

THE HAMILTON COUNTY

REPORTER

Your Hometown Newspaper

Gardening grows people, too

Embracing good times

By WYNNE BRUBAKER
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You might not think the garden you’ve been growing in your backyard could be what introduces you to a new community, but the Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association (HCMGA) says otherwise. The organization is helping our county redefine gardening as more than just a backyard hobby: it is also a way to bring people together while benefitting our environment.



Reed

HCMGA President Bruce Reed spoke to The Reporter about what it means to be a Master Gardener, the organization’s mission, and how you can get involved.

“To become a master gardener, you attend classes through the Purdue extension,” Reed said. “It is a series of 15 classes and 40 hours of instruction. At the end of that time, you become certified as a master gardener.”

Following the initial Purdue course, members must continue to receive at least 12 hours of education and 12 volunteering hours each year. Given that HCGMA’s primary goal is to educate the public about gardening, continuing education is especially important.

“Our goal is to educate the public so the public knows the correct way to not only grow, but to deal with the issues that

you have when you’re gardening,” Reed said. “You’re always going to have something that needs attention to save the crop that you’re growing. Whether that’s flowers or whether that’s vegetables, whatever you’re growing, there are going to be issues. So, educating the public on how to deal with those issues and – more importantly – how to go research those issues and know where to find the information that they need to keep their plants healthy is very important.”

To support education, HCMGA teaches students of all ages about topics ranging from composting to treating insects without using damaging chemicals in numerous events throughout the year.

“We typically have different ways of engaging the public in the science of gardening,” Reed told The Reporter. “We hold education classes within our gardens, we do education in the high schools and fifth grade classrooms. We also provide education in 55 and older communities and hold classes in the public libraries in Hamilton County.”

HCMGA supports Hamilton County residents and gives back to the community.

The organization owns two separate vegetable beds for gardening lessons that produce almost 5,000 pounds of food that goes to the local food pantries each year.



Photo provided by Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association
The Giving Garden in Fishers is planted and maintained by Hamilton County Master Gardeners. The group is able to donate more than 4,000 pounds of produce to five local food pantries annually.

“That’s something I’m pretty proud of that we did,” Reed said. “That’s really good for the longevity of the organization so that we can make sure Hamilton County Master Gardeners is around for future generations.”

Similarly, HCGMA contributes to the education of college students through the annual distribution of seven \$3,000 scholarships for horticulture students. The result is not only opportunities for students to access valuable gardening education, but it also creates a culture of care and community among master gardeners.

“The students are very appreciative of our efforts to help them financially with their education,” Reed said.

The organization’s positive

impacts on Hamilton County people and the environment are abundant, but HCGMA also significantly benefits its own members through providing purpose, connection, and an outlet for passion.

“Gardeners are just good people,” Reed said. “They like to garden and they enjoy the social aspect of being part of the organization. And I think there’s a new sense of needing to know how to grow your own food and raise your own food, for your own consumption. I think that’s causing people to want to join the organization. People look at our food supply and they say, ‘Maybe we should think about being able to grow our own food.’”

See Grow . . . Page A3

Don’t take the good times for granted.

That’s the name of a song I heard for the first time this week. I listened to it over and over, letting the words sink into my soul.

It was a week of slowing down, and the music seemed a bit sweeter. As my planner turns over to September, I like to embrace the final days of summer and bask in the wonder and awe of what the changing seasons look like. I love everything about the days of autumn. I might have decorated my house as I looked forward to everything pumpkin except pumpkin spice lattes . . . yuck.

I sat on my front porch, watching a softball game across the street, and pondered how the good times look different as I’ve gotten older. If anyone saw me and wondered whether I was wearing my pajamas, the answer is yes. I’m all about comfort these days. I’d have basked in the moment longer as I sipped my morning coffee, but giant mosquitoes were feasting on my skin. One of the questions I want to ask God when I get to Heaven is why he created mosquitoes. Do you ever wonder why something was created? Maybe skunks? My mind goes to the strangest places as I ponder.

For the past five days, I’ve been sick with a virus that left me without a voice. Yes, Janet Leonard cannot talk. When I try to speak, my husband says I sound like Minnie Mouse or a dog caught in a briar patch. Ordering a Medicine Ball at Starbucks was challenging. The steamed lemonade, along with the citrus mint tea and honey, is a balm for my sickly throat. The nurse practitioner at Med Check said I have to wait it out for seven to 10 days. Ugh. I was hoping for a magic pill to make me not so ill.

Before I digress downward into the poor me tunnel, I’ll stop whining and get on with writing about not taking the good times for granted.

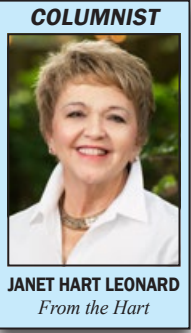
I no longer wait for things to get better or easier to appreciate what a moment holds. I know this too shall pass, but I hope it’s not like a kidney stone. I’ve never had a kidney stone, but they say it’s worse than childbirth. I had two kids without an epidural. They say you forget the pain. They are wrong.

I’m always looking for glimpses of hope and glimmers of happiness. I love watching lightning bugs light up. I wonder what God was thinking when he created an insect with a butt that lights up?

I believe the small moments that bring me joy are a big deal. I’m blessed with a husband who understands. I believe true love is found in the simple acts of kindness. Along with this virus has come a lack of anything sounding good to eat. About 7:00 on Tuesday, I told Chuck I wanted onion rings. He insisted on driving to Culver’s to get them for me. We split an order. I’ll never take things like this for granted.

Chuck golfed on Wednesday and shot the same number as the heat index. It’s not a good number for a man who likes to shoot his age. He says getting older makes it easier. He shot 88 this week, missing his age by one stroke. He truly is a legend at Stony Creek Golf Course. Golf makes him happy even when the heat index is in the degrees of misery.

While I was sick this week, I caught up on some reading. Lysa TerKerust’s new book, *Making Peace With What I Can’t Control*, gets a “You need to read this!” rating. I’m 50 pages into Melissa Radke’s



COLUMNIST
JANET HART LEONARD
From the Hart

Westfield elementary educator wins Lilly Teacher Creativity Fellowship, explores American Southwest

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

Monon Trail Elementary teacher Carly Miller spent part of her summer thousands of feet above the Grand Canyon, paddling through 30 mile-per-hour winds, backpacking through Bryce Canyon, and exploring some of the American Southwest’s most remarkable landscapes.

It was an adventure by design. Miller was selected as a recipient of the 2026 Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Fellowship, an opportunity that allowed her to embark on a journey through New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah built around stepping outside her comfort zone.

Now in its 40th year, the Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program provides Indiana K-12 educators with resources for meaningful personal and professional renewal. Fellowship projects are designed to help educators explore, reflect, and return to their schools with renewed energy and creativity.

For Miller, the experience mirrored something she asks of her own students every day: be willing to try something new, even when success isn’t guaranteed.

“My goal for this fellowship



“These adventures stretched me, and so did the landscape,” Carly Miller said. “This trip helped me build strength and perseverance and discover parts of myself I did not know existed.”

was to take risks and challenge myself physically and mentally by pushing beyond my comfort zone, just like I ask students to do every day,” Miller said. “Learning is all about facing challenges and taking risks, even if it means facing failure.”

A summer of new perspectives

Miller traveled by camper and truck through the Southwest, packing her itinerary with experiences that challenged her in different ways.

She rode in a hot air balloon



Photos provided by Carly Miller

over Albuquerque and the Sandia Mountains at sunrise, flew in a helicopter above the Grand Canyon, and paddled across Lake Powell to reach Antelope Canyon. In Utah, she backpacked through Bryce Canyon, explored Zion National Park on horseback, rafted the Colorado River, and drove a UTV through Moab.

Her husband, Joel Miller, joined her on the journey and saw those challenges firsthand.

“During our kayaking excursion, we faced 30 mph winds, and at one point I doubted we

would reach Antelope Canyon,” Joel said. “Yet Carly persevered, and later said the experience was well worth the effort.”

Carly also challenged herself creatively, learning new videography and editing skills to document the journey.

“These adventures stretched me, and so did the landscape,” Carly said. “This trip helped me build strength and perseverance and discover parts of myself I did not know existed.”

See Explore . . . Page A2

Literacy levels rise statewide & Tipton students are part of the momentum

Submitted by Tipton Community School Corp.

Indiana’s latest literacy report shows encouraging momentum statewide: every student population has now surpassed its pre-pandemic literacy achievement levels, with 88.7 percent of students demonstrating proficient reading skills on the IREAD assessment, an increase of nearly 1.5 percentage points over last year.

Across the state, 511 elementary schools now have at least 95 percent of students reading proficiently, a number that has more than doubled since 2023. Tipton Elementary School third graders achieved an outstanding 98 percent pass rate on this assessment.

At Tipton Community School Corporation, this progress reflects the work happening every day in the classroom. Tipton’s teachers, instructional teams, and support staff have remained deeply committed to strengthening foundational literacy skills, aligning instruction to the Indiana Literacy Framework, and ensuring students receive the targeted support they need to grow as readers. From early phonics instruction to small-group interventions and family partnerships, literacy continues to be a central focus across the district.

As Indiana celebrates rising proficiency statewide, Tipton is proud to contribute to that momentum and remains dedicated



Photo provided by Tipton Community School Corporation

to helping every Blue Devil build the strong reading foundation they need for future success.

#BlueFuture

A cartoon illustration by Tim Campbell. It depicts a yellow school bus on the left, pulling a rope that is attached to a large, grey, rectangular building. The building has the words "HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOLS" written on its upper half and "BUS DRIVER SHORTAGES" written on its lower half. The building has several vertical openings, resembling windows or doorways. The entire scene is set against a plain white background. In the top left corner, there is a signature "Tim Campbell" and the text "HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER" and "tc2oons.substack.com".



Photos provided by Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad

Bring your young train conductors to Community Day at Hobbs Station at Forest Park in Noblesville. They can even enjoy a ride on the Nickel Plate Express Caboose for \$5!

Family fun awaits at Nickel Plate Express Community Day

The REPORTER

Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad will hold its second annual Community Day at Hobbs Station in Noblesville's Forest Park. The fun will take place from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13.

The free, family-friendly event will celebrate Noblesville's railroad heritage while bringing the community together for a day of education, entertainment, and hands-on experiences.

Guests will have the opportunity to explore historic railroad equipment and learn more about the history and preservation efforts of the Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad. Activities will include touch-a-truck displays, food vendors, garage sale, entertainment, train safety information, and tours of historic train cars.

**Take a ride on the train
with \$5 Caboose Rides**
Nickel Plate Heritage

Railroad will \$5 Caboose Rides during Community Day. This is a highlight of Community Day and offers guests the chance to experience a 15-minute rail journey with a scenic view of the White River. Guests will need to book their Caboose Ride tickets ahead of Community Day, as these tickets sell out quickly.

Go to **[nickelplate
express.com/train-rides](http://nickelplateexpress.com/train-rides)**.

EXPLORE

from Page A1

Bringing the experience back to Monon Trail

The fellowship may have taken Miller far beyond Westfield, but the lessons she brought home connect directly to her work with students.

Midland Crossing Instructional Coach Laura Mates said Miller's experience reflects the way she already approaches education: recognizing that different students may need different paths to reach the same destination.

"Carly was able to experience firsthand that there is never just one way to see something, which beautifully reflects who Carly is as an educator," Mates said.

That willingness to seek a different perspective can be especially valuable when a student encounters a challenge.

"She reminds all of us that sometimes a different perspective is exactly what is needed to unlock a student's potential," Mates said.

Assistant Principal Heather Darnell said Miller's experience also reflects values Monon Trail works to instill in students and staff.

“At Monon Trail, we encourage both students and staff to embrace challenges, take risks, and never stop



Photo provided by Carly Miller

learning," Darnell said. "Carly's fellowship experience embodies those values."

Principal Jeremy Marvel said the opportunity was a fitting recognition for an educator committed to continually improving her work.

"Carly is the type of educator who is always looking for ways to grow and make a difference for students," Marvel said. "Her willingness to challenge herself is a great example of the passion and commitment she brings

to our school each day.”

For Miller, those lessons in perseverance, confidence, and embracing the unfamiliar now return with her to the classroom.

Congratulations to Mrs. Miller on this incredible opportunity and for continuing to model lifelong learning for her students.

You can see more photos from her trip as well as other educators' adventures by searching for #TeacherCreativityGrant on Instagram.



THE HONEY BAKED Ham^{co}

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Marching TIGER Band selected for 2028 Rose Parade

Submitted by Hamilton Southeastern Schools

The Fishers High School Marching TIGER Band is headed back to the national stage. After performing in the 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the band has now been selected to march in the 2028 Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif.

It will be the first Rose Parade appearance in Fishers High School history.

More than 200 students received the news during a surprise announcement Saturday afternoon after a full day of rehearsals.

"We are honored to show the world the dedication and commitment behind performing arts at Fishers High School," Marching TIGER Band Director Elijah Gardner said. "Our students are thrilled to take part in one of the largest New Year's Day celebrations in the world and perform on an international stage."

The Marching TIGER Band is one of only 10 high school bands chosen through a competitive international application process. The 2028 lineup includes bands from Colombia, Costa Rica, Japan, Puerto Rico, and the United States.

The students will march



Photo provided by Hamilton Southeastern Schools
Band members were given the news after a long day of rehearsals.

5.5 miles along Orange Grove and Colorado boulevards in Pasadena. But first, they have to get there. Moving more than 200 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/FHS-band2026.

"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."

Longtime FSA employee Traci Merida set to retire

The REPORTER

The agricultural communities of Tipton, Hamilton, and Howard counties have been well-served by Traci Merida's dedication and commitment to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) throughout a 40-year career with the USDA.

Merida began work for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) in March 1986

as a temporary Program Technician. She then became a full-time permanent Program Technician in October 1986. She was then promoted to serve as Program Technician in Charge from 2015 to 2018 and became a County Executive Director in September 2018.



Merida

Merida currently serves as CED for Tipton, Hamilton, and Howard counties. It is only due to her knowledge, experience, and dedication that the FSA can provide excellent service to the agriculture community of these three counties.

Merida is an efficient,

effective, collaborative, principled, and empathetic leader. She has professionally represented the ASCS/FSA throughout her 40-year career and will be retiring this coming Fall.

The staff of the Tipton, Hamilton, and Howard county offices will host a Retirement Open House for Traci Merida from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Tipton Hamilton County FSA Office, 243 Ash St., Suite A, Tipton.

Please feel free to come by and share in the celebration of her wonderful career with the USDA Farm Service Agency.

GOOD TIMES

Chicken-Fried Women. I can relate to being raised by a southern woman. Stay tuned for my rating. I'm also leisurely reading Ruth Cho Simons' book *This Moment Matters: 100 Ways to Cultivate a Grace-Laced Life*. Put this on your Christmas list to give to all your friends who enjoy a pretty book that cultivates numbering your days with awe and wonder.

I won't be taking these days for granted. I'm making the most of my 70s and hopefully my 80s and beyond.

I'm reminded of the scripture in Psalm 90:12: "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."

I'm working on that heart of wisdom.

Janet Hart Leonard can be contacted at [janet](mailto:janet@hartleonard.com)



Photo by Janet Hart Leonard

hartleonard@gmail.com or followed on Facebook or Instagram (@janethartleonard). She is the recipient of the Reporter's Spring 2025 Ink-

Stained Wretch award. Visit janethartleonard.com. You can purchase her book "When the Heart Speaks" at amazon.com/dp/B0B1C7QKF6.

GROW

Gardening can be a physically taxing activity, but that does not stop HCGMA from including members who can no longer contribute physically. They created the Helping Hands Committee, composed of members who can no longer physically garden, but still want to stay a part of the group.

"They are a tremendous support to our committees," Reed said. "That has caused a lot of our members who would probably drop out of the organization to continue to maintain their membership because they're still an active part of the organization."

HCGMA builds life-long connections as well as strengthens internal passions and personal growth. For Reed, becoming president of the organization was a good way to use his hobby to give back.

"I've been a vegetable garden gardener since I was probably 10 years old, and I've always loved growing," Reed said. "My wife and I are both master gardeners, and we decided that after the kids were all gone and out of the house and having their own families, we would like to take the class and become master gardeners. So that's what we did. It's something that we do together, as a couple, which is really nice."

Even if you are not interested in investing the time it takes to become a Master Gardener, Reed recommended donating the food you are growing in your garden to a local food pantry and maintaining the green spaces that surround us.

Being a vegetable gardener can be so much more than just a chore, it can also be a source of community and purpose.

To learn more about Master Gardeners or to sign up for the Purdue course, visit HCGMA.org.

The Dani Robinson difference

- What's the market value of my home?
- What is my process for buying a home?
- Who should I call for home repairs/remodeling?
- How do I learn about building a new home?
- Who should I call to refinance my home?
- Who should I call when I have someone who wants to buy my home?



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Carmel’s ‘Rally for Relief’ raises \$20K for flood recovery

The REPORTER

Community members joined forces to deliver overwhelming support at Carmel’s Rally for Relief event on Thursday, Aug. 27. Organized through a broad coalition of civic partners, business leaders and dedicated volunteers, the event generated substantial donations to support critical hunger relief and disaster recovery initiatives.

In total, the Rally for Relief collected:

- \$20,825 in cash donations
- 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food
- 20 pallets of cleaning and recovery supplies
- \$225 in gift cards

The event’s success was driven by a collaborative team effort involving Mayor Sue Finkam, the Carmel City Council, OneZone Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank, the Hamilton

County Community Foundation, and the Lucas Oil family, who all helped organize and volunteer on the ground throughout the evening.



Finkam

“The heart and generosity of Carmel shone bright yesterday,” Mayor Finkam said. “When our neighbors need support, this community steps up without hesitation. We are deeply grateful to Lucas Oil and the Lucas family, our City Councilors, OneZone Chamber, the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank, and the Hamilton County Community Foundation for rolling up their sleeves to organize and volunteer. This drive was a success because of our shared commitment to serving others.”

Food and supply donations directly support local families and relief initiatives through Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank and community partners.

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.

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.

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.

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



Altman



Jensen

have supported one another. Twenty-five years lat-

er, 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.

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 par-

ticipate 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 storytimes 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



mixtape-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/library-card.

Westfield Library Foundation announces Children’s Book Writing Contest winners

Three stories selected in celebration of America’s 250th Birthday

The REPORTER

The Westfield Library Foundation (WLF) has announced the winners of its 2026 Children’s Book Writing Contest, held in celebration of America’s 250th Birthday.

This year’s theme, “America’s Birthday Adventure,” invited participants to write about a child or teen who discovers a magical history book in the Westfield Washington Public Library and is transported on an unforgettable journey through American history.

After careful judging, the Foundation selected one winner in each of three age categories. Laney Serrahn, a sixth grader at Westfield

Middle School, took home top honors in the Children’s Category with her book, The Dig, about three children who find a book that allows them to time travel to the Civil and Revolutionary wars.

This is the second time Serrahn has entered the Foundation’s book writing contest.

“I didn’t win the first time, but I had a ton of fun writing a book so I thought I’d try again,” she said. “I can’t wait to see my book on the library shelves. I hope a lot of people read it.”

Elisabeth Howard won the teen category with her book The Founding with Abi and Ben. She teamed up



Photo provided

(From left) Erin Downey, Laney Serrahn, Elisabeth Howard, Dana Jean Mansell, and Kira Muetting. Each author received a check for \$250.

with 17-year-old Dana Jean Mansell as an illustrator. Howard is planning to study history in college so she can teach high school students about American history.

Finally, Kira Muetting captured the adult category with her book Star-Spangled Birthday Adventure.

See *Book . . .* Page A5

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 ma-

jor public gathering in the Read & Roam Garden, 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-accessible ta-

bles, 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 cool-

ers (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 WestfieldLibraryFoundation.com.

HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

USPS 22200 | Volume 2026, Issue 9.7

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The Hamilton County Reporter is published weekly by 4th Hawk Media LLC.

Periodicals postage paid at Noblesville, Ind.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

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

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A book can change a child’s future

Cicero Kiwanis Club invites the community to support ‘Books for a Bright Future’

By **TODD CLEVENGER**
Cicero Kiwanis Club

For many children, the Scholastic Book Fair is one of the most exciting times of the school year.

They walk through the doors and see tables filled with colorful book covers, familiar characters, new adventures and stories waiting to be discovered. For some children, choosing which book to take home is the hardest decision they will make that day.

For others, however, the decision has already been made.

Not every child has money to spend at the book fair. While classmates search for their favorite book and eagerly make their selections, some students know they will leave empty-handed – not because they don’t want to read, but because purchasing a book simply isn’t an option.

The Cicero Kiwanis Club believes every child should have the opportunity to experience the excitement of choosing a book of their own.

That is why the club created Books for a Bright Future, a program that ensures every student at Hamilton Heights Elementary School receives a new, age-appropriate book during the Scholastic Spring Book Fair, at no cost to the student or their family.

Today, approximately 850 children benefit from the program.

For many of those children, that book is more than just something to read. It is an adventure. A mystery. A new favorite character. A reason to put down a screen and



Photo provided by Cicero Kiwanis Club
Approximately 850 children benefit from the Books for a Bright Future program.

open a book. Perhaps, most importantly, it may be the beginning of a lifelong love of reading.

The funds that make Books for a Bright Future possible are raised largely through the Kiwanis Club of Cicero’s annual Dinner and Silent Auction, and the community is invited to come together for an evening of good food, fellowship, and fun, all while making a difference in the lives of local children.

The Books for a Bright Future Dinner & Silent Auction will be held from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at the South Harbour Clubhouse, 1156 S. Harbour Drive, Noblesville.

Guests will enjoy dinner and have the opportunity to browse and bid on a variety of silent auction items, with proceeds helping put books directly into the hands of children in our community.

Tickets are \$55 per person or \$100 per couple, with dinner selections including Chicken Piccata or Pork Ribeye.

But the impact of the evening will extend far beyond

one dinner or one auction.

Every ticket purchased, every auction item donated and every winning bid helps make sure that when a child walks into the book fair, they don’t have to stand on the sidelines while others choose a book.

They get to choose one, too.

And the Cicero Kiwanis Club is not stopping there.

Because of the success and importance of Books for a Bright Future, the club plans to expand the program into Hamilton Heights Middle School next year, giving even more students the opportunity to select and own books of their own.

Getting children excited about reading at a young age can make a lasting difference. A child who discovers the joy of reading may carry that love with them for the rest of their life. Sometimes all it takes is the right book finding its way into the right child’s hands.

That is what Books for a Bright Future is all about.

The Cicero Kiwanis Club hopes the community will

join them on Sept. 26 – not just for a wonderful meal or the opportunity to take home a great auction item, but for the chance to invest in the future of local children.

Because somewhere among those 850 students may be a child who discovers their favorite author. A future teacher, writer, scientist, entrepreneur, or community leader who finds inspiration between the pages of a book.

And it all may begin with one book they otherwise would not have been able to purchase.

As the saying goes, “A book is a gift you can open again and again.”

On Sept. 26, the community has an opportunity to help give that gift to hundreds of local children – and soon, even more.

For ticket information or to purchase tickets online, visit the Cicero Kiwanis Books for a Bright Future Dinner & Silent Auction ticket page.

The Cicero Kiwanis Club invites everyone to bring a spouse, friend, neighbor, or fellow book lover and spend an evening helping ensure that every child has the opportunity to discover the joy that can be found between the covers of a book.

Because no child should have to walk out of a book fair empty-handed.

Advancing Westfield Foundation awards \$499,000 in grants to local organizations

Submitted by
City of Westfield

The Advancing Westfield Foundation has awarded \$499,000 in grant funding to 22 organizations serving the Westfield community.

The Advancing Westfield Foundation supports nonprofit partnerships that provide vital services for youth, adults, seniors, veterans, individuals with disabilities and families throughout the community. Funding is made possible through net proceeds from the Mayor’s Grand Gala and supports organizations working in areas such as health and wellness, food insecurity, youth development, senior support, mental health, and disability services.

2026 grant recipients include:

- Heart & Soul Clinic: \$50,000
- Prevail: \$50,000
- Westfield Youth Assistance Program: \$50,000
- Student Impact: \$50,000
- Westfield Youth Sports: \$40,000
- Westfield Education Foundation: \$28,000
- Grace Care Center: \$27,000
- Trinity Free Clinic: \$25,000

- Westfield Library Foundation: \$25,000
- Union Bible College: \$25,000
- Shepherd’s Center of Hamilton County: \$20,000
- Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank: \$17,500
- Janus Developmental Services: \$15,000
- Indiana Center for Prevention of Youth Abuse & Suicide (IN-CPYAS): \$15,000
- The Cooper House: \$15,000
- Meals on Wheels Hamilton County: \$10,000
- Ascension St. Vincent YMCA in Westfield: \$10,000
- Family Promise of Hamilton County: \$10,000
- Christ United Methodist Church: \$10,000
- Open Doors of Westfield: \$2,500
- Westfield Pride: \$2,500
- HamCo Love: \$1,500

The Advancing Westfield Foundation board includes community members representing various corporate, nonprofit, and community partners. Board members are Eric Douthit, Kristy Murphy, Allison Van Natta, Danyele Easterhaus, Pete Emigh, Mike Rudolph, and Mitch Frazier.

For more information, visit AdvancingWestfield-Foundation.org.

Rotary Club of Westfield launches year-long initiative to fight food insecurity & support student wellbeing

By **MARIE S. HOWARD**
Rotary Club of Westfield

What happens when you put students in the driver’s seat to solve a problem in their own school? The Rotary Club of Westfield is about to find out.

This year, Westfield Rotary is channeling its three core service priorities – fighting food insecurity, developing young leaders, and building community connections – into one bold, student-led initiative: “**Notice. Nourish. Lead.**”

Working hand-in-hand with students and staff at Westfield High School, this youth leadership program tackles a sobering reality: the link between food insecurity and the risk of suicide. Backed by a

grant from Westfield Rotary and The Rotary Foundation, the project puts WHS students at the helm, conducting a real needs assessment and designing a sustainable solution, all with support from school staff, Rotarians, and community partners.

The numbers tell a powerful story

More than 10 percent of Hamilton County residents – including over 7,000 children – face food insecurity. At WHS alone, an estimated 300 to 600 students may be affected, and nearly 4 percent of those students are also at risk for suicidal behaviors. These aren’t just statistics; they’re classmates, neighbors, and friends.

Over the course of the

academic year, student leaders will ***notice*** the need, ***nourish*** their peers and community, and ***lead*** lasting change, with results delivered by the end of April 2027. Every student who steps up to participate will be recognized with a certificate honoring their leadership on these critical issues.

Want to be part of the solution?

Whether you’re curious about “Notice. Nourish. Lead.” or another Rotary initiative, we’d love to hear from you. Reach out at WestfieldRotaryIN@gmail.com, visit WestfieldRotaryIN.com, or stop by one of our meetings (see our online calendar for dates). If you have a heart for service, there’s a place for you at Westfield Rotary.

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



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

and longevity. Our goal is to help patients understand their health, identify opportunities for improvement, and create realistic, personalized 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.

Learn more at opt2liv.com.

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

Submitted

The fourth annual Mission Hills Charity Jam is back, bringing a full day of community spirit, live entertainment, and local giving to Westfield.

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.

Every dollar raised helps Heart and Soul Free Clinic continue its mission of delivering compassionate, free care.

For more information about the event, go to HeartAndSoulClinic.org and click the Upcoming Events tab.

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



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!

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

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 features 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.

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 features 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.

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

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.



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.

"IU Health North Hospital 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."

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The Goddard School of Noblesville helps families affected by flood

By ALLIE GAINES
The Goddard School of Noblesville

When the flooding happened here in Hamilton County, our hearts went out to the families who were affected. As a school that serves families in this community every day, we knew we couldn't just watch from the sidelines. We wanted to do something.

We started collecting donations in an effort to help in whatever way we could. Our staff and families came together to gather items for those who needed them, and we were incredibly proud of how quickly everyone was willing to step up.

But honestly, this meant so much more to us than simply donating supplies.

We truly believe that being a preschool means being part of the community that surrounds you. Our school isn't just a building where children spend their day. It is a place where families become part of our school family, where teachers build meaningful relationships with children, and where we have the opportunity to teach children what it means to care for other people.

We want our children to grow up knowing that their

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



Photos provided by The Goddard School of Noblesville
Donations include food, cleaning items, baby formula and diapers, and kitchen tools.

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

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.



Photo provided by The Goddard School of Carmel City Center

Goddard families have huge hearts for service

The REPORTER

Last month, The Goddard School of Carmel City Center, 160 Medical Drive, Carmel, held a donation drive for flood victims. After consulting with people in charge of disaster relief efforts to find a need that was not being filled through standard donation efforts, the school chose to ask parents for baby wipes.

Goddard School Director of Operations April Clay asked for one box per child. The request went out during

the afternoon of Monday, Aug. 17, with the goal of getting 150 packages of wipes. Parents were told that if they reached the goal of 150 packages by Friday, all the kids would get a pajama day.

According to Clay, as of Friday morning, Aug. 21, they had exceeded that goal by more than a factor of 100.

The Carmel Goddard kiddos got their pajama day and all the wipes were donated to Northview Church, 12900 Hazel Dell Parkway Suite 1, Carmel.

Fishers Arts Council & Hamilton County Tourism present Harvest Fest

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, Mash-Craft 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.

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

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).

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Lucky Teter’s history framed
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Prevail’s new apparel store now open

The REPORTER

In partnership with T & T Sales and Promotions, Prevail, Inc. introduces the Apparel Store. This is your one-stop shop for all things Prevail, giving you a new way to proudly show your support and quite literally wear it on your sleeve.

The store features all the classics, including T-shirts, sweatshirts, professional wear, and more. You’ll also find a collection of creatively designed pieces that share Prevail’s mission in a more subtle way, using meaningful graphics and artwork rather than traditional branding. In other words, there’s a little something for everyone.

This is just the beginning. The Apparel Store will be updated regularly with new and limited-edition designs throughout the year, including special collections created for each of Prevail’s awareness months: Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February, and Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. Be sure to check back often.



How it works

• **Made to order:** All items are printed together after the store closes on Sept. 30. Please allow approximately two weeks after the store closing for orders to be completed and ready for distribution.

• **Order confirmation:** After placing your order, please make sure you receive a confirmation email to verify that your order was successfully submitted.

• **No returns or exchanges:** Because all items are custom printed to order, returns and exchanges are not accepted.

• **Sizing questions:** Not sure about sizing? Reach out to T & T Sales and Promotions directly.

Shop now at prevail26.itemorder.com/shop/home.

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



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.



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 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 Corner 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.



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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

Joan Roberts
February 28, 1932 – August 29, 2026

Joan Roberts, 94, Carmel, passed away August 29, 2026. She was born on February 28, 1932, in South Bend, Ind., daughter of John and Mary (Misner) Newman.

As a 1946 graduate of Riley High School, Joan continued her education at Ball State where she received her Bachelor of Science degree, and later her Master of Arts from the University of Notre Dame. She was employed with the South Bend School Corporation for several years before moving to Carmel where she worked in the Carmel Clay School Corporation before retirement.

Joan was a member of Carmel United Methodist Church, a long-time member of the Fall Creek Chapter of Questers, and a subscription member of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Joan was actively involved at Conner Prairie and enjoyed volunteering through the years.

Some of Joan's hobbies included gardening, antiquing, and listening to music. She was an avid reader and enjoyed a genre of books.

In memory of Joan, contributions may be made to Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, IN 46038.

In addition to her parents, Joan was preceded in death by her daughter, Jennifer Roberts.

Joan's request was not to have any formal funeral service. Arrangements entrusted to Bussell Family Funerals.

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

Scott D. Rasmussen
December 1, 1960 – August 28, 2026

Scott D. Rasmussen, 65, Lafayette, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 28, 2026, at IU Health Arnett Hospital.

He was born December 1, 1960, in Kenmore, N.Y., to Thomas W. Rasmussen of Noblesville and the late Shirley (Olson) Rasmussen.

Scott graduated from Noblesville High School in 1979 and Purdue University in 1983. On February 20, 1994, he married Rebecca Love in Lafayette.

Scott was a Sales Engineer for Plug Power, formerly Custom Alloy, for the past 15 years. He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church and volunteered with FEX Tech at Lafayette Jefferson High School.

Scott loved life and especially enjoyed traveling, skiing, hunting, boating, fishing, golfing, camping, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca; his daughters, Erin E. Rasmussen of Cincinnati, Ohio; Ashley C. (Joshua) Kaminsky of Lafayette; Samantha E. (William) Simmons of Carbondale, Colo.; and Chandler T. Rasmussen (Hayden Reece) of Lafayette; his granddaughters, Scout H. Kaminsky and Quincy L. Rasmussen-Reece; and his brother, Stephen W. (Jean) Rasmussen of Westfield.

Visitation and service were held Thursday, September 3, 2026, at Soller-Baker Lafayette Chapel, 400 Twyckenham Blvd., Lafayette.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cancer Society, Grace Lutheran Church, or Jefferson High School Music department in Scott's memory.

You may leave condolences and memories at soller-baker.com.

Barbara Durkee
January 27, 1930 – August 26, 2026

Barbara Durkee fell asleep in death on the morning of August 26, 2026. In 2017, Barbara was predeceased by her husband Charles. She is survived by her children Julie Miller, Janice (David) Dunn, Charlene White, Joel (Andrea) Durkee, along with four grandchildren, Jordan, Joshua, Robert, and Jessica; and three great-grandchildren, Daniel, Everlie, and Hudson.

She was born on January 27, 1930 in Grand Rapids, Mich., and was raised as an only child in a community known for its furniture craftsmanship. Mom enjoyed telling stories of her father and grandfather making rounds in the factory where they worked.

While attending Central High School, Barbara met Charles Durkee, her lifelong partner. Their marriage of 66 years was marked by deep devotion, shared faith, and a strong commitment to family. Shortly after their marriage, Barbara and Charles became baptized members of the congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, a decision that shaped their lives.

They shared a love of travel, exploring much of the United States as well as visiting Switzerland, France, Germany, Hungary, Austria, Russia, Australia, and Fiji. Together, they raised their children with love and affection. She was devoted to homemaking, hospitality, and community service.

She had a strong command of the English language and always enjoyed lively games of Scrabble. Her interests also included gardening, caring for her yard, and birdwatching. She cherished time spent at a lakeside cottage in Michigan, as well as flying kites and finding sea shells along the Florida coastline.

She enjoyed gift-giving and opening her home to provide beautiful meals and accommodations for friends, old and new. Barbara valued her friends and cherished their kind and reassuring conversations. Right up to the end, she enjoyed offering an extra cookie from her plate to anyone joining her for coffee.

Her faith remained central throughout her life. Barbara and Charles were deeply involved in volunteer teaching and support work within their congregation and found great joy in supporting those in full-time ministry.

A public memorial service, including a brief memorial talk, were delivered on Monday, September 7, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 19100 Allisonville Road, Noblesville. No repeat followed. Memorial contributions may be made at jw.org.

"But as for me, I will keep on the lookout for Jehovah. I will show a waiting attitude for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me." (Micah 7:7).

Condolences: randallroberts.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 and funeral service as held for Bill on Thursday, September 3, 2026, at Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero, with Scott Miller officiating. Cremation took place and a private family burial followed.

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

Judith Frederick
d. August 18, 2026

It is with profound sadness and overwhelming love that we announce the passing of our amazing sister, mom, and grandma, Judy Frederick, on August 18, 2026.

Judy was born in Indianapolis to her adoring parents, Gene and Doc Beasley. She spent her early life on a farm where she preferred being a tomboy and riding horses with her dad and brother, as opposed to wearing the frilly dresses her mother gave her.

She later came into her own and worked for over 30 years as a data analyst at St. Vincent Hospital, where she met her husband of 42 years, Dr. Paul Frederick. We are consoled by the thought that they are undoubtedly together now where our mom is "asking" our dad not to watch another 30-year-old episode of Law & Order.

Judy was a mom in the truest sense of the word – but not just to her own children. She unofficially adopted every friend her children brought home. If you were hungry, she fed you. If you needed a place to go, her door was open. And if you were involved in one of her children's shenanigans, chances are she already knew and laughed about it later.

And laugh she did.

Judy had a wicked sense of humor, a wonderfully sarcastic streak, and a perfectly timed "whatever" that could end an argument, dismiss nonsense, or express approximately 47 things without saying any of them.

She loved animals – especially dogs, cats, deer, and birds – and could often be found birdwatching, admiring a creature in the yard, or making friends with an animal that probably wasn't supposed to be approached.

She adored Disney World because apparently being 80 was no excuse to stop believing in a little magic. She loved Key West, especially when it involved a beautiful sunset and a good margarita.

Our Mom was also a fighter. At 79, she beat cancer. Because apparently cancer didn't realize who it was dealing with.

She will be forever missed and eternally loved by her brother, Steve Beasley (Terry); her children, Kirstie Hayduk, Colby Hayduk (Precilla), Gary Pitcock (Kelly), Kim Frederick (Darren), and Kelli Strom (Scott); as well as her grandchildren, Irie Hayduk, Dane Hayduk, Charlie Pitcock, Bo Pitcock, Finn Pitcock, Taylor Strom, Jacob Strom, and Elias Prodger; in addition to countless unofficially adopted children, lifelong friends; and her beloved Gus, Rusty, and Bowie.

We will miss her laugh.
We will miss her sarcasm.
We will miss her hugs.
Most of all, we will miss having her here.

But we know she would want us to keep laughing, keep telling stories, keep loving animals, keep planting flowers – and occasionally take in a sunset and have a margarita in Key West.

Visitation and a celebration of Judy's life were held on Saturday, September 5, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Cool Creek Park where she spent many happy days (hamiltoncounty.in.gov/445/Support-the-Parks).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Joseph Grant Roberts
May 8, 1932 – August 24, 2026

Joseph Grant Roberts, 94, of rural Westfield, died on Monday, August 24, 2026, after a short illness.

Born in Noblesville on May 8, 1932, he was the only child of Justin A. and Mildred (Caca) Roberts.

Joe was educated at Noblesville Common Schools, Earlham College, the Indiana University School of Law, and the College (now University) of Puget Sound.

He was inducted into the United States Army and served as a member of the Attorney General's staff.

When he was discharged, Joe returned to Noblesville, where he was immediately elected as Hamilton County prosecutor, a position he held from 1959 through 1962. He then joined the family law firm, which was started in 1888. Joe continued to practice law for a total of 42 years, often serving as Hamilton County Department of Welfare attorney and as the attorney for the Hamilton County Drainage Board.

He was married to Leanna Kathryn Barker on June 27, 1964, and they enjoyed 54 years together before her death in 2019. After two years they moved to her family farm in Westfield.

Joe is survived by his son, Thomas J Roberts, Westfield; daughter, Mary Kathryn (Milton) Whittaker, Santiago de Chiquitos, Bolivia; and five grandchildren, Ramona Kathryn (Warren) Mazanec, Rachel Emma Whittaker, Joseph Santiago (Cely Juana) Whittaker, John Milton Whittaker, and Paul David Whittaker. He is also survived by four great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Lucia and Santiago Milton Whittaker, and Warren Alexander and Stuart Grant Mazanec.

Joe was a member of numerous organizations both state and federal, including five different historical societies, W.S. Blatchley Nature Study Club, American Guild of Organists, and the Organ Historical Society.

He was a lifelong member of the Noblesville Friends Meeting.

A graveside service was held Monday, August 31, at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville, where Joe was a board member and later president for over 30 years.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Norma Hall
February 1, 1934 – August 26, 2026

Norma Hall, 92, Carmel, passed away on August 26, 2026. She was born on February 1, 1934, in Clinton County, daughter of Grover and Effie (Pickard) Merrill.

Norma lived a life filled with faith, family, friendship, and genuine enjoyment of the people around her. She had a wonderful sense of humor and a gift for conversation and storytelling, qualities that made time spent with her memorable. Whether gathered around a table playing cards, catching up with friends, or simply sharing a good laugh, Norma had a special way of bringing joy to those around her.

Early in her career, Norma worked at a salon before opening a beauty shop of her own. Faith was an important part of her life, and she was an active member of Carmel Friends Church, USFW, and her Bible study group. The friendships she formed through her faith and community remained meaningful throughout her life.

Of all the roles she held, being a grandmother was among those she treasured most. Norma loved supporting her grandchildren and could often be found in the stands at a sporting event or in the audience at a musical performance.

Norma also knew how to appreciate life's simple pleasures. A trip (or two) to the fair was something Norma looked forward to each year. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, reading, and bowling. At Christmas, her fruitcakes became part of the season and one of the many traditions enjoyed by friends and family. During her time at Wellbrooke of Carmel, bingo became a much-anticipated weekly highlight.

Survivors include daughter, Jody (Dave) Griggs, and son, Tom (Kim) Hall; grandchildren, Justin (Tracy) Hall, Jarred Hall (fiancée, Bridget Williams), Brittany Griggs (fiancé, Calvin Nguyen); and great-grandsons, Easton Hall and Wyatt Hall.

In addition to her parents, Norma was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Donald "Don" Hall; brothers, Tom Merrill, Lloyd (Maxine) Merrill, and Glen Merrill; and sisters, Mildred (Clayton) Vanmeter, Ruth (Marion) Wallace, Helen Forbush, and Betty (Samuel) Vawter.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Wellbrooke of Carmel for the kindness, compassion, and care they provided to Norma during her time there, as well as Paradigm Health.

Family and friends gathered for the funeral service on Saturday, September 5, 2026, at Carmel Friends Church, 651 W. Main St., Carmel. Following the service, burial will take place in Carmel Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Norma may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Envelopes will be available at the service.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family in arrangements.

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com



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Carla Mercedes Hynes

October 14, 1975 – August 7, 2026



Carla Mercedes Hynes, born on October 14, 1975, in Tucson, Ariz., was a thoughtful woman who touched the lives of all who knew her. Carla passed away on August 7, 2026, in Noblesville, at the age of 50. She was a talented individual who courageously ventured into new opportunities, even when they were challenging.

She was an All-American cross-country runner during her collegiate years at Yavapai College in Prescott, Ariz., a testament to her adventurous spirit and determination. Despite her many accomplishments, what mattered most to Carla were her children. She is survived by her children, Devin Rhodes, Gabriel Andoniadis, and Leah Andoniadis. Their happiness and well-being were her greatest pride and joy.

Carla was a member of her local women's church group, where she showed her caring nature and willingness to help others. Her brother, Roberto Estrella, survives her, and they shared many unforgettable moments and experiences. She was preceded in death by her parents, Gilbert and Lydia Estrella, whose love and guidance shaped Carla into the woman she became.

In her 50 years of life, Carla was a beacon of inspiration, a creative soul, and a thoughtful friend. Most importantly her life and personality always reflected Jesus, living her life to the fullest and always seeking new adventures while spreading the gospel anytime an opportunity presented itself. This is the life Carla lived, and the legacy she leaves behind.

Carla's care is under the direction of Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Homes in Cicero.

In lieu of flowers, donations for funeral home expenses can be mailed to Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Home, P.O. Box 527, Cicero, IN 46034, or given online at hartleyfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/carla-hynes/guestpayment.

Please feel free to share memories and upload photos of Carla to the memorial page to celebrate her life and keep her spirit alive in our hearts.

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 lifelong 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.

Performative inclusion



AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

Early in my life as a disabled person, I heard the term, “token disabled person.” As I got older, I started to understand what was meant by that term, and it was not good.

I did not have any “tools” in my toolbox at that age to give any kind of opinion or rebuttal of such an offensive term. As I usually did, I laughed it off and went to work trying my best to appear as if I were not disabled. I did not know how to advocate to help change the way people treat disabled people. But I do now.

Inclusion is something that disabled people are endlessly advocating for. It should not be this way, but it is, and I fear it always will be. Too often, disabled people are underestimated or instantly categorized solely based on their disability.

I have even heard things referred to as “covering our bases” from employers, or just casually, for example, when someone is discussing a television show or a movie where someone with a disability is a “token character.”

The problem with performative inclusion is that it is fake and really serves no purpose other than an employer or a public institution checking a box. To a disabled person, this is often obvious. Genuine inclusion *is felt*, not just seen.

Too often, disabled people are expected to be appreciative of haphazardly planned-out, superficial accommodations, rather than changes that are systemic and lasting.

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 ac-

commodation, 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 @ashinneman.

Proud of our Indiana communities



AMY SHANKLAND
Perfectly Imperfect

Our state's August 2026 natural disasters are a nightmare none of us will forget. I not only witnessed the flooding here in Central Indiana, but the damage in Northwest Indiana from the tornadoes.

My best friend, Stacey, lives in Portage. She was thrilled to have her daughter Katie and her family visiting from Hawaii (Katie is in the Air Force). I decided to take Wednesday, Aug. 12, off to see them all for lunch.

Unfortunately, on Tuesday, Aug. 11, tornadoes hit the region hard, knocking down trees and causing widespread power outages. I asked if we were still meeting and they told me to come on up. I encountered a nasty storm as I made my way to the restaurant in Crown Point that Wednes-

day where we were meeting. My guardian angel did wonders and I remained calm as I drove through the downpour, thunder, and lightning for a half hour.

Witnessing the damage was heartbreaking, and seeing the long lines for gas was like something out of a news clip from the 1970s. Many gas stations were closed due to loss of power. I began to pray for everyone up there.

We still enjoyed lunch and each other's company. I felt sad for the region and continued to pray for everyone on my way home. Little did I know what was going to hit my area of Indiana two days later.

I live three blocks from the flooding in the Southwest Quad neighborhood of Noblesville. The following

weekend brought tears to my eyes as I witnessed the flooding there and in other areas. I felt so helpless, with the mayor encouraging us all to stay home. I understood his reasons, but the urge to do something was powerful.

Since that terrible weekend, Hamilton County has certainly opened opportunities to “do something,” and I'm so proud. From SERVE Noblesville's efforts headquartered at our county fairgrounds, to local nonprofits like Good Samaritan and St. Vincent De Paul, to businesses like Home Depot, we've come together and accomplished so much in just a few short weeks. It's been wonderful to help others in recent weeks.

In Northwest Indiana, local churches, schools, nonprofits, trustees, and businesses offered relief to many along with the United Way. Stacey said many individuals reached out to

help one another, and Portage Mayor Austin Bonta (like our Mayor Chris Jensen) did an outstanding job for all.

I'm proud of our Indiana communities. When disasters like this happen, I'm reminded of Mr. Rogers' wisdom:

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always see people that are helping.’”

Mr. Rogers is right. Our county, and the ones in the region, certainly united and brought together the helpers. May we all continue to work together to strengthen our communities in the weeks and months ahead.

Amy Shankland is an empty-nester, writer, and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John and two dogs. You can reach her via email at amys@greenavenue.info.

Sheridan girls soccer will be strong this season

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



MADIE ROBERTS
Sheridan High School Student

Last year, the girls soccer program had a very amazing season. Their record was 12-4. They also played tough teams like Lebanon, which went 13-4, and Faith Christian, which went 16-2. They were also conference champions last year. They played very well last season and are looking to be amazing again this season.

This season looks very strong because we didn't have many people graduate from last season. We also have some new, exciting faces that joined. The team is looking forward to this season because we have very talented people, and we are looking promising this season. What makes us strong is the leadership, which in soccer is very important because you need a strong leader who is able to make everyone work to-

gether. The main leaders we have on the field are our captains, who are Molly Pottorff, Avery Hills, Sadie Timme, and Bailey Whitacare. They are making sure everyone knows what they are doing on the field and what their job is.

On Thursday, Aug. 20, the Sheridan girls played Frankfort High School, and they won the game 10-0. What went well in this game was our passing and communication on the field and working as a team. We also showcased how strong of a defensive line we have and how aggressive we are. We also learned from this game what we need to work on and where our strengths are.

What I hope to learn as a freshman on this team is how to be a better soccer player, learn more skills, and just become a better player than I was before. I also hope to learn how to be a better goalkeeper.

I can't wait to see what the rest of the season is like with such an amazing team and coaching staff.

The Reporter: Accurate. Balanced. Local.

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

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)

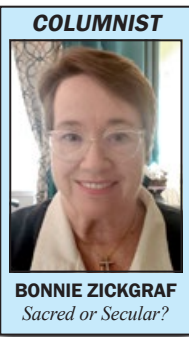
Hmmm. “... bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.”

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 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 granddaughter 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.



We recently added a new member to our family. After much discussion with my children, we decided on the name Haven. Haven is spunky and friendly. I did not expect to add another pet to our home this summer, but once I saw Haven, I knew that he belonged in our home. Haven is a betta fish that is a rescue from Rustic Roots Shoppe in Noblesville.

I heard from a student of mine about a rescue that her family also adopted this summer. I could not help but laugh at the thought of a fish being referred to as a rescue, but it made me curious enough to look into it. I decided to go to Rustic Roots and see what this fish rescue business was all about.

Upon arriving at the shop, I saw the collection of betta fish that were available for adoption, along with information about their rescue. The sign read, “Most of these little ones were either sitting on the shelf for too long, passed up for not being ‘pretty enough,’ or simply not feeling their best. So I bring them home, to get them healthy again, and give them a fresh start – a clean, beautiful little penthouse, a name, and the care they deserve. Now they’re thriving, full of personality, and ready for a second chance at life.”

Each betta on the display was kept in a unique container. There was an assortment of vases, and one was even in a coffee pot. They each had a variety of plants that took root and were sitting on the top of the container with the roots submerged. I wondered how it would be to care for fish that was not being homed in a traditional aquarium, and how the plant worked with the whole thing, but quickly learned that the roots of the plant thrive on the waste from the fish and it creates its own ecosystem.

There sat Haven on the shelf. I had both of my kids with me, and we agreed that we needed to get Haven and give him a good home. I did not mention to my husband that we were adding a fish to the mix. I figured that would be a fun surprise for him to find him on the counter once he was home. It would also be too late for him to object because a few years ago we had an aquarium situation that was a disaster, and he has told me to never even think about fish again. My mom actually purchased Haven for us and thought it was hilarious that her son-in-law would find out about our new fish upon his arrival from work that evening.

The ride home was entertaining to say the least. If you haven’t ridden shotgun with an enormous vase on your lap with water and a live fish filled to the brim lately, it’s certainly an experience. Every turn and bump my mom hit on the drive home was met with profanity and threats if any fish water got on me or the car.

We get home and put Haven on his special spot on our kitchen island. My husband arrived home and was quickly assured that this was not going to be the aquarium situation 2.0.

We have now had Haven for a few months and I can say that in addition to being a relaxing pet, he does have quite a lot of personality, especially when it comes to feeding. The water is easy to replace as you can use bottled spring water if you do not want to use de-chlorinated water. You need to trim the roots of the plants from time to time, so the fish does not get tangled in the roots, but besides that, it has been an easy addition to our family. Everyone gets a chuckle when I tell them that we rescued him, but when you learn the condition of these fish and how they were found, they truly were rescued, and it’s a labor of love for the folks at Rustic Roots Shoppe and for those who choose to adopt them.

I highly encourage you to check out their store in Noblesville and think about the addition of a rescued betta to your house. Maybe there is someone in your life that cannot care for a cat or dog, but would like some companionship and this would be the perfect pet for them. Next time you’re in Noblesville, stop in and check it out!

Megan Rathz is a wife, mother, and teacher. She says everything she has ever learned in life came from her Master Gardener mother.

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 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 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 important 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.

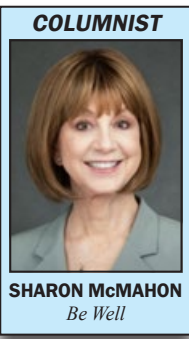
Water: a powerful, yet necessary force of nature

“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 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.

¹epa.gov
²cdc.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.

Raksha Bandhan: from one thread to one human family

કચ્છરેક 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 be-

hind 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.

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.

See Raksha . . . Page B4

RAKSHA

from Page B3



Photo provided by Pooja Thakkar

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 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.

દોરો નાનો, બંધન વિશાળ.

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.

— NOBLESVILLE —

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS/QUALIFICATIONS
CITY OF NOBLESVILLE ATHLETIC FACILITY
NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

I. PROJECT INTRODUCTION:
In accordance with I.C. 5-23-5, the City of Noblesville, Indiana (the “City”), invites any and all qualified parties to submit Proposals and Statements of Qualifications to design, construct, and transfer a sports facility that will provide the City with a regional sports asset (the “Project”), to be located on land owned by the City of Noblesville, Indiana under a public-private partnership. The purpose of this Request for Proposals/Qualifications (the “RFQP”) is to identify qualified developer/contractor/operator teams capable of proposing a unique turnkey sports opportunity for the region that can be delivered in Spring 2028. It is anticipated that this project will include the construction of a new facility able to accommodate multiple sport offerings that will provide a distinct economic opportunity for the City and community.

II. PROJECT SCOPE:
The selected proposer will provide all design services, development services, site work, labor and material to design and construct the Project. The City has a clear desire for a unique sports and wellness facility, which is anticipated to include training and competition space and equipment for world-class athletes as well as amateur athletes and youth participants. However, the exact scope of the Project is not fully determined. The final Project scope will be determined through a scoping period with the selected proposer, during which time the selected proposer will be required to provide analysis to create the final scope, site analysis, financing terms, if applicable, and a guaranteed maximum budget. The scoping period will likely be a very intense exercise with a goal of achieving construction groundbreaking in early 2027. A proposer should be able to meet or exceed the draft construction schedule in Appendix A.

III. PROPOSAL EVALUATION:
The City has formed a committee to review the proposals received. The criteria which will be utilized in evaluating proposals are as follows:
• Your experience developing similar public projects;
• Your demonstrated ability and capacity to perform the work, including your reputation as indicated by your references for performing this type of work;
• Your approach to develop the Project; and
• Your proposed fees during the scoping period.

IV. PROPOSALS
Please respond to the following requests:
• A description of the project team including the project lead, design team, and construction team.
• Identify at least three (3) similar projects you have developed. Include names and telephone numbers to be used as references relative to the listed projects.
• A proposed schedule for the Project, including proposed dates to start and complete construction and to convey the improvements. This is for the City’s reference only. A final Project schedule will be determined during the scoping period with the selected offeror.
• A proposed approach to the Project.
• The scoping process will be very intense and focused, in which time the selected proposer would need to prepare construction/scope analysis, design deliverables, and a guaranteed budget sufficient for the City to make a decision on proceeding (or not) with the Project and/or with the selected proposer. Please identify fees that may be requested by your team during this process. You may offer an overall lump sum or multiple lump sums segregated by task or team member.

V. General Conditions
It should be understood that:
• The City reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals/Statements of Qualifications in its sole discretion.
• The City does not require you to submit a certified check or other evidence of financial responsibility with your proposal.
• Although the scoping period fee will be a major factor in the selection process, the proposer’s qualifications and demonstrated capacity to provide the necessary scoping period deliverables and ultimately develop the project will be the most heavily weighted selection criteria.
• All offerors will be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals. The City may enter into discussions with offerors to clarify and assure a full understanding of proposals.
• The City may refuse to disclose the contents of the Proposals/ Statement of Qualifications during discussions with eligible offerors.
• This Project is being procured under IC § 5-23, and therefore the selected proposer will not be subject to further procurement processes under IC § 36-1-12 or any other statute. However, the selected proposer will be required to provide a performance bond for 50% of the construction costs per both IC § 5-23 and IC § 36-1-12.
• Proposing firms shall not contact City Council members or other public officials during the RFQP process other than through the RFQP Committee’s representative (the “Representative”) listed below, unless authorized or directed to do so by the Representative. All correspondence and questions for this RFQP should be directed to the Representative as follows:
Matt Light, mlight@noblesville.in.gov
• The City reserves the right to enter into a Scoping Agreement with an offeror for preliminary design and development services prior to the City agreeing to move forward with the Project. After the Scoping period, the RFQP Committee shall either make a recommendation to award the public-private agreement to an offeror, engage another offeror, or shall terminate the RFQP process.
• Submittal: An electronic PDF of the Proposal/Statement of Qualifications should be emailed to:
Matt Light mlight@noblesville.in.gov
Proposals must be received by 2:00 PM local time on September 22, 2026.

APPENDIX A
Draft Project Schedule

• RFQP Submittal and Team Selection	September 2026
• Schematic Design Drawings	Early Fall 2026
• Design Development Drawings	Late Fall 2026
• Construction Drawings	February 2027
• Breaking Ground	March 2027
• Phased Opening	May 2028

R8634 9/7/26, 9/14/26

— ARCADIA —

Public Hearing Notice

Public Hearing of Hamilton Heights Classroom Teachers Association and Hamilton Heights School Corporation
September 15, 2026
8:00 a.m.
Hamilton Heights Student Activity Center, 420 W. North St., Arcadia, IN 46030
Public testimony will be taken at this hearing pursuant to Indiana Code 20-29-6-1(a).
R8633 9/7/26

— COURT NOTICES —

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE HAMILTON SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) CAUSE NO 29D03-2608-AD-001286
IN RE THE ADOPTION OF:)
HAZEL ROSE DATHIEL JORDAN,)
A Minor Child.)

NOTICE TO UNNAMED FATHER
The unnamed putative father of the child born to Seana Marie Jordan (n.k.a. Seana Marie Gorski) on December 7, 2022, or the person who claims to be the father of the child born to Seana Marie Jordan (n.k.a. Seana Marie Gorski) on December 7, 2022, is notified that a petition for adoption of the child was filed in the office of the clerk of the Hamilton County Superior Court, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana 46060.
If the unnamed putative father seeks to contest the adoption of the child, the unnamed putative father must file a motion to contest the adoption in accordance with IC 31-19-10-1 in the above-named court within fifteen (15) days after the date of service of this notice. This notice may be served by publication.
If the unnamed putative father does not file a motion to contest the adoption within fifteen (15) days after service of this notice, the above-named court shall hear and determine the petition for adoption. The unnamed putative father’s consent is irrevocably implied, and the unnamed putative father loses the right to contest the adoption or the validity of the unnamed putative father’s implied consent to the adoption. The unnamed putative father loses the right to establish paternity of the child, by affidavit or otherwise, in Indiana or any other jurisdiction.
Nothing Seana Marie Jordan (n.k.a. Seana Marie Gorski) or anyone else says to the unnamed putative father of the child relieves the unnamed putative father of his obligations under this notice.
Under Indiana law, a putative father is a person who is named as or claims that he may be the father of a child born out of wedlock but who has not yet been legally proven to be the child’s father.
This notice complies with IC 31-19-4-4 but does not exhaustively set forth the unnamed putative father’s legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes.
Prepared by: Melanie K. Reichert, Broyles & Ricafort, PC. 8250 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis, IN 46240, (317) 571-3601
R8621 9/7/26, 9/14/26, 9/21/26

29D02-2608-EU-000363
Merrill Moores, (Sup. Ct. #14431-49) 9801 Fall Creek Road, #223 Indianapolis, IN 46256
Tel: (317) 290-6322
Email: mmoores1@comcast.net
Arlene Kline (#24979-49) Law Office of Arlene Kline 5238 Lafayette Road Indianapolis, IN 46254 (317) 644-8282 attorneyarlene@gmail.com
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
In the Matter of the Estate of Kenneth Kinsey Pickett, deceased.
In the Hamilton Superior Court, Hamilton County, Indiana.
Notice is hereby given that Christopher J. Pickett on was appointed Personal Representative of the Unsupervised Estate of Kenneth Kinsey Pickett who died intestate on April 27, 2012.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or within nine months (9) after the decedent’s death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated in Noblesville, Indiana, this August 21, 2026.
Kathy Kragg Williams
Clerk, Hamilton County Superior Court, Probate Division
R8632 9/7/26, 9/14/26

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
In re the Estate of Sharon D. Sell
Case No. 29D02-2607-ES-000322
ADLER ATTORNEYS
Zechariah D. Yoder #36205-12
136 South 9th Street
Noblesville, IN 46060-2614
(317) 773-1974
zech@noblesvilleattorney.com
In the Circuit Court of Hamilton County, Indiana
In the Superior Court 2 of Hamilton County, Indiana
Notice is hereby given that Brian Sell, on July 29, 2026, was appointed Personal Representative of the Supervised Estate of the above-named Decedent, who died on June 4, 2026.
All persons who have claims against this Estate, whether now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or within nine (9) months of Decedent’s death whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Noblesville, Indiana, August 6, 2026
Kathy Kragg Williams
Clerk for Hamilton County, Indiana
R8612 9/7/26, 9/14/26

— WESTFIELD —

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received:
BY AND AT: Hagerman, Inc.
C/O Westfield Washington School Corporation
Administration Building
19500 Tomlinson Road
Westfield, IN 46074
Attn: Dr. Greg Hunt
FOR A NEW: Westfield Middle School West - SR32 & Centennial Road
Roundabout Construction
17707 Centennial Road
Westfield, IN 46074
(New Project Address)
Until: 11:00 A.M., local time, Thursday, October 1, 2026
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Construction of a New Roundabout at SR32 & Centennial Road as a part of the new Westfield Washington Schools Westfield Middle School West project.
RECEIPT OF BIDS: Bids received by mail or other carrier must be addressed to: Hagerman, Inc. c/o Greg Hunt, Westfield Washington School Corp. Administration Building, 19500 Tomlinson Rd., Westfield, IN 46074 and received on or before 11:00 A.M., Thursday, October 1, 2026, to be valid. Bids received after the designated day and time listed above will be returned unopened. Any postal/courier service is the agent of the Bidder.
BID OPENING: Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 11:00 A.M., local time, at Westfield Washington School Corp. Administration Building, 19500 Tomlinson Rd., Westfield, IN 46074.
PRE-BID MEETING: A pre-bid meeting for interested parties will be held on Thursday, September 24th, 2026, at 11:00 A.M., local time. The Meeting will be held at the Westfield Washington School Corp. Administration Building located at 19500 Tomlinson Road, Westfield, IN 46074. (Note: Site visit to follow Pre-bid meeting).
CONTRACT TYPE: The project(s) will be constructed utilizing the Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc) delivery method for public work. The Construction Manager will contract with multiple First Tier Subcontractors for the Bid item listed below, with bids received on a lump sum basis, not unit prices, for the bid item. Each proposal shall include all labor, equipment, and materials necessary to complete the project in strict accordance with the Construction Drawings, Project Schedule, Project Contract Manual and Technical Specifications.
The Construction Manager will receive sealed Bids for the following Bid Items of work:
Bid Package #06 - Bid Item #33 SR32 & Centennial Road Roundabout Construction Work
(Note: Bid Package 01 through Bid Package 05, Bid Item #01 through Bid Item #32 previously bid.)
SUBCONTRACTOR PREQUALIFICATION: All prospective bidders for the new SR32 & Centennial Road Roundabout project are required to complete the Hagerman Inc. Corporate Prequalification process as condition before the subcontract award or the issuance of the subcontract agreement. This includes safety, experience, and financials. Directions and the link for prequalification can be found online at <https://www.thehagermangroup.com/contact>. Prequalification information is required to be updated annually to maintain an active prequalification status. If you have prequalification-specific questions, please email them to Chris Combs (Prequalification Manager) at CCombs@HagermanGC.com or call 317.577.6836. All prequalification documents must be submitted by subcontractors for this project by 11:00 A.M. September 21st, 2026.
Documents Prepared by:
CSO Architects Inc.
8831 Keystone Crossing
Indianapolis, IN 46240
A&F Engineering
8365 Keystone Crossing, Suite 201
Indianapolis, IN 46240
Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc)
Hagerman, Inc.
10315 Allisonville Road
Fishers, IN 46038-2017
BID DOCUMENTS: Interested Prime Bidders may purchase Bidding Documents at Eastern Engineering. Documents will be available on or after September 4th, 2026. Documents are available electronically by contacting: Mike Holtkamp, Hagerman, MHoltkamp@Hagermangc.com or Cell: 317.627.2138
Hagerman, Inc. Main Office (Fishers, IN): 317.577.6836
Michael Uhrig, Hagerman, MUhrig@Hagermangc.com or Cell: 317.317.4937
Hagerman, Inc. Main Office (Fishers, IN): 317.577.6836
Documents will also be available from Eastern Engineering
<http://distribution.easternengineering.com/View/Default.aspx>
Contact at Eastern Engineering is:
Courtney Purdue
Email: FishersPlanRoomServices@easternengineering.com or Office: (317) 598-0661
Any questions concerning bidding this project, project completion, scheduling, project administration, etc. shall be directed to:
Mike Holtkamp, Hagerman, Inc., MHoltkamp@Hagermangc.com or Cell 317.627.2138
Hagerman, Inc. Main Office (Fishers, IN): Cell Phone 317.627.2138
Michael Uhrig, Hagerman, MUhrig@Hagermangc.com or Cell: 317.617.4937
Hagerman, Inc. Main Office (Fishers, IN): 317.577.6836
BID DOCUMENTS - REVIEW: Construction will be in accordance with the bid documents, which may be viewed at the following locations, as well as local plan rooms:

- Hagerman, Inc.
10315 Allisonville Road
Fishers, IN 46038
317-577-6836
- A&F Engineering
8365 Keyston Crossing #201
Indianapolis, IN 46240
- Eastern Engineering
9901 Allisonville Road
Fishers, IN 46038

BID SECURITY: Bidders are required to submit a Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond in the amount of 10% of the Base Bid or certified check in the amount of 10% of the Base Bid made payable to Hagerman, Inc.
BID DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED: Bidders are to submit one (1) hard copy of the following bid form, and other documents enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to Hagerman, Inc. C/O Westfield Washington School Corporation:

- One (1) copy of Hagerman Bid Form.
- One (1) copy of Bid Security in the form of an AIA A310 Bid Bond in the amount of 10% of the Base Bid or a certified check in the amount of 10% of the Base Bid. Note: The Bid Bond and/or Certified check made payable to Hagerman, Inc.
- One (1) copy of the Indiana State Board of Accounts Form 96 (revised 2013) including a signed Non-Collusion Affidavit.
- Bid Submittal Checklist

PERFORMANCE BOND AND PAYMENT BOND: A Performance Bond and Payment Bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Amount may be required of the successful bidder. Bidders will provide a cost for this bond on the bid form.
NOTE: The Subcontract Material and Supplier List will be due within 24 hours after the receipt of Bid.
E-VERIFY AND BACKGROUND CHECKS: The Contractor and subcontractors shall fully comply with all the E-Verify requirements set forth in Ind. Code 22-5-1.7. <https://www.uscis.gov/e-verify> and background checks.
SAFETY: All Contractors shall comply with OSHA and IOSHA rules and regulations regarding Safety for this project and All contractors shall abide by the 2020 Hagerman Safety manual. The safety manual can be found accessible at www.thehagermangroup.com using password “safety.”
TAXES, PERMITS, INSPECTIONS: All Bids shall be submitted without inclusion in the bid price for the amounts, if any, of Indiana State Gross Retail and Use Tax (generally called the “Sales Tax”) for materials and properties that are to be purchased by the Bidder that will become a permanent part of the Project. The Owner will provide a tax-exempt form.
R8628 9/7/26, 9/14/26

— NOBLESVILLE —

PUBLIC NOTICE
Request for Proposal/Qualifications. Hamilton East Public Library is requesting Statements of Proposal/Qualifications from interested professionals for Preconstruction and Construction Services for the Hamilton East Public Library 3rd Branch at Olivo Rd. In accordance with IC 5-32-3-2, Hamilton East Public Library County, Indiana, invites any and all qualified parties to submit Statements of Proposal/Qualifications, to provide preconstruction services & construct the Hamilton East Public Library 3rd Branch at Olivo Rd., in Hamilton County, Indiana. An electronic PDF of the Statement of Proposal/Qualifications should be emailed to Melissa Loisel, Library Director at loisellem@hamiltoneastpl.org and Matthew Mason, Owner Representative at mmason@veridusadvisors.com by 3:00 pm EST on Thursday, September 24th, 2026 in order to be considered. Additional information and a packet outlining submittal requirements will be available at Hamilton East Public Library Branches (Noblesville / Fishers) and may be emailed by reaching out to Melissa Loisel at loisellem@hamiltoneastpl.org
R8616 9/7/26, 9/14/26

— HAMILTON COUNTY —

Notice
Public Auction: 8280 E 216th St on 9/25/26 @10am 2008 Ford Econoline VIN: 1FTSE34LX8DA32183 starting at \$2,525.00
R8622 9/7/26

Notice
Public Auction: 15203 Stony Creek Way on 9/25/26 @10am 2018 Freightliner CAS 125 VIN: 1FUJGLDR5HLHF2417 starting at \$7142.16, 2018 Freightliner CAS 125 VIN: 3AKJGLDR6JSHR0950 starting at \$6941.00
R8624 9/7/26

— FISHERS —

CITY OF FISHERS
NOTICE OF APPROVED MINOR SUBDIVISION
CASE PP-26-7
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Fishers Plat Committee on September 2, 2026 held a duly noticed public meeting, and in accordance with UDO Sec. 8.1.3. approved case # PP-26-7: Request to approve a Primary Plat of 3 lots on 2.94 acres known as the Fishers Barndominiums. Subject site is generally located south of E 121st Street, with a common address of 10075 E 121st Street.
LOCATION: 10075 E 121ST ST, FISHERS, IN 46037
The case file about this project is available for public review in the office of Community & Economic Development, located at Fishers Municipal Center, 1 Municipal Drive, Fishers, IN 46038. If you have specific questions please contact: City of Fishers Community and Economic Development Department
planning@fishersin.gov
R8629 9/7/26

ADLER
attorneys

136 SOUTH 9TH STREET
SUITE 400
NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060
317-773-1974

1010 WEST 8TH STREET
SUITE 5
ANDERSON, IN 46016
765-642-2080

CONTACT US

RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE
at the Historic Adler Building.
Contact Kim Watson at
317-773-1974 for details.

— HAMILTON COUNTY —

CENTRAL INDIANA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
NOTICE OF RFQP- DEVELOPMENT OF SITE INFORMATION
Pursuant to Ind. Code § 5-22-9 et. seq., the Central Indiana Regional Development Authority (“CIRDA”) seeks to retain a consultant to collaborate with CIRDA and each of its 32 member communities (“Member Communities”) to determine the communities’ goals related to attracting companies within the Life Sciences ecosystem, the portions of the ecosystem in which each community can compete, sites within each community that are targeted for development, and to develop a plan and process for positioning each community and its sites for the type of economic development the community seeks (individually or collectively, “Site Information”). The Site Information will be assimilated in a format that it can be uploaded and readily available and searchable on a Central Indiana/ BioHeartland website (for more information on BioHeartland: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/CIRDA/BioHeartland/ryxe/#p=4>)

RFQP Issued	September 4, 2026
Deadline for Questions regarding the RFQP	September 14, 2026
Addenda (responses to questions) issued by CIRDA	September 17, 2026
RFQP Responses Due	September 28, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. EST
Interviews	Week of October 5, 2026
CIRDA approves winning Offeror approved	Week of October 12, 2026
Contract with winning Offeror finalized	Week of October 12, 2026

This schedule is for illustration purposes only and should not be construed as binding, except that all RFQP Offers shall be submitted by or before September 28, 2026 at 4:00pm EST. Offers submitted after September 28, 2026 at 4:00pm EST will not be considered.
The full text of the RFQP is available on CIRDA’s website at <https://centralindianarda.org>
R8636 9/7/26

Submit Public Notices To: Ads@ReadTheReporter.com

Floodwaters recede. Kindness doesn't.

Our strange new life post-White River flood

It's next to impossible to put into words the devastation that hundreds of our neighbors experienced during the recent floods. Heck, so many will experience it for months and even years to come.

We were fortunate not to experience direct loss of life during this tragic event. There are countless stories to be told, heroes to be recognized and folks to be thanked.

No single person could do justice to the lengthy list of people worthy of being thanked, so rather than trying to do that and miss too many people, I'd like to share several things that struck me as profoundly Hamilton County. These are things that are part culture, part heart, and part DNA. I've worked on many disasters, with Katrina being worse by far, but never have I seen a community stand in the gap the way ours did this past month.

Here are points for the readers to consider.

1). The first line of assistance was our first responders, 911, EMS, Police, and



Fire, often putting their own lives at risk to check on, serve, and even extricate people from impending tragedy. They did their jobs in a professional and unwavering manner. They deserve our thanks.

2). Immediate triage relief came from our neighbors, friends, family, and churches.

3). Egos, labels, and titles vanished. For days and days, we were all just Hoosiers helping people who are hurting and in trouble. It was an immutable force of nature that no one would be able to stop. I'd like to think of it as our community.

4). Anything people needed, someone was there to step up, fill in, or help remedy the need.

5). Even before the waters began to recede, local and county governments entrenched and began the recovery. It was the best of local governments. Charitable groups both local and national appeared on the scene to aid in the recovery.

6). This is a long-term recovery that will impact us for years.

During all this, Feeding Team was not exempt from the flooding. We had five pantries impacted, with a large loss of food. One pantry was engulfed in flood waters to the pitch of its roof, yet wonderfully did not float away.

But as the water receded, kindness didn't.

Almost immediately, donations began to arrive. Monetary donations from people around Central Indiana who just wanted to help our communities heal. Food donations jumped incredibly as people wanted to make sure that food would be available to anyone in need. One pantry near the White River at 206th Street was stocked and restocked four times in three days by kindhearted people who wanted zero recognition for what they were doing. They merely wanted to help those hurting in our midst.

It can't go without being said, we live in an incredibly special community. A place where help is just around the corner. In our case, volunteer brigades of people with bleach and lots of elbow grease got these pantries cleaned, refreshed, and back in service in a matter of a day or two after the water receded. The pantry maintenance team repaired what needed to be fixed almost immediately. We can't thank people enough for their kindness to our neighbors or their kindness to the Feeding Team.

As a good friend of mine recently said, "We prepare for these rainy days and a few weeks ago, it rained! Well, someday (hopefully in another 113 years or more) it will rain again. I can't imagine it, but I'm confident that our neck of the woods will step up whenever and however needed. I couldn't be prouder of our

Feeding Team Facts

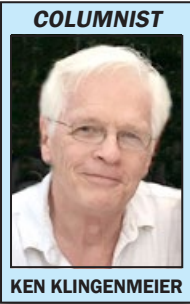
- 81 outdoor pantries
- Two drive-thru food pick-ups monthly and two in-office food pick-ups monthly
- 20,000 meals per month
- Over 30 volunteer families

communities, county, state, and neighbors.

From the front lines of fighting hunger, life is changing in real time. We see increases in gap families looking to get through a tough time. The floods made that worse. The numbers are changing as the economy ebbs and flows. People who have never experienced food insecurity are searching for a solution. Many find Feeding Team through our social media and through word of mouth. But others don't know that these resources are available.

If you find your family in need, please contact us, find a pantry at FeedingTeam.org, and follow us on social media to learn about upcoming food distribution events. Please share our message with those that are in need too. We rely on neighbors to help neighbors connect with those who are in need. Thank you.

With over 44,000 food-challenged neighbors in Hamilton County, FeedingTeam.org is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides outdoor 24/7/365 no-questions-asked free food pantries throughout the county. Would you like to get involved? Volunteer opportunities are available. We are evaluating new pantry locations. If you think you have a potential location, please contact us. Mark and Lisa Hall are the Founders of Feeding Team. They may be reached at lisa@feedingteam.org and mark@feedingteam.org or by calling (317) 832-1123.



Today, I want to relate some of what we have been going through post-tragedy/mid-recovery. Our lives are very little like what they were before and I suspect they never will be back to the old way again. Although, in the end they may be better. (Note this glimmer of hope.)

First off, although I consider it incredibly lucky that our son Tony made his RV available to us so that we wouldn't be house guests (or have to rent a furnished apartment for god-knows how long), living in it has definitely taken some getting used to. For example, I had never showered in a phone booth before, so that has been a new experience. Also, our queen-size bed is positioned so that I must either wake Donna (she has convinced me she doesn't mind a bit – hero!) or climb over her to get to the tiny bathroom in the middle of the night.

That room is about airplane bathroom sized – phone booth shower notwithstanding. We've decided to fight the claustrophobia by agreeing we don't need to close the door during use. (We don't take visitors very often, so it's okay.)

A small, but full kitchen is provided and there is room for our two coffee pots on the counter – ONLY our two coffee pots (Donna is decaf, I am caf – thus the twosome).

I don't want to give an impression that the RV isn't comfortable. It is very nicely appointed with plenty of plush seating, A/C, Wi-Fi, fans, and lighting everywhere, and plenty of closet space for our very reduced clothing options. I thank Tony every day for the blessing. I just don't think we'll ever move into a tiny house, though.

Once we are out of bed and coffeed, there is work to be done. We spent the first few days emptying the house of all of the too much

that we have collected over the past 30 years. Many things were ruined, so there was no decision but to discard them to a pile at the curb. Things that mattered less to us post-disaster than before were also thrown out. Cluttersome items – particularly a lot of memorabilia – will never be seen again. Items we saved other than a few pieces of furniture – mostly clothing, electronics, and kitchen stuff – went into bins and bags and were put into the garage.

All this purging and stowing was done haphazardly in a rush. It wound up that if we needed something that had been stored – a warm shirt, a pair of long pants, a sweater – all these had to be located in the jumble sitting in our garage (so lucky to have that building). So our work yesterday was reorganizing that jumble and marking the bins. As a result of the hunt, there is plenty of laundry to tackle today.

Eating is a necessary daily challenge. We mostly have cereal for an easy breakfast and many days we can find a free lunch or dinner or both provided for the flood victims in our local park. Restaurants, church organizations, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army feed hundreds of us every day. It is an unbelievably generous offering as are the wandering helpers, the medical tents, and endless free supplies at the local church.

As I say – our new life is nothing like our pre-flood, easy, charmed existence. Although we are pretty comfortable, and we look forward to our redesigned home – masterfully led by our son-of-the-year (and it's only August) Tony – we have literally left our past behind – lost it really.

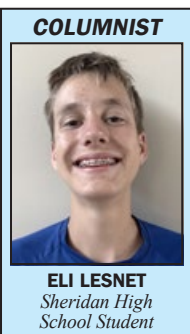
Our most important constant has been each other. Whatever else has changed, we remain strong, kind, and loving to each other.

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 the 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.



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Trailers, Wagons, Tools & Shop Equipment

ON-LINE ONLY AUCTION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 2026

In Tipton County @ 2187 North – 600 East, Windfall, IN 46076

BIDDING OPENS: Tuesday, September 1st, 2026 @ 3pm

SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, September 12th, 2026 @ 6pm

PREVIEW DAY (One Day Only): Thursday, September 10th from 10am - 6pm

NOTE: This is a sale notice only. All Items Sold As-Is, Where-Is. To View the Complete Sale Bill Including Pictures, Descriptions, Terms of Sale, Payment Options, and to Register & Start Bidding: Click the Calendar Link @ www.cripesauction.com

Absentee Bidding is Still Available

2008 Corn Pro UT-21HT Trailer

1996 Ridgeline Trailer

Hay Wagons, John Deere & Equipment Parts

6' Pallet Extensions

John Deere, IH & Fordson Tractor Toolboxes

Storage Cabinets, Metal Shelving Units, Shop Tools,

Power & Hand Tools, Air Tools, Yard Tools, Toolboxes,

Truck Boxes, Ladders, Steel Work Benches, Lincoln

Welders, 80-Gallon Air Compressor, Ingersoll-Rand Gas

Generator, Honda EQ5000 Generator, Hydraulic Power

Unit w/ Honda GC160 Motor, Hotsy Pressure Washers,

Bolts, Bins, Fasteners & Hardware, Torch Carts, Anvil,

Electrical & Electric Motors, Jacks, Fuel Tank, PTO Shafts

& Hydraulic Cylinders, Dayton 4Z911B 10" Bench Grinder,

Moisture Testers & Dickey-John Grain Analysis Computer,

David-White Universal Level/Transit, Topcon AT-G7 Auto

Level, 2-Way Radios, Fork Truck Fork Hitch, Bench Vises,

Box Lots

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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