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PERFORMATIVE

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BAND

from Page 1

Hotel rooms are a good example of sometimes superficial labeling of accessibility. While the room may offer a couple of minimal accessibility features, labeling the room as accessible is a misrepresentation of reality. Accessible may mean a grab bar by a toilet, or one in a tub/shower combination that is impossible for a wheelchair user to access.

Another example would be a restaurant that has an accessible entrance, but once inside finding out that the bathroom is not accessible, or even up a flight of stairs with no elevator.

Many times, restrooms have the accessible symbol on the outside, but once inside there is not a stall large enough to fit a wheelchair. That is something I experience a lot.

Portable ramps are sometimes offered as a solution to a store that does not have a permanent accessible entrance. In some cases that works out fine, but at other times, the ramp is not stable and does not feel safe. An afterthought, and not a seamless, inclusive experience.

Building an inclusive experience does not happen overnight. It takes research, input from people with various disabilities, and an ongoing effort to make a truly inclusive environment. It is an investment in embracing diversity and sending a message that all lives matter, and everyone should feel welcomed and included.

My husband recently worked on a project at his

workplace to help make a more accessible parking lot and entrance to his office building. He asked me for suggestions and relied on his own knowledge through learned experiences with me, what types of accessible features are most valuable. He put a lot of time and effort into this improved accommodation, and the final product is a true reflection of his efforts.

Disabled people deserve to keep their dignity and live their lives in the same way that others do. Exploring and taking part in their communities in an enjoyable way, without wondering where they will use the restroom, or if they will feel welcomed at a store or restaurant.

When I experience a true accessible experience, I make sure to let the establishment know that it is important and appreciated.

One voice does matter. I will keep advocating as long as I can, to ensure that disabled people are not referred to as “tokens” or second-class citizens. More widespread, genuine inclusivity should be a standard practice.

Until next time ...

Amy Shinneman is a former National Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, disability blogger, freelance writer, wife, and mom of two boys. She is the recipient of The Reporter's Winter 2025 Ink-Stained Wretch award. You can find her blog at humblycourageous.org and reach her on [Instagram @asinneman](https://www.instagram.com/asinneman).

students and their gear to California will mean traveling approximately 4,000 miles round trip with two box trucks and a semi-trailer carrying instruments, uniforms, and equipment. To help them, the band has already begun planning their fundraising efforts. You can donate now at tinyurl.com/FHSband2026.

“Our students are eager to put their hard work on display and return to Fishers with new friends, new stories and a camera roll full of memories,” Gardner said. “We are thankful to our district and building leaders for

supporting us through the application process and the beginning of our fundraising journey. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent Fishers, Indiana, in the 2028 Rose Parade.”

When the Marching TIGER Band steps onto the parade route, more than 700,000 spectators are expected to be watching in person, with another 50 million tuning in from around the world.

“What an incredible moment for these students, their families and all of Fishers High School,” Superintendent Dr. Matt Kegley said. “Earning a spot in the Rose

Parade takes talent, discipline and countless hours of work. We could not be prouder to see the Marching Tiger Band carry the HSE Schools and Fishers name onto an international stage.”

About the Fishers High School Band Program

Founded in 2006, the Fishers High School band program serves nearly 350 students through concert and jazz bands, percussion classes, chamber ensembles and extracurricular opportunities including the Marching TIGER Band, Pep Band, Pit Orchestra, Winter Percussion, and Winter Guard.

The program has earned recognition at the state and national levels. The Marching TIGER Band is a two-time Bands of America Grand National Finalist, while the Wind Ensemble has twice finished as ISSMA State Runner-up and the Jazz Ensemble is a three-time ISSMA State Finalist. Fishers Concert Percussion has won four consecutive WGI World Championships and 11 IPA championships, Marching Percussion has earned two IPA championships, and the Color Guard won a WGI Open Class championship in 2019.

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STORIES

The One That I Want,” and “Summer Nights.” On stage through April 4. Rated PG-13.

Starting April 8, two parallel love stories are tested by the dangers of prejudice and World War II in Rodgers & Hammerstein’s *South Pacific*. Nellie, a spunky nurse from Arkansas, loves French plantation owner, Emile, but is conflicted by what she learns about him. And a strapping lieutenant falls for an island girl, but battles his own insecurities. Set in an island paradise and adapted from a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *South Pacific* won 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Score that features “Some Enchanted Evening,” “Nothing Like a Dame” and “I’m Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair.” On stage through May 16. Rated PG.

Then the musical phenomenon that has taken the world by storm, Disney’s *Frozen*, brings its captivating magic to the stage starting May 21. Based on the Academy Award-winning animated film, *Frozen* tells of the perpetual winter brought on by Princess Elsa in her mountain kingdom Arendelle, and the efforts of her sister Anna and her friends to break the icy spell. With a flurry of unforgettable songs including “Do You Want to Build A Snowman,” “For the First Time In Forever,” and “Let It Go,” *Frozen*, on stage through July 18, is the 2027 Family Show, and features a \$10 discount off tickets

for all kids ages 3 to 15. It is rated PG.

Based on a true story and opening July 22, *Always ... Patsy Cline* tells about the singer’s friendship with a fan named Louise Seger, who had an ongoing correspondence with Cline for the rest of her life. The show, complete with down home country humor, true emotion, and even some audience participation, includes Patsy’s unforgettable hits such as “Crazy,” “I Fall to Pieces,” “Sweet Dreams,” and “Walking After Midnight” – more than two dozen songs in all. The show’s title was inspired by Cline’s letters to Seger, which were consistently signed “Love ALWAYS... Patsy Cline.” This show is on stage through Aug. 22 and is rated PG.

The rhythm is going to get you when *On Your Feet*, the musical celebrating the inspiring true story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan,

opens Aug. 26. From their humble origins, these artists defied the odds with their talent, music, and unwavering belief in each other, to ultimately become international sensations. Songs include “Conga,” “Live For Loving You,” “1-2-3,” and more. Rated PG, *On Your Feet* is on stage through Oct. 3.

The powerful musical phenomenon *Les Misérables* makes its long-anticipated return to the Beef & Boards stage on Oct. 7. Journey with Jean Valjean as he finds redemption against all odds in the corruption and chaos of revolutionary France. An eight-time Tony Award winner, *Les Misérables* is the struggle, the score, and the story that has captivated millions around the globe and become the world’s longest-running musical. Based on the novel by Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables* is on stage through Nov. 21

and is rated PG-13.

The theatre’s 54th year wraps up during the holidays with *A Beef & Boards Christmas*. This original production makes the most of the season, with beautiful music, energetic dance numbers, colorful costumes, stirring voices, and Santa himself! Gather with friends and family for this festive production, on stage starting Nov. 26 and culminating in a special New Year’s Eve celebration on Dec. 31.

Membership & ticket availability

VIP Memberships for the 2027 Season are available now, while 2027 Season individual show tickets are on sale to the general public starting Oct. 1, 2026. Visit BeefAndBoards.com for complete details.

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



Photo provided

Victor Hugo's classic and powerful *Les Misérables* is on stage Oct. 7 to Nov. 21, 2027 at Beef & Boards. Get your tickets at BeefAndBoards.com.

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GODDARD

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community matters. We want them to see the adults around them helping, giving, and showing up when someone needs them. Sometimes those lessons don’t come from a classroom activity or a book. Sometimes they come from watching your teacher, your parents, or your friends come together to help a neighbor. That’s the kind of school we want to be.

We want to be a cornerstone of the community, not just a place where families drop their children off in the morning. We want our families to know that we care about their children, but that we also care about them. We care about what happens in Noblesville. We care about our neighbors. When our community needs us, we want to show up.

The support of our families and faculty helped to make this donation possible. Their willingness to give,

even when they weren’t personally affected by the flooding, is something we hope our children will carry with them as they grow. One of the things we love most about early childhood education is that we aren’t just helping children learn their letters, numbers, or how to navigate their first friendships. We’re helping shape the people they are becoming.

Kindness, curiosity,

empathy, generosity, and a sense of belonging are just as important as anything else they will learn. We are proud of our school, our staff, and our community. It is our mission and vision that each child we support develops a passion for making a positive impact on the world. So, while this donation may seem like a small thing, to us it represents exactly who we want to be as a school.

Items collected by The Goddard School

- **Baby formula:** \$400 (4 large cases)
- **Diapering:** \$350 (10 cases of varying sizes)
- **Wipes/personal care items:** \$300 (25 total packs of wipes, 20 cases of varying shampoos, deodorant, toothpaste, and six bottles of body soap)
- **Blankets/comfort items:** \$325 (four large stuffed animals, five throw blankets, 15 bathing towels, and five pillows)
- **Household cleaning:** \$200 (Costco-sized packs of Clorox wipes, four large bottles of dish soap, 10 packs of sponges, etc.)
- **Food:** \$125 (one pack of granola bars, two cases of fruit pouches for children, one case of fruit snacks, one case of animal crackers)
- **Kitchen:** One family purchased a new set of kitchen items from Target. This included six mixing bowls, a cutting board, whisks and kitchen utensils, and a new set of cups. This totals approximately \$350.

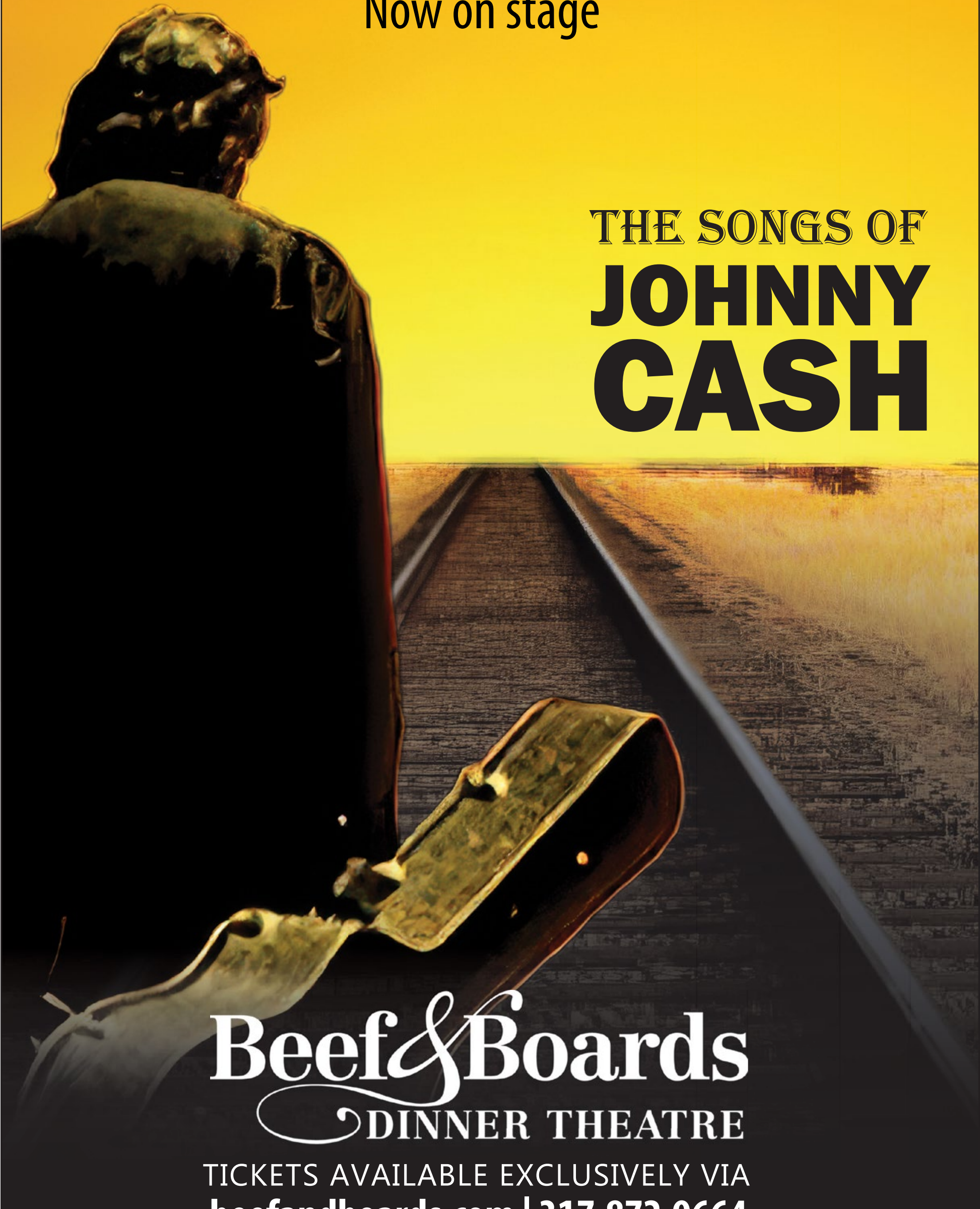
Grand Total: \$2,050 donated

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Lucky Teter’s history framed & preserved by Jeff Zeckel

Submitted

In April, Jeff Zeckel presented now-former Hamilton County Historical Society Museum Director Sandy Lynch and Lucky Teter Rebel Run Founder Barry Dixon with a framed copy of the “Remember when...” edition featuring Lucky Teter’s life. Out of the 98 editions of “Remember when...”, the Lucky Teter page received the most awards from the Hoosier State Press Association for Graphics, Layout, and Content.

When Zeckel presented the gift, he stipulated that the framed page be hung at the Historical Society location at the Historic Jail in Noblesville for all to see. However, when the annual Rebel Run is held, weather permitting, Dixon may take the framed page to the event attaching it to an easel to display so more people can read about Teter’s life.

There is only a handful of individuals that were born and raised in Noblesville that rose to national acclaim and prominence. Earl M. “Lucky” Teter is one of those individuals. To truly appreciate Lucky, we need to go back in time.

Teter graduated from Noblesville High School in 1919 where he was an accomplished athlete. This



Photos provided (ABOVE, from left) Sandy Lynch, Jeff Zeckel, and Barry Dixon. (RIGHT) Of Zeckel’s 98 editions of his “Remember when ...” feature, this one on Lucky Teter won the most awards from the Hoosier State Press Association.

was a time when many people across America were skeptical of automobiles. They didn’t trust them. Especially in rural America, the gasoline engine vehicles were not widely accepted. It was common to see a mix of horse and buggies or horse-drawn wagons along with automobiles around the courthouse square.

Lucky put a troop together called “The Hell Drivers.” They created stunts using cars and motorcycles. They did death-defying feats that thrilled audiences as they toured America. His troop pushed

the limits and showed the nation what automobile and motorcycles were capable of. He was catapulted to fame after he appeared in the 1937 World’s Fair where he was acclaimed “the best stunt driver in America.”

Lucky became a folk hero across the country. He is also known for bringing his show back to his hometown. In 1936, he put on a show right down Conner Street in front of the courthouse, thrilling local crowds of citizens.

Barry Dixon deserves a tremendous amount of

credit for keeping Lucky Teter’s life and legend alive. Dixon’s annual car show at Forest Park is a wonderful tribute to Lucky. This year’s Rebel Run is this coming Saturday, Sept. 5. Registration for vehicles begins at 9 a.m. Plan on coming out to Forest Park to honor Lucky’s legacy and to check out some awesome collectible vehicles.

If you or your friends have any Lucky Teter memorabilia you would like to share by donating or loaning to the Historical Society, please call (317) 319-9244.



Celebrate art, culture & cuisine from around the globe at Westfield International Festival

Submitted by City of Westfield

The second annual Westfield International Festival, presented by Centier Bank, will take place from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at Grand Junction Plaza, 225 S. Union St.

“The City of Westfield is a vibrant community with people from all over the world,” Mayor Scott Willis said. “I’m thrilled to celebrate our neighbors and their unique traditions right here at home. It’s going to be an unforgettable day of food, family, and fun.”

Grand Junction Plaza will be transformed into an international gateway, featuring cultural traditions, artisan crafts, global vendors, and interactive activities representing countries from around the world. More than 45 vendors will participate in this year’s festival, offering attendees opportunities to experience a wide variety of cultures, traditions, products, and cuisines.

Featured cuisines will include Greek, Indian, Jamaican, Japanese, Jordanian, Polish, Thai, and Venezuelan, with additional food and beverage offerings available throughout the festival.

The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis will host a free exhibit highlighting the culture of Peru in the Meadow Lawn, with a special meet-and-greet station featuring llamas nearby. Additionally, there will be various dance sessions on the Amphitheater Stage including K-Pop mini classes and Bollywood & Bhangra dance lessons.

Inside the Café Pavilion, attendees can explore a pop-up museum honoring Westfield’s rich history, presented by the Westfield Washington Historical Society.

Attendees are encour-

aged to bring lawn chairs or a picnic blanket and enjoy a full lineup of free performances on the Main Stage. Eight performance groups will take the stage throughout the afternoon:

- 12 p.m.: T. Natty and the BoomBlaze Band
- 12:45 p.m.: ICCCI Chinese Folk Dance and Lion Dance
- 1:30 p.m.: Golden Era of Egyptian Music

• 2 p.m.: Irish Dance Performance

- 2:30 p.m.: Indy Garjana Dhol Tasha Pathak
- 3 p.m.: Epiphany Dance Collective African Dance

- 3:25 p.m.: Bhangra Bangers Dance Academy
- 3:40 p.m.: Fuego Nuevo – Nuevo Leon Pasion y Fuego

Beyond the performances, attendees can participate in three dance instruction sessions during the event, offering opportunities to learn new moves and experience different cultural dance traditions.

Visitors can also purchase a Savor & Snack Pass, which includes five sample tastings from select food vendors. Passes are \$15 with early bird pricing (through Sept. 18). Starting Sept. 19, passes are \$20, with a limited number available at the event.

Jersey Street between Mill Street and Union Street will be closed during the festival. Due to the Park Street improvement project, there will not be a shuttle for this event. Street parking is available around Grand Junction Plaza, as are other parking options, including the parking garage at the Union (first three hours are free), library parking lot, and parking lot at Park and Poplar.

For more information, visit westfieldin.gov/internationalfestival.



Willis

Email scammers impersonating Carmel Department of Community Services

The REPORTER

On Tuesday, Sept. 1, Carmel city officials issued an urgent security alert to inform residents of an active email scam impersonating the city’s Department of Community Services.

Scammers are sending highly realistic emails, often referencing actual property addresses and case numbers, to demand immediate payment for “permit fees” or “zoning violations.”

These emails often include:

- **Accurate project details:** They may reference your specific property address, actual case numbers, or recently filed permit applications (information obtained from public records).

- **Official branding:** The messages often use the city’s logo, professional-sounding legal language, and the names of real city employees.

- **Urgent demands:** The email claims that your project “cannot be finalized

until ...” and that there are fees that must be paid immediately via wire transfer to avoid project delays.

The City of Carmel will never ask for payment via wire transfer, cryptocurrency, or mobile payment apps. All legitimate fees are handled through the official online permit portal.

If you are unsure about



the legitimacy of an invoice, contact the Department of Community Services directly at (317) 571-2417 or email Bric Butler at bbutler@carmel.in.gov. You may also file a report at ic3.gov.

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American aviation rules the skies over Grissom

The 2026 Grissom Air & Space Expo took place Saturday, Aug. 29, and Sunday, Aug. 30, at Grissom Air Reserve Base, approximately 12 miles north Kokomo. The Reporter’s own Bill Miller was there to capture some of the action for those of you who were unable to attend. (Reporter photos by Bill Miller)



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Deputy Clerk Position

The Cicero Clerk Treasurer’s office has a full-time position opening for a **Deputy Clerk**.

The Deputy Clerk will be responsible for various clerical, payroll, Human Resource functions, bookkeeping, and utility activities. Process bi-weekly payroll, pension, and deductibles maintain all payroll records, and on-line filings. Payroll experience a plus. Assistant to the clerk treasurer for budget, attend meetings as necessary, filing, preparing reports, and serve and assist with utility billing activities, answering phones, waiting on customers and other duties as assigned.

Applications will be accepted through October 2nd, 2026.

**Please send résumé to Rhonda Gary,
331 E. Jackson St., P.O. Box 650, Cicero, IN 46034,
rgary@townofcicero.in.gov**

Town’s application will be required which may be picked up in our office, requested by e-mail or found at

<https://www.facebook.com/ciceroindiana>

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Finding his rhythm & his calling

David Commanday speaks on leading Carmel Symphony Orchestra

Submitted

No Title Needed is your weekly invitation to meaningful, heart-to-heart conversations. Hosts Scott Osborne and Cindy Collins welcome passionate and inspiring guests to share the experiences, challenges, motivations, and defining moments that have shaped their lives and careers. Each conversation offers a chance to discover new perspectives, connect with your community, and walk away with a little inspiration of your own.

This week, Osborne and Collins welcomed David Commanday, Maestro for the Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) since July 2026. He spoke about music’s healing power and how it takes us from the fast pace of our lives and slows us down to an appropriate pace.

Commanday has come a long way from his childhood vision of becoming a brain surgeon. Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, he began piano when he was 6 and switched to the cello at age 9. He attended Harvard with aspirations of studying pre-med and cello when conducting caught his interest. He considers himself a non-invasive brain surgeon in his current calling.

Having founded Lowell House Waltz evening, Commanday certainly left his mark at Harvard, as the event is still happening at Harvard to this day. He shared where he went following Harvard and how he came to Carmel.



Photo provided

During the sit-down, Commanday praised the quality of the Palladium and how much it contributes to the success and sounds of the CSO. He states that it is “a brilliant place to make music; one of the finest in the world. The quality of sound, audience experience and orchestra experience are incomparable.”

He explained the value of silence to an audience when listening to music. The venue itself should serve as a blank canvas. The Palladium provides that, allowing CSO and other groups to create great art.

Commanday said he is excitedly anticipating the start of CSO’s 2026-2027 season beginning on Oct. 10. This will be the 50th anniversary for the CSO. He shares the various themes for the performances and how they tie into the 50th anniversary of Carmel as a city and the 250th anniversary of our great nation.

He shared the news that cellist Alexander Hersh will come in from Chicago to play the solo in that first performance. He also provided

information about the Music Matters Program coming on Oct. 28.

Other upcoming events for the CSO will be providing the musical background for the *Nutcracker* over Thanksgiving weekend with the Indiana Ballet Conservatory, *Holiday Pops* in December, the Feb. 13 “Hearts” concert, and more.

This interview is one you won’t want to miss. It is inspiring to hear Commanday discuss how his occupation is not something he decided on; it is a calling that he discovered, and that makes all the difference.

Tune in next week as *No Title Needed* welcomes Keith Potts, music director, cellist, singer, actor, and politician.

No Title Needed is taped every week inside The Hotel Carmichael in Carmel and airs at 8 a.m. Mondays. Tune in as Scott Osborne and Cindy Collins welcome a new guest and explore what fuels those people and their passions beyond the 9-to-5 grind. Follow the show at [Facebook.com/notitleneededshow](https://www.facebook.com/notitleneededshow).

Gov. Braun appoints 11 local residents to various state boards

The REPORTER

Governor Mike Braun announced on Tuesday, Sept. 1, several new appointments to various state boards and commissions. The following individuals are from Hamilton County.

- Sean White was appointed to the Petroleum Storage Tank Financial Assurance Board; term expires June 30, 2030.
- Miranda Lynch was appointed to the Drug Utilization Review Board; term expires Aug. 31, 2029.
- Joe Schmees was appointed to the Invasive Species Council; term expires Aug. 31, 2029.

• Jonathan Whitham was appointed to the Indiana Emergency Medical Services Commission; term expires Sept. 30, 2030.

- Matt Morgan was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, term expires June 30, 2029.
- Dawn Replogle was appointed to the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers; term expires Sept. 30, 2030.
- Dr. Michael Busk was appointed to the Rare

Disease Advisory Council; term expires June 30, 2029.

- Mindy Cameron was appointed to the Rare Disease Advisory Council; term expires June 30, 2029.
- Dr. Hillary Hushower was appointed to the Board Chiropractic Examiners; term expires Sept. 30, 2030.
- Dr. Diane Vuotto was appointed to the Board Chiropractic Examiners; term expires Sept. 30, 2030.
- Jay Collins was appointed to the Indiana Education Savings Authority Board of Directors; term expires Sept. 30, 2030.

Special Olympics Indiana fall competition continues with softball, golf & pickleball

The REPORTER

Special Olympics Indiana continues its fall sports championship season Sept. 12 and 13 with state softball, golf, and pickleball tournaments as part of Erskine Championship Weekend. These three events are among nine tournaments scheduled to take place in Central Indiana.

The weekend honors the life and legacy of Carl Erskine, a Special Olympics Indiana spokesperson and volunteer, and his son, Jimmy Erskine, who exemplified a life of integrity and excellence, just like his father. With Carl’s passing in 2024, Special Olympics Indiana dedicated this weekend to the duo, marking their impact and shared love of sports.

Fall season state championships include:

- **Sept. 12:** Softball at Center Grove Lassie League
- **Sept. 13:** Golf at Hickory Stick Golf Club in Greenwood and Pickleball at The Picklr at Keystone Crossing
- **Oct. 4:** Cornhole, Flag football, Distance Run/

Walk and Soccer at Grand Park, Westfield

- **Nov. 21:** Unified Volleyball at The Academy Volleyball Club, Indianapolis

Thirty-six softball teams from across the state will travel to the Lassie League fields in Greenwood for state softball. Competition includes traditional Special Olympics teams, Unified teams where individuals with and without intellectual disabilities compete together, and individual skills assessments. Games take place 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

State golf returns to Hickory Stick Golf Club in Greenwood, where about 300 athletes and Unified partners will compete in three-, six- and nine-hole events starting at 8:45 a.m. Athletes also compete in a skills competition beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Special Olympics Indiana will host its inaugural pickleball state tournament at The Picklr on East 82nd Street in Indianapolis. Traditional and Unified pairs begin at 9:15 a.m. In all, 82 individuals will compete



**Special
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Indiana**

for gold, silver, and bronze medals.

Results and more information on the other state championships is available at [SOIndiana.org](https://www.soindiana.org).

Nearly 3,000 athletes and Unified partners are expected to take part in the eight championship tournaments this fall. With more than 20,000 athletes and Unified partners, supported by 10,000 coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics Indiana uses sports as a catalyst for social change, exposing inequity and highlighting the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities.

Admission to all events is free. Visit [SOIndiana.org/fall_games](https://www.soindiana.org/fall_games) to learn more or to volunteer.

ReadTheReporter.com



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Legendary Indiana Rangers receive Presidential Unit Citation & Sagamore of the Wabash for Vietnam War heroism

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

More than five decades after returning home from Vietnam, the legendary “Indiana Rangers” received two of the highest honors bestowed for military service and service to the state of Indiana.

Company D (Ranger), 151st Infantry Regiment of the Indiana Army National Guard – widely revered as the “Indiana Rangers” – were formally awarded the Presidential Unit Citation on Saturday, Aug. 29, at the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) conference. The prestigious award recognizes the unit’s extraordinary heroism, combat service, and immense sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

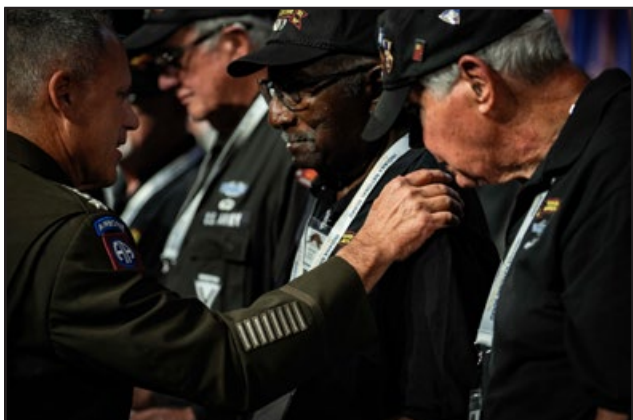
Governor Mike Braun also honored the Indiana Rangers with a group Sagamore of the Wabash, one of Indiana’s highest honors, recognizing the unit’s extraordinary service, courage, and enduring legacy to the state.

“For more than 50 years, the Indiana Rangers have carried with them a legacy of courage, sacrifice and service that every Hoosier should be proud of,” Gov. Braun said. “These men answered our nation’s call,



fought with extraordinary bravery in Vietnam and came home as one of the most decorated units of the war. Today, we are making sure their service receives the recognition it deserves. It is my honor to award the Indiana Rangers the Sagamore of the Wabash as they receive the Presidential Unit Citation they earned more than half a century ago.”

The recognition arrives more than 50 years after the Indiana Rangers returned home in 1969. The unit holds the unique historic distinction of being the only Army National Guard ground maneuver unit to serve in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. It subsequently became one of the most decorated units of the conflict, earning hundreds of individual awards



Photos provided by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

for valor and service. “Today is an extraordinary and historic day for the Indiana National Guard,” Maj. Gen. Larry Muennich, Indiana’s Adjutant General said. “After more than five decades, we have the privilege of presenting our Indiana Rangers with the Presidential Unit Citation they earned for their service in

Vietnam. This is more than an award; it is a long-overdue recognition of courage and dedication to these Hoosier Soldiers. It is an honor to stand alongside them and their families as we ensure their legacy is remembered.”

“The extraordinary heroism of the Indiana

See *Rangers* . . . Page 9

Water: a powerful, yet necessary force of nature

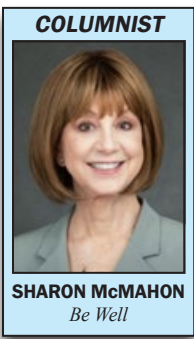
“Water is the driving force of all nature.” – Leonardo da Vinci

Water. The giver of life ... and the taker of life. Such a conundrum as so many in our neighborhoods and on our planet have faced catastrophic loss of life and upheaval.

At the same time, as we know, and as I have written about in this column over the years, water is life-giving and something that we must rely on daily. Without adequate water intake we will face dehydration in a short period of time, which can lead to changes in our brains that can run from temporary to permanent.

As we have experienced both in our local communities throughout Hamilton County and the state, water can destroy and disable our homes, businesses, topography, and psyche. This is a worldwide phenomenon that affects all of mankind. For those folks who are without flood insurance particularly, the realization of the financial cost to replace and repair can be significant. For those who are sifting through remains of sentimental keepsakes and items, the loss certainly takes a toll and can result in a grieving process, which may take some time and support to process.

Another result of excess water in our homes and businesses is the threat of mold. Mold and mold spores can set up almost immediately and should be removed if possible 24 to 48 hours after onset. Inhaling mold spores can trigger asthma attacks and severe allergic infection.¹ This is particularly dangerous for the elderly, children, and those with compromised immune systems. There is quite a bit of information provided by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) online as well as other sources. Remediation is critical and



COLUMNIST

SHARON McMAHON

Be Well

recommended as soon as possible.

We quite literally cannot live without clean water. We depend on our government to provide us with the life-giving resources for drinking, bathing,

washing our clothing, and all manner of daily living. Those third-world countries without that access suffer from devastating health problems including cholera, typhoid fever, and other chronic conditions including organ damage.²

We are privileged to live in a country where our drinking water is nearly always safe from disease-causing parasites and bacteria. Clean water is a blessing.

We also live in a world where water can be the most devastating and life-altering catastrophe known to man. I hope that if you have been affected by our recent rains and flooding that you and your family are first and foremost safe, and that you will find the help and resources you need. For more information on those resources, you may contact Hamilton County Flood Assistance at (317) 645-3261 and you may call 211 for flood damage assistance.

Please be aware that, sadly, there are those in our world who would take advantage of flood victims, so please contact law enforcement if you feel you have been approached in this manner.

Volunteers, you are many and you are awesome. Above all, dear readers, stay strong and be well.

¹ epa.gov
² cdc.gov

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.

SBA Disaster Assistance available for private nonprofits

The REPORTER

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced the availability of low-interest federal disaster loans for eligible private nonprofit organizations impacted by the severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding that began Aug. 11.

Eligible counties

- Delaware
- Fayette
- Franklin
- Hamilton
- Henry
- LaPorte
- Lake

- Madison
- Porter
- Tipton
- Wayne

Who can apply

- Private nonprofits
- Faith-based organizations

Loan assistance available

• **Physical Disaster Loans:** Repair or replace disaster-damaged property, equipment, inventory, and assets.

• **Economic Injury Disaster Loans:** Working capital assistance for operational expenses caused by

the disaster.

• **Mitigation Funding:** SBA disaster loans can be increased up to 20 percent of the verified losses to make building upgrades.

Key loan details

- Up to \$2 million in loan funding
- Interest rate as low as 3.625 percent for private nonprofit organizations
- Loan terms of up to 30 years
- No interest or required payments during the first 12 months following disbursement

Apply online at sba.gov/disaster.

Application deadlines

• **Physical Damage Loans:** Oct. 25

• **Economic Injury Disaster Loans:** May 25, 2027

Applicants may call the SBA Customer Service Center with questions regarding their application at (800) 659-2955 or email disaster-customerservice@sba.gov. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

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Does God giggle (at Chick-fil-A) too?

Meet the candidates running for Hamilton County Sheriff

The apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:4, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.” (NLT)

Hmmm. “... bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.”

As Christians, we try to bear the Fruit of the Spirit in different circumstances. You know, all the Fruit of the Spirit as written in Galatians 5:22: “Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

It’s really not that difficult when we think about it. Especially in a simple display of “kindness.”

When I leave this earth, I pray people recall memories of a slightly crazy, happy, joy-filled older lady who loves Jesus. I try to impart this through my thoughts, words, and behaviors in all I do, but especially around the younger generations.

So yesterday when I unexpectedly saw that Chick-fil-A was celebrating “Cow Appreciation Day,” I invited my granddaughters



COLUMNIST
BONNIE ZICKGRAF
Sacred or Secular?

to dress up like cows to visit our local restaurant for a free entrée. I never knew such a celebration existed, but ... why not?

The two available younger teenage granddaughters gladly accepted the invitation. I printed off the bovine spots, masks and “Eat Mor Chikin” signs offered from the corporate website and whisked off to my son’s house.

The girls and I enjoyed an hour or so together on their front porch just chatting and making our silly costumes. One of them even wore a fuzzy shirt, quite warm for the summer day! Finally, off to Chick-Fil-A we went with our fancy paper outfits.

Truthfully, it was my very first trip inside our local Noblesville restaurant. (I always do the drive-through). Of course, we received funny looks from a few folks and we giggled as we approached the stanchions for the line to place our orders.

Giggling right along with us was the helpful, friendly lady behind the counter. The gentleman customer in the adjacent line wasn’t aware of the “Cow Holiday” either, until the young man

assisting him mentioned it and recommended he could “Moo” for his free entrée. We mooed right along with him in encouragement and giggled even more!

We retreated to a table near the entry doors and didn’t wait long for our warm and tasty meals to be delivered by another friendly young lady. What a lovely idea, I thought, to bring family and friends together for the day.

We saw lots of parents and kids, some older, some younger. A few dressed in costumes, but several were not dressed as cows! We were eating our meal when two middle-aged women walked in, totally unaware of the day’s celebration. No spots, no signs, no masks, no bovine anything! Oh dear!

As they walked by our table, I offered my “Eat Mor Chikin” sign to the older lady who stopped long enough for me to explain she could get free food today if she wore the sign. She accepted it and returned a few minutes later to happily thank me for the heads up. Nice stranger to meet. I recommended she keep and share the sign with another person in need.

But it gets even better.

As we were cleaning up our table and getting ready to leave, my younger grand-

daughter spotted another “plain-clothes” lady coming into the restaurant and offered her signs, mask, and cattle spots so this stranger could enjoy her visit and free food today, too.

Oh ... the sweet act of kindness, simply just witnessed by one and passed onto the next. Thank you, Jesus!

It just happened. It wasn’t planned. Nothing of this whole day was planned. It just happened ... through God’s grace!

Complicated and hard times can be softened by a simple act of kindness. And God was surely kind to me today when I saw the joy in both my granddaughter’s eyes and hearts touched in folks we never met before.

The impact of this awesome day is far greater than many of us might realize!

You know, I think God giggles with happiness along with each of us, too, including at Chick-fil-A! And I am humbly grateful!

Rev. Bonnie Zickgraf is a retired pastor, registered nurse, electroplater, and podcaster. She continues to serve various preschool, youth, and adult ministries, including the Nurses’ Honor Guard for the State of Indiana. She loves to laugh, write, eat, and pray! Send comments to bonniezickgraf@gmail.com.

Submitted
The Exchange is where business, government, and community leadership come together.

Join the Westfield and Noblesville Chambers of Commerce from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, at The Bridgewater Club in Westfield. You’ll hear from Hamilton County Sheriff candidates Dustin Dixon and Charles Hollowell.

Click here to register for this edition of The Exchange.

A collaborative initiative of the Westfield and Noblesville Chambers of Commerce, The Exchange brings regional leaders to the table for timely, nonpartisan conversations about policy, legislation, elections, and the issues influencing communities and the local economy.

More than a forum, The Exchange is an opportunity to listen, ask questions, share perspectives, and



Dixon



Hollowell

build connections across the region – because the best ideas and strongest communities are built when everyone works together.

Please note: This event is not a promotion or endorsement of a political candidate but an opportunity for Chamber membership to connect with the candidates. According to the bylaws, the Chamber will not lend its endorsement to the election of any candidate for any political office.

If you are interested in future sponsorship opportunities for The Exchange Series, please reach out to Courtney Albright at calbright@westfield-chamberindy.com or Bob DuBois at bob@noblesvillechamber.com.

RANGERS

Rangers is a testament to the enduring legacy of our National Guard,” said Air Force Gen. Steve Nordhaus, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. “Through the grueling jungles of Southeast Asia, these elite warfighters answered the Nation’s call, demonstrating the highest standards of courage, grit, and le-

thality. They proved what it means to be ‘Always Ready, Always There.’ We are proud to honor their historic achievements with the Presidential Unit Citation today – their valor remains an inspiration for the entire Joint Force as we stand Stronger Together, Stronger Tomorrow.”

The Sagamore of the

Wabash is the highest honor the Governor can bestow on Hoosiers who have displayed extraordinary leadership, service, and excellence for the state of Indiana. The Indiana Rangers were granted the Sagamore in addition to the Presidential Unit Citation, which is the highest military decoration awarded to

a unit for extraordinary heroism in combat against an armed enemy. For the Indiana Rangers, the citation recognizes the collective courage, teamwork, and sacrifice of the entire company, extending beyond their numerous individual acts of valor.

Deployed to Vietnam in December 1968, Compa-

ny D conducted hundreds of dangerous long-range reconnaissance missions. The unit frequently operated deep within enemy-controlled territory under the most grueling conditions before returning to Indiana in November 1969. For decades, surviving members of the unit have tirelessly advocated secure appropri-

ate recognition for the company as a whole.

The presentation included remarks from Governor Mike Braun, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Steve Nordhaus, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Christopher LeNeve, Indiana’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Larry Muennich, and U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz.

from Page 8

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The Twenties were roaring at Shepherd's Center

Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County took guests back to the Roaring Twenties for its fifth annual Speakeasy fundraiser on Saturday, Aug. 29. Guests enjoyed distillery bourbon and spirit samplings, an open bar, a steak dinner, and a one of-a-kind silent auction featuring rare, allocated bottles, as well as a live auction. Learn more or donate to Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County at SCofHC.org. (Photos provided)



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Letter to the Editor

Kidney failure patient implores Congress to pass Kidney Care Access Protection Act

Dear Editor:

In 2015, I was raising my family, preparing for law school, and building a future I believed in.

Then, seemingly overnight, my life changed; I was diagnosed with kidney failure.

The years that followed were some of the hardest I’ve ever faced. I’m beyond grateful that I received a kidney transplant in 2021, but the road there was long, painful, and at times, discouraging.

What stands out most from that journey is just how outdated and underfunded kidney care in this country still is. Medicare doesn’t go far enough to support dialysis centers or encourage the kind of innovation that could actually save lives. For years, I received the same type of care even when more effective treatments existed simply because there wasn’t enough investment in access or advancement.

The Kidney Care Access Protection Act would help change that. It would ensure Medicare keeps up with the rising costs of care and extend support for newer, more effective kidney treatments giving patients like me a real chance at quality, not just survival.

People living with kidney failure deserve better than a broken system that’s barely holding together. I’m asking Congress to do what’s right: pass this bill and give kidney patients the care and dignity we deserve.

Niesha N. Neal, BS, MCPC
Indianapolis

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.

Indiana Hospital Association supports discontinuing routine hospital diversion

Submitted

The Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) issued the following statement on the Indiana Department of Health’s [announcement](#) of an agreement among emergency healthcare partners to discontinue routine hospital diversion.

“Indiana’s hospitals are committed to ensuring Hoosiers have access to emergency care when and where they need it,” said Andy VanZee, IHA Vice President of Regulatory & Hospital Opera-



VanZee

tions. “We support the Indiana Department of Health’s decision to end routine EMS diversion based solely on hospital volume and are proud to have worked alongside our emergency care partners to reach this important milestone.

“We appreciate the leadership of IDOH and our partners across Indiana’s emergency care system for working together on this important effort to improve emergency care for Hoosier patients and communities across the state.”

Multiple federal agencies launch joint effort to crack down on fraud in trucking industry

The REPORTER

This week, U.S. Attorneys from Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio joined Secretary Sean P. Duffy of the Department of Transportation (USDOT) and Secretary Markwayne Mullin of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – as well as Administrator Derek Barrs of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and Vice Chairman Andrew Ferguson of the [White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud](#) – to announce an historic interagency effort to crack down on fraud in the trucking industry.

Federal officials were also joined by [Marcus Coleman and his daughter Dalilah](#), who was critically injured in a 2024 crash with an illegal alien behind the wheel.

The U.S. Attorneys joining Secretaries Duffy and Mullin and others to make the announcement were:

- U.S. Attorney Jerome Gorgon for the Eastern District of Michigan;
- U.S. Attorney Adam Mildred for the Northern District of Indiana;
- U.S. Attorney Tim Verhey for the Western District of Michigan;
- U.S. Attorney David Toepfer for the Northern District of Ohio;
- U.S. Attorney Dominick Gerace for the Southern District of Ohio;
- U.S. Attorney Tom Wheeler for the Southern District of Indiana;
- U.S. Attorney Steven Weinhoeft for the Southern District of Illinois; and
- U.S. Attorney Greg Gilmore for the Central District of Illinois.

Departmental actions include:

Department of Justice

- Formation of Joint Task Force Crossroads of America to safeguard the nation’s highway system and strengthen the security of our borders.

Department of Transportation

- Emergency removal of 110 commercial driver’s license (CDL) schools associated with more than 5,000 drivers who failed English language proficiency tests
- Launching a nationwide audit of third-party CDL skills testers and states’ oversight of the testers
- Results from 40-state investigation of additional training schools

Department of Homeland Security

- Synchronized single-day sweep targeting more than 200 training schools across 23 states
- Joint coordination with USDOT
- HSI and ICE updates on ongoing investigations targeting CDL-related businesses and schools

This unprecedented interagency campaign represents the Trump Administration’s most aggressive effort in history to root out fraud, waste, and abuse in trucking. By aligning USDOT’s regulatory authorities with federal law enforcement operations, the administration is taking aggressive action to safeguard American roads against unqualified and unvetted illegal truckers.

You can learn more by watching the entire press conference on [C-SPAN’s website](#).

‘Hit on ratepayers’: \$625K settlement will be paid out of IURC budget

By **KARA KENNEY**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A \$625,000 settlement with a former utility regulator will be paid out of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission’s budget, Indiana’s I-Team has learned.

“Effectively, it means ratepayers are paying this settlement,” said Kerwin Olson, executive director at the Citizens Action Coalition, a consumer advocacy group. “It’s extremely disappointing and a double hit on ratepayers.”

Former Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Chair Andy Zay [filed a lawsuit in Marion County court on Aug. 10](#), claiming his firing in early August was “unlawful.”

The state will pay \$625,000 total for settlement to Zay and his attorneys, records show.

Zay alleged in his lawsuit that the governor’s office pressured Zay concerning the AES rate case.

Neither the governor’s office nor former Commissioner Andy Zay admitted any wrongdoing.

The governor’s office said Friday that the state will pay the \$625,000 settlement out of the IURC budget.

The IURC is a state administrative agency that oversees and regulates public utility companies in Indiana. They are funded from fees paid by utilities,

said Olson.

“They’re charged based on their annual revenues, and they pay a portion of that to the IURC,” said Olson. “Generally speaking, the utilities recover that money for ratepayers. So effectively, the IURC is funded by utility ratepayers.”

The settlement includes the remaining salary and benefits if Zay had served through March 31, 2030.

March 31, 2030, is when Zay’s term as one of the five IURC commissioners was to expire.

“Utility ratepayers are paying for six commissioners when they only should be paying for five,” said Olson. “We’ve been told the IURC is short-staffed, under a lot of constraints, and so who are they not going to be able to hire as a result of paying the settlement, they’re already short staffed. Ratepayers need a robust IURC staff to review, analyze, critique the dozens and dozens of filings that the utilities place before them all the time.”

In his lawsuit, Zay asked to be reinstated at the IURC.



Braun



Zay

However, that will not happen as part of the settlement.

Statements Gov. Mike Braun

“I am pleased that we have been able to reach a resolution. 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.”

Andy Zay

“The Indiana 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.”

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

“To answer your questions, the operating budgets of the IURC (and OUCC for that matter) are funded through a charge on public utilities. For many years, utilities paid into a dedicated fund, which covered the operations of both agencies. However, since the most recent budget session, those dollars have been directed through the state’s General Fund.

“For this fiscal year, specifically, the Commission’s budget is \$11,065,069. Here’s a [link](#) to our appropriation as allocated by the Indiana General Assembly. Generally speaking, the IURC budget mainly covers the operational expenses needed to run/manage the agency (e.g., personnel costs, including salaries and benefits, administrative costs, technology/equipment, etc.).”

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/local-news/hit-on-ratepayers-625k-settlement-will-be-paid-out-of-iurc-budget.



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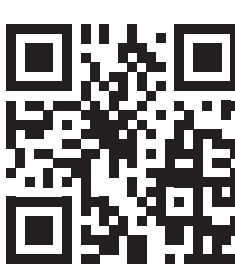
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Fishers Event Center announces free ‘Movies in the Plaza’ series

The REPORTER

The Fishers Event Center will host a free Movies in the Plaza series with three fan-favorite classic film showings this September and October.

Schedule

- *Back to the Future* on Saturday, Sept. 12: Travel back in time for a night of adventure, laughs, and 1980s nostalgia.
- *Miracle* on Saturday, Oct. 3: Cheer on an undergettable underdog story and celebrate the spirit of teamwork, determination, and believing in something bigger.
- *Hocus Pocus* on Saturday, Oct. 10: Get into the Halloween spirit with a spellbinding favorite that’s perfect for the whole family. Gates open at 6 p.m., and

showings start at 7 p.m. on the FORUM Credit Union Plaza at the Fishers Event Center, 11000 Stockdale St.

Know before you go

- These events are free admission, with no tickets or prior registration required.
 - Free surface parking is available for spectators.
 - Bring lawn chairs or blankets for comfortable seating, and weather-appropriate gear (sunglasses, ponchos, etc., as it is an outdoor open-air venue).
 - No outside food or beverages will be permitted. Themed menu items will be available for purchase inside Fishers Event Center with various options available for patrons.
- Find more information at [this link](#).

Mission Hills Charity Jam returns to Westfield

Free live music & silent auction will support Heart and Soul Free Clinic

Submitted

The highly anticipated fourth annual Mission Hills Charity Jam is back, bringing a full day of community spirit, live entertainment, and local giving to Westfield. This year’s event promises a spectacular lineup of local bands, a vibrant silent auction, and a welcoming atmosphere for residents of all ages.

The charity jam will take place from 2 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. Generously hosted by The Local Eatery and Pub, located at 14655 Gray Road, Westfield, the event is completely free to attend. Indy Wound Center for Limb Preservation and

Reconstruction sponsors the event.

The primary goal of the Mission Hills Charity Jam is to raise critical funds and awareness for the Heart and Soul Free Clinic. As a local staple since 2009, the clinic provides essential, high-quality medical and mental health services to uninsured and underinsured neighbors in Central Indiana. Because the clinic relies heavily on community donations to operate, all proceeds from the silent auction and voluntary attendee donations during the event will go directly toward removing barriers to healthcare for vulnerable residents.



“We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our community,” said a representative. “The Charity Jam is a perfect way for our neighbors to enjoy fantastic local talent at The Local Eatery, discover unique items in our silent auction, and make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most in our community.”

Attendees are encouraged to come out with friends and family, bring chairs, enjoy the live per-

formances in the tent, and participate in the silent auction. Every dollar raised helps Heart and Soul Free Clinic continue its mission of delivering compassionate, free care.

For more information about the event, or to learn more about the clinic’s services, please follow the clinic’s official social media updates on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). You can also go to [HeartAndSoul-Clinic.org](#) and click the Upcoming Events tab.

BUSINESS CARDS

Pasto Italiano Summer Specials

Martini Monday \$10 specialty & well martinis

Tito's Tuesday \$7 single Tito's drinks & \$10 double Tito's drinks or martinis

Wine Wednesday 1/2 priced bottles of wine

Tito's Thursday \$7 single Tito's drinks & \$10 double Tito's drinks or martinis

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Fishers Arts Council & Hamilton County Tourism present Harvest Fest along Nickel Plate Trail

The REPORTER

Fishers Arts Council and Hamilton County Tourism will present the seventh annual Harvest Fest from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, along the Nickel Plate Trail in heart of downtown Fishers.

This year’s family-friendly event features more than 70 artists, artisans, and authors, 10 nonprofits, strolling musicians plus a full band, fun games and art activities, and plenty of food and drink for all. Harvest Fest’s goal is to “harvest funds for nonprofits.”

Additional support for Harvest Fest comes from Beer Garden Sponsor, MashCraft Fishers. Fishers Parks, the City of Fishers, and Hamilton East Public Library are partners this year, offering support, supplies, and assisting with securing additional funds for the event.

“We are excited to bring Harvest Fest to the Nickel Plate Trail for a second year in a row,” said Ross Hileary, Assistant Director of Planning for the City of Fishers. “Fishers Arts Council is a proud recipient of a 2026 Tourism Gives grant from Hamilton County Tourism to bring a cultural event to the Nickel Plate District, which is a perfect opportunity to partner with the City of Fishers and Fishers Parks.”

“I love all of the growth we have experienced since Harvest Fest was founded in 2020,” said Les Reinhardt, Fishers Arts Council’s Executive Director. “Moving from Heritage Park at White River to the Nickel Plate Trail has added so much to the experience, emphasizing the importance of art, community, and enjoying the beautiful amenities of Fishers.”

Harvest Fest will start at Café Patachou’s patio, 8654 E. 116th St., and branch off into seven “art fields” along the trail, ending at Hamilton East Public Library, 5 Municipal Drive. The event map, including address for all the art fields, recom-



mended parking, restrooms, where to find your favorite creative, and more can be found at FishersArtsCouncil.org/harvest-fest.

This free, family-friendly event has grown to focus on “harvesting funds” and expanding awareness for several nonprofits that serve Fishers and beyond, shopping directly from local artists, and showcasing local musicians. This year’s nonprofits include Bee Free Bakes, Central Indiana Wood Workers, Delaware Township Trustee food pantry, Fishers Community Chorus, Fishers Art Center, Fishers Historical Society, Hamilton East Public Library Foundation, Hoosier Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, Saving Our Sisters (a female veterans organization), and Fishers Arts Council. Each organization will offer something different to raise much-needed funds, including art activities, face painting, refreshments, and more.

The featured musicians will be Erick Oneal Fisher, Brandon Douthitt, Glenn Seland, and the band Enigma Fig, with all musicians sponsored by the City of Fishers. You can see the musician schedule online [here](#).

Some highlights for fundraising include Fishers Arts Council’s Turkish Paper Marbling activity (known as Ebru) led by Esma Yokus, courtesy of a grant from the Penrod Society. Other highlights include live animal interactions with Hoosier Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation; face painting by Paints by Deb, hosted by the Fishers Historical Society; and a food drive with the Delaware Township Trustee’s food pantry.

The food pantry seeks

non-perishable donations from its Amazon Wish List (find it at tinyurl.com/del-awarefoodpantry) or monetary donations that will be used to purchase fresh milk, meats, and produce. When you stop by to donate food, decorate your own tote bag to hold your treasures from the day.

Bring your appetite and grab lunch, early dinner, or tame your sweet tooth with food trucks that have graciously partnered to donate a portion of their proceeds to participating nonprofits: Biscuit Baby (benefiting Saving Our Sisters), Chef TLC with Faith the Food Bus (benefiting Delaware Township Trustee food pantry), Dog & Ball (benefiting Central Indiana Wood Workers), Ice Cream Donuts (benefiting Hamilton East Public Library Foundation), Kona Ice Indy (benefiting Fishers Art Center), Pastelitos Las Gochitas (benefiting Fishers Historical Society), and Smokey Blue BBQ (benefiting Bee Free Bakes).

“Joe Janik and the MashCraft Fishers crew are also back as our Beer Garden sponsor for the third year in a row,” Reinhardt said. “Their support of our arts programming has been going on for four years now and I am truly thankful for how our community comes together to make Harvest Fest the best experience it can be. Our board of directors are proud to offer a fundraising opportunity for Central Indiana-serving nonprofits in a fun, community, art fair atmosphere.”

• Fine Art & Prints: Alyssa Overton Art, Amber Davis Fine Art, Andrea Bowden Art, Because Why Nart, Britt Ritchie Fine Art, Cathy Wilburn Art, Cordial Kitten, Dr. Mattie Lee Jones, Ellen’s Creative Escape, Heartpours by Lor, JB Art, Jenny Spires Art, Jill Keough Art, Lori Patrick Fine Art, Macabre Marionette Art, Miller Modern Art, Neal Snap Art, Randall Scott Harden Art, Sadly Harmless, Samuel Ralston

Fine Art

• Jewelry & Leather: Glass Utopia, Jewelry by Matt B, Katina Washington Luxury, Lovely Lobes by K and K, Melly’s Distractions, Miller Modern Art, Primrose and Plum, Saturn Glow Studio, Sculpted by Syd, The Crafty Bee, Wydia Designs

• Indiana Authors: Matthew Barron, Sutton Bishop, Brent Drago, Lillie Evans, Liz Flaherty, J.C. Kenney, DeWayne Landwehr, Nan Reinhardt, Quack & Beans, and Crystal Rhodes

• Woodworking & Woodcarving: Ask Cheese Woodworks, Greater Goods Design

• Ceramics, Pottery, Sculpture: Fey Clay Studio, Olivia Ooky, Staffelbach Ceramics

• Blown, Fused Glass: Glass Utopia

• Fiber Arts & Clothing: Beverly Jerabek, Ballard-Harris Designs, Campb Crochet, Lizzy’s Fancy, Molly Pope, Novel Knot, Second Act Crochet & Crafts, Singing Land Fibers, Teresa Wesley Amigurumi, Vern Sews

• Soaps & Personal Care: Azure’s Secret, Han and Co Handcrafts, Make It Classy Beauty, Natural Blend Essentials, Sweet Melissa Honey & Hive, The Folk Method

• Candles: Heaven and Earth Candles, Lucky Star Co.

• Home & Garden Decor & Plants: Melly’s Distractions, Olivia Ooky, Ruth’s Garden, Glass Utopia, Azure’s Secret, Novel Knot, Lucky Star Co., Handmade Rock Canvas

• Desserts and Sauces: Eva’s Cookies, Pup & the Pepper

• Kid’s Items & Accessories: Ballard-Harris Designs, Campb Crochet, IndySuz, Lizzy’s Fancy, Macabre Marionette Art, Second Act Crochet & Crafts, Cordial Kitten, Sadly Harmless, Sculpted by Syd, Quack & Beans, Matt 3D Creations, Teresa Wesley, The Snow Collective

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Community News

Health Department to hold Narcan education course

The Hamilton County Health Department will present a free Narcan education course from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, at Trinity Free Clinic, 1045 W. 146th St., Suite B, Carmel. Attendance is required in order to receive free Narcan. Register for this free education at [this link](#).

See The Rugged Brothers Band live at The Piper in Noblesville

The Rugged Brothers Band will entertain patrons on Friday evening, Sept. 4, at The Piper, 5855 E. 211th St. #32, Noblesville.

Indiana High School basketball's best coming to Riverview Health Arena in Noblesville

Submitted by Get8 Sports

Ten of Indiana's top high school boys basketball teams will face off in a pro arena this holiday season. The second annual Breakaway Holiday Classic will come to Riverview Health Arena in Noblesville on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2027. The day will feature five games with three 2026 state finalists and top teams from all corners of the state.

Broadcast details will be finalized soon and tickets will go on sale Wednesday, Sept. 23.

Game 1
Sheridan (19-5 last year) vs. Liberty Christian (19-8, regional champion)
The opener will feature two Central Indiana contenders in Sheridan and Liberty Christian.

Sheridan enjoyed one of its best seasons in school history last year and returns all-state talent Trey Page, who scored 19.3 points per game last season, alongside a strong frontcourt led by John Crowder and Desh Donathen.

Liberty Christian (19-8 last year) won its regional last year and lost to Class 1A champion Barr-Reeve 39-37 in the semistate round. Both schools have improved their records four straight years under their current head coaches.

"We are extremely excited and honored to have our team take part in such a prestigious event and once-in-a-lifetime experience at Riverview Health Arena in Noblesville," Liberty Christian Coach Norman Anderson said.

"We are excited to play in this event at a fantastic new venue. This game against perennial power Liberty Christian is a great opportunity to showcase our program and Indiana All-Star and all-state candidate Trey Page," Sheridan Coach Bill Bowen said. "The opportunity to participate and play alongside other high-level programs is what we envision as a program as we look to continue to challenge our student-athletes."

Game 2
Barr-Reeve (28-1, 1A state champion) vs. Westview (27-2, 2A state runner-up)
The day's second con-

test could be considered the small school state championship, as both teams are expected to be at the very top of their respective classes in 2026-27.

Barr-Reeve and Westview combined for a 55-3 record last year and both teams made the state finals. Barr-Reeve won the 1A title and Westview fell in the 2A final 57-56. Barr-Reeve has all five starters returning from last year's title team.

"We are honored to play in this event at Riverview Health Arena, one of the premier basketball venues in Indiana," Barr-Reeve Coach Heath Howington said. "Westview has a strong basketball tradition and represents a community that shares many of the same values as Barr-Reeve. This is a matchup that both fan bases have looked forward to, and we expect an outstanding atmosphere. We are grateful for the opportunity and are excited to be part of what should be a great day for Indiana high school basketball."

Westview, a winner of four consecutive sectional titles, returns five of its top six players from a year ago. That includes Indiana Junior All-Star Austin Schlachach and a host of skilled shooters from a team that shot 42 percent from 3-point range last year.

"We are excited for our matchup against a historic program like Barr-Reeve. It should be a great battle between two really good programs," Westview Coach Chandler Prible said.

Game 3
Lawrence North (19-6) vs. Fort Wayne Snider (20-8, regional champion)

Two of the state's top Class 4A teams will face off in the event's third game. Lawrence North is one of the state's historic boys basketball programs and is aiming for another deep postseason with a young squad in 2027. Three juniors – Kamran Bell, Chandon Gilbert, and Davis Baker – expect to be key contributors along with talented freshman Levin Robinson. LN won 19 games last season and has won 18 or more for four straight years.

"Lawrence North is very excited to be chosen to par-

ticipate in the Breakaway Holiday Classic and feels great about our prospects to be very competitive in this event," Head Coach Chris Giffin said.

Fort Wayne Snider returns four starters from a 20-8 team that lost in the semistate to Crown Point last year. Snider continues to climb the ranks of Class 4A, having won 20 games in consecutive seasons for the first time in 17 years.

"We are so excited to be able to play a great opponent in a professional arena. These are the type of games that help prepare a team for the tournament and we are excited to test ourselves with a high-level opponent," Snider Coach Joshua Riikonen said.

Game 4
Guerin Catholic (21-6) vs. New Albany (23-6, regional champion)

The day's fourth game features a New Albany team that figures to be a factor in Class 4A against a Guerin Catholic team that returns four starters and will be a top team in Class 3A.

New Albany, the 2016 state champion, has improved three seasons in a row under coach Jason Jones. NAHS lost in the semistate to eventual state champion Mt. Vernon last year and returns four starters and nine rotation players from last year's team. Seniors Reece and Ashton McKee and Jaedyn Sharp and junior Noah Washington form a nucleus that will put New Albany near the top of the rankings.

"We are very excited and grateful for the opportunity to play in a high-level event in a pro arena. It will be a great experience for our team," Coach Jones said.

Guerin Catholic won 21 games last year under first-year coach Sam Gardner and returns four starters and seven key players overall. Indiana Junior All-Star Jacob Grissom (20.5 ppg) leads the group alongside all-state players Carter Murans and Hayden Rogers.

"We are excited to be included in an event that features some of the best teams in Indiana and thankful for the opportunity to play in one of the premier venues in

Hamilton County," Coach Gardner said. "We have great respect for Coach Jones and a New Albany team that will be a 4A title contender this year."

Game 5
Hamilton Southeastern (15-10) vs. Crown Point (25-2, 4A state runner-up)

The nightcap features two of the biggest schools in the state who are playing each other for the third straight season. Hamilton Southeastern is located 2.2 miles from Riverview Health Arena and Crown Point has been a state title contender across most sports over the last decade.

Crown Point, winner of three consecutive regional titles, has been the top team in the northern half of the state the last few years and figures to be a contender in Class 4A again.

"Crown Point is thrilled

Breakaway Holiday Classic presented by Citizens State Bank

Jan. 2 at Riverview Health Arena in Noblesville (times approximate)

- 12:15 p.m.: Sheridan vs. Liberty Christian
- 2:05 p.m.: Barr-Reeve vs. Westview
- 4 p.m.: Lawrence North vs. Fort Wayne Snider
- 5:55 p.m.: Guerin Catholic vs. New Albany
- 7:50 p.m.: Hamilton Southeastern vs. Crown Point

and honored to be playing in the 2027 Breakaway Holiday Classic," Crown Point Coach Clint Swan said. "The opportunity to play a great program like Hamilton Southeastern in a venue like Riverview Health Arena are just the type of opportunities we seek out for our players. It promises to be a great day of basketball and a memorable experience for all."

In its second year, the Breakaway Holiday Classic is established as a top regular-season event in the state. Last year's inaugural event was played in Indianapolis

and featured four games, two girls matchups, and two boys. Six of the eight teams in last year's event won a sectional title, while three teams won regionals.

The Breakaway Holiday Classic presented by Citizens State Bank was invented by Fishers-based Get8 Sports and features an economic model that directly supports the participating schools and features college basketball-level promotions and operations, with the singular goal of providing a memorable experience for players and fans.



HAMILTON COUNTY TELEVISION



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Upcoming Broadcasts

Wed Sept 2 - Boys & Girls Soccer

5:45 pm **Fishers vs Noblesville** | Boys JV Gold Soccer | Noblesville Sports Network
 6:00 pm **Noblesville vs Fishers** | Boys Junior Varsity | Fishers Sports Network
 6:45 pm **Fishers vs Noblesville** | Girls C-Team Soccer | Noblesville Sports Network
 7:30 pm **Noblesville vs Fishers** | Boys Varsity | Fishers Sports Network

Thurs Sept 3 - Boys Soccer and Volleyball

6:00 pm **Fishers vs Noblesville** | JV Volleyball | HCTV Sports
 6:00 pm **Brownsburg vs Noblesville** | JV Boys Soccer | HCTV Sports
 7:00 pm **Greenwood Christian vs Covenant Christian** | Varsity Volleyball | Indiana SRN
 7:30 pm **Fishers vs Noblesville** | Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports
 7:30 pm **Brownsburg vs Noblesville** | Varsity Boys Soccer | HCTV Sports

Fri Sept 4 - Football

6:45 pm **Sheridan vs Tri-Central** | IHSAA Football | Bragg Sports Media
 6:50 pm **Pendleton Heights vs Kokomo** | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
 6:50 pm **Purdue Poly vs Covenant Christian** | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
 6:50 pm **Greenfield Central vs Mt Vernon** | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
 7:00 pm **Noblesville vs Fishers** | IHSAA Football | Fishers Sports Network

Sat Sept 5 - Freshman Football

10:00 am **Noblesville vs Fishers** | Boys Junior Varsity | Fishers Sports Network

Wed Sept 9 - Girls Soccer

5:30 pm **Westfield vs Noblesville** | JV Girls Soccer | HCTV Sports
 7:00 pm **Westfield vs Noblesville** | Varsity Girls Soccer | Varsity | HCTV Sports



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Stick & Hack launches Lucky Putt at Westfield location

If you're bad at golf, you can still be good at this!

Submitted

Stick & Hack Westfield, 10 E. 191st St., has kicked off the next chapter of its transformation with the launch of Lucky Putt, a high-energy, technology-forward mini golf experience designed to bring a new kind of entertainment to the Westfield community.

Designed by Indianapolis-based entertainment design company Creative Works, Lucky Putt combines mini golf with interactive challenges, bonus points, and technology to create an experience where traditional golf skill isn't the deciding factor.

Stick & Hack Westfield is proud to be the first and only Lucky Putt installation in Central Indiana.

Unlike traditional mini golf, Lucky Putt is built around a series of unique challenges. Each hole presents a new opportunity to earn points, with the course featuring everything from true-or-false questions to Plinko-inspired challenges. On some holes, guests won't even use a putter. The experience is time-based, and the system automatically tracks each player's points throughout the game, creating a fast-paced competition where strategy, luck, and quick thinking can matter just as much as your golf game.

"Lucky Putt is really the beginning of what we've been building toward at Stick & Hack," Founder and Partner Adam Grubb said. "We wanted this property to be somewhere people



Photo provided by Stick & Hack Entertainment

could come for dinner, grab a drink, play a game, watch a game, or spend an entire evening without having to go anywhere else. Lucky Putt is the first piece of the entertainment side of that vision to officially come to life, and we're excited for people to experience it."

Lucky Putt officially opened to the public Sept. 1, marking the first entertainment concept to open as part of Stick & Hack's ongoing transformation of its Westfield property. Located directly across from Grand Park, the property is being reimaged as a destination for dining, drinks, sports, and social entertainment.

Lucky Putt joins an already growing lineup at Stick & Hack Westfield. The Parkside Bar & Grill, an Americana restaurant featuring a relaxed atmosphere, is currently open and serving guests. The property is also home to 191 Lounge, a 21-and-over cocktail space for guests looking to grab a

drink before or after dinner and entertainment.

Stick & Hack will continue expanding the Westfield property throughout

See *Lucky* . . . Page 14

The Dani Robinson difference

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- How do I learn about building a new home?
- Who should I call to refinance my home?
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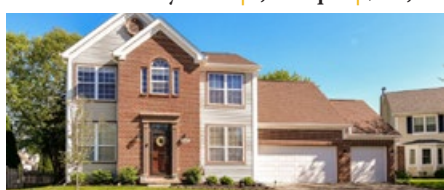


Looking for a place to call Home? - Talk to Dani!

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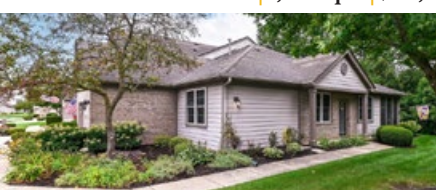
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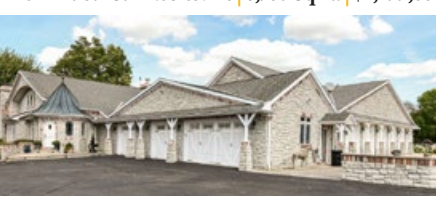
30 Blue Water Drive - Cicero | 924 Sq Ft. | \$265,000



9200 Wadsworth Court - Fishers | 1,470 Sq Ft. | \$299,900



12131 E 196th St - Noblesville | 6,935 Sq Ft. | \$2,199,000



TODAY'S BIBLE READING

DIVISION OF THE LAND

I commanded you at that time: "The Lord your God has given you this land to take possession of it. But all your able-bodied men, armed for battle, must cross over ahead of the other Israelites. However, your wives, your children and your livestock (I know you have much livestock) may stay in the towns I have given you, until the Lord gives rest to your fellow Israelites as he has to you, and they too have taken over the land that the Lord your God is giving them across the Jordan. After that, each of you may go back to the possession I have given you."

MOSES FORBIDDEN TO CROSS THE JORDAN

At that time I commanded Joshua: "You have seen with your own eyes all that the Lord your God has done to these two kings. The Lord will do the same to all the kingdoms over there where you are going. Do not be afraid of them; the Lord your God himself will fight for you."

At that time I pleaded with the Lord: "Sovereign Lord, you have begun to show to your servant your greatness and your strong hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty works you do? Let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan—that fine hill country and Lebanon."

But because of you the Lord was angry with me and would not listen to me. "That is enough," the Lord said. "Do not speak to me anymore about this matter. Go up to the top of Pisgah and look west and north and south and east. Look at the land with your own eyes, since you are not going to cross this Jordan. But commission Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he will lead this people across and will cause them to inherit the land that you will see." So we stayed in the valley near Beth Peor.

Deuteronomy 3:18-29 (NIV)

LUCKY

from Page 13



Photo provided by Stick & Hack Entertainment

the remainder of 2026, with golf simulators, racing simulators, social darts, and additional entertainment planned to open later this year. Together, the concepts are designed to create a destination where guests can eat, drink, play, and compete all under one roof.

"Westfield has quickly become a destination for sports and entertainment, and we see a huge opportunity to build something that complements that energy," Grubb said. "With Grand Park right across the street

and everything we're bringing to this property, we're creating a place where there's always a reason to stay a little longer."

With The Parkside Bar & Grill, 191 Lounge, and a growing lineup of interactive entertainment experiences, Stick & Hack Westfield is positioning itself as Westfield's premier sport and social club, a destination designed for everything from casual nights out and celebrations to corporate events, team gatherings, and post-Grand Park plans.

The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

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

Meeting Notices

The Carmel Teachers Association will hold a meeting at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, to hear public testimony pursuant to Indiana Code 20-290-6-1(a) regarding teacher compensation and collective bargaining. The meeting will take place at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St.

The Carmel Fire Department Merit Board will meet in an executive session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (5) To receive information about and interview pro-spective employees. A regular meeting will follow at 6:05 p.m. or immediately after the executive session (whichever is later) on the second floor of the Carmel Fire Department, 210 Veterans Way.

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.

William "Bill" John Franklin McKee

July 28, 1941 – September 1, 2026

William "Bill" John Franklin McKee, a loving, funny, spirited, and adventurous soul, was born on the 28th of July, 1941, in Anderson, Ind. Known by his friends, family, and community as Bill, he passed away on the 1st of September, 2026. Bill was a longtime member of the Cicero Christian Church, where he was known for his friendly greetings.



On the 6th of September, 1975, Bill married the love of his life, Glenna "Susie" McKee. As a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, his family was the center of his world. He is survived by his beloved wife, Susie; his cherished son and daughter-in-law, Jackson and Christine Purkey; his adored grandson, Declan Purkey; his brother, Robert McKee; and several loving nieces, nephews, and cousins. He also held a special place in his heart for his sister-in-law, Darlene Williamson. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, William H. McKee and Ester A. McKee; his sister, Barbara Shields; and his sister-in-law, Carol McKee.

Bill was a graduate of Madison Heights, Class of 1959 and attended Ball State for a short time before serving in the United States Army. He then began his career at Guide Lamp in Anderson, Ind. Bill was a journeyman by trade and a tool and die maker for over 35 years. After retirement he enjoyed his second career with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department in the Juvenile Detention Center. He was a member of the Anderson Masonic Lodge #77, Kiwanis Club, and the Cicero Ski Club. He enjoyed farming, raising pigs and was passionate about camping, traveling to Canada for fishing trips with his family and in-laws. He had a love of motorcycles, and cars and enjoyed spending time on his houseboat in Kentucky. Bill's love for water started at a young age and continued throughout his life.

A visitation will be held for Bill from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, September 3, 2026, at Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero. The funeral service will follow at the same location at 2 p.m. with Scott Miller officiating. Cremation will take place and a private family burial will follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Cicero Christian Church, Hamilton County Humane Society, or the Alzheimer's Foundation.

We invite you to celebrate the life of William "Bill" McKee by sharing your fondest memories and photos on his memorial page. Your contributions will serve as a comfort to his family and friends as they navigate this difficult time. Let us honor his memory by keeping his spirit alive through our shared stories and photographs.

Condolences: hartleyfuneralhomes.com

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Contact Information

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News@ReadTheReporter.com

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ReadTheReporter.com

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6178 NORTH WOODHAVEN DR. MCCORDSVILLE

This turnkey 3BR, 2BA ranch in McCordsville features fresh paint, granite counters, and LVP flooring. Enjoy the new wood privacy fence and covered deck. Community pool and playground are steps away!

New price \$304,900

SOLD!

18532 ORIENTAL OAK COURT NOBLESVILLE

Beautiful 4BR, 2BA 2 half baths in Oakmont of Noblesville. Situated on over half an acre (.68) wooded lot featuring a screened porch and finished basement along with a three car tandem garage. This move-in ready property awaits you.

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18149 ATLANTIC ROAD NOBLESVILLE

Own this charming 1.5-acre country retreat! Features 2,000+ sq ft, 4BR, 2BA, and a new roof. Enjoy a cozy fireplace, spacious kitchen, and fenced yard. Perfectly located near Hamilton Town Center and I-69.

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