastian Ct., Westfield, IN 46074. Run-off from the project site will discharge into Isaac Jones watershed. Questions or comments regarding this project should be directed to Adrian Solis at the above mentioned address.

R8484 8/14/26, 8/17/26

PUBLIC NOTICE DEADLINE

3:30 p.m. Friday

for Monday publication

PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com

The Dani Robinson difference

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Commercial Property Opportunities

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Photos provided
(ABOVE LEFT) Dan & Teri Strong have served their town in numerous capacities. (ABOVE RIGHT) Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt presents the Hamilton County Commissioners’ Rampart Award to Dan Strong.

Dan & Teri Strong

Pillars of the Cicero community

The REPORTER

On Aug. 4, five days before Dan Strong’s planned resignation as the town’s Project Coordinator, the Cicero Town Council presented Dan and Teri Strong with a proclamation acknowledging their service to the Cicero community.

Dan has served as the town’s Project Coordinator, as well as on the Town Council, as Plan Commission President, on the Park Board, on the Board of Zoning Ap-

peals, and in many other capacities. Teri has served on Our Town Cicero, BZA, the Planning Commission, and numerous committees. They were longtime owners of the Cicero McDonald’s.

Their leadership, hard work, and service to their community and its citizens have been given with such devotion that they have earned the respect, admiration, dedication, and friendship of not only the Cicero Town Council, but also the

employees and citizens of Cicero alike.

When presenting the Hamilton County Commissioners’ Rampart Award to Dan Strong, Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt called Dan “a pillar in the community – dependable, trustworthy, and someone who truly cares about Cicero.”

The Town Council proclaimed August 4 shall be observed as Dan and Teri Strong day for their service and dedication to Cicero.

Local housing market offers buys more choices as inventory climbs

The REPORTER

As available inventory continued to grow in July, the Hamilton County housing market offered buyers more options and greater negotiating power while home prices continued to increase, mirroring the greater central Indiana market, according to F.C. Tucker Company, part of the Howard Hanna family of companies.

The residential real estate market in Noblesville and Hamilton County ex-

perienced the following in July 2026:

Noblesville

- Closed home sales increased 3.5 percent compared to July 2025.
- The median home sale price increased 16.9 percent to \$450,000, compared to this time last year. The median price per square foot for a Noblesville home decreased 4 percent to \$169.
- Homes sold in 16 days on average, staying on the market one day less than this time last year.

Hamilton County

- Available housing inventory increased by 12.1 percent.
- Pended home sales decreased 1 percent year-over-year.
- The median home sale price was \$475,000, a 3.3 percent increase compared to this time last year – the highest year-to-date median home sale price in the region.
- Homes in Hamilton County spent nine days on the market – the same as this time last year.

Former Indiana Senator Jim Merritt to discuss new book on lessons from COVID pandemic

Submitted

Living Branch Church invites the community to an evening of thoughtful conversation, reflection, and hope as former Indiana Senator Jim Merritt discusses his new book, *Lessons Learned: Are We Ready for the Next Pandemic?* from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21 at Wolfies Grill, 20999 Hague Road, Suite 9015, Noblesville.

This free event will feature remarks from Merritt followed by a discussion with former Noblesville Deputy Mayor and Public Safety Director Chad Knecht, who helped lead the city’s response throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, they will explore the lasting lessons of one of the most challenging periods in recent history, the decisions that shaped Indiana communities, and how those experiences can better prepare everyone for the future.

Rather than revisiting the divisions of the pandemic, the evening is designed

to foster meaningful dialogue about resilience, leadership, mental health, community, and hope.

“The lessons of the pandemic extend beyond public policy,” said Bruce Longbottom of Living Branch Church. “They remind us of our need for hope, purpose, and community. Our desire is for this evening to encourage honest conversation about where we’ve been, what we’ve learned, and the hope that enables us to move forward together. Being forewarned is forearmed, but only if we get together for a community conversation on our recent history.”

Merritt served nearly three decades in the Indiana General Assembly and was



Merritt



Knecht

actively involved in many of the state’s policy discussions during the pandemic. His book examines the decisions made throughout the crisis while encouraging readers to thoughtfully consider how Indiana and the nation can better respond to future public health emergencies.

Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase copies of *Lessons Learned: Are We Ready for the Next Pandemic?*, and Merritt will be available following the program to sign books.

Wolfies Grill will provide food during the event. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is encouraged as seating is limited. Those interested in attending can register at [this link](#).

Closures planned this weekend along Clear Path 465 project

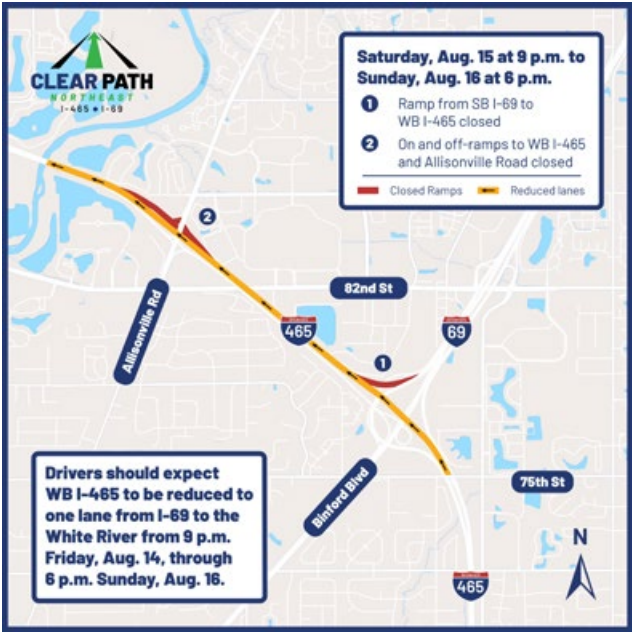
The REPORTER

Lane and ramp closures are scheduled this weekend on I-465 and I-69 in northeast Indianapolis in preparation of opening new ramps and travel lanes.

Westbound I-465 is scheduled to be reduced to one lane between I-69 and the White River from 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14, through 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16. Crews will install pavement markings and signage. Work will begin closest to the median Friday night and shift to the outer lanes Saturday evening.

The following ramps are scheduled to close from 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15 and reopen by 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16:

- Ramp from southbound I-69 to westbound I-465. Signed Detour: Southbound I-69 to southbound I-465 and turn around at Pendleton Pike (U.S. 36).
- Ramp from westbound



Graphic provided by INDOT

I-465 to Allisonville Road

- Ramp from Allisonville Road to westbound I-465

Delays are expected, and drivers should plan ahead and seek alternate routes when possible.

A new ramp within the I-69/I-465 interchange is expected to open later this

month. Crews are also preparing to open new travel lanes on northbound and westbound I-465.

Actual dates and anticipated work may be adjusted if inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances occur.

For schedule updates, visit [ClearPath465.com](#).

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Thanks for reading!

— Good news from Stony Creek Church of Christ —

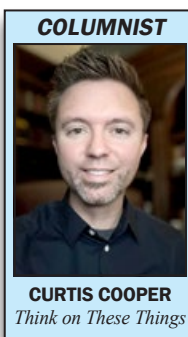
Sharing the Gospel at the 4-H Fair

The Hamilton County 4-H Fair is always a great opportunity to meet our neighbors, and we were thankful to spend the week talking with hundreds of people from across our county about the Lord.

Throughout the week, visitors stopped by our booth to receive free Bibles and other Bible study materials. Our goal was simple: to invite people to open their Bibles and learn more about Jesus, His Word, His ways, and His family, like the one here at Stony Creek (John 5:39; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; Isaiah 2:3; 8:20).

One of the highlights of our booth was our interactive Bible quizzes. We had a board where anyone could test their Bible knowledge by deciding whether a phrase or verse was found in the Bible. This led to great conversations about salvation, faith, repentance, baptism, and other commonly held religious beliefs.

Our children's activities were also a favorite throughout the week. We had a Bible quiz board, a sensory sand pit where children searched for Bible verses to read, and a magnetic fishing game featuring Bible stories. These activities allowed families to learn together while opening



COLUMNIST
CURTIS COOPER
Think on These Things

the door for conversations.

One of the greatest blessings was the opportunity to talk with children and adults from many different backgrounds. Some of the children we met did not go to

church and had never heard about Jesus. They had heard His name, but they did not know the gospel: that Jesus died on a cross for our sins according to the Scriptures and rose three days later (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). This gave us the opportunity to "teach Jesus," just as Philip did with the Eunuch (Acts 8:30-35).

Paul emphasizes the importance of hearing and believing: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" because "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:14, 17).

We also met children who were unfamiliar with many of the Bible stories. This gave us opportunities to teach them about Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and many more. Paul reminds us that the things "written beforehand" were

"written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4). These stories are foundational. They teach us lessons about sin, obedience, and faith (Hebrews 11). They also teach us about God's faithfulness and give us reason for hope (Hebrews 6:17-18; 10:23).

We also had the opportunity to talk with children and adults who were already familiar with Jesus and the Bible. Some knew their Bibles very well yet had not been taught the whole counsel of God concerning what the Bible reveals about salvation.

Some knew that one must believe, but had not considered that Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:15-16).

Some knew that one must repent but had not been taught that Peter commanded those who were lost to "Repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins" (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Some knew that baptism was important, but did not know that Peter wrote by inspiration, "Baptism does now save us" (1 Peter 3:21).

This was not the only subjects we discussed, but many opportunities to talk about salvation, obedience, and what it means to follow Jesus faithfully.

We are grateful for ev-

eryone who stopped by to visit, ask questions, and spend time talking with us. If we had the opportunity to meet you at the fair, thank you for stopping by. If we did get a chance to meet you, but you have questions about God or the Bible, we would love to hear from you. We would also be happy to provide you with a free Bible or Bible study materials.

At Stony Creek, we are simply a group of Christians doing our best to follow the Bible as closely as possible – and nothing more. We are hearts fully set on Jesus, His church, His Word, and living according to His ways. Our mission is simple: to help others come to know Jesus Christ by teaching the Bible.

If you are interested in having a personal Bible study, please let us know, as we would love the opportunity to open the Bible with you and study God's Word together. We would also love for you to join us for worship or attend one of our Bible classes.

Visitors are welcome and valued. We meet at 15530 Herriman Blvd., Noblesville. Our phone number is (463) 287-0664. We meet for Sunday morning Bible Study at 10 a.m. and have classes for all ages. Worship begins at 11 a.m. and we have a Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 p.m. A warm welcome awaits!



HSE Schools welcomes 42 participants to 2026-27 HSEngaged cohort

Submitted by HSE Schools

What began in 2021 as a way to share information, highlights, and stories about Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) Schools has grown into a network of informed and involved community members.

Hundreds of people have applied since the program began, and HSE Schools is ready to welcome 42 participants to the 2026-27 cohort. The group includes parents, alumni, and community members who will spend the next several months gaining a behind-the-scenes look at the district.

The impact of HSEngaged extends beyond its monthly meetings. Past participants have become substitute teachers, joined the Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation (HSEF) Board of Directors, and volunteered throughout the district. They have also supported community education efforts related to district referendum proposals and contributed to events such as HSEF's Legacy Celebration and HSE Schools' Before the Bell.

"My job is to tell the stories of HSE Schools, but HSEngaged reminds me that those stories carry further when community members experience them firsthand," said Emily Pace Abbotts, director of school and community relations. "It is rewarding to see participants leave the program better informed, more connected and ready to contribute in ways that are mean-

ingful to them."

Selected through an application process, participants will meet monthly from August through April at schools across the district. Sessions will explore academic programs, student services, finance, operations, and facilities management.

2026-27 HSEngaged cohort

- Abbi Garvey
- Alexis Ray
- Amanda Fineberg
- Amy Mustafa
- Avery Moon
- Becca Miller
- Chantalle Temperly
- Chelsie Hannon
- Chris Dean
- Colin McCahill
- Daniel Mendoza
- Ferrell Kemp
- Jaki Milakovic
- James Lyons
- Jeremy Metz
- Jeremy Sprouse
- John Metzger
- Josh Perry
- Katie Richardson
- Katie Woodard
- Kayla Owens
- Keith Biro
- Krishna Gurusamy
- Kristen Sprague
- Lauren Cole
- Lindsay Beals
- Lindsay Downing
- Matt Gerberich
- Maya Alshawa
- Michael Winterhalder
- Mike York
- Muqsit Abdul
- Nakeisha Washington
- NiOshia Craig
- Sara Sturm
- Sarah Black
- Sonia Dhanjal
- Srinu Bodla
- Tara Fisher
- Taylor Courtney
- Tiffany Presley
- Tolitha Lewis

Local high school senior girls can sign up for 2026-27 Fever Confidence leadership program

The REPORTER

Applications are open until Aug. 31 for the next cohort of students to participate in Fever Confidence presented by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, a leadership program designed to empower high school senior girls in the

greater Indianapolis area.

Fever Confidence, led by Pacers Sports & Entertainment, the Indiana Fever, and the Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY), begins this fall and concludes with attendance at the Indiana Fever's home opener in May 2027.

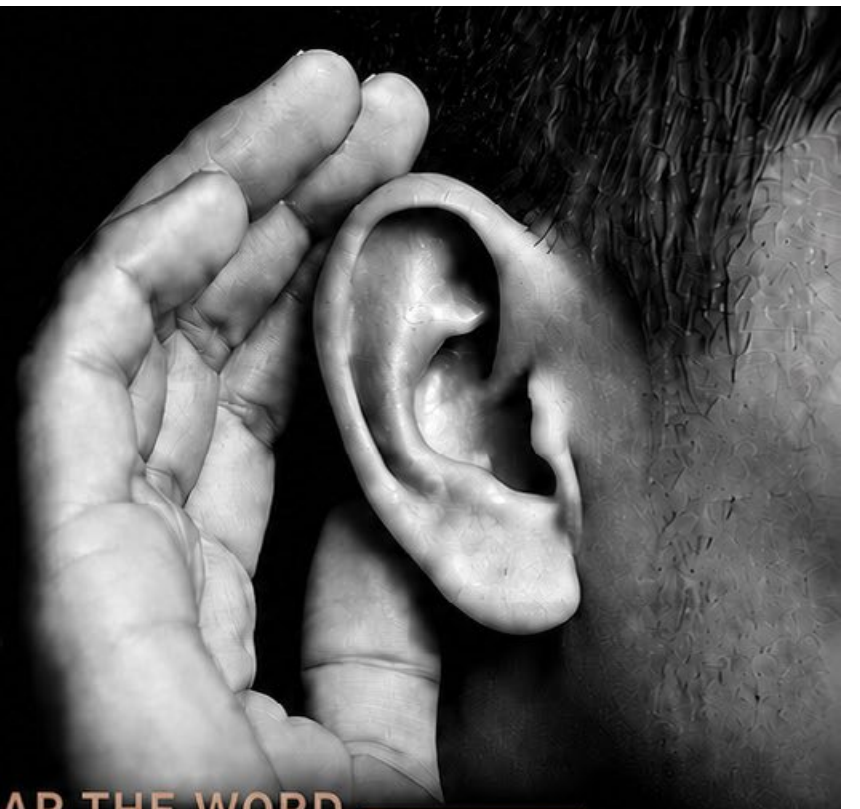
Participants who successfully complete the program will also receive a \$2,000 educational scholarship.

"We are proud to continue this program that is cultivating the skills for the next generation of leaders at such a pivotal point in their lives," said Julie Roe Lach,

PS&E EVP of external relations and community engagement. "I had the opportunity to attend the closing ceremony of our last cohort and could see the growth from their experiences will continue well into their fu-

See *Fever* . . . Page 8

FAITH
comes by hearing
— AND HEARING —
THE WORD OF GOD.
ROMANS 10:17



OPPORTUNITIES TO HEAR THE WORD



1. We currently have a bible study on "The book of Job" every Sunday at **10 AM** and every Wednesday at **7 PM**.



2. In our worship service every Sunday at **11 AM** God's Word is preached.



3. On our Facebook and YouTube "Truth in love" channels we have **LIVE** studies on Wednesdays and Fridays.



4. We have a Community Study on Ephesians every **2nd and 4th Tuesday at 2:30 PM** and another study on Ephesians every **2nd and 4th Thursday at 4 PM**. Both at the Hamilton East Public Library.



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church of Christ

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15530 Herriman Blvd,
Noblesville, IN 46060



Photo provided

This year’s intricate cheese sculpture took approximately 250 hours to create.

Kroger celebrates edible artistry at Indiana State Fair

Submitted

The Indiana State Fair unveiled intricate, edible artwork this week, made possible by a hefty donation from Kroger.

The grocer’s Pace Dairy in Crawfordsville, Ind., donated blocks of cheddar cheese which have become the State Fair cheese sculpture. Sarah Kaufmann, The Cheese Lady, and her team traditionally transform massive blocks of cheese, as big as 640 pounds each, into a design matching the theme of the Indiana State Fair.

This is the 20th year for Kaufmann to create the fair’s sculpture, and she notes the cheese she re-

ceives is the same cheese Kroger offers in its dairy cases: “Beautiful, top-quality cheese,” she said.

Sculpting the cheese calls for patience in addition to artistic talent. Kaufmann says the work takes approximately 250 hours from start to finish. She said she loves what she does, loves working with Indiana dairy farmers and loves that Pace Dairy supports this tradition.

Kaufmann also appreciates this connection to agriculture.

“Knowing the quality and the care and the love that farmers have for their cows and for making quality products,” she said. “It’s

all about that. And having Kroger and Pace Dairy makes it even better with their wonderful quality Kroger cheese. It ties into Indiana so well.”

Pace Dairy is remarkably important for what appears in Kroger dairy cases. Site Leader Melissa Stoenecipher said, “All Kroger cheese east of the Mississippi is from Crawfordsville,” and her plant “supplies all of the sliced [Kroger] cheese for the entire country.”

Pace and its 300 associates have been key suppliers of Kroger-branded cheese products for more than 40 years, opening in Crawfordsville in 1982.

FEVER

from Page 7

tures. We’re excited to welcome another class to the program.”

The cohort will meet monthly throughout the school year, participating in skill-building activities, professional development sessions and service opportunities designed to prepare the participants for success beyond high school.

“MCCOY is excited to partner with Pacers Sports & Entertainment to continue this important program investing in young women from area high schools to foster new friendships and build confidence,” MCCOY President Liz Coit said. “Investing in our community is important, and we’re happy to help lead them through an unforgettable set of leadership experiences designed to support mental well-being and inspire lifelong

wellness. Their futures are bright, and we are proud to support them in their journeys.”

Beyond the learning opportunities the program provides, Fever Confidence participants will build meaningful, long-term connections with peers and mentors who will support and encourage their growth. Mentors to the group will include women leaders from the Indiana Fever, PS&E and other community and corporate leaders.

“Confidence isn’t about knowing exactly what comes next; it’s having the courage to take the next step,” said Jessica Lopez-Liggett, Indiana Health Plan President at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. “Through Fever Confidence, young women have an opportunity to dis-

cover their strengths, use their voices and build the mindset needed to become leaders. We are proud to stand behind a program that encourages them to dream big and believe in what they can accomplish.”

To be eligible, applicants must be current high school seniors who live in Marion County or one of the surrounding counties and have a cumulative grade-point average of 2.7 or higher. In addition, they must submit one letter of recommendation from an adult who knows them well, such as a teacher, coach, school counselor, employer, faith leader, volunteer supervisor or extracurricular advisor.

More information about the program is available at FeverBasketball.com/FeverConfidence.

Fishers Blues Fest returns with eight-artist lineup for Labor Day weekend

The REPORTER

Fishers Blues Fest returns to the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater, 6 Municipal Drive, this Labor Day weekend, led by acclaimed vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Judith Hill and Grammy-nominated musician Jontavious Willis.

The free, all-ages festival takes place Saturday, Sept. 5, and Sunday, Sept. 6. Now in its 14th year, Blues Fest brings together eight artists, including award-winning rising talents Dylan Triplett and Mathias Lattin, regional favorites, and veteran performers for two nights of blues, soul, funk, and more.

“What makes Blues Fest special is the range of artists audiences can discover in one weekend, from internationally recognized musicians to emerging talent,” Fishers Parks Director Marissa Deckert said. “Keeping the festival free gives everyone the opportunity to experience great live music right here in downtown Fishers.”

Saturday, Sept. 5

• **Mojo Gumbo Band, 5 to 5:45 p.m.** – Indianapolis-based Mojo Gumbo Band kicks off the weekend with Mississippi-style blues mixed with Creole and Cajun influences.

• **JR Clark Band, 6 to 7 p.m.** – With more than 11 album releases, JR Clark Band brings a Chicago blues sound shaped by

Clark’s mentorship under Lil’ Ed Williams of Lil’ Ed and The Blues Imperials.

• **Dylan Triplett, 7:15 to 8:15 p.m.** – 2023 Blues Award winner Dylan Triplett brings soulful vocals and a contemporary edge to classic blues influences.

• **Judith Hill, 8:30 to 10 p.m.** – Vocalist, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Judith Hill has worked with Prince, Michael Jackson, and Elton John while building a solo career blending blues, soul, funk, and rock. Her catalog includes the Prince-produced *Back in Time* and her latest album, *Letters from a Black Widow*.

Sunday, Sept. 6

• **The Blues Brothers Triumphant Tribute, 5 to 5:45 p.m.** – The Blues Brothers Triumphant Tribute opens Sunday with Jake and Elwood, a live blues band and a high-energy tribute to the iconic duo.

• **King Bee + The Stingers, 6 to 7 p.m.** – Regional favorite King Bee + The Stingers blends original music, roadhouse funk, and soul with fresh takes on blues classics.

• **Mathias Lattin, 7:15 to 8:15 p.m.** – Mathias Lattin won both the 2023 International Blues Challenge and Best Guitarist honors at age 20, establishing the Houston artist as one of the genre’s rising talents.

• **Jontavious Willis, 8:30 to 10 p.m.** – Grammy-nominated musician and songwriter Jontavious Willis closes the festival with original music rooted in his Georgia heritage and the traditions of Delta, Piedmont, Texas, and Gospel blues.

Admission is free, and no tickets are required. Gates open at 4 p.m. each day with performances beginning at 5 p.m. Lawn space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Food, beverages, and alcohol will be available for purchase. Guests may bring chairs, blankets, outside food, and non-alcoholic beverages. Outside alcohol is prohibited.

Free street and garage parking are available throughout the Nickel Plate District. Accessible parking will be available at the south City Services Building parking lot, 3 Municipal Drive.

Free parking garages

- The Depot, 8594 E. 116th St.
- Flats at Switch, 9 Municipal Drive
- Nickel Plate Station, 8700 E. 116th St.
- Fishers Police Department, 4 Municipal Drive
- The Edge, 8890 E. 116th St.

- First Internet Bank, 8701 E. 116th St.

For more information, visit npdamp.com/BluesFest.

Special Olympics Train 4 Life program shows significant, sustained success

Athletes demonstrate progress in five health categories

The REPORTER

Special Olympics Indiana athletes who took part in the Train 4 Life program during the past two years are showing improvements in strength and endurance while sustaining lost weight and a lower body-mass index, according to research by Vanderbilt University.

Train 4 Life focuses on fitness, nutrition, and mental health for Special Olympics athletes ages 13 and older. The 12-week program includes pre- and post-program biometric and fitness testing, group workouts, weekly nutrition, and healthy lifestyle education. By developing these healthy choices within individuals, the program allows athletes to see measured outcomes and continue good habits throughout their lifetimes.

Studies have shown that nearly three-quarters of adults with intellectual disabilities (ID) and half of youth with ID are overweight or obese. People with ID are four times more likely to acquire Type 2 diabetes, and a quarter of them have low bone density. More than half have hypertension, all of which result in an average life expectancy nearly 20 years shorter than those without intellectual disabilities.

Vanderbilt University is monitoring Train 4 Life programs in 17 states, including Indiana. Research-

ers recently released the following data based on the two-year program:

- 58 percent increase in endurance
- 48 percent increase in strength
- 69 percent increase in power
- 64 percent of participants sustained weight loss
- 59 percent of participants sustained drop in body-mass index

“Train 4 Life is transforming lives by giving our athletes the knowledge, confidence and healthy habits they need to thrive for years to come,” Special Olympics Indiana President and CEO Jeff Mohler said. “The Vanderbilt University research confirms what we’ve seen firsthand: When people with intellectual disabilities have access to high-quality fitness, nutrition and wellness programming, they become stronger, healthier and more independent. At Special Olympics Indiana, we are committed to expanding Train 4 Life so more athletes across the state can live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives.”

Nearly 200 Hoosier athletes took part in Train 4 Life in 2026 with the fall session scheduled to begin the week of Aug. 17. Special Olympics Indiana operates Train 4 Life at facilities in 12 communities with plans to expand to more in 2027. The 2026 facilities are:

- Batesville, Iron Yokes



Special Olympics Indiana

- Fort Wayne, Mad Apple Fitness
- Greensburg, Reclaim Fitness Center
- Greenwood, Three Cord Fitness
- Highland, Heavy Metal Fitness
- Indianapolis, Day Won
- Mount Vernon (Posey County), Mount Vernon Fire Department
- Muncie, Warner Fit (Studio 22)
- Noblesville, CrossFit HSE
- Plainfield, Unbreakable Athletics Academy
- Terre Haute, Terre Haute Intensity Resistance and Sports Training (THIRST)
- West Lafayette, France A. Cordova Recreational Sports Center

Learn more about Train 4 Life at SOIndiana.org/train-4-life.

Special Olympics Indiana uses sport, health, education, and leadership programs to end discrimination against and empower people with intellectual disabilities. With more than 20,000 athletes and Unified partners, the organizations uses sport as a catalyst for social change, exposing inequity and highlighting the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities to break down misconceptions and negative attitudes.

When weather is unpredictable, you can trust Your Hometown Weatherman!



National blood crisis persists

Donors needed right now to help protect patient care

The REPORTER

The American Red Cross continues to urge donors of all blood types to act now and make an appointment to give blood or platelets amid the ongoing national blood crisis. Just three additional donors at every blood drive could help further stabilize the blood supply and ensure patients continue receiving lifesaving care.

Since issuing only the second blood crisis in Red Cross history in late July, thousands of generous donors have stepped up to help save lives. At the same time, the blood supply remains under severe pressure, just as many communities transition to back-to-school schedules and people enjoy final summer plans. When fewer donors are avail-

able to give, the impact on available lifesaving blood products can be significant – especially when the blood supply is already facing a four-year summer low.

Keep up the momentum and help reverse the blood crisis. Book an appointment to give blood now by using the Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Those who are unable to donate can still make an impact by encouraging eligible friends, family members and colleagues to give blood.

As a thank-you, all who come to give through Aug. 31 will receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/August.

Millennium Physician Group & Franciscan Alliance announce strategic partnership

Submitted

Franciscan Alliance and Millennium Physician Group announced on Wednesday, Aug. 12, a strategic partnership designed to strengthen primary care, expand patient access, and advance high-quality, affordable healthcare for patients across Indiana.

The partnership brings together Franciscan Alliance’s deep Indiana roots and trusted physician network with Millennium Physician Group’s physician-led operating model, practice management expertise, advanced analytics, and value-based care capabilities. Together, the organizations will support physicians, strengthen care coordination, and help patients receive more connected, high-quality care while advancing a healthcare model focused on quality, outcomes, and affordability.

The collaboration also supports Indiana’s ongoing efforts to improve healthcare affordability, transparency, and access for Hoosiers through innovative, value-based care delivery.

“Our mission has always been to meet people where they are and provide compassionate, high-quality care to the communities we serve,” said Kevin Leahy, president and chief executive officer of Franciscan Alliance. “As Franciscan Alliance celebrates 150 years of serving Indiana, this partnership represents the next chapter in that mission. By combining our trusted community presence with Millennium’s proven

expertise in value-based care, we are strengthening our ability to expand access, enhance quality and deliver more affordable healthcare for generations to come.”

Through the partnership, Franciscan physicians will remain part of the Franciscan Alliance physician network while gaining access to enhanced operational support, advanced analytics, care coordination resources, and technology designed to reduce administrative burden and improve clinical performance. Patients will benefit from better-connected care teams, stronger chronic disease management and a more seamless healthcare experience. The collaboration is designed to extend Franciscan Alliance’s longstanding commitment to compassionate, community-based care, a vision shared by Millennium.

“Millennium was built on the belief that strong primary care is the foundation of better health,” said Tesha Simpson, chief executive officer of Millennium Healthcare. “We’re honored to partner with Franciscan Alliance to help advance its vision for value-based care and support physicians with the operational resources, technology and clinical expertise needed to deliver exceptional care while improving affordability and patient outcomes.”

As a leading physician health group, Millennium is recognized for its experience in value-based care. Millennium is part of a national value-based care platform partially owned by El-



evance Health. Millennium supports physicians, health systems, and payers through care models that strengthen care coordination, improve quality, and support long-term sustainability.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to helping physicians succeed in value-based care while preserving Franciscan Alliance’s mission, local relationships, and longstanding commitment to the communities it serves.

About Millennium Physician Group

Founded in 2008 and headquartered in Fort Myers, Fla., Millennium Physician Group is a leading physician health group, with more than 1,100 healthcare providers across Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, and Texas. Nationally recognized as a leader in value-based care, Millennium’s mission is to connect patients to a healthier life through physician-led, patient-centered care. Millennium operates as a national care delivery platform ex-

panding access to comprehensive primary care across Commercial, Individual Exchange, Medicare, and Medicaid health plans. Learn more at millennium-physician.com.

About Franciscan Alliance

The Franciscan Alliance healthcare ministry began in Lafayette, Ind., in 1875. Today, Franciscan Alliance is a large Catholic health care system in the Midwest with 11 hospital campuses, more than 18,000 employees, and a number of nationally recognized Centers of Health Care Excellence. Hospitals include Franciscan Alliance Carmel; Franciscan Alliance Crawfordsville; Franciscan Alliance Crown Point; Franciscan Alliance Dyer; Franciscan Alliance Indianapolis; Franciscan Alliance Lafayette; Franciscan Alliance Michigan City; Franciscan Alliance Mooresville; Franciscan Alliance Munster; Franciscan Alliance Orthopedic Hospital (Carmel), and Franciscan Alliance Rensselaer.

Upcoming Donation Opportunities

Carmel

- Aug. 27 from noon to 5 p.m. at Cool Creek Nature Center, 2000 E. 151st St.

Fishers

- Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hub & Spoke, 8100 E. 106th St.
- Aug. 20 from 1 to 6 p.m. at Billerica Park Multi-Purpose Community Building, 12690 Promise Road
- Aug. 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sun King Brewing, 9713 District North Drive, Suite 1220

Noblesville

- Aug. 19, 20, 26, 27 from noon to 6:45 p.m. at the Noblesville Blood Donation Center, 14765 Hazel Dell Crossing, Suite 700
- Aug. 15, 18, 22, 25, 29 from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the Noblesville Blood Donation Center

Fortville

- Aug. 21 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Vernon Township Fire Department, 602 Vitality Drive

Lapel

- Aug. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ford Street United Methodist Church, 925 Ford St.

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Two Westfield eighth graders earn national recognition at FCCLA Leadership Conference

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

Two Westfield Middle School students took their learning to the national stage this summer, representing Westfield Washington Schools at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

Incoming eighth graders Rivika Srivastava and Henry Stinson competed July 6 to 10 in FCCLA STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) events. The competitions challenged students to identify a societal need, develop a project over the course of the school year, and present their work to evaluators.

For Srivastava and Stinson, that meant months of research, planning and hands-on work before they ever stepped in front of judges.

Turning a passion for basketball into service

Stinson competed in the Chapter Service Project Portfolio category with Hoosiers Helping Hoopers, a project designed to help remove financial barriers between young people and participating in basketball.

After researching the impact of athletics costs on families, he focused his project on children ages 8 to 12 in Central Indiana. He interviewed young basketball players about the financial challenges they encounter, with equipment and registration fees emerging as significant obstacles.

He set initial goals of raising \$500 and creating five basketball gift baskets. Through fundraising and community outreach, he raised \$575 and created six baskets, exceeding both goals. The gift baskets included basketballs, socks, water bottles, drink mixes, drawstring bags, and money to help cover league registration.

Partnering with Westfield Youth Sports, he helped connect the project with local students. He promoted the effort through social media, flyers, and outreach to local businesses and organizations, then packaged and donated the baskets himself.

Exploring a future in pediatrics

Srivastava took a different path, using FCCLA's Career Investigation event to explore whether a future



Photos provided by Westfield Middle School

Westfield Middle School eighth graders Rivika Srivastava and Henry Stinson competed in events that turned months of research and hands-on work into real-world projects, with Srivastava earning second place nationally in her event. They were able to tour Washington, D.C. during their time at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference.

in pediatrics might be right for her.

Her Passion for Pediatrics project saw her set out to understand the day-to-day life of a pediatrician, identify the education and skills required for the profession, and determine how her own interests and strengths might align with the field.

As part of the project, she interviewed three pediatricians, including a general pediatrician and two pediatric gastroenterologists with different levels of professional experience. Those conversations gave her

perspectives on everything from building relationships with families to the challenges of the profession and the changing role of technology in medicine.

She also sought opportunities to work directly with children. She volunteered at a children's event through Carmel Clay Public Library, where she helped 20 to 30 children ages 6 to 11, and volunteered for four weeks at a learning center, tutoring students in math and reading and assisting with classroom activities. She connected those experiences to skills important in pe-

diatrics, including communication, patience, empathy, leadership, problem-solving and time management.

Her project demonstrated a willingness to explore a question deeply while recognizing that her interests may continue to evolve. Even though she is not yet certain if she will become a pediatrician, she knows she wants a future where she can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Her presentation earned a spot in the National Top Ten, and she ultimately finished second in the nation in her event.

Congratulations to both Srivastava and Stinson on representing Westfield Middle School and Westfield Washington Schools on the national stage. A huge thank you goes out to Ally Smith and Emerson Burroughs, Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers at Westfield Middle School, who supported students as they developed the skills and confidence required to take these ideas from their earliest stages to competition. These projects demonstrate true WWS excellence and Life Ready outcomes.



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The REPORTER
Seven Ascension St. Vincent hospitals across Indiana

Ascension St. Vincent listed among best hospitals in the nation

have been named among *U.S. News & World Report's* 2026-2027 Best Hospitals, including three facilities in Hamilton County.

Ascension St. Vincent Heart Center (Carmel)

Rated High Performing in seven adult procedures and conditions:

- Aortic Valve Surgery
- Heart Arrhythmia
- Heart Attack
- Heart Bypass Surgery
- Heart Failure
- Pacemaker Implantation

Ascension St. Vincent Carmel
Rated High Performing in three adult procedures and conditions:

- Back Surgery (Spinal Fusion)
- Colon Cancer Surgery
- Maternity Care (Uncomplicated Pregnancy)

Ascension St. Vincent Fishers

Rated High Performing in:

- Knee Replacement

The distinctions recognize Ascension St. Vincent's specialized clinical expertise, patient outcomes, and commitment to delivering exceptional care across a wide array of medical specialties, complex surgeries, and routine care. A rating of "High Performing" is the highest distinction a hospital can earn as part of *U.S. News' Best Hospitals Procedures & Conditions* ratings. Fewer than half of the thousands of hospitals

evaluated nationwide earn a "High Performing" designation in any category.

U.S. News evaluated nearly 4,500 hospitals across 14 adult specialties and 23 procedures and conditions; less than half earned recognition in any of those 37 areas of care. To determine the Best Hospitals, *U.S. News* analyzed each hospital's performance based on objective measures such as risk-adjusted mortality rates, preventable complications, and patient experience. The Best Hospitals Specialty rankings methodology and Procedures & Conditions ratings methodology measure patient outcomes using data from over 800 million records of patient care.

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Westfield Washington Schools celebrates grand opening of Cool Creek Elementary

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

Westfield Washington Schools (WWS) celebrated the grand opening of Cool Creek Elementary School on Tuesday, Aug. 11, marking a new chapter for a building that has served generations of Westfield students and families.

District leaders, members of the WWS Board of School Trustees, educators, project partners, and invited community members gathered for a brief ceremony and ribbon cutting at the school, located at 17710 Shamrock Blvd.

The Cool Creek Elementary building previously served as Westfield Intermediate School and, before that, Washington Elementary. Renovations have transformed the space to serve elementary students while continuing the building's longstanding role in the Westfield community.

"It's an honor to be part of the next chapter for this building that has meant so much to Westfield Washington Schools over the years," Cool Creek Elementary Principal Andy Hilton said. "From its time as Washington Elementary to Westfield Intermediate School, it has served generations of families in our community."

The project is part of

WWS's ongoing work to accommodate continued enrollment growth and provide learning environments that meet the needs of students and staff.

"Cool Creek Elementary represents a kind of refresh while still reflecting our continued commitment to serving a growing community and creating outstanding learning environments for students," WWS Board President Rebecca Ogle said. "Cool Creek is an important part of the next chapter for Westfield Washington Schools as we continue building on the strong tradition of excellence that defines our district."

As reported at the Aug. 11 school board meeting, interior renovations are substantially complete, and teachers and staff have been preparing classrooms to welcome students and will be ready for the first day of school on Monday, Aug. 17. Some finishing work, including portions of baseboard installation and additional site improvements, will continue as the school year gets underway.

Additional exterior work will continue during the school year, including completion of site improvements and installation of a sound barrier along the U.S. 31 corridor. That work will be scheduled around



Photos by Rocks Media House

the operation of the school to minimize disruption to students and staff.

"Students and families who walk through these doors will experience the

same commitment to student-centered learning that defines every Westfield Washington school," Superintendent Dr. John Atha said.

Thank you to the Board of School Trustees, district staff, educators, PSI, and the many project partners whose collaboration helped make the transformation

possible. District leaders also recognized the Cool Creek staff members who have worked throughout the summer to prepare for the school's first year.



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US Flag Requests

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



Military Academy Nominations

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



US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

My office can help arrange tours throughout our nation's capital.

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East District Office: (765) 639-0671

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Grand Park Sports Campus celebrates Greg Stremlaw's leadership as he moves to new executive role with Droplight

Submitted

Grand Park Sports & Entertainment has announced that Greg Stremlaw – a key executive leader and the Co-Chief Executive Officer for the campus who was behind its transformation and continued growth – will transition to a new executive role with Droplight Venture Studio, the campus' exclusive naming rights partner.

Stremlaw will become President and Chief Sports Officer of Droplight, following nearly eight years of leadership with Indy Sports & Entertainment and Indy Eleven and a pivotal role in the formation, launch, and growth of Grand Park Sports & Entertainment.

His final day in his current role will be Nov. 30. Stremlaw will continue to lead his existing responsibilities in the coming months while working closely with Grand Park Sports & Entertainment leadership to ensure a seamless transition and maintain the campus' operational and commercial momentum.

The move comes at a significant moment in Droplight Grand Park's history. Since Grand Park Sports & Entertainment assumed management and operations of the 400-acre campus, Grand Park has expanded its national profile, attracted new championship events, secured significant corporate partnerships, and laid the foundation for the next phase of development of the campus and surrounding district.

Stremlaw was instrumental from the earliest stages of that transition, helping forge the partnership that led to the successful bid to manage Grand Park and playing a leadership role in the creation of Grand Park Sports & Entertainment.

"Greg has been the backbone to helping establish Grand Park Sports & Entertainment, from the early stages of bidding on Grand Park, to running the said like a professional company and with the highest level of professionalism and standards," stated Blake Hibler, Co-CEO of GPSE and President of Capacity Sports Group. "Greg and I have become very close and we work incredibly well together, whereby I am really going to miss having him in the role he has flourished in here, but I am also thrilled to know I will get to work with him and Droplight in an entirely new capacity and which will only serve to further strengthen our partnership."

During Stremlaw's tenure, Grand Park has reached several significant milestones, including securing the NFL Flag Football National Championships, supporting the Indianapolis Colts Training Camp, receiving approval as a 2026 FIFA World Cup Team Base Camp, securing the Continental Football League's Indianapolis home and expanding the campus' national event portfolio with or-

ganizations including USA Wrestling, USA Gymnastics and World Fitness Project.

Grand Park has also continued to broaden the experiences available to athletes, families, and visitors. TreeRunner Adventure Park opened at the campus in 2026, Ed Carpenter Racing is preparing for its planned 2027 relocation to Grand Park, and work continues toward a transformational mixed-use district surrounding the campus over the next five to 10 years.

Commercially, Stremlaw played a leading role in securing several of the most significant partnerships in Grand Park history, including multi-year agreements with Community Health Network and Titan Bat Company and the landmark exclusive campus naming rights partnership with Droplight.

Droplight Grand Park welcomed more than 5.56 million visitors last year, reinforcing the campus' position as one of the country's premier youth and amateur sports destinations.

"Greg's leadership literally transformed what this campus is capable of, and the fact that he is moving to our naming rights partner rather than out of the picture means Grand Park keeps his advocacy and gains a bigger platform behind it. That is a win for Westfield," Westfield Mayor Scott Willis said.

Importantly, Stremlaw's transition does not mark the end of his relationship with Grand Park.

As President and Chief Sports Officer, Stremlaw will lead Droplight's sports platform, setting strategy across the firm's venue, team, event, and rights holdings while expanding its national and international event portfolio and developing media and sponsorship partnerships connecting Droplight clients to the sports economy.

He will also lead commercial growth across Droplight's ecosystem of partner brands, working with brand leadership to translate the firm's presence in sports, motorsports, live music, and hospitality into new opportunities for distribution, activation, and revenue.

Droplight's ecosystem spans consumer brands, medical devices, professional and amateur sports properties, motorsports, live entertainment, hospitality, and media. Through Stremlaw's new role, Grand Park will retain a senior advocate within its naming rights partner while gaining greater access to that expanding network of brands, properties, media platforms and relationships.

For Grand Park, the transition represents both the culmination of an important chapter and an opportunity to build upon the foundation established over the past several years.

See *Stremlaw* . . . Page 14

Kebe & Gramlich receive endorsements from former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Submitted

On Thursday, Aug. 13, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and Mayor of South Bend Pete Buttigieg, along with his Win the Era Action Fund, issued two endorsements in state-level races. Founded by Secretary Buttigieg in March 2020, Win the Era focuses on electing the next generation of leaders to build a sustainable pipeline for the Democratic Party.

State Treasurer candidate Coumba Kebe

Buttigieg officially endorsed Coumba Kebe for Indiana State Treasurer. In his statement of support, he cited Kebe's character, problem-solving skills, and leadership as reasons for his endorsement.

"Coumba has built her career helping organizations solve complex problems and better serve the people who depend on them," Buttigieg said. "She understands that good stewardship is about more than balancing the books – it's about earning the public's trust and making government work better for everyone."

Kebe, a healthcare executive and community advocate, has campaigned on a platform of restructuring state investments to lower borrowing costs for local communities, supporting affordable housing initiatives, and bringing accountability to state reserve management.

"Pete Buttigieg has dedicated his career to building stronger communities and proving that government can deliver tangible results for everyday people," Kebe said. "He started that journey right here in Indiana and that's why I am so honored to have his support. Together, we are building a campaign focused on ensuring Hoosiers and our communities feel the benefit of the investment of their taxpayer dollars."

Learn more about the candidate at [KebeForIndiana.com](https://www.KebeForIndiana.com).

House District 39 candidate Lindsay Gramlich

Buttigieg officially endorsed Lindsay Gramlich in her campaign for Indiana House District 39, along with a slate of other candidates running to flip Republican-controlled offices in Indiana.

Gramlich has been a longtime community advocate and brings with her over 16 years of experience in leadership and philanthropy in Central Indiana. Currently, she serves as the President and CEO of Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis, a non-profit leadership organization dedicated to helping girls realize their full potential, and has also worked in various capacities at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

Gramlich holds a Bachelor of Arts from DePauw University and a Master of

Public Affairs from Indiana University.

"Having Secretary Buttigieg's support means the world to me, and is a big milestone for this campaign," Gramlich said.

"I'm honored to have his endorsement, and looking forward to partnering with him and Win the Era Action Fund to flip this incredibly competitive seat and break the long-held Republican supermajority."

Gramlich is a 2026 recipient of the *Indianapolis Business Journal's* prestigious "Forty Under 40" award, which recognizes young professionals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and achievements in their careers, and was voted one of Indy's Most Pivotal Leaders in 2022. She is also



Kebe



Gramlich

a graduate of several notable leadership fellowships in Central Indiana and has served on various boards in Central Indiana.

"National organizations and leaders are zooming in on Indiana and the potential for Democrats to make inroads here," Gramlich said. "I'm ready to be a part of that and bring back balance to the Indiana Statehouse so we can focus on the issues that matter most to Hoosiers."

Learn more about the candidate at [LindsayGramlich.com](https://www.LindsayGramlich.com).

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 7:00 pm Cathedral vs **Noblesville** | IHSAA Girls Varsity Soccer | HCTV Sports

Tues Aug 18 - Volleyball
 5:50 pm Shortridge vs Horizon Christian | IHSAA Volleyball | IndianaSRN

Tues Aug 18 - Boys Soccer
 5:50 pm Cardinal Ritter vs **Noblesville** | IHSAA Boys Varsity Soccer | HCTV Sports

Thurs Aug 20 - Volleyball
 6:50 pm Heritage Christian vs Mt Vernon | HSAA Volleyball | IndianaSRN

Fri Aug 21 - Football
 6:45 pm Maconaquah vs **Sheridan** | Football | Bragg Sports Media
 6:50 pm Covenant Christian v Park Tudor | IHSAA Football | IndianaSRN
 6:50 pm Alexandria vs Greenfield Central | IHSAA Football | IndianaSRN
 6:50 pm Mt Vernon vs Kokomo | IHSAA Football | IndianaSRN
 7:00 pm Arsenal Tech vs **Noblesville** | IHSAA Football | HCTV Sports

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First Bank Midwest named Hoosier Market Gold Sponsor

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

We’re excited to welcome First Bank Midwest as one of the Gold Sponsors for our Hoosier Markets! With roots that trace back more than 150 years to agriculture and traditional Midwestern values, they immediately recognized what the Hoosier Markets are all about: celebrating local traditions, supporting small businesses, and bringing our community together.

As they shared with us, the Hoosier Markets “fit like a well-worn pair of gardening gloves,” and we couldn’t agree more. First Bank Midwest is expanding in Noblesville with a new Financial Center opening

this fall at State Road 32 and Hazel Dell Parkway, giving them five Hamilton County locations with two in Noblesville. Their commitment to true community banking goes far beyond financial services; it’s about building relationships, supporting local organizations, and investing in the communities they call home.

We’re proud to partner with First Bank Midwest and are grateful for their support in helping launch Hoosier Markets. Visit them on Tomato Market Day, Saturday, Aug. 22, at Seminary Park to hear more about their services, new developments, and commitments to the community.

Favorite Tomato Contest

One of our favorite tra-



Photo provided

First Bank Midwest is a Gold Sponsor of the upcoming Hoosier Markets.

ditions at the Indiana Peony Festival is our beloved Peony Stem Contest. So naturally, we had to bring it to our Tomato Market with a tomato twist ... introducing our Favorite Tomato Contest!

See *Market . . .* Page 15



Regeneration Distilling Co.

“Heaven must be a Kentucky kind of place.”
– Daniel Boone

Last week I promised that the next topic would be Buffalo Trace Distillery. That’s a huge topic which, honestly, I’m not looking forward to doing. Tons of research. Probably multiple columns. Wading through what to include and what not to include. There’s a ton of history there. Dealing with the whole Pappy Van Winkle “thing”. Ugh!

Instead, I’m going to do what I do best: procrastinate. Besides, I’ve been pretty rough on the big distilleries, and Buffalo Trace is going to be no different. So, let’s have a little, delightful, palate cleanser.

It doesn’t get more delightful than tiny Regeneration Distilling in Winchester, Ky. We travel to Red River Gorge in Kentucky at least two or three times a year. It’s a beautiful place, and if this were a travel column, I’d rave on about it right here and now (perhaps in the future). On the way to The Gorge, about 20 to 30 miles southeast of Lexington, is the quaint little town of Winchester. It is there that I discovered one of my favorite whiskies.

Several years ago, we came across a great little place in Winchester named Wildcat Willies. It was a restaurant and small distillery. I’m going to get nostalgic and emotional for a moment because, alas, the restaurant is now gone. Very sad (tear running down my cheek). It had amazing food. And the “Wildcat Willies” name is also history.

As an aside, I love food even more than I love booze. It’s always sad and somewhat frustrating to me when a great food spot goes out of business. Sorry, I digress. Today, Beech Springs Table restaurant operates in the front of the distillery building. I have not had the opportunity to dine there yet. It will be a definite stop on our next trip down there.

All is not lost! The same folks who owned this fine little establishment rebranded under the name of Regeneration Distilling. It’s located in the same historical, nicely refurbished, factory building and also in a very nice storefront, called “The Mercantile” on Main Street in Winchester. Regeneration is a special place on its own.

COLUMNIST

JON SMYRNIS
Bourbon Psychosis

Another aside: This is Daniel Boone country. The Mount Folly Farm, where Regeneration gets most of its raw materials, is land once owned by the famous frontiersman. This only adds to the heritage of the distillery and its products. Pretty cool!

They only make three products at Regeneration: Sweet Potato Moonshine (which is pretty good stuff), Cinnamon Whiskey (which I haven’t tried), and the topic of this article, Boone’s Settlement Wheated Rye. All of them are farm-to-table and made from local ingredients. All are also only available in Kentucky. Road trip time!

The Rye is wonderful! So much so that it easily places within my top 10 favorite whiskies. What makes it so good, and unusual, is that it is aged for three years in local farm tobacco barns. You can taste the tobacco.

It’s not a smokey, licking-an-asht-ray-taste like you can get with some Scotches. It’s more like delicate notes of something a little different. Like the richness of pre-smoked tobacco. Imagine a whiskey that has a pleasant hint of pre-smoked fine cigar flavor.

Yet, that’s not all. Add to this the unique tastes of the rye spices and the caramel sweetness of a fine bourbon, and you get a truly complex, thoroughly enjoyable, dram. Seriously – this is one that graces my Glencairn quite often. The only possible way that it could be better is if they made it barrel proof – in the 120s range. Right now, it’s bottled at 95 proof. On the other hand, who knows what that would do to the flavor and complexity of this unique whiskey. So, nevermind. Why mess with perfection?

If you ever find yourself in the wilds of Eastern Kentucky, do yourself a favor and check out Regeneration Distilling and Boone’s Settlement Rye. You won’t be disappointed. In fact, my bottle is getting low – time to revisit. I’m going to start planning a trip there right now.

Until next time – cheers!
Jon Smyrnis is a lifelong Indianapolis area resident. He enjoys traveling, hiking, biking, kayaking, dining out, and, of course, fine cocktails and great bourbons.

STREMLAW

from Page 13

Stremlaw leaves his day-to-day leadership role with Droplight Grand Park positioned for continued growth, with an expanded national event portfolio, significant corporate partnerships, new attractions and development underway, and a growing national profile.

At Droplight, he will now have the opportunity to support that growth from a different seat.

“I have loved my involvement with Grand Park since we set forth the comprehensive plan to bid on the rights to manage and operate the entire campus over four and a half years ago,” Stremlaw said. “We show-

cased how we were the best opportunity for the growth and professionalization of this incredible community asset, and we have backed that up with results over the past two years, with our great partnership with the City of Westfield. We have worked tirelessly to help this organization succeed and have accomplished unprecedented successes and results and grown the sports and entertainment portfolio. I very much appreciate the opportunity to have earned the trust and respect of my team and so many stakeholders. It has also been an absolute honor and a privilege to serve Grand Park Sports & Entertainment.”

Thanks for reading The Reporter!

RETIREMENT AUCTION
for JOHN & JUDY HUSSEY
True Legends of the Land and our Community

After 6+ decades, John & Judy Hussey are officially hanging up the work gloves at John’s incredible age of 82. We are honored to offer at auction, their Equipment, Implements, & Tools of the Trade. Think about what this auction means. John and Judy have been farming for decades, weathering countless unpredictable seasons, navigating shifting markets, and putting in more sun-up to sun-down hours than most of us can fathom. They haven’t just grown crops and raised livestock, John and Judy have grown a legacy! Over 6 decades, they have seen a lot of changes. The tractors got bigger, technology got faster, and the world shifted beneath our feet. But the heart of farming never changed. It’s still about faith, family, and taking care of the land that feeds us.

ON-LINE ONLY PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22nd, 2026
In Tipton County @ 2187 North – 600 East, Windfall, IN 46076

BIDDING OPENS: Thursday, August 6th 2026 @ Noon
SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, August 22nd 2026 @ Noon
PREVIEW DATES: Tuesday, August 11th - Thursday, August 13th from Noon - 4pm
NOTE: This is a sale notice only. All Items Sold As-Is, Where-Is. To View the Complete Sale Bill Including Pictures, Descriptions, Terms of Sale, Payment Options, and to Register & Start Bidding: Click the Calendar Link @ www.cripesauction.com
Absentee Bidding is Still Available

- COMBINE, HEADS & CARTS:**
2022 John Deere S780 STS Combine (ONE OWNER, 4-WD, 1540 Eng & 1227 Sep. hrs), 2018 John Deere 645FD Hydra-Flex Grain Head, J&M 4WS17 Head Cart, 2016 John Deere 612 FC 12-Row Folding Cornhead, Unverferth HT 30 Head Cart
- TRACTORS:**
2020 John Deere SRT 370 (1228 Hrs), John Deere 8335R (3419 hrs), John Deere 8335R (2900 hrs), John Deere 9530T (3806 hrs), John Deere 7410 (4418 hrs), John Deere 5303 (2060 hrs), John Deere 6125R (2246 hrs), John Deere 7320 (hour meter broken), FarmAll B
- SPRAYER, TANKS & APPLICATORS:**
2021 John Deere R4038 Sprayer (889 hrs), Snyder 300-Gallon 3-pt Sprayer w/ 10’ Boom, 60’ Fast 8224 28% Applicator (24-Row, 2400-Gallon), Case IH 5300 NH3 Pull-Type Toolbar (21 Knives, Raven NH3 Super Cooler), DMI 4250 NH3 Pull-Type Toolbar (15 Knives, Continental), (2) AG Systems 1250 1200-Gallon Nurse Trailers, Tru-Kleen UTV/ATV 100-Gallon Sprayer, (2) 4000-Gallon Ply Tanks, (2) Snyder 1200-Gallon Poly Tanks
- GRAIN HANDLING & WAGONS:**
(2) Unverferth 3750 Seed Tenders (Scales), 2-DMI Big Little Grain Wagons, J & M 1251 Grain Storm (Rear Camera, Tarp, 20” Unload), 2004 Kongsilde Grain Vac (1000 PTO)
- SEMI’S & TRAILERS:**
2014 Freightliner Cascade (399436 Miles, ISX 15 Cummins, 10-sp. Manual Trans.), 2015 Freightliner Cascade (484041 Miles, Detroit DD13, 10-sp Manual Trans.), 2015 Freightliner Cascade (480057 miles, Detroit DD13, 10-sp Manual Trans.), 2017 Freightliner Cascade (284046 miles, Detroit DD13, DT-12 Automatic Trans.), 2002 International 9100 (532055 Miles, CAT C-12 10-sp. Manual Trans.), 2020 Wilson DWH-600 Hopper Bottom (34’x72’x96”, Elect. Tarp, Air-Ride, AG Hoppers), 2020 Wilson DWH-600 Hopper Bottom (34’x72’x96”, Elect. Tarp, Air-Ride, AG Hoppers), 2012 Wilson DWH-500 Hopper Bottom (34’x72’x96”, Elect. Tarp, Spring Ride, AG Hoppers), 2007 Wilson DWH-500 Hopper Bottom (34’x72’x96”, Elect. Tarp, Spring Ride, AG Hoppers), 2012 Hudson HTD20A 20-Ton Tilt-Top Trailer (24’x96”, Elect. Tarp, Air Brakes), 2005 Witzco Challenger RG50 46’ Detach
- VEHICLES & TRAILERS:**
2008 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD SRW 4x4 Service Truck w/ Warner Utility Bed (Duramax Diesel, Automatic, Regular Cab, 79761 Miles), 2004 GMC 2500HD SLE Truck (Duramax Diesel, Automatic, 4x4, Regular Cab, 163552 Miles), 1991 GMC Topkick Dump Truck (104567 Miles, V-8 Gas, Automatic Trans.), 2012 Thunder Creek ADT990UB Fuel Trailer
- PLANTERS & DRILLS:**
2022 John Deere DB60 Bean Planter (36-Row, 20” Spacing), 2023 PUK/

- 2013 John Deere DB60 Corn Planter (24-Row, 30” Spacing), 24 ProMax 40 Units & Parts off JD DB60 Planter, JD Refuge Plus Tank off JD DB60 Planter, Spike Closing Wheels, Misc. Planter Plates
- SEED CONVEYORS/AUGERS:**
KSI 120832 Conveyor, Brandt Drive-Over Graindeck, Brandt 1537LP+ 10-hp Grain Belt, 2021 Westfield MKX 100-83 Auger (540 PTO), Westfield 100-31 Auger, 2020 Westfield MKX-73 Swing-Away Auger (540 PTO, Hyd. Lift), Westfield 100-51 Swing-Away Auger (540 PTO, Hyd. Lift), Westfield 8” Hydraulic Transfer Auger
- GPS EQUIPMENT:**
(3) GS2630 Displays, (1) GEN4 4640 Display, (1) GreenStar-2 1800 Display, (2) StarFire 3000 Receivers on RTK450 Radios, (2) StarFire 6000 Receivers with RTK Radios, Misc. StarFire Globes & Parts
- TILLAGE:**
John Deere 2680H 35’ Hi-Speed Disk, John Deere 2720X 27’6” 11-Shank Disk Chisel, John Deere 2210 34’ 6” Fld Cult (5-Bar Spike Harrow, Rear Hitch, Rear Hyd), Sunflower 1435-33 Disk, J&M TF215 37’ Rolling Basket, 35’ Unverferth 220 Rolling Harrow, DMI ET5 7-Sh, 3-pt Ripper, John Deere 2810 5-Bottom Plow, 12’ John Deere 1100 3-pt. Fld. Cult), 13’ Pull-Type Packer, John Deere 12-Shank 3-pt Chisel, Int’l 531 3-Bottom 3-pt. Plow, Bush Hog 245 12’ Off-Set Disk, 23’ Case IH 3900 DH Disk (Rock Flex, 7-1/2” Spacing), 7’ King Kutter TG-84-YK Gear-Drive 3-pt Tiller
- HEAVY EQUIPMENT:**
2007 CAT 420E Backhoe 4x4 Extendahoe w/ 4-1 Front Bucket (4141 hrs), 2014 CAT 303.5E Mini Excavator (1649 hrs), 2007 CAT 320DLH Excavator (5328 hrs, 48” Bucket, Hyd. Thumb), 2002 CAT D5G Dozer (291 hrs), Case 1845C Uni-Loader Skid Steer (3632 hrs), 24” CAT 320B Bucket, 72” AIM 320DL Root Rake, Skid Steer Post Hole Auger, Skid Steer Bale Spear, Skid Steer Pallet Forks, John Deere Work Site Pro R84 80” Rock Bucket (Skid Steer Mount), Mitsubishi FG25 Forklift (6583 hrs, LP, 3-Stage Mast, 5000#), 7’ Soil-Max Shaper Pro 3-pt Trench Filler
- MISC:**
JD 855D Gator (940 hrs), JD 855D Gator (1654 hrs.), 1978 Bolinger Tilt-Trailer, (2) Bolinger Tilt-Trailers, Fork Truck LP Tank, Planter Parts, Inductor System w/ Honda GX240 Engine & 3” John Blue Pump, Auger Jack Wheel & 2 Skids of Westfield Auger Parts, John Deere MX7 3-pt. Rotary Cutter (540 PTO), 3-pt. Hay Forks, John Deere HX15 Batwing Rotary Cutter (1000 PTO), 6’ Bush Hog 5072 3-pt. Rotary Cutter, 9’ 3-pt. Grader Blade, Honda Engine & 3” Pump, 6’ Pallet Fork Extensions, Skid of 15 Chisel Points, 18’ Spray Boom (11-Nozzle on 20”), Sullair 1850 Air Compressor (Diesel Engine), John Deere Quick Hitches, Hay Wagons on JD Gears, Steel Bed Wagon on DMI Gear, JD Gear w/ Hoist, Utility Cart w/ Toolbox, 1000 & 2000-Gallon Diesel Fuel Tanks w/ Pumps, Tires & Wheels,

PICK-UP SCHEDULE: Monday, August 24th – Wednesday, August 26th from 10am – 6pm or by appointment only. A telehandler, forklift, and operators will be available during pick-up times.

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Kathy Jean (Ratts) Bailey
July 28, 1953 – August 12, 2026



Kathy Jean (Ratts) Bailey, 73, was reunited with her parents and brother on August 12, 2026, surrounded by the love of her children and grandchildren.

Born on July 28, 1953, in Shreveport, La., Kathy spent her childhood in Morgan County, Ind. She lived for a few years in Rialto, Calif., before returning home and graduating from Eminence High School with the Class of 1971. She later attended cosmetology school at the House of James Beauty School and became a licensed cosmetologist in 1975, maintaining her license throughout her life.

In addition to her work as a cosmetologist, Kathy found her calling with the MSD of Martinsville. She began working at West Middle School in 1979 and remained there until her retirement in 2009. During those years, she touched countless young lives through her kindness, encouragement, and dedication. She also enjoyed coaching the cheerleading squads and spent several years coaching track and field.

Working on a school calendar meant one thing every spring: Daytona Beach. Spring Break was Kathy's favorite time of year, and she made it a tradition to pile into a vehicle with friends, her sons, and often several of their friends for the annual trip to Florida. Those vacations created lifelong memories, countless laughs, and more than a few life lessons for her boys along the way. Summer vacations were a little quieter but often returned to the same beloved destination, making Daytona Beach a place forever intertwined with her family's happiest memories.

Kathy's interests extended far beyond her work at the school. She spent many years as a timing and scoring official at Paragon Speedway, Bloomington Speedway, and Lincoln Park Speedway, earning a reputation that occasionally led to invitations to score races at other tracks. When her sons discovered wrestling, Kathy found another passion behind the scenes, working in tournament pairings for many years while proudly supporting both of them. Her love for the sport continued as she watched two of her oldest grandsons compete and excel on the wrestling mat.

Retirement gave Kathy the opportunity to enjoy another favorite pastime-traveling on cruises and relaxing with television. Whether it was a favorite network show or the latest streaming series, there was almost always a television on in her home, and often more than one. She loved keeping up with new shows and was always ready to recommend one to family and friends. Retirement also brought another source of joy, her seven little dogs: Ozzy, Myli, Zoye, Joey, Poky, Roxy, and Rosy. Even though they yapped all the time, they each held a special place in Kathy's heart.

Kathy was known for being as tough as they come. Strong-willed, fiercely independent, and never afraid to speak her mind, she believed honesty was an act of love, even when it came with a little bluntness. If she had something to say, you rarely had to wonder what she was thinking. Beneath that tough exterior, however, was a woman with an enormous heart and an unwavering sense of responsibility to the people she loved.

That strength was never more evident than in the care she gave to her family. Kathy devoted herself to caring for both her grandmother and later her mother during the final years of their lives. She gave them the same loyalty, determination, and unconditional love that defined every part of her own life.

More than any job, hobby, or vacation, Kathy's greatest joy was her family. She rarely missed an opportunity to cheer from the stands or audience at her children's and grandchildren's sporting events, school activities, and milestones. She was their biggest fan, happiest when surrounded by those she loved most.

Kathy is survived by her sons, Bryan Bailey and his wife, Christy, and Chad Bailey and his wife, Kristin; and her five beloved grandchildren who knew her as Nana: Breyden, Logan, Kelsey, Camden, and Bennett.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert E. Ratts; her mother, Mary Jane Ratts; her brother, Robert K. "Bobby" Ratts; and her nephew, Robert Anthony Joseph "AJ" Ratts.

Honoring Kathy's wishes, no funeral service will be held. Her arrangements will be held privately by her sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren. A celebration of life for family and friends will be announced in the coming weeks.

Kathy will be remembered for her strength, her unwavering devotion to family, her dedication to those whose lives she touched, her love of racing and wrestling, her annual trips to Daytona Beach, and the honesty that made her unmistakably herself. She lived life on her own terms, loved her family without reservation, and leaves behind a legacy of resilience, loyalty, and countless treasured memories.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

MARKET

from Page 14

We want to see what you've been growing all summer long and are most proud of! Big or small, perfectly round, delightfully wonky, vibrant red, striped, green, or heirloom, it doesn't matter. Come one, come all; we don't discriminate. Our panel of judges will stroll through the entries and choose the tomato that catches their eye most. No taste test here, just a celebration of physical features!

The lucky winner will

head home with a prize, plenty of bragging rights, and the title of Our Favorite Tomato! You never know, you might be growing this year's champion.

To learn more about our Hoosier Markets this year, go to indianapeonyfestival.com/hoosier-markets. Stay tuned to see what sponsor we feature next!

The Hoosier Markets are sponsored by **First Bank Midwest**, **Noblesville Ace Hardware**, **Tom Wood Volkswagen**, and **LINNEA**.

A ribbon cutting five years in the making

Chariot Automotive Group's Academy dealership celebrating five years of community involvement

The REPORTER

Locally-owned **Chariot Automotive Group's Academy dealership**, 6002 W. Field Drive, Tipton, is celebrating five years of community involvement and customer success with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20.

Chariot will continue the celebration with a free, family-friendly community "Cruise In" in partnership with the **JackWagon Car Club** from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22.

In addition to its automotive sales and service efforts, Academy is the flagship dealership location of Chariot Automotive Group's ATEP (Automotive Technician Education Pathway) program, which provides Indiana high school students with hands-on technical training for college credit. By combining classroom learning, real-world experience, and industry-recognized creden-



Photo provided by Chariot Automotive Group

tials, ATEP creates a clear, affordable pathway from high school to career. Thus far, the program has served approximately 150 students from 13 schools.

"We are excited to celebrate this milestone with all of the communities we serve," said Rex Gingerich, Founder & CEO of Chariot Automotive Group. "In the last five years, we've en-

joyed welcoming customers from across Tipton and Hamilton Counties to our store and we look forward to meeting many more in the next five years. This celebration is more than recognizing a car dealership; it's a reflection of our commitment to community and continuous education through the ATEP program."

Chariot has been inte-

grated into Tipton and its surrounding communities through charitable efforts like Cross America and hosting blood drives in partnership with the Red Cross.

Chariot Automotive Group has three additional dealership locations in Lafayette and Kokomo. To learn more about Chariot Automotive Group, visit drivechariot.com.

ON-LINE ONLY PUBLIC AUCTION

the Estates of **ROBERT N. & VIRGINIA L. SMITH** **and C. RAY LAMB** **and Other Personal Property**

BIDDING OPENS: Wednesday, August 5th @ 6pm
SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, August 15th @ 6pm
PREVIEW DATES: Thursday, August 13th from Noon - 6pm
PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, August 17th and Tuesday, August 18th from Noon - 6pm

Estate of Robert N. & Virginia L. Smith and Other Personal Property:

Fenton, Fostoria, Westmoreland, Hurricane & Brass Lamps, Mantle Clocks, Vintage Pyrex, Cookie Jars, Collectibles,; Nice & Clean Furniture, Wagner Magna-Lite Dutch Oven, Kitchen & Household, China, Cast Iron,; Indiana History Books, Crocks, Crates, Hand Made Wood Items, Baskets, Soft Goods, Barbies, Advertising,; Pet Supplies, Wall Decor, Antiques, Vintage Toys, Copper Apple Butter Kettle; Picnic Table, Benches, Swing, Webber Grill, Sunbeam Gas Grill; E-Z Access Aluminum Wheelchair Ramp; Hand & Power Tools, Guardian Power Drill Press, Porter-Cable Band Saw, Craftsman Radial Arm Saw & Table Saw; Work Benches, Jawhorse, Air Compressor, Coleman Power Mate Generator, Yard Cart & Yard/Garden Tools,; Skil Xbench & Accessories, DeWalt Sliding Compound Miter Saw & Planer, Vtg 5-Gallon Oil Cans, License Plates,; Briggs

& Stratton Power Washer, Craftsman Wood Lathe, Stihl 023 Chainsaw, Vulcan Anvil; 1930-40's DeVilbiss Air Compressor, Wire Spools, 55-Gallon Food-Grade Metal Barrels, 200-Gallon Gas Tank w/ Hand Pump; Leer 8' Truck Topper off 1995 Dodge, JD 25-Gallon Pull-Type Sprayer, Agri-Fab 15-Gallon Pull-Type Sprayer; Lapp 2-Door Dog Transport Box, Murray Snow Blower w/ Walk-Behind Shroud; Andersen Aluminum 5th Wheel Hitch, 8' x 42" Utility Trailer, Bolinger 10' x 7' Utility Trailer; 2009 EZ-GO Electric Golf Cart; 1985 GMC 1500 Sierra 4-W/D Truck; Craftsman T2400 46' Riding Mower; Grasshopper 718 Zero-Turn Gas Mower; JD F620 Z-Trak 54" Zero-Turn Mower; Simplicity 44" Riding Mower

C. Ray Lamb Equipment:

Kubota ZD1021 Zero-Turn Diesel Mower; Kubota RTV X900; Kubota M6800 Tractor & Loader; Land Pride RCR2684 7' Rotary Cutter

To View Complete Sale Bill Including Pictures & Terms and to Register & Start Bidding:

Click the Calendar Link @ www.cripesauction.com

Absentee Bidding is still Available

PREVIEW - PICKUP & PAY AT

Cripe's Auction Service, 3247 E. State Road 28, Tipton, IN 765-675-6909

www.cripesauction@yahoo.com

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Each year, the Hamilton County Reporter requests government entities to notify us of public meetings as their Open Door Law notification under I.C. 5-1-4.1-5.5. 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.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pleasant View Baptist Church, P.O. Box 292, Noblesville, IN 46061.
Condolences: randallroberts.com

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

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to serve the Hague family.

136 S. 9th St., Suite 12
Noblesville, IN 46060



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. Lake access and boat docks.

Listed at \$339,900

F.C. TUCKER COMPANY