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FRIDAY, SEPT. 4, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Mostly sunny, hot and humid.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Showers and storms after midnight. Some could be severe.
HIGH: 93 LOW: 72



paulpoteet.com

Public invited to attend memorial ceremony for 25th anniversary of 9/11

The REPORTER
Hamilton County and the City of Noblesville will hold a joint 9/11 Memorial Ceremony on Friday, Sept. 11, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that claimed nearly 3,000 lives on September 11, 2001.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. at the Silos at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

“Twenty-five years have passed, but the responsibility to remember has not,” said Christine Altman, President of the Hamilton County Commissioners. “We

owe it to those who lost their lives, to the families who still carry that loss, and to the first responders who ran toward unimaginable danger to make sure their courage and sacrifice are never forgotten.”

The ceremony will include remarks from Altman and Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen, as well as representatives from the Hamilton County Council and Noblesville Common Council.

Altman

Jensen

“September 11 reminds us how Americans came together in the face of tragedy,” Mayor Jensen said. “Over the past few weeks, we’ve seen that same spirit here at home as our community has responded to historic flooding. Neighbors have helped neighbors, first responders have worked side by side, and communities across Hamilton County have supported one another. Twenty-five

years later, that sense of unity and service remains one of the most important lessons we can carry forward. We must continue to honor the heroes, remember the lives lost, and never forget what happened on September 11, 2001.”

A Joint Honor Guard representing the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office, Noblesville Police Department, and Noblesville Fire Department will present the colors during the ceremony. Local, state, and federal elected officials, members of the judiciary, township trustees, and public safety leaders from throughout Hamilton County are also expected to attend.

Raksha Bandhan: from one thread to one human family

કચારેક જીવનના સૌથી મજબૂત વચનો, સૌથી નાજુક દોરાથી બંધાય છે.

Sometimes, the strongest promises in life are tied with the most delicate threads.
Growing up in India, Raksha Bandhan was one of those traditions that brought the whole family together.

Raksha means protection. *Bandhan* means a bond, a connection, a knot.

On this special day, a sister ties a *rakhi*, a sacred thread, around her brother’s right wrist. She offers prayers and blessings for his long, healthy, and fulfilling life, and wishes for his dreams to come true. In return, the brother promises to stand by his sister, to be there through thick and thin, to support her through life’s challenges and to protect her through whatever hurdles may come her way.

But as I look back on those childhood celebrations, I realize the *rakhi* was only one part of the story.

There was always a mother behind the thread.

Our mother made sure that the promise between siblings did not end when the celebration was over. She reminded us to look out for one another, to share, to help, to forgive, to check in, and to show up.

Sometimes she had to remind us more than once.

See *Raksha Bandhan* . . . Page 2

Sheridan’s getting stronger

Editor’s note: The Sheridan Student Column is brought to readers by Sheridan High School’s Accelerated English 9 class, taught by Ellie Arrowood.

Coach Grant Yoder is the strength and conditioning coach at Sheridan High School. He first started rebuilding the strength and conditioning program in June 2021. In high school, Yoder played baseball at Noblesville. While at Ball State, he helped with girls’ basketball and baseball, while also coaching baseball at Tipton High School.

When Coach Yoder arrived at Sheridan in 2021, the weights program was not meeting expectations, with limited equipment, no actual weight room, and a small number of people showing up to work out. The exact number in year 1 was 34 students who took weights. The first year, the weight room was a small classroom with limited space and resources and equipment from the late 1990s to early 2000s. This year, the weights class has 161 students who use a new, improved weight room with better equipment and a strong culture that Coach Yoder implemented in his first few years.

“Sometimes the best place to be is where your feet are at right now.” This is exactly how Coach Yoder ran his weight room. His influence has grown as he has had to turn down multiple offers from colleges and other schools. But he says his years at Sheridan aren’t over: “The job isn’t finished.”

Coach Yoder has changed the culture and strength of Sheridan students and athletes. He has given them a multitude of opportunities and growth. His constant help and kindness have built Sheridan into a better school and stronger community by helping students experience weights and conditioning, making them better in the classroom and on the field.

COLUMNIST



POOJA THAKKAR
Taste of Community

COLUMNIST



ELI LESNET
Sheridan High School Student

COLUMNIST



GAVIN MOORE
Sheridan High School Student

Ghosts & Goblins run returns this fall to support Carmel Clay Schools

The REPORTER
Costumes, running shoes, and plenty of Halloween spirit return to Carmel High School at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, for Carmel Education Foundation’s (CEF) 18th annual Ghosts & Goblins 1M/5K Run/Walk.

One of CEF’s signature community events, Ghosts & Goblins brings together students, families, educators, businesses, and neighbors for a fun morning that directly supports CEF and its mission to invest in CCS students and educators. Participants of all ages can choose the timed 1-mile or 5K course, with both races beginning and ending at Carmel High School. Costumes are encouraged, and strollers are welcome.

“Ghosts & Goblins is one of those mornings that really feels like Carmel,” CEF CEO Jennifer Penix said. “Families, students, teachers, and community partners show up to have fun, but they are also doing something meaningful for our schools. Every registration helps CEF invest back into students and educators through grants, programs across Carmel Clay Schools, and scholarships. We also love partnering with Carmel High School Dance Marathon because it gives families another way to celebrate the season, stay together and support kids beyond our own school community.”

Proceeds from Ghosts & Goblins support CEF programs that provide additional opportu-

Photo provided by Carmel Education Foundation

The Carmel Education Foundation’s annual Ghosts & Goblins run isn’t just for kids. You may even spot a certain mayor during one of the fun runs!

nities and resources for Carmel Clay students and educators, including classroom and student-led grants, scholarships, and district-wide initiatives.

More treats in 2026
Participants and supporters can order a commemorative 2026 Ghosts & Goblins T-shirt or hoodie as part of registration, perfect for race morning and fall weather.

CEF is also collaborating with Carmel High School Dance Marathon, giving families the option to extend their Halloween morning after the race with Trick or Treat for Riley Kids at Murray Stadium beginning at 11 a.m. The separate event fea-

Registration information

- Early Bird through Sept. 12: \$25 | \$15 CCS students
- Sept. 13 to Oct. 3: \$35 | \$20 CCS students
- Oct. 4 to 23: \$40 | \$25 CCS students
- Race Day, Oct. 24: \$55 | \$30 CCS students

tures trick-or-treating, games, and activities benefiting Riley Children’s Hospital, offering a fun added bonus for families already enjoying the morning at Carmel High School.

Early bird pricing ends at 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, but registration remains open through race day. Whether participants are racing for a personal best, walking with friends,

pushing a stroller, gathering a school or workplace team, or simply looking for a fun way to celebrate Halloween, everyone is welcome.

Registration remains open through race day at GhostsAndGoblinsRun.com. Businesses and community organizations can also support the event through sponsorships and CEF Community Partnerships.

A library card hits all the right notes

Tipton County Public Library celebrates Library Card Sign-up Month

The REPORTER
This September, Tipton County Public Library (TCPL) invites you to celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month and discover how a library card can hit all the right notes, no matter what your tastes are.

An initiative of the American Library Association, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September for almost 40 years to mark the beginning of the school year, combat illiteracy, and encourage communities everywhere to explore the offerings that come with a library card. Today, thousands of public libraries and schools nationwide

participate in the month-long celebration each fall.

At TCPL, you’ll find:

- Free digital resources, public computers, and mobile hotspots
- The Creation Station, a place to get started on a variety of creative projects using the library’s equipment
- A library of things to check out like a sleep sound machine, Blu-ray player, or even a hammock
- STEAM learning opportunities, genealogy and local history research help, and small business resources
- TCPL-AT-YOUR-DOOR,

the home delivery service that brings library materials right to you

- Free programs and events for all ages, from story-times and book clubs to crafts and writing (Visit tiptoncountylibrary.org for complete details.)

Join the celebration this September

- TCPL Song Book: Share Your Story Wall: Share your answer to “My library is my favorite place because...” and add your experience to the wall.
- Mixtape Bookmarks: Stop by and create your own mix-

tape-inspired bookmark to take home.

Getting a library card is free, easy, and empowering. For students, it’s a key to academic success. For adults, it’s a gateway to lifelong learning. For everyone, it’s a smart way to stay connected to your community. This September, B sharp and sign up for a library card. Stop in today and get yours. Learn more at bitly.tiptonpl.org/librarycard.



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The Feeding Team's upcoming fundraiser is almost here! Help put a dent in food insecurity.

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- Silent auction
- Hayrides to see the yaks
- S'mores firepit
- Cornhole

- 50/50 Raffle
- Wine tasting
- Food truck
- Music by Joe Johnson

Purchase tickets at the event or online at FeedingTeam.org/donate.

\$25 individual | \$45 couple | \$50 family

Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre announces local adult auditions for start of 2027 Season

The REPORTER
Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre announces upcoming adult auditions for productions in the first half of its 2027 Season. These are for ages 19 and older, and includes both Equity and non-Equity performers. This audition will seek to fill roles in:

- *The Bunco Squad* – on stage Jan. 7 to Feb. 7, 2027
- *Grease* – on stage Feb. 11 to April 4, 2027
- *South Pacific* – on stage April 8 to May 16, 2027
- Disney's *Frozen* – on stage May 21 to July 18, 2027
- *Always ... Patsy Cline* – on stage July 22 to Aug.

22, 2027
Auditions are by appointment only. They will take place Monday, Sept. 7 (Equity Principal Auditions) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with dance callbacks from 6 to 8 p.m., and Tuesday, Sept. 8 (Equity Chorus Call), from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with dance callbacks at 2 p.m. Those with an audition appointment should report to the lobby of Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, 9301 Michigan Road, Indianapolis. The theatre is seeking actors who are racially, ethnically, and physically diverse, including all gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities. To



secure an audition or for more information, visit the Auditions link under the "About Us" tab on BeefAndBoards.com. Those auditioning should prepare two contrasting vocal selections – one up tempo and one ballad – and music in the correct key. A one-minute monologue may be requested. Auditioners will be asked to create a profile in the theatre's casting database at the audition. Beef & Boards Dinner

Theatre is an Equity Dinner Theatre. Everyone cast in shows receives negotiated payment. Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Check BeefAndBoards.com or Beef & Boards' social media for updates. No phone calls, please. *Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Indiana's only year-round professional dinner theatre, has been serving up exceptional entertainment since 1973.*



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RAKSHA BANDHAN

That is what mothers do. They don't simply teach us to love our family; they teach us that love comes with responsibility. The promise of Raksha Bandhan was never just, "I will protect you." It was also, "I will be accountable to you." As children, we may not have understood that lesson fully. But year after year, that sacred thread became a gentle reminder that we were connected and that being connected meant taking care of one another. Today, as a mother of two girls, I see that same beauty unfolding in my own home.

I watch my daughters learn to support each other, encourage each other, and become each other's biggest cheerleaders. My hope is that they will continue to hold one another accountable – not through judgment, but through love. Perhaps that is where the meaning of Raksha Bandhan can grow beyond our homes. If a mother can teach two children to care for each other, can a community do the same? Can we become the person who checks in? The mentor who says, "I believe in you." The neighbor who shows up when someone needs help. The friend who reminds us of our commitment when we lose sight of it.

The community member who makes sure someone who feels unseen knows that they belong. For several years, the Indian and Hindu community in Indianapolis has celebrated Raksha Bandhan as Universal Oneness Day, extending the meaning of the sacred thread beyond the traditional brother-sister relationship. The spirit is simple: we can choose to care for one another. When people from different faiths, cultures, languages, and traditions come together around that idea, Raksha Bandhan becomes more than a cultural celebration. It becomes a universal message. That is the beauty of unity in diversity. Our differences do not need to be erased for us to belong together. We do not have to worship the

Photo provided by Pooja Thakkar

same way, speak the same language, follow the same traditions, or come from the same place to recognize something deeper: we are one human family. Perhaps that is the larger meaning of Raksha Bandhan. The thread around the wrist is a symbol. The real bond is the responsibility we carry in our hearts. I see you. I respect you. I care about you. Your well-being matters to me. And despite our differences, I will stand with you. At home, my mother taught me that a promise means showing up for family. Today, I believe that lesson belongs to all of us because our community is simply a larger family, and our human family is

larger still. Diversity need not divide us. Oneness need not require sameness. A small thread can hold a very big promise. **दोरो नानो, बंधन विशाल.** *A small thread, an expansive bond.* May we carry that promise beyond Raksha Bandhan, not just around our wrists, but into the way we live, lead, mentor, serve and care for one another. One thread. Many traditions. Many stories. One human family. That is how a promise made at home becomes a commitment to humanity. *Pooja Thakkar is working to build cultural connections. You can read her column each week in the pages of The Reporter.*



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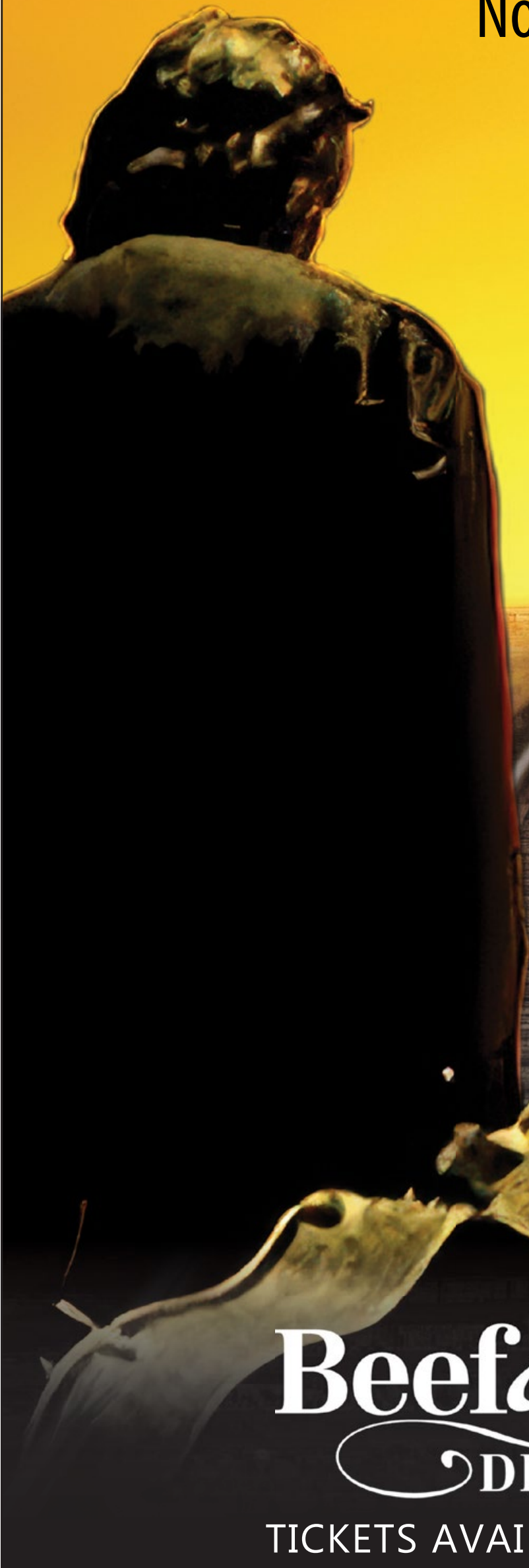
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From the desk of Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update No. 178

September marks Attendance Awareness Month, a time to reaffirm one of the strongest predictors of student success: showing up, every day, ready to learn.

At Hamilton Heights, we know attendance is about far more than being physically present. It's about building routines that support learning, nurturing relationships that anchor students to their school community, and strengthening the resilience that helps them grow through challenges.

When students attend regularly, they stay on track academically, feel connected to their teachers and peers, and develop the confidence that comes from being part of a caring, consistent environment. We see this across our district – from our youngest Huskies learning foundational skills to our high school students preparing for college, careers, and life beyond graduation. Every day in school contributes to a larger journey, and every day truly counts.

We also recognize that life happens. Illness, family needs, and unexpected circumstances can interrupt even the best routines. When absences occur, our commitment is to respond with care, communication, and partnership. We have strengthened supports for students and families through proactive outreach,



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Hamilton Heights Superintendent

attendance teams, and resources that help students re-engage quickly and confidently. Our data continue to show what we see in our classrooms: students thrive when they feel connected. Strong attendance is one of the clearest signs of that connection.

That sense of connection is also reflected in the incredible support we receive from our community partners: businesses, organizations, and faith-based groups that lift our students, encourage our staff, and help create the conditions where children can succeed.

One shining example is the Cicero Kiwanis Club. It has been investing in the children of our community for nearly a half-century. The club will host its annual **Books for a Bright Future Dinner & Silent Auction** on Saturday, Sept. 26. This event is dedicated to expanding access to books for local children and has made a remarkable impact right here at home.

Through this program, every student at Hamilton Heights Elementary School receives a new, age-appropriate book during the Scholastic Book Fair at no cost to their family, ensuring every child has something of their own to read, explore, and enjoy. It's a simple gift with lasting influence.

We invite you to enjoy an evening that celebrates generosity, literacy, and the

power of community. Every ticket purchased helps put more books directly into the hands of Heights students, and Kiwanis' unwavering commitment continues to strengthen the future of Hamilton Heights. I look forward to seeing you there!

Our high school Student Government is proud to continue one of our favorite traditions as they host this year's Fall Homecoming on Friday, Oct. 2. Along with a week of spirited activities, we will honor our 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50year alumni during halftime, celebrating

decades of Husky pride and welcoming these milestone classes back home. Alumni being recognized are encouraged to complete the **RSVP form** so our students can prepare for their arrival.

As we move through September, let's continue to make Hamilton Heights a place where students want to be: a place filled with joy, belonging, and opportunities to grow.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure our Huskies show up, succeed, and shine.

#WeAreHuskies

Community News

Make a candle at Hamilton County Republican Women's social event

The Hamilton County Republican Women's Club invite you to a fun evening at Penn & Beech Candle Co., 145 W. Elm St., Carmel, at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9.

Create your own custom-scented candle, enjoy some time with friends, and get to know fellow club members in a casual setting.

A complimentary candle is included for members. Non-members are welcome to attend and may purchase a candle. Drinks will be available for purchase. Food will not be served.

Please note: Candles need to cure for two hours after they are poured. You may either return to pick yours up another day, or the group's candles will be brought to the October meeting.

Please RSVP by Sept. 7 to hamcogopwomen@gmail.com.

ABCs: Reflections on Academics, Bots & Civility

School has begun. Teachers and students are getting into the rhythm of another school year. Reading. Writing. 'Rithmetic. Robots?

One school district in Western New York State proposed a pilot program using a "humanoid robot" to assist in a classroom. Tremendous push-back from teachers and mothers and fathers as well as others in New York state put the entrance of the "robot" on hold. Would you want your child or grandchild to be "taught" by a robot?

What is the value of being taught by a human being? Isn't it that a human can inspire? Can express empathy and compassion? Can "think on her or his feet" when confronted with an unexpected situation? Can teach what it means to fail and rise again? Can exhibit ethical behavior? Can change lives?

My final undergraduate education course "Philosophy of Education" required a paper on "My Philosophy of Education." As I reflect on the purpose of education today and how it can cultivate **civility**, I first maintain that the example of teachers and administrators is paramount, but students can get involved as well. An elementary teacher in Minnesota told of a school "Unity Day" that emphasized values that support civility. A "Kindness Quilt" is assembled by students who use multi-colored paper squares to provide actions that can help instill an atmosphere of kindness in the school. The finished quilt is then put on display for all to see.

Having taught English for 35 years, I recognize how reading, writing, and literature can provide a



NANCY KELLY SMITH
Civility Counts

foundation for nurturing civility. Understanding as well as critically assessing what is read is vital. Recognizing logical fallacies like "false cause" and "generalization" that oversimplify a complex issue can give students a reasonable defense of an issue. Reading also opens the door to different points of view on a subject, perhaps even from a different cultural perspective.

Writing requires thinking well. Writing in a journal slows students down so they may reflect. They can explore their own thoughts and feelings to better understand their values. Students can avoid logical fallacies like those mentioned above which oversimplify a problem. Learning to write an argument or civil discourse paper gives students the tools to engage thoughtfully with those having opposing viewpoints.

Literature provides an opportunity for students to use their imaginations in visualizing characters and scenes which I believe also helps with problem solving, i.e. "thinking outside the box." Reading literature reveals that human nature does not change from age to age or from place to place or one culture to another. Knowing this promotes better communication.

Sometimes an education comes from someone outside academia.

Dolly Parton, country music songwriter/singer and philanthropist who left us on Aug. 25, was such a person. It seemed that she routinely treated people with consideration and civility. "Parton's legacy breaking political divide" was *The Indianapolis*

See ABCs . . . Page 5

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PICK-UP SCHEDULE: Monday, September 14th & Tuesday, September 15th from 10am – 6pm or by appointment only. A forklift, and operators will be available during scheduled pick-up times.
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Ryan Fireprotection of Noblesville hosts first-ever fabrication shop hiring event

The REPORTER

Ryan Fireprotection held its first Fabrication Shop Hiring Event on Saturday, Aug. 29, at its headquarters facility at 9740 E. 148th St., Noblesville.

The event gave prospective employees a first-hand look at one of the fire protection industry's most advanced fabrication operations and underscored the company's ongoing need for skilled field technicians and fabrication professionals across its growing footprint.

Ryan Fireprotection's Noblesville headquarters is home to a 75,000 square-foot fabrication facility, one of the largest of its kind in the fire protection industry. The facility houses dedicated areas for storage, welding, fabrication, painting, and in-house inspection, allowing Ryan to engineer and assemble system-specific components tailored to each project's exact requirements before they ever reach a job site. By completing this work offsite, Ryan's field teams are able to execute faster installations without sacrificing quality, even on the most demanding construction timelines.

The company currently operates 10 office locations throughout the Midwest and beyond and is actively hiring across multiple disciplines to support continued growth.

Field & fabrication positions open

Ryan's field teams are the backbone of the company – sprinkler fitters, fire alarm and extinguisher technicians, inspectors, and service professionals – the skilled tradespeople whose hands-on work protects lives everyday are in high demand. The company is also seeking fabrication shop personnel with trade experience, mechanical aptitude, or a technical high school or college background.

"Events like this give us a chance to open our doors, show people what we are about, and connect with tradespeople who take pride in their craft," said Kerry Hamlin, Director of Talent Acquisition at Ryan Fireprotection. "We are growing fast and we want to grow with the right people. People who want to build a career, not just fill a role."

Fabrication Manager John Sargent said, "I love



Photo provided by Ryan Fireprotection
Positions are open now for Ryan Fireprotection's field and fabrication teams. You can learn more and apply at ryanfp.com/careers.

what we have built in this shop, and I genuinely enjoy sharing it with people. When someone walks through those doors for the first time, I want them to feel like this could be home. If

you take pride in your work and you want to grow, there is a place for you here."

Candidates interested in joining the Ryan team can learn more and apply at ryanfp.com/careers.

Last chance to get tickets for Westfield State of the Schools

The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce invites business leaders, community members, and guests to attend the 2026 State of the Schools Address from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at Shamrock Station, 333 W. Hoover St.

Join Dr. John Atha, Superintendent of Westfield Washington Schools (WWS), as he shares how one of Indiana's fastest-growing school districts partners with the community and prepares students for the future.

This presentation will highlight a year of transition, including the opening of two new elementary schools, districtwide operational changes, continued investments in student learning and school safety, and the work required to meet the needs of a growing community.

More than an update on Westfield's schools, this is

a conversation about why excellent schools create an excellent community. Learn how WWS is investing in people, strengthening partnerships, and preparing every student to be "Life Ready" because strong public schools are essential to economic vitality and quality of life in Westfield.

Whether you're a business leader, parent, community member, or simply invested in Westfield's future, you'll leave with a deeper understanding of how the city's schools and the community grow stronger together.

Partner and Non-Partner tickets are available, along with Corporate Reserved Tables (seating for eight), perfect for bringing your team, hosting clients, or investing in the organizations that make our community stronger.

Click here to reserve your tickets.



Atha



Enjoy live music 'Under the Stars' at Westfield library

The REPORTER

The Westfield Library Foundation invites the community to celebrate Under the Stars, a free evening of live music, dancing, and family fun presented by Krieg DeVault. The event will take place from 7 to 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, in the library's new Read & Roam Garden.

The free community event will be the first major public gathering in the Read & Roam Gar-

den, the library's new outdoor destination created through a partnership between the Westfield Washington Public Library and the Westfield Washington Township Trustee's Office. Designed as both an open-air classroom and public park, the new green space features shaded structures, reading nooks, ADA-accessi-



Downey

ble tables, and drinking fountains.

"This is exactly the kind of evening we envisioned when we began dreaming about the Read & Roam Garden," Foundation Executive Director Erin Downey said. "We're thrilled to welcome the community into this beautiful new space for its first major event."

Guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs, blankets, and coolers (no alcohol permitted) and enjoy a performance by local favorite Country Summer. The evening will also feature line dancing and a 50/50 raffle. No registration is required.

Businesses interested in sponsorship opportunities may contact the Westfield Library Foundation for additional information or visit WestfieldLibrary-Foundation.com.

ABCs

from Page 4

Star headline for an article (Aug. 27, 2026) that featured political figures from both major parties paying tribute to the country music legend. Sen. Susan Collins used these words: "Through the Dollywood Foundation and her global Imagination Library, Dolly gave free books to children around the world, sparking a lifelong love of reading. Her legacy will live on in the classrooms and communities she uplifted and the beautiful music she created."

Perhaps the most import-

ant lesson Dolly Parton teaches us is to love people and use our lives to uplift others.

Robots cannot leave a legacy. We can. We can leave a legacy that can impact others for good, creating a civil society where, ideally, all can thrive.

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

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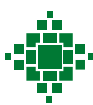
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OPT2LIV looks to treat the *whole* patient

By Tiffany Rasor
OPT2LIV North

Introducing OPT2LIV North, a holistic, direct primary care and wellness practice focused on helping people live healthier, longer, and more fulfilling lives. Located at 5520 Pebble Village Lane, Unit 100, Noblesville, we officially opened our doors on Aug. 1, and we are excited to serve patients throughout Noblesville and the surrounding communities.

With over 27 years of combined experience, our team is dedicated to promoting longevity and helping patients live their best lives. We take the time to truly get to know each person – not just their symptoms, but their lifestyle, goals, and overall health.

At the foundation of OPT2LIV North are our Four Pillars of Health: Eat. Breathe. Move. Sleep. We believe these four areas provide an important foundation for long-term health and longevity. Our goal is to help patients understand their health, identify opportunities for improvement, and create realistic, person-



Photo provided

OPT2LIV North recently opened the doors of its new Noblesville office.

alized strategies they can incorporate into everyday life. Monica Bush, PA-C brings more than 11 years of experience in emergency medicine and urgent care. She recently completed Dr. Amy Banter’s Holistic Primary Care Training Program and is passionate about integrative medicine, prevention, and helping patients optimize their health and longevity.

Rob Bush, PA-C focuses on preventative, holistic, and functional medicine. His background as a college athlete gives him a practical perspective on creating sustainable health

and wellness strategies that work in real life.

Together, Monica and Rob are excited to bring a more personalized approach to healthcare to the Noblesville community.

OPT2LIV North is about more than treating illness; it’s about helping people optimize their health, embrace longevity, and continue enjoying everything life has to offer.

We would love the opportunity to share more about our practice, our approach to healthcare, and what inspired us to create OPT2LIV North. Learn more at opt2liv.com.

IU Health North nationally recognized for commitment to high-quality stroke care

The REPORTER

IU Health North Hospital, 11700 N. Meridian St., Carmel, has received the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke: Gold Plus quality achievement award for its commitment to ensuring people experiencing stroke receive timely, appropriate treatment based on nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately helping to save lives and reduce disability.

This is the third year in a row the hospital has earned the distinction.

Stroke is the No. 4 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States, according to the American Heart Association’s 2026 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics Report. Early detection and rapid treatment are critical to improving survival, minimizing disability, and supporting faster recovery.

“IU Health North Hos-



Photo courtesy IU Health North

The IU Health North Stroke Team includes (from left) Lynn Cunningham, RN, clinical operations manager of the IU Health North Emergency department; Susanne Crotty, RN, IU Health North Stroke Program coordinator; Natalie Owens, RN, Emergency department; and Jared Brosch, MD, medical director of the IU Health North Stroke Program.

pital is committed to improving patient care by adhering to the latest treatment guidelines,” said Susanne Crotty, RN, BSN, CMSRN, Stroke Quality and Clinical coordinator. “Get With The Guidelines helps our teams put proven science

into practice every day. Research shows this approach can support better recovery, with the ultimate goal of helping people in Carmel and the surrounding area live longer, healthier lives.”

[Click here](#) to learn more.

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> or on the Town’s website, www.cicero.in.org



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Indiana keeps gas tax suspension through Oct. 6

By **JOHN HERRICK**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Gov. Mike Braun on Thursday extended Indiana's gas tax holiday for a sixth consecutive month. Braun suspended the gasoline excise and usage taxes, saving Hoosiers about an estimated 60 cents per gallon at the pump. He says he will re-evaluate the taxes Oct. 6. "Affordability is my top priority, and my gas tax suspensions are deliv-

ering the cheapest gas in America for Hoosiers," Gov. Braun said at a news conference Thursday in Clarksville. "I'm keeping those savings going for Hoosier families. My recommended budget will tap our reserves to keep state and local infrastructure projects fully funded." Braun first suspended the gasoline usage



Braun

tax in April and expanded the relief in May to include the gasoline excise tax. He continued the suspension to provide Hoosier families extra breathing room at the pump while protecting funding for state and local infrastructure projects. "I am very proud of the fact that Indiana has had the lowest gas prices

in the U.S. since April," Braun said. Gasoline prices rose across the United States after the war in Iran began. AAA reported the average U.S. gas price was under \$3 per gallon in February. As of Sept. 3, AAA says the average price is \$4.14. *This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/local-news/indiana-keeps-gas-tax-suspension-through-october-6.*

Uber & United Way partner to provide free rides to Hoosiers affected by flooding

The REPORTER

Free Uber ride vouchers will be distributed to Hoosiers affected by recent severe storms and flooding, thanks to a partnership announced between Uber, United Way of Central Indiana, and Indiana United Ways. This disaster relief support effort will help residents in Hamilton, Marion, Lake, and Porter counties access essential resources as recovery efforts continue. Transportation has emerged as a critical need for families affected by the storms. The ride vouchers will help ease that burden while also helping residents reach work, temporary housing, emergency support services, food and supplies, and other essential services. Several hundred vouchers will be distributed through Sept. 16. United Way of Central Indiana and Indiana United Ways are working with their nonprofit partners and networks to distribute the

vouchers quickly and efficiently to those in need. Most vouchers will be distributed to people who are already connected to and working with local nonprofits in Hamilton, Marion, Lake, and Porter counties. Indiana residents in these four counties who are not already connected to a nonprofit but are seeking transportation assistance can email RideUnited@uwci.org. "It's been incredible to see so many people and organizations step up to help their fellow Hoosiers during a really difficult time," Indiana House Speaker Todd Huston said. "I'm grateful to Uber, United Way of Central Indiana and Indiana United Ways for pitching in and providing free rides to help families impacted by the floods." "Being able to get to work and support services is vital as Hoosiers recover from the recent severe weather that has impacted our state," said Senate

President Pro Tem Rodric Bray. "This partnership between Uber, United Way of Central Indiana and United Ways of Indiana is a great example of how the business and non-profit communities can come together and help those in need. I want to thank all involved in making this a reality." "When families are recovering from a disaster, even everyday needs like getting to work, housing or essential services can become much harder," said Fred Payne, president and CEO of United Way of Central Indiana. "We're grateful to Uber, Indiana United Ways and our non-profit partners for coming together to help Hoosiers stay connected to the resources they need as they recover." "The generosity of companies like Uber during our state's disaster response is inspiring," said Michael Budd, president and CEO of Indiana United Ways. "We're honored to help connect this generosity to

Hoosiers in partnership with United Way of Central Indiana and our other member United Ways." "In the aftermath of a disaster, reliable transportation is critical to helping families access the support they need," said Jazmin Kay, Uber's Public Affairs Lead for Indiana. "We're proud to support United Way of Central Indiana and Indiana United Ways in providing reliable transportation for Hoosier families so they can reach housing and other essential resources as they recover and rebuild." This investment is part of Uber's ongoing efforts to support disaster response and increase access to essential services, recognizing that transportation is crucial to community relief and recovery. Since 2020, Uber has provided more than 1.8 million rides and deliveries to help move people to safety, deliver critical supplies to communities, and expand access to healthcare, groceries, and other essential services.

Community News

It's almost time for Tipton County Pork Festival

The Tipton County Pork Festival returns to downtown Tipton from Thursday, Sept. 10 to Saturday, Sept. 12. In addition to the many businesses and organizations festivalgoers will see, the good people from Chariot Automotive Group will be there passing out free water. You can even meet the famous Chariot duck mascot. Don't miss festival mascot Porky riding in a Chariot Jeep! Find out more at TiptonCountyPorkFestival.com.

Letter to the Editor

County Councilman Mark Hall endorses Beth Sheller for Clerk

Dear Hamilton County residents:
If you live, own property or work in Hamilton County, please give me two minutes of your time and read why I am endorsing Beth Sheller for Hamilton County Clerk.
The Clerk's Office is not a place for on-the-job training. It keeps our court records, issues marriage licenses, processes child support, and runs every election in this county. We need someone who already knows that work.
Beth Sheller does. She has spent nearly 16 years in the Clerk's Office – starting in voter registration and now serving as Election Administrator. She has overseen Hamilton County elections, earned credentials in election administration, technology, and security from Ball State and VSTOP, and completed leadership training through NACo and Ivy Tech. That is the kind of preparation this office requires.
I have served with Beth as a neighbor in Noblesville and as a member of the Council that appointed her to the Hamilton East Public Library Board. She is steady, detail-minded, and committed to the high standard Clerk Kathy Williams built. She and her husband, Mark, have raised their family here. Their children and grandchildren live in this county. She has skin in the game.
Secure elections and reliable records are not slo-gans. They are the daily work of a well-run clerk's office. Beth is ready on day one.
I will be voting for Beth Sheller as Hamilton County Clerk, and I ask you to join me.
Mark F. Hall
Hamilton County Councilor, District 3

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.

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TONIGHT: Belfry’s ‘Bad Seed’ opens at The Cat

Submitted

The Belfry Theatre’s first show of the 2026-27 season, presenting Maxwell Anderson’s drama, *Bad Seed*, is onstage now through Sept. 13 at The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel.

Terror is found in the unlikelyst of forms in this Pulitzer-nominated thriller. Colonel and Christine Penmark live in a small Southern town with their daughter, Rhoda. On the surface, little Rhoda Penmark is sweet, charming, full of old-fashioned graces, loved by her parents, and admired by all her elders. But Rhoda’s mother has an uneasy feeling about her.

When one of Rhoda’s schoolmates is mysteriously drowned at a picnic, Mrs. Penmark is alarmed, since the boy who was drowned was the one who had won the penmanship medal that Rhoda felt she deserved. Adapted from the novel by William March, *Bad Seed* is a dark descent into the horrors even the sweetest faces can provoke.

“There’s something deliciously unsettling about the *Bad Seed*,” Director Matt McKee said. “You know something is terribly wrong, but you can’t look away.”

Meet the cast

The play features a cast of 11:

- Olivia Cook of Fishers as Rhoda Penmark
- Matt Spurlock of Indianapolis as Kenneth Penmark
- Lisa Anderson of Indianapolis as Christine Penmark
- Desireé Black of Pendleton as Monica Breedlove
- Thom Johnson of Carmel as Emory Wages
- Aaron Beal of Noblesville as Leroy
- Samantha Kelly of Indianapolis as Miss Fern
- Nate Mecija of Brownsburg as Reginald Tasker
- Becca Bartley of Westfield as Mrs. Daigle
- Tom Riddle of Indianapolis as Mr. Daigle
- Jamie Kenjorski of Indianapolis as Richard Bravo

Meet the crew

- Director, Matt McKee
- Producer, Brandy DeVol
- Assistant Director & Stage Manager, Ava McKee
- Set Designer/Builder, Susanne Bush
- Costumes, Taylor Moss
- Hair & Makeup, Victoria Garcia
- Props, Jennifer Poynter



Photos by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com

(TOP LEFT) On the surface, little Rhoda Penmark (Olivia Cook of Fishers, above) is sweet, charming, full of old-fashioned graces, loved by her parents and admired by all her elders. (TOP RIGHT) Colonel and Christine Penmark (Matt Spurlock and Lisa Anderson, both of Indianapolis, above right) live in a small Southern town with their daughter, Rhoda. (ABOVE LEFT) Miss Fern (Samantha Kelly of Indianapolis, left) and Mrs. Daigle (Becca Bartley of Westfield) share a tense, antagonistic relationship. (ABOVE RIGHT) Rhoda and Leroy Jessup (Aaron Beal of Noblesville) share a tense, cat-and-mouse relationship built on mutual suspicion, mockery, and a dark understanding of each other’s malicious natures. You can see The Belfry Theatre’s *Bad Seed* from Sept. 4 to 13 at The Cat in Carmel.

Tickets & showtimes

Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$16 for ages 64 and older and ages 5 to 18. They are on sale for the six

performances, Sept. 4 to 13, and include two matinees. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Sept. 4, 5, 11, and 12; and 2 p.m.

Sundays, Sept. 6 and 13. For tickets or questions, call or text (317) 773-1085 or visit TheBelfryTheatre.com.

Application window now open for INDOT Engineering Scholarship

The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is seeking applicants for its Engineering Scholarship Program, available for eligible undergraduate and grad-

uate students in Indiana. Recipients receive financial assistance, as well as paid employment opportunities. Students must be accepted or enrolled full-time in one of Indiana’s accredited

Civil Engineering schools. The program must also be certified by Indiana’s Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. INDOT’s scholarship program offers \$3,125 per

semester or \$2,083 per trimester for up to five years of post-secondary Civil Engineering education. Scholarship funds may be applied to educational expenses, fees, and books. Recipients

will also have the opportunity to work at INDOT in full-time, paid positions during summer breaks and upon graduation. Learn more about the INDOT Engineering

Scholarship Program and the application process at indotscholarship.in.gov. Applications for the 2027-2028 school year must be emailed or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2026.



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Great schools never stop raising the bar

Educators, safety, student support, unique experiences define HSE, community

Families choose Hamilton Southeastern Schools with high expectations.

They expect strong academics, talented teachers, and their children to be safe, supported and prepared for life after graduation. And they expect HSE to offer opportunities that distinguish it from other districts.

Those expectations have shaped who HSE is, and as we look toward the future, the challenge is to maintain momentum.

Academic excellence will always be at the center of our work. Students continue to demonstrate high levels of achievement, and statewide assessments prove it. For example, three HSE schools reached 100 percent proficiency on this year's IREAD with the district reaching a new six-year high of 97.3 percent of third graders passing. Additionally, the district has a projected 99 percent graduation rate, and both high schools are in the top 5 percent in the nation, according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

The goal, though, is to keep pushing forward, improving wherever there's



GUEST COLUMNIST
MATT KEGLEY

room to and ensuring we're delivering the education the community expects.

That requires exceptional educators. There is no substitute for having talented, capable professionals in front of students every day. Great teachers challenge students academically, recognize when they need additional support, and become trusted adults our children and families depend on. When we retain educators who have demonstrated year after year they can help students thrive, we create consistency across schools.

Attracting and retaining great people matters now more than ever. The educator pool isn't growing quickly. We need excellent teachers if we want students to reach new heights.

But, excellence is about more than academic results. What makes HSE special is its ability to give students experiences that connect what they learn in school to the world around them.

At the elementary level, we've developed guaranteed experiences that give students opportunities be-

yond the traditional classroom. For example, fourth graders learn at Conner Prairie, second graders learn at AgriPark and fifth graders engage in STEM learning at Hub and Spoke, all with teachers-in-residence. We want to build on those opportunities so students encounter meaningful, memorable learning experiences throughout their time at HSE.

At the high-school level, that same philosophy is helping us rethink how students prepare for life after graduation. For example, through a partnership with Ivy Tech and SMC, students have access to a precision-machining pathway that can include dual credit, industry certifications, and direct learning from SMC employees who work alongside students.

Both are examples of what work-based learning can become, bringing industry expertise into classrooms and connecting education more directly to future possibilities. These experiences will become even more important as Indiana's high school diploma requirements evolve. HSE will be positioned to lead, not merely respond.

Maintaining that mo-

mentum also means recognizing students can't reach their full academic potential unless they have the support they need.

HSE's partnership with Ascension brings school-based therapists closer to students and families. Having behavioral-health professionals embedded in schools supports educators and makes services more convenient for families who otherwise might need to take a child out of school for an appointment.

Safety is equally fundamental. School resource and safety officers provide security throughout the school day, during arrival and dismissal and at large athletic and community events, resources that may not always be the most visible part of the student experience, but that create the environment in which everything else is possible.

These priorities – exceptional educators, academic achievements, unique learning experiences, student support and safe schools – are not separate ambitions. Together, they define our district.

There's a reason so many families have chosen to make this community home. Strong schools contribute to a strong communi-

ty, just as a community that values and supports education helps its schools thrive. That relationship has propelled HSE schools forward for years. Now, we must maintain that momentum.

We should be proud of the excellence HSE students and educators demonstrate today. But pride in what we've accomplished can't become complacency about what's next.

The question before us is what opportunities we want the next generation of HSE students to inherit, and what we can do today to make sure our district continues to expect, pursue, and achieve excellence. Vote YES to continued academic excellence on or before Nov. 3.

Matt Kegley is superintendent at Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

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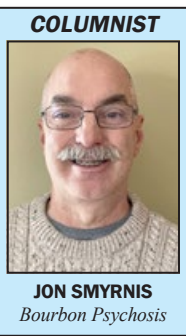
Bourbon's Mecca: Buffalo Trace

"Oh, give me a home where the Buffalo roam." – My friend, Gary Yohler (R.I.P.) after his first taste of Buffalo Trace

Sitting on the banks of the Kentucky River in Frankfort, Buffalo Trace Distillery isn't particularly beautiful. It has an industrial vibe. A very old industrial vibe, with huge brick distillery buildings and rickhouses. This makes perfect sense because Buffalo Trace is the oldest continuously operating distillery in America ... since 1775. Don't get me wrong, the place does have a sort of beauty around it, just not like Woodford's Reserve or Maker's Mark.

Now, when I said that it was the oldest continuously operating distillery in America, that doesn't mean that it was always Buffalo Trace. The history behind the distillery is fascinating, but I'm not going to go into that here. Hey, I can't do everything for you. No time or space. Google time!

The modern/current version came to be in 1999 when the distillery's owners, the Sazerac Company, pumped millions into modernizing and refurbishing the old distillery. With this refurbishing, they also in-



COLUMNIST
JON SMYRNIS
Bourbon Psychosis

troduced a new brand: Buffalo Trace Bourbon.

The Sazerac Company is very tight-lipped about its profits. It is believed (according to the Googles) that the distillery's annual revenue is between \$200 million and \$500 million. Sazerac's annual revenue is roughly \$3 billion. Yeah ... they're making some coin!

The first things one notices about the place are the huge water tower, the old brick rickhouses, and the wonderful smell of corn mash wafting through the air. It's a truly magical experience. The magic doesn't stop there. This place makes some of the finest, most sought-after bourbons on earth.

Where Woodford Reserve and Maker's Mark focus on just a few selections of their booze, Buffalo Trace offers a veritable smorgasbord of over 30 brands. Their offerings include: Buffalo Trace (of course), Eagle Rare, Stag, Colonel E.H. Taylor, Benchmark, Old Charter, Blanton's, Elmer T. Lee, W.L. Weller (there are seven expressions of Weller), and the big dogs: Pappy Van Winkle and Old Rip Van Winkle (there are seven expressions of these

as well). That's a lot of big-name bourbons!

Many of these are highly allocated and very difficult to find. Most are sold on the secondary market and garner high prices. Did I say "high"? I meant **crazy** high prices. In fact, where Buffalo Trace's "normal" sales are not as high as say, Jim Beam, it absolutely dominates the secondary market. Part of the problem is that fine bourbons take time to make. Another part is the extremely high demand. And then there's the 2013 Pappy Van Winkle robbery, and the 2025 floods (which, again, I'm not going to go into here).

To alleviate some of these issues, B.T. invested \$1.2 billion in a recent expansion project that will up the distillery's production from 200,000 barrels a year to more than 500,000 barrels a year. Customers have already seen the positive consequences of this upgrade, which has resulted in Sazerac Rye, E.H. Taylor, Eagle Rare, and even Blanton's becoming more readily available. Yay! It's amazing, but there was a short time not so long ago where even regular ole Buffalo Trace was allocated.

As you can see, Buffalo Trace's history and products are a big topic. Hence my avoidance of it – haha! For

now, I'm just going to focus on the flagship bourbon: Buffalo Trace.

My review: meh. Kind of underwhelming isn't it?

Seriously, like Woodford Reserve and Maker's Mark, Buffalo Trace is just a good, solid (there I go again), normal bourbon. It's not bad, per se. It just isn't really that exciting. I would say that it has a very nice, extremely buttery finish going for it. Other than that, it's pretty ordinary. Another great mixer, but a sipper worthy of your nightly pour? No.

Where Buffalo Trace shines is its "specialty brands," if one could call them that. Including famous labels like Stag, Eagle Rare, Blanton's, and the Wellers (well some of them – if you've read my previous column), and of course, the legendary Van Winkle line.

In my next few columns, I'll discuss some of these wonderful, hard-to-find, crazy expensive (unless you get lucky) and absolutely delicious offerings. So get ready and buckle up! We're going to explore more from where the buffalo roam.

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

Meeting Notices

The Westfield Washington Schools will meet in an executive session at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, For discussion of strategy with respect to any of the following: For discussion of the assessment, design, and implementation of school safety and security measures, plans, and systems, IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(3); To discuss soliciting proposals for the purpose of awarding contracts for goods or services, when: (A) proprietary data, trade secrets, or other information is contained in the bidder's proposal relating to the bidder's unique methods of: (i) conducting business; or (ii) determining prices or premium rates to be charged for services under the terms of the proposal; and (B) public knowledge regarding the discussion would reasonably be expected to result in private loss to the providers of the information described in clause (A).
A regular meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Westfield Washington Schools Administration Center, 19500 Tomlinson Road, Suite B.

The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, in the Board Room at the Noblesville Schools Educational Services Center, 18025 River Road.

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet for a workshop session at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St.

The Westfield Washington Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026, in Meeting Room 2A of the Westfield Washington Public Library, 17400 Westfield Blvd., Unit A.

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

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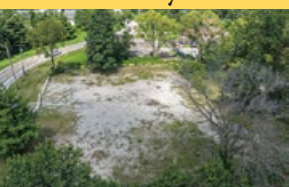
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Deanna Jean (Hinshaw) Cooper
August 19, 1940 – August 18, 2026

Deanna Jean (Hinshaw) Cooper, 85, Westfield, passed peacefully into the arms of her Lord and Savior late Tuesday evening, August 18, 2026, at Wellbrooke of Westfield Assisted Living, with her daughters, Denise and Debbie, by her side.

She was born on August 19, 1940, daughter of the late Edith Wire Hinshaw and Max Eugene Hinshaw. The eldest of six children, Deanna was the first of 50 grandchildren born to Reverend Moses and Blanche Wire and the first to graduate from college, becoming a treasured role model for her younger siblings and cousins.

Born in Noblesville and raised in Carmel, Deanna graduated as salutatorian of Carmel High School's Class of 1958. A 12-year 4-H member, she was the first recipient of the Hamilton County Home Economics Club Scholarship. Her 4-H experiences and her work with the Carmel Schools food service director inspired her to pursue dietetics. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from Purdue University, graduating summa cum laude, and later completed a Master's degree in Institutional Management.

Upon graduation from Purdue, Deanna worked for one year at the University of Michigan Hospital, focusing on metabolic research, before returning home to work as a dietitian at Riverview Hospital. Deanna wanted to give back to the county that had provided financial support for her Purdue education. It also gave her the opportunity to be home for the arrival of her new baby sister.

After one year at Riverview, Deanna began a fascinating career when she moved to Atlanta, Ga., to become the Southern Region Food Service Director for ARA, which held the food service contract for Cape Kennedy (Canaveral) in Cocoa Beach, Fla. She was called upon for special NASA events, including the Moon Shots, when the President and other visiting dignitaries were in attendance. Deanna had security clearance and prepared and served meals for President Lyndon Johnson, Vice President Spiro Agnew, Jack Benny, the Shah of Iran, the King and Queen of Belgium, and Wernher von Braun, NASA Rocket Engineer. President Lyndon Johnson always requested Deanna and her homemade chocolate chip cookies.

Deanna eventually returned to Indiana to work at Community Hospital, where she served as Systems and Training Coordinator for eight years. She completed the requirements to become an RD, Registered Dietitian. While working at Community, the coffee machine sales representative set her up on a blind date with his best friend, LeRoy Cooper. Before long, they were married in 1971 and became the parents of two daughters, Denise and Debbie.

When her daughters began school and no longer needed daycare, Deanna wanted to be home when they got off the bus. After earning her RD credentials, she started her own company, Peers & Associates, which she operated from her home for almost 40 years. She had two administrative assistants and 14 registered dietitians who managed the dietary needs of 45 long-term care facilities and two Indiana prisons.

Deanna believed deeply in being involved and hands-on with her girls, even as she worked and ran her own company. Throughout their lives, she taught them how to be good citizens and wonderful mothers.

Deanna served on the original board of directors of the



Westfield Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) and helped write its first bylaws. Although life-long asthma had kept her from playing sports herself, she was determined to stay closely involved in her daughters' lives. She studied soccer books, watched videos, and became a coach, continuing with the girls as they grew older.

She eventually coached the Under-14 girls' travel team. When one season left her short on players, Deanna found a creative solution: she chose especially stylish uniforms with matching jackets and convinced girls to join the team for the chance to wear them.

An "Icon of Fierce Love" was how one of Deanna's nieces described her, and it was a perfect description. She loved deeply and gave abundantly. Her gift closet could have challenged any boutique. Every Christmas, she bought gifts for elderly residents in the long-term care facilities she served who had no family visiting them. She wanted to make certain that everyone had a gift to open on Christmas morning.

Even into her 80s, Deanna was helping her grandchildren, nieces, and nephews study for exams. She was always a student and forever a teacher, counselor, and coach.

Deanna led a Bible study at Wellbrooke. She loved God with all her heart and soul and wanted everyone to know Jesus. She worried deeply about residents who had lost their faith or perhaps never had faith at all. Even as she was nearing the end of her life, she was determined to find someone who would step forward and continue leading her Bible study. Denise and Debbie helped find a new Bible study leader. When another resident finally agreed to take over, Deanna visibly relaxed, as though the last item on her list had been checked off.

Deanna will be remembered for her wisdom, strength, compassion for others, love of God, and fierce devotion to her family. Above all, she cherished her grandchildren, who brought her immeasurable joy, and she will always be remembered for her most amazing prime rib on Christmas Eve.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 43 years, LeRoy Cooper; her brother, Gregory T Hinshaw; brother-in-law, Ron Jackson; and her parents and grandparents.

Left to cherish her memory, Deanna is survived by her daughters, Denise LeeAnn (Todd) Harris and Debra Jean (Karey) Bredemeyer; grandchildren, Claire DeAnn Harris, Sylvia Kaylin (Blake) Edwards, Evelyn Ryan Harris, Emma Jean Bredemeyer, and Emery Cooper Bredemeyer; great-grandson, Shepherd Todd Edwards; siblings, Bill (Eileen) Hinshaw, Parker (Jean) Hinshaw, Jennifer (Alan) Arthur, and Lori (Darrell) Boothroyd; in-laws, Betty Jackson and Linda (Ron) Swan; and numerous special nieces and nephews whom she coached, counseled, and loved.

Visitation was held Saturday, August 29, 2026, followed by a Celebration of Life service at Prairie Waters Event Center, 4180 Westfield Road, Westfield. Burial took place at Flanner Buchanan Memorial Park.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the nursing staff at Wellbrooke of Westfield, Shelly who stayed with her until the end, and the Select Hospice team for keeping Deanna comfortable during her final days.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Deanna Cooper Faith and Service Fund found on the Flanner and Buchanan website, flannerbuchanan.com.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

Obedience Commanded

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. Remember the day you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, when he said to me, "Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children." Deuteronomy 4:9-10 (NIV)

Norma Jean McJunkin

November 4, 1933 – August 29, 2026

Norma Jean McJunkin, 92, Fishers, passed away on Saturday, August 29, 2026, at her home. She was born on November 4, 1933 to Loren and Euphema (Parsley) Walsh in Hamilton County.

Norma was a homemaker and also worked for the Hamilton Southeastern Transportation Department. She enjoyed shopping and eating out at different restaurants.

Norma is survived by her children, Kathleen (Donn) Lambert, Gregory (Charlye) McJunkin, and Surrenia McJunkin; four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence Kenneth McJunkin; her sisters, Vivian Marie Teal and Sarah Lou Collins; and her beloved cat, Rowdy.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with services at 1 p.m., on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Chaplain Derek Hansen will officiate. Norma will be laid to rest next to Clarence at Fairview Cemetery in Tipton.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



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