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Heinzmann farm honored with Hoosier Homestead Award

The REPORTER

Area legislators are recognizing the latest local recipients of the Hoosier Homestead Award, which honors farms owned and maintained by the same family for 100 years or more.

Represented by State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) and House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers), the Heinzmann farm in Hamilton County was presented with the Centennial Award at the Indiana State Fair.

The **Hoosier Homestead Award Program** honors families who have made significant contributions to Indiana agriculture. Instituted in 1976, the program has recognized more than 6,400 family farms that have impacted Indiana's economic, cultural and social advancement.

“For the last 100 years, the Heinzmann farm has worked tirelessly to provide for our community and state,” Baldwin said. “This impressive milestone is a testament to the Heinzmann family’s dedication to Indiana’s agricultural legacy, and I congratulate them on this well-deserved award.”

To be named a Hoosier Homestead, farms must be owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years and consist of more than 20 acres or produce more than \$1,000 of agricultural products per year. The award distinctions are centennial, sesquicentennial, and bicentennial – for 100, 150 and 200 years, respectively.

"Hamilton County is home to many farm families and agricultural busi-

nesses, and farms like the Heinzmann's have been critical in building and sustaining that legacy," Huston said. "Congratulations to the Heinzmann farm on 100 years of hard work and determination required to achieve this milestone and thank you for your longstanding commitment to our community."

Other area farms received recognition include:

- Allen Baird, Tipton County (1877; Centennial Award)
- Amsbury-Morris, Tipton County (1871; Centennial Award)
- Everett, Boone County (1909; Centennial)
- Preston, Madison County (1914; Centennial)

To learn more about the program or to apply for a Hoosier Homestead Award, visit in.gov/isda.

Public invited to meetings about Noblesville Schools funding referendum

The REPORTER

Noblesville Schools Superintendent Dr. Dan Hile invites the community to any of the eight upcoming community meetings to discuss the school funding referendum that will be on the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

- Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. at



Hile

Forest Park

- 
- Sept. 2 at 10 a.m. at Hamilton East Public Library
 - Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. at Hamilton East Public Library
 - Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. at Noblesville High School
 - Sept. 28 at 1 p.m. at Noblesville City Hall
 - Oct. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m.



at Chapter Book Lounge
• Oct. 13 from 2 to
4 p.m. at The Gathering
House

CONSEQUENCES

from Page 1

reductions in federal health agency staffing and a scaled-back FoodNet foodborne disease surveillance network. These cutbacks impair the rapid and efficient identification of outbreaks, outbreak investigations, food inspections, tracing of contaminated foods through supply chains, and expeditious communication with health departments and the public. Last year, the CDC also reduced state health department funding by almost \$6 billion and suspended required FoodNet monitoring of *Cyclospora* due to lack of funding. The CDC's

parasitic diseases program declined from 11 specialists to just three.

Former CDC Director Tom Frieden warned that reducing surveillance capability leaves the nation less able to detect outbreaks before they become widespread. Former CDC Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat cautioned that experienced epidemiologists, laboratory scientists, and outbreak investigators cannot be easily replaced. Former CDC official Dan Jernigan advised that diminishing federal capacity weakens coordination with state and local health departments during outbreaks.

Kennedy's tenure has also been marked by broader organizational chaos. The dismissal of scientific advisory committee members, scientific censorship, leadership turnover, and changing vaccine and other health policies based on personal

and political agendas have compromised institutional stability, evidence-based decision-making, and scientific independence and expertise – all essential for national public health preparedness.

The lessons from the Cyclospora outbreak are clear. When public health systems function well, we are a healthier and safer nation. The outbreak should serve as a warning that the cost of neglecting public health is measured in greater preventable disease, lost public trust, and lives lost.

We are paying the price as yet a new *Salmonella* outbreak emerges. Poor decisions are coming home to roost.

Richard D. Feldman, M.D. is an Indianapolis family physician and former Indiana State Health Commissioner who served in the administration of Governor Frank O'Bannon.

RECOVERY

from Page 1

- Hamilton County Emergency Management
- Northview Church
- Republic Waste Management
- Samaritan's Purse
- SERVE Village



Lopez



Garcia Wilburn

- State of Indiana Attorney General's Office
- State of Indiana Department of Health
- State of Indiana Department of Insurance

Members of the Carmel City Council, as well as State Representatives Victoria Garcia Wilburn and Danny Lopez, will also be in attendance to support residents.

FISHERS

from Page 1

“When you walk through this building, you can see how thoughtfully it was designed around students,” Superintendent Dr. Matt Kegley said. “It provides our teachers with flexible learning spaces, strengthens safety and gives Fishers Elementary room to serve families for years to come. We are grateful to everyone who helped bring this project to life.”

The building incorporates concepts used in the design of Deer Creek Elementary while incorporating enhancements for the Fishers Elementary community. Improvements include a more secure main entrance, an expanded parking lot and a dedicated bus area to improve traffic flow and student safety.

Wurster Construction managed the construction of the facility, which was designed by CSO Architects. The project had an approved budget of \$45

million and was financed through the sale of bonds. The additional space will increase the school’s capacity as enrollment patterns shift across the district.

Construction took place in phases, allowing students and staff to continue learning and working at the school throughout the project.

“This project honors the history of Fishers Elementary while giving our students and staff a school designed for how they learn and work today,” Principal Dr. Emily Supergan said. “Our school community showed tremendous flexibility throughout construction, and it is rewarding to see everyone enjoying these new spaces.”

Students returned to the transformed building Aug. 5 for the start of the 2026-27 school year. They were also welcomed by Supergan, who is beginning her first year as principal of Fishers Elementary.



Photos provided by HSE Schools



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Ben’s Ranch Foundation offers high school students new career pathway in animal science

The REPORTER

Ben’s Ranch Foundation is launching a new education program for Hamilton County high school students. The new Career Pathway is made possible through a partnership with The Pursuit Institute and the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department (HCPR).

This first-of-its-kind coursework will provide work-based learning about animal science and incorporate Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and workforce development content. Classes will be held at Koteewi Stables and other area farms and agribusinesses. Through daily instruction, interaction with animals and experts, and meaningful work responsibilities, students will gain skills and improve self-confidence, while earning academic credit and learning about career opportunities.

“We believe Hamilton County students should have the opportunity to learn about agriculture and animal science through work-based learning and enjoy the social skills and mental wellness benefits it creates,” said Brose McVey, Founder and Executive Director of Ben’s Ranch



Foundation. “Students will gain real-world experience while building confidence, resilience, and purpose. Our goal is to help teens thrive by giving them hands-on training and education in one of our state’s largest industries.”

The Pursuit Institute Executive Director Kurt Cantlon said, “The Pursuit Institute is pleased to partner with Ben’s Ranch Foundation to create transformative opportunities for students in our new Large Animal Science pathway. Partnerships like this allow our students to apply their foundational knowledge and skills in real-world settings as they prepare for their future careers. This partnership takes learning well beyond the classroom, exposing students to invaluable experiences they might not otherwise have.”

HCPR Director Chris Stice said, “Hamilton County Parks and Recreation is proud that Strawtown Ko-

teewi Park’s Stable and Trails, operated by Ben’s Ranch Foundation, is able to support local young people. I’m excited to see the positive impact it will have on our community, students, and their families.”

About Ben’s Ranch Foundation

Ben’s Ranch Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization based in Hamilton County that is dedicated to improving youth mental health through work-based learning on farms and at area stables, nurseries and agribusinesses. Learn more at bensranch.org.

About The Pursuit Institute

The Pursuit Institute provides Hamilton County students with Career and Technical Education pathways that prepare



them for college, careers, and lifelong success through hands-on learning experiences. You can find more information at thepursuitinstitute.org.

About Hamilton County Parks & Recreation

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation enhances quality of life by providing exceptional parks, trails, natural spaces, and recreational opportunities that connect people with nature and one another. Through stewardship, education, and community partnerships, the department creates welcoming spaces that inspire outdoor exploration, lifelong learning, and healthy, active lifestyles for residents and visitors throughout Hamilton County. Stay up to date at MyHamiltonCountyParks.com.

Letter to the Editor

Shaffer opines on Fishers & Carmel vying to be No. 1 in debt

Dear Editor:

For years, Carmel has led all Hamilton County metropolitan areas in total outstanding debt.

But last week, the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance reported a change in leadership.

As Carmel’s reported debt fell some \$300 million after a dozen bonds were retired, Fishers took over first place.

The race, if you can call debt increases a race, has Fishers’ \$1.44 billion ousting Carmel’s \$1.40 billion.

Stay tuned to learn if city central planners add more debt to the load we all carry.

Bill Shaffer
Carmel

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to News@ReadTheReporter.com. Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.



Make your nomination for next Indiana Farm Family of the Year

The REPORTER

Nominations are open now for the 2027 Indiana Farm Family of the Year.

Presented by Beck’s and Indiana AgriNews, this annual award honors an exceptional farm family making a lasting impact on agriculture and their community.

Readers of The Reporter are encouraged to nominate a deserving farm family. For full details or to submit a nomination, [click here](#).

The deadline for all nominations is Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026.

Feeding Team Food Pantries

Here is a list of all the yellow Feeding Team food pantries across Hamilton County. For more information, go to FeedingTeam.org.

ARCADIA

Arcadia Brethren Church, 8989 E. 266th St.
Hamilton Heights School Administration Building, 410 W. Main St.

ATLANTA

Wesleyan Church, 330 S. Walnut St.

CARMEL

Carmel Lions Club, 141 E. Main St.
St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 10655 Haverstick Road

CICERO

Cicero Christian Church, 1715 Stringtown Pike
Harbour Shores Church, 8011 E. 216th St.
Koteewi Park – Taylor Center, 12308 Strawtown Ave.
Laura Hayden’s School of Dance, 7830 E. 236th St.
Roundabout at SR 37 & Strawtown Ave. (23297 Lafayette St.)
The Indiana Academy, 24815 State Road 19
The Pizza House, 11 N. Main St.

FISHERS

Christ the Savior Lutheran Church, 10500 E. 126th St.
Christ’s Community Church, 13097 Allisonville Road
Cyntheanne Christian Church, 13151 Cyntheanne Road
G5 Auto Sales, 11544 Allisonville Road
Life Church Fishers, 9820 E. 141st St.

SHERIDAN

Issachar Church, 501 E. Main St.
Sheridan Church of God, 705 W. 2nd St.
Sheridan Elementary School, 24795 N. Hinesley Road

WESTFIELD

CrossRoads Church, 19201 Grassy Branch Road
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 4283 E. 191st St.
Radiant Life Church, 16162 Carey Road
The Old Playhouse, 1836 State Road 32 (Eagletown)
Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn St.

NOBLESVILLE

American Eagle/Miller Auto Body, 16100 Allisonville Road
American Leigon, 273 S. 8th St.
Chapel Church, 675 Walnut St.
Christ Lutheran Church, 10055 E. 186th St.
Clarksville Christian Church, 16600 Lehr St.
Deer Path HOA Community Building, 12109 Wolf Run Road
Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 16000 Cumberland Road
Family Promise of Hamilton County, 1051 N. 10th St.
Feeding Team Headquarters, 485 Sheridan Road (State Road 38)
First Christian Church, 16377 Herriman Blvd.
First Presbyterian Church, 1194 Maple Ave.
First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St.
Freedom Church, 1361 Christian Ave.
Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St.
Hamilton County Fire Fighters Local 4416, 399 S. 14th St.
Hamilton County Health Department, 18030 Foundation Drive
Hinkle Creek Friends Church, 21617 Hinkle Road
IDES (International Disaster Emergency Service), 355 Park 32 West Drive
Ignite Transform, 698 N. 10th St.
Legacy Christian School, 470 Lakeview Drive
Life Church, 2200 Sheridan Road (State Road 38)
Moose Lodge, 950 Field Drive
Morse Beach FOP Lodge, 7201 E. 196th St.
Mystic Images Tattoo, 164 N. 10th St.
Noblesville Schools Admin Building, 18025 River Road
Open Door Church, 20545 Riverwood Ave.
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 9900 E. 191st St.
Promise Road Elementary School, 14975 Promise Road
Suburban Estates, 3288 Cicero Road
Union United Methodist Church, 19090 Deshane Ave.
Victory Baptist Church, 2021 Cicero Road (State Road 19)
Wayne Township Volunteer Fire, 18441 E. Durbin Road
White Rock Fellowship Church, 21070 Schulley Road



ACAP Indy Metro North offers free guide to Medicare Open Enrollment

The REPORTER

ACAP Indy Metro North will host “The Medicare Maze: Your Free Guide Before The Clock Runs Out” from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, at The Haverstick/Church at the Crossing Door 10, 9111 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis.

The in-person program is designed to help adult children and family caregivers understand Medicare coverage options before the Annual Open Enrollment period begins on Oct. 15.

Attendees will gain clarity on Medicare’s four parts and how they work together, learn to navigate Medicare.gov for coverage tracking and provider comparisons, and discover the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), a free unbiased counseling resource many families have never heard of. The program will

also address how Medicare and Medicaid paperwork intersect and provide guidance on preparing for Open Enrollment season with a concrete plan rather than facing an unexpected deadline. Unlike insurance seminars designed to sell a specific product, this program offers genuinely unbiased community education with no plan being sold.

The program will be presented by State SHIP Coordinator Bruce Mueller and Medicaid Advisors Founder Shawn Jones.

This program is free and open to everyone. Reserve a spot today at acapcommunity.org, or email ACAP Indy Metro North at indy-metronorth@acapcommunity.org.



This program is sponsored by The Harrison Community and Marion County Public Health Department; The Brain Health Initiative.

About ACAP

Adult Children of Aging Parents® (ACAP) provides information, resources, support, and community for adult children as they care for their aging parents and for themselves. Through its network of local chapters, ACAP offers free monthly educational programs, expert speakers, and a compassionate community to help families navigate the challenges of eldercare. For more information, visit acapcommunity.org or email info@ACAPcommunity.org.



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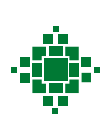
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County connects flood victims with housing

Residents urged to register with 211 as recovery efforts move forward

The REPORTER

Hamilton County officials met Sunday, Aug. 23, with residents displaced by flooding to outline the growing number of resources available for temporary housing, home cleanup, and long-term recovery.

The meeting, held at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville, brought together officials from Hamilton County’s Emergency Management Agency and representatives from Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

One of the most immediate priorities is getting displaced residents into safe housing. Hamilton County will continue paying for hotel rooms for residents currently receiving assistance until state-funded housing vouchers become available. Those vouchers are expected to provide up to \$150 per day toward a hotel or rental property for at least six months.

Residents who need temporary housing must

register with Indiana 211 and mark the “temporary housing” box on the questionnaire. Those who have already registered should make sure they indicated that housing assistance is needed. Disaster-response teams will use that information to contact eligible households as resources become available.

Teams from Southern Baptist Disaster Relief are also expected in Hamilton County Monday and Tuesday to begin “mucking out” flooded homes at no cost to homeowners. Crews can remove damaged materials, including drywall. They are also equipped to perform mold remediation.

“It’s critical that those who suffered severe water damage, not stay in their homes,” said Jane Crady, Coordinator of Disaster Preparedness and Response for Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Indianapolis. “I’ve been doing this work for more than 20 years and I’ve seen people die from mold. If your home was flooded, go to



Photo provided

Residents attended an informational meeting at the 4-H Fairgrounds on Sunday, Aug. 23.

a hotel and call us for help.”

As Hamilton County moves into long-term recovery, disaster case managers will be assigned to affected households to help residents navigate paperwork, identify available assistance, and work through the rebuilding process over

the months ahead.

Hamilton County is still awaiting a federal disaster designation from FEMA. State officials are working to expedite that process, but officials cautioned residents that federal declarations can take time. Local officials are hopeful Hamilton County

will know more within the next week or two.

The response comes as communities across Indiana are dealing with widespread damage from flooding and severe storms. Officials said 54 Indiana counties are currently dealing with disasters, and more than 20,000

people have registered for assistance through 211.

For immediate housing needs and disaster assistance, residents should call 211 or call Hamilton County’s 24/7 flood hotline at (317) 645-3261. Residents can also register online at in211.communityos.org.

State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn calls on Gov. Braun & FSSA to protect Hoosiers’ Medicaid coverage in disaster-struck counties

Submitted by Office of State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn

State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D-Fishers) is calling on the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) and Gov. Mike Braun to take immediate steps to keep disaster-affected Hoosiers from losing their Medicaid coverage and in-home care during the recovery from this month’s disaster.

Beginning Aug. 11, a derecho with at least two tornadoes and historic flooding swept across Indiana, killing at least seven Hoosiers and displacing more than 1,000. On Aug. 15, President Trump approved a federal Emergency Declaration covering 53 counties. In Northwest Indiana, the storms caused the largest power outage

in NIPSCO’s history. Ten thousand households remain without electricity nearly two weeks later.

Garcia Wilburn, a member of the House Committee on Public Health, is asking the state to take three specific actions for residents in the affected counties:

1. **Pause procedural Medicaid terminations.** Direct FSSA to suspend disenrollments for beneficiaries in disaster-declared counties who cannot complete a renewal or return requested paperwork because of the storm, so no eligible Hoosier loses coverage over a form that washed away, a notice that never arrived or lack of access to the virtual FSSA Benefits Portal.
2. **Extend deadlines for waiver level-of-care assessments.** Extend the deadlines for level-of-care

assessments and reassessments under Indiana’s Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers, and allow them to be completed by phone or video, so seniors, people with disabilities and medically fragile Hoosiers do not lose in-home services.

3. **Use every available tool to do it.** Move now on the steps the state can take on its own, and pursue federal flexibilities, including an 1135 waiver and a disaster relief state plan amendment, that make these protections airtight.

“FSSA’s communication problems with Medicaid beneficiaries were making headlines before this storm ever hit,” Gar-



Garcia Wilburn

cia Wilburn said. “Now we have families who lost everything in the water, and the state is still asking them for paperwork. We should be helping these Hoosiers hold onto their coverage, not letting a deadline finish what the flood started.”

“In Hamilton County, Muncie, and across the flood zone, people are pulling water out of their homes and searching for whatever documents they have left. Nobody should lose their health coverage because a renewal notice is at the bottom of a flooded basement. FSSA has the authority to pause these terminations, and it should do it today.

“You can’t ask someone

in Gary or Munster who has been without power for nearly two weeks to answer a notice they never got on a portal they can’t log into. For seniors and people with disabilities who depend on in-home care, a missed deadline means losing life-sustaining services.”

Indiana used these exact tools during the COVID-19 emergency, when FSSA allowed waiver level-of-care determinations to be done by phone and extended annual reassessment deadlines by six months so people would not lose their in-home care. Other states have paused Medicaid re-determinations for residents of disaster-hit counties after hurricanes, wildfires, and tornadoes, and federal rules specifically allow states to do so when a natural disaster makes it impossible for

people to respond.

Garcia Wilburn also pointed to a step the Braun administration has already taken for the same disaster victims: On Aug. 17, the Indiana Department of Insurance called for a 60-day moratorium on insurance companies canceling any policies of Hoosiers directly affected by the storms, along with a suspension of late-payment penalties.

“The governor has already made sure families won’t lose their insurance because a bill came due in the middle of a flood,” Garcia Wilburn said. “Their Medicaid deserves the same protection. Gov. Braun has declared the emergency and secured the federal declaration. Directing FSSA to protect coverage is the natural next step, and it’s one he can take now.”

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White River flooding sparks many feelings

Well, Mother Nature got bitchy on us on Saturday the 15th as the incessant rain that has been inundating the state of Indiana resulted in a hundred-year swelling of the White River, which passes a quarter mile or so from our house.

My wife Donna and I have lived together in our home for the past 30 years; she has lived there more than 60. Only once, on New Year's Day in 1991, had the river swelled to make a wet visit into the house on Ralston Avenue in Ravenswood. Five inches of depth ruined furnishings, walls, rugs, flooring, and emotions.

It's very strange to have a river intrude into your home. It doesn't care a dot about any puny preparations you might have made – putting furniture up a foot or so, taking bottom drawers out of their positions so that the water won't soak clothing, or foods, or cherished keepsakes. It just bursts in as it pleases – leaving behind its wetness, stink, and heartbreak.

Although we couldn't see the actual damage to



KEN KLINGENMEIER

our property until Monday, we were sent images that showed the awful effects of the flood on our neighbor Ron's home. It was so upsetting, my wife and I both broke into tears, knowing our place was no better.

And when we finally saw the aftereffects at our address, we cried again. Nothing prepares you for a shock like that. The water line marks on the walls showed the depth had been well over two feet, nearly three in places where a surge must have happened. Mud was everywhere. Our huge refrigerator lay on its face, across the room from where it had stood. Our mattresses had been in dirty river water, as had our dresser drawers, kitchen shelves, couches, chairs, and televisions. It was very nearly a complete loss.

But next – there was nothing to do but start the arduous task of reforming your lost comforts.

First, where to stay? Many displaced people are staying with family. We had offers, but our close family lives on the west side of Indy. We needed to stay closer, and were very lucky as Donna's

son Tony rushed his RV to our driveway and set us up with A/C, Wi-Fi, bed, TV, and a small kitchen.

We began the work of sorting through what was ruined and what might be saved – taking the spoilage to the curb. After that task, we hired workers to come in and take out furniture and remove wet portions of wall board. (Our RV son is also a contractor, so more luck there.)

As of writing this column, we are now on Day 5 of our recovery, and some lasting impressions have emerged.

First and foremost – when stuff like this happens, people are great, giving and generous. The cost of all this is a nightmare. There are government programs to take advantage of, but ready cash has come to us from family, friends and even strangers. It isn't just sympathy with words that we are getting – all manner of help is available at a local church, where you can walk in and take anything they have – fans, food, cleaning supplies, personal care items, buckets, bags, paper products. As items go out, new stuff is wheeled in – an overwhelming supply of need-fillers.

Secondly: This is a terri-

ble event in our lives. I have NEVER had a tragedy of this nature happen to me. It truly is overwhelming and I have felt every bit of being angry, lost, confused, hapless, and cursed.

Third: The truest feeling I have – the one that occurs again and again, and brings to me an overwhelming sense that being an American, being a Hoosier, is a special gift – is the kindness, the heartfelt generosity, and the seemingly endless caring we have been offered and have gratefully accepted. Strangers have given money, gift cards, and help. Family have gifted us collections of funds, transferred money into our account, and promised help with purchases. Frankly, the love we feel is more overwhelming than the tragedy in many ways.

The people who have had this happen to them really are hurting. If you have any feeling of compassion for a flood stricken loved one, seek them out and offer your help. It will mean so much to them.

If you have no such connection, you might try to find a way to make a difference through churches and charities. This really is a widespread, crushingly painful event for many.

Fishers prepares for return of Geist Race Series

The REPORTER

The City of Fishers is preparing to host its largest community race, the Geist Race Series, on Saturday, Sept. 12. This year's event will feature a new race distance, expanded course entertainment, and a new vendor lineup for the post-race party.

The 18th annual waterfront race around Geist Reservoir is an iconic community tradition, attracting both locals and runners from around the country. Last year's event drew 2,500 participants from 26 states, and race organizers anticipate an even larger crowd this year. It was also the site for a successful Guinness World Record for the fastest half marathon in a four-person costume, where four former cross country and track athletes from Anderson University conquered the half marathon dressed in a connected caterpillar costume.

This year's event features the return of the popular 5K, 10K, and half marathon races, along with a new 1 Mile race. The family friendly, timed race will begin at 9 a.m., 90 minutes

after the other three races begin at 7:30 a.m., so 5K and 10K participants have the option to complete a second race if desired. All races are walker and stroller-friendly, so the whole family can race the reservoir. For the 10K and half-marathon course, only jogging strollers are permitted.

All participants will receive a race shirt and free drink at the post-race party, along with a finisher medal at the completion of their race. This year's race shirt was designed recent Fishers High School graduate McKenzie Bowen, whose design was selected by the community during a student design contest earlier this year, hosted in conjunction with Fishers Arts Council. This year's race also features the return of the **VIP Perks package** including reserved race day parking, signature swag, an extra drink ticket, and more for an additional \$58.99.

The city has expanded course entertainment this year with The Andy Schomburg Band, Glenn Seland, and Six o'Clock Strangers performing throughout the

half-marathon course. This year will also feature a new water station spirit contest, where 10K and half-marathon water stations will be voted on by participants.

The 2026 post-race party will feature local vendors, including MashCraft Brewing, Athletic Brewing, Java House, Pure Green, Eiffel Waffle Creamery, and Ghost Mobile Kitchen. All participants will receive a drink ticket for a complimentary alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage to redeem at the post-race party.

The half-marathon course will once again feature the Mental Health Mile and Gold Star Mile, designed to encourage participants as they run the race. At Mile 5, the Mental Health Mile, presented by Aspire, will motivate participants while supporting Fishers Health Department's Stigma Free Fishers initiative. At Mile

10, the Gold Star Mile, presented by the Fishers Armed Services Commission, will honor Indiana's fallen service members and their families. Gold Star race bibs will be available for pickup Friday, Sept. 11.

Sponsors for the 2026 Geist Half Race Series include IU Health (Medical Sponsor) along with MashCraft Brewing, Towne Post, WTHR Channel 13, and Meijer (Gold Sponsors).

Registration is open until Friday, Sept. 11, however prices will increase on Wednesday, Aug. 26, so lock in the lowest price now at **GeistHalf.com**. Volunteer opportunities are still available for the start/finish line and parking attendants. Visit **VolunteerFishers.com** to sign up.

To view course maps, road closures, and to register for the event, visit **GeistHalf.com**.

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First Financial Bank to hold fraud prevention event

Submitted

In the age of AI, fraud prevention has become a growing challenge, with financial services providers constantly adapting to adjust to the evolving tactics of bad actors.

With this new reality as a backdrop, First Financial Bank will host a special panel focused on today's fraud prevention trends, including the rise of AI-driven scams and cybersecurity threats. Attendees will hear from industry experts from First Financial Bank, the U.S. Secret Service and more during this discussion.

The panel will take place from 8 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, at Woodland

Country Club, 100 Woodland Lane, Carmel.

The panel will focus on topics including the latest cyber risks and scam tactics targeting businesses today, and how to protect business with cyber risk approaches. Panelists will also cover awareness and tools to protect yourself including strategies and resources, and claims specialists will share real-world experiences and actionable steps for claims and prevention.

This event is open to the public, with no charge for admission. Registration is available by contacting First Financial Bank's Adam Babillis at **Adam.Babillis@bankatfirst.com**.

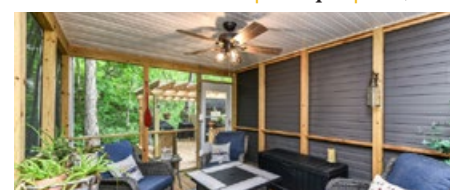
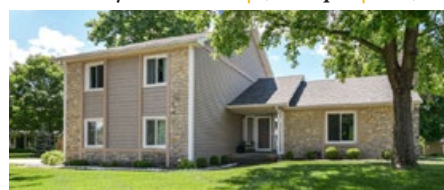
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- What is my process for buying a home?
- Who should I call for home repairs/remodeling?
- How do I learn about building a new home?
- Who should I call to refinance my home?
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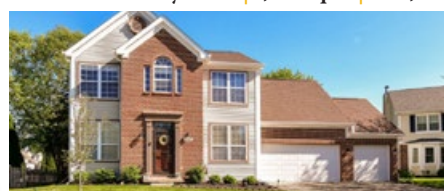


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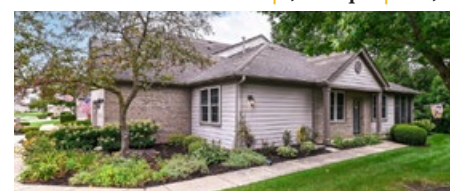
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Meeting Notices

The Atlanta Town Council will hold a Budget Workshop at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, at Atlanta Town Hall, 105 E. Main St.

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold a Budget and Finance Committee meeting at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28, 2026, at 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

The Carmel Plan Commission will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

The Noblesville Common Council will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

A live stream of the meeting will be available at **youtube.com/CityofNoblesville** and also streamed at **youtube.com/HamiltonCountyTelevision**.

A list of each appointed officer's name, their appointing authority, and term dates is available at **noblesville.in.gov/447/Boards-Commissions**.

The Noblesville Common Council will attend a city briefing concerning the natural disaster that occurred on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026, and the city's response to the emergency.

This meeting will be at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026, at the Noblesville Public Safety Building, Fire Station 71 Bay, 135 S. 9th St.

A list of each appointed officer's name, their appointing authority, and term dates is available at **noblesville.in.gov/447/Boards-Commissions**.

The Noblesville Board of Public Works and Safety will meet in an executive session at 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(7) For discussion of records classified as confidential by state or federal statute.

The regular meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

A live stream of the meeting will be available at **youtube.com/CityofNoblesville**.

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet for a workshop session at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St.

The Carmel Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals will hold Hearing Officer meetings at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

Beth Sheller
for Hamilton County Clerk
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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. 5-14-1.5-5. The Reporter publishes these notices as a public service in our Tuesday through Friday digital editions. Meeting notices for Open Door Law compliance can be sent to **PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com**.

Seven area nursing students welcomed in traditional induction ceremony at IU Kokomo

Submitted

Nearly 70 students wore the red scrubs that mark them as Indiana University Kokomo nursing students for the first time during the School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions’ traditional induction ceremony on Wednesday, Aug. 19.

The new students, selected through a rigorous acceptance process, each crossed the Havens Auditorium stage, receiving a certificate of accomplishment, and recited the Nursing Pledge, a promise to uphold the ethics of the nursing profession. The Indiana Nurse Honor Guard also participated in the ceremony.

A total of seven students for Hamilton County and areas nearby were included in the ceremony. Listed by hometown, they are:

- **Noblesville:** Lilly Wilomovsky
- **Westfield:** Jennifer Berkner, William (Parker) Hamernik, and Elijah Turner
- **Tipton:** Jaylie Springer
- **Elwood:** Allison Retherford
- **Anderson:** Ashley Banegas Nunez

Assistant Dean Stephanie Pratt welcomed students, faculty, staff, and family and friends to the ceremony, calling it “the

start of a wonderful journey.” She said acceptance into nursing school is a gift they will use to make a difference.

“On this journey, you will have the opportunity to give a gift with the gift you have been given, and isn’t that splendid,” Pratt said. “We are given the opportunity to serve, to share in life’s journey with others. There truly is nothing small about this wonderful privilege that you have been given, to become a nurse.”

Julie Saam, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, also offered congratulations.

“Nurses hold vital jobs



Photo illustration provided by IU Kokomo

in our communities, and thus they are held to high standards,” Saam said. “Not just anyone can become a nurse, and we have high standards for our nursing students. I am certain that the journey that brought you to our program today required your significant talent, effort, sacrifice, and perseverance, and I commend you for all that you have done to get where you are today.”

Dean Angela Opsahl said nursing requires a high level of proficiency, skill, ethical responsibility, and heartfelt dedication, and that nursing is a calling that blends clinical expertise

with compassion and empathy. The school’s rigorous curriculum, hands-on clinical training, and access to outstanding faculty, along with opportunities to work in the nursing foundations skills lab, the simulation center, and community clinical practice sites will prepare them to meet the challenges of a dynamic healthcare landscape, Opsahl said, and encouraged them to take part in student life, to build relationships, and grow personally.

“Remember, you are not alone,” Opsahl said. “Our faculty and staff are here to guide and support you. Lean on and embrace your

classmates, respect your differences, and build a community rooted in care and collaboration.”

Brian Arwood, assistant professor of nursing, encouraged family members to provide support behind the scenes.

“You are the foundation that will hold them steady when the weight of this journey feels heavy,” Arwood said. “Nursing is not just a career, it’s a calling that demands resilience, compassion, and courage. And while our students will learn the science and the skills here, the strength to keep going often comes from home. From you.”

Federal Trade Commission warns scammers are stealing rental listings

By KARA KENNEY
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is warning consumers that scammers are taking over real rental listings and making them their own.

They copy the pictures, description, or virtual tour from a real online rental listing, replace the agent’s contact information with their own, and then post the phony ads on a new website.

The scammers may replace the landlord’s name with their name, lower the price, or ask for money – a deposit, application fee, or down payment.

The FTC said they may also:

- Tell you to complete an application with information like your Social Security number, a picture of your driver’s license, paystubs, and other personal details. Then they might use this information to **steal your identity**.
- The scammer might say you need to show you’re creditworthy by sending screenshots of your credit scores. What they really want is to get you to enroll in a paid credit monitoring program with recurring fees.

Indiana’s I-Team spoke with Terri Miller, a consumer education specialist at the

Federal Trade Commission. She recommended taking an important step when looking for a rental.

“Search for that rental address online,” said Miller. “If you see another rental with that same address, maybe the price is different or the contact information for the landlord is different. That’s a sign that this is a scam.”

In another version of the scam, scammers may create listings for places that do not exist.

The fake owner might tell you can only secure the property with a **wire transfer** through Western Union or MoneyGram, **gift cards**, or **cryptocurrency** to pay for an application fee, deposit, or first month’s rent. But after you pay, the person you’ve been dealing with will disappear with your money.

Consider it a red flag if the property owner is pressuring you to make a decision or if the price seems too low.

FTC tips: how to tell whether a rental listing is real

- Search online for the name of the property owner or rental company with the words “complaint,” “review,” or “scam.” See what other people say about their experiences.
- Consider the price of

the rental. If the rent is a lot cheaper than most rents in the area, it could be a sign of a scam. And if anyone pressures you to make a decision quickly to get a great deal, walk away.

- **If you can, look at the property before you sign or pay.** Visit the property in person, have a friend or someone you know visit it, or watch a video or virtual tour. But know that that’s still not a guarantee that a property is real or available for rent.
- If you go in person, ask the rental agent for a business card issued by the company that owns or manages the property. Then check the agent’s ID to be sure it matches the records.
- Dealing with a private landlord? Search city or county tax assessment websites to learn who owns a property, then check the landlord’s ID to be sure it matches the records.
- If you’re booking a vacation rental, get a copy of the contract before you send any deposit money. Check that the address of the property really exists. And if the property is in a resort, call the front desk and confirm the location of the property and other details on the contract.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/i-team/fic-rental-listing-scams.

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NickelPlateExpress.com/railbike-rides



Huston



Jeter



Lopez



Shonkwiler



Smith

Hamilton County's GOP state legislators praise increased IREAD scores for fifth consecutive year

Submitted

Hamilton County's Republican lawmakers are celebrating Hoosier students' scores on the 2026 Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination assessment **rising for the fifth consecutive year**, surpassing pre-pandemic levels.

House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) said more than 88 percent of Hoosier third graders passed IREAD, a nearly 1.5 percentage point increase from last year. It's the second-largest single-year increase since the test was implemented.

"Indiana students continue to make strong academic gains, including five straight years of reading improvement. These encouraging results show that our focus on high academic standards, targeted support and increased opportunities for students is working," Huston said. "Thank you to our passionate and dedicated educators and families who work every day to help Hoosier students succeed."

State Rep. Chris Jeter

(R-Fishers) noted that literacy rates for every student population are now higher than before the pandemic.

"Indiana is making record investments in K-12 education while giving families more opportunities to find the right learning environment for their children," Jeter said. "These continued gains in reading are encouraging and show the results of these investments. We will keep working to ensure every Hoosier student has an opportunity to thrive."

Local school corporation pass rates for the most recent IREAD exams include:

- Carmel Clay Schools, 96 percent
- Hamilton Heights School Corp., 95 percent
- Hamilton Southeastern Schools, 97 percent
- Noblesville Schools, 92 percent
- Sheridan Community Schools, 94 percent
- Union Bible College & Academy, 70 percent
- Westfield-Washington Schools, 94 percent

State Rep. Danny Lopez

pep (R-Carmel) said a **law** passed in 2023 established science of reading standards and delivered focused support to Indiana students facing the most significant reading difficulties. Additional **legislation** bolstered the Indiana Department of Education's literacy cadre program to ensure schools with fewer than 70 percent of students passing IREAD receive additional resources and support.

"As the son of a public school librarian, I know just how foundational strong literacy really is, and I'm so grateful to all the teachers and parents who worked so hard to move the needle in this critical area," Lopez said.

State Rep. Alaina Shonkwiler (R-Noblesville) said in the current **state budget**, Indiana increased K-12 tuition support by \$640 million, a 5 percent increase over the biennium, to its highest level yet. Nearly half of our state budget goes toward K-12 education (47 percent). Indiana also expanded its **school choice**

scholarship program, empowering all Hoosier families to choose the school environment that is best for their students.

"The continued growth in IREAD performance is encouraging because literacy opens the door to every other subject," Shonkwiler said. "Making sure students can read proficiently gives them a stronger foundation for everything that follows."

State Rep. Hunter Smith (R-Zionsville) said while this is all good news, the work for legislators won't stop here.

"Every percentage point represents more students developing the confidence and skills that come from being a strong reader," said Smith, a member of the House Education Committee. "These gains are worth celebrating, but our work doesn't stop here."

Results from the 2026 IREAD for individual schools and corporations are available on IDOE's **website**. Click [here](#) to learn more about the state's literacy standards.

Your most basic habits have everything to do with your well-being

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit." – Aristotle

To excel is a lofty goal; one that may seem daunting for many of us. I can't say that I excel in many, or maybe any, areas of study, lifestyle, or attributes. Does that mean to say I should not strive in any of these or other areas? (Rhetorical question!) Of course not! No matter what age, circumstance, or lifestyle you possess, we can all focus on habits which can, and will, make a difference in our quality of life; habits which are beneficial to our very independence.

I was thinking recently of habits I have tried to focus on as I reached middle age and then – beyond! These habits are not ones that we were specifically taught growing up or that we learned at any level of our educational achievements. Rather, these are more practical functions of our daily lives which make a difference in our overall physical and mental health. And, interestingly, these specific essential everyday habits are ones that we first learned as babies and toddlers when we first began to stand and walk. Realizing that our habits have been with us for a very long time in many cases, you may be skeptical about changing for the better, but believe me it is not only possible but essential to your well-being.

Let's take a look. (*Readers: please note that these suggestions are general in nature and not intended for those who have disabilities or illness which preclude them from using these movements as noted.*)

To Sit

How often do you rise from a seated position without using your hands or arms to help push yourself up? We are hardly conscious of using our arms or hands to assist with a movement done many times each day for most of us. It is imperative that we work to stay as strong as possible as we age.

The optimal method of standing from a seated position is to stand without using your arms at all. First, plant

your feet. Use your thighs, hips, and abdomen to power yourself up and down and you will find that you have improved stability and strength. In practicing this in my FlexAbility class, we extend our

arms out front of our body so that we are not tempted to use them to assist our standing from the seated position.

To Stand

Your feet should always position below your hips. From that position the majority of your weight should be in the heels of your feet, with the remaining in the toe box or ball of the foot. This positioning will help you maintain your balance, a critical issue in keeping you upright as falls can be a debilitating issue. Using this proper stance, your body will allow you to keep your shoulders above your hips and pelvic area and using this method can offer you relief if you suffer from back pain.

To Walk

As I have mentioned in previous columns, most of us walk incorrectly, placing the balls of the feet down first as we step forward. This can through off the alignment of the body as the torso is pitched forward. Again, this can be an issue in keeping your balance. Place your heels down first, followed by the ball of your foot as you step forward. Keep your shoulders pulled back and swing your arms forward, making sure that the swinging arm is opposite the leg in front as you move.

To Breathe

I have written several times about the importance of breathing properly and will continue to remind my readers about replacing quick, shallow breathing with deeper belly breaths. This, like anything we wish to change, requires practice! Sit, stand, walk, and breathe with intention and you will find your body responds in appreciation.

Sharon McMahon, CNWC

The opinions expressed in this article are not intended to replace advice of your personal physician or licensed health professional. Please consult your physician for any issues you may have related to nutrition or fitness activity.

The REPORTER

Families looking for something fun to do on Saturday, Sept. 19, will have a chance to enjoy live music, interactive exhibits, and food trucks while introducing their children to career opportunities that are in high demand across Indiana.

TradeUp Fest, presented by Gaylor Electric and Associated Builders and Contractors of Indiana/Kentucky, will transform Riverview Health Arena at Innovation Mile into a daylong celebration of the skilled trades, bringing together employers, educators, apprenticeship programs, and local businesses with students and families from across Central Indiana.

Admission to the daytime festival is free.

Organizers say the goal is simple: create a fun family event where young people can experience careers in the skilled trades through hands-on activities instead of brochures and classroom presentations.

"The skilled trades built this country, and they'll build its future," Gaylor Electric CEO Chuck Goodrich said. "TradeUp Fest is an opportunity for families to come together, have fun, explore incredible career opportunities and celebrate the men and women whose skills and craftsmanship keep our communities moving forward."

The free outdoor festival runs from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and features eight live bands, local food trucks, beer and wine vendors, interactive exhibits,



heavy equipment displays, and a Trades Village where attendees can try hands-on activities and meet professionals working throughout the construction and skilled trades industries.

DIY Network personality and skilled trades advocate Kayleen McCabe will serve as master of ceremonies throughout the day.

"TradeUp Fest is more than a concert," said Jake Gibson, executive director of Associated Builders and Contractors of Indiana/Ken-

tucky. "It's a celebration of the people who build our communities and a bold step toward reducing the skilled-trades workforce gap. By bringing together tradespeople, employers, businesses and music fans, we're shining a spotlight on the pride, purpose, and opportunity found in the trades."

See TradeUp . . . Page 10

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7:00 pm Westfield vs Fishers | Varsity Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

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 vs 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

Sat Aug 22 - Boys Soccer
11:00 am West Lafayette vs Fishers | JV Soccer | Fishers Sports Network
12:30 pm West Lafayette vs Fishers | Varsity Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

Wed Aug 26 - Soccer and Volleyball
6:00 pm Avon vs Noblesville | Girls Soccer | Junior Varsity | HCTV Sports
6:30 pm Western Boone vs Covenant Christian | Volleyball | IndianaSRN
7:30 pm Avon vs Noblesville | Girls Soccer | Junior Varsity | HCTV Sports

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Westfield Police K9 Unit earns first place in multiple categories at Ultimate Canine 2026 K9 Olympics

Submitted by City of Westfield
From Aug. 18 to 20, the Westfield Police Department's (WPD) K9 Unit competed at the Ultimate Canine 2026 K9 Olympics. The grueling competition brought 40 K9 teams from across the nation and world to Zionsville to challenge themselves in 14 categories.
The WPD K9 teams participating finished with the following:
Sgt. Abney & K9 RB
• 1st place: Narcotics

- luggage
- 1st place: Patrol building search for man
 - 1st place: Tracking
 - 3rd place: Narcotics vehicle interior
- Ofc. Robins & K9 Valkyrie**
- 1st place: Patrol residential search for man
 - 2nd place: Patrol control
 - 2nd place: Patrol over-all
- Ofc. McCarthy & K9 Ozzy**
- 1st place: Patrol con-



Photo provided by City of Westfield

trol

- 2nd place: Obstacle course

By participating in a friendly yet challenging competition alongside some of the best K9 teams

in the world, the WPD K9 Unit showed its commitment to excellence and strengthening its capabilities. Congratulations to these K9 teams on their well-earned success.

Gov. Bruan & Zay reach settlement in IURC lawsuit

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

On Saturday, Aug. 22, Governor Mike Braun announced that the State of Indiana has reached a mutually agreeable settlement in the lawsuit, originally filed by Andy Zay in Marion Superior Court 1, pending under cause number 49D01-2608-CE-044500.

"I am pleased that we have been able to reach a resolution," Gov. Braun said. "This agreement allows all involved to move forward constructively in the best interest of Hoosiers. I want to recognize Andy for his service to the state. Public service is demanding work, and I appreciate his contributions over the course of a decade on behalf of Hoosiers."

Mr. Zay said, "The In-

diana Utility Regulatory Commission performs important work on behalf of all Hoosiers, balancing the affordability of services needed by all citizens, as demonstrated recently by the historic flooding, against the costs for maintaining and supplying those services. I'm proud to have been involved in addressing these issues during my time on the Utilities Committee in the Indiana Senate and later as Chair and Commissioner of the IURC. I am disappointed that I will no longer be directly involved in this important work, but I believe resolution with the State is in everyone's best interest at this time. I appreciate Governor Braun's willingness to reach satisfactory terms so that we can all move forward in a positive direction."



Braun



Zay

TRADEUP

The celebration continues inside Riverview Health Arena with a ticketed concert featuring platinum-selling country artist Larry Fleet, The Wilder Blue, and Nora Reese. Arena doors open at 5 p.m., and the concert begins at 6 p.m.
TradeUp Fest founder

Josh Cecil said he hopes parents leave the event with a new perspective on career opportunities available to their children.
"For too long, many families have viewed the skilled trades as a backup plan," Cecil said. "The reality is these careers offer purpose, excellent earning

potential, and the chance to build something that lasts. We want students and parents to experience that firsthand while enjoying an incredible day of music and community."
Organizers encourage families, educators, and youth organizations to reserve free daytime festival

passes in advance. Companies are also invited to bring employees and their families to enjoy the festival together while supporting workforce development in Indiana.
Free outdoor festival passes and arena concert tickets are available at tradeupfest.com.

from Page 9

Thanks for reading!



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