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THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

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WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Partly sunny. Showers and storms possible by late afternoon.

Tonight: Scattered showers and storms. Some could produce damaging wind gusts.

HIGH: 92 LOW: 69



paulpoteet.com

Hamilton East Public Library has plans underway for third branch

The REPORTER

Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) invites community members to help shape the future of its third library branch, which is planned for Wayne Township.

The new branch will be located off Olio Road between 146th and 156th streets and is expected to break ground in 2027. As planning moves forward, HEPL is seeking input from the community about what residents want to see in the new library.

Community members can share their ideas about the branch's design, atmosphere, spaces, services, and amenities. Ideas could include everything from meeting rooms and cozy seating areas to gathering spaces, a coffee shop, and more.

HEPL will hold two open house-style focus groups where community members can stop by, share ideas and provide feedback:

- Tuesday, Sept. 22, 5 to 7 p.m. at Fishers Library
- Wednesday, Sept. 23, 5 to 7 p.m. at Noblesville Library

No registration is required. Community members can stop by anytime between 5 and 7 p.m. to share their thoughts and help shape the future of HEPL.

"We're excited to take the next step toward bringing a third HEPL location to the community, and we want residents to have a voice in what that li-



HAMILTON EAST PUBLIC LIBRARY

brary becomes," Library Director Melissa Loiselle said. "This is an opportunity for our community to help us imagine what this branch can look like and what it can offer to the people who will use it."

For more information about the third branch and upcoming community engagement opportunities, visit hamiltoneastpl.org.

Renderings provided by kRM

The new library will be situated along Olio Road between 146th and 156th streets near Ruoff Music Center.

Photo provided

Our columnist was finally able to meet her friend Rhi while in Australia.

Meeting of a lifetime

Traveling to Sydney, Australia, to complete our fifth World Marathon Major, was obviously the goal for our recent trip to Australia.

Getting to meet my online friend of six years, who lives with the same genetic disease that I do, was the thread that weaved this part of my life tapestry together. While the marathon was a goal to carry out, meeting Rhi was more of a dream come true.

It is no secret for those who know me or have gotten to know me through reading my columns or blog, that I have lived with a gaping hole in my being for most of my life. I have always wanted/needed to meet someone "just like me."

Living with a rare disease can make that difficult. I have met others with Muscular Dystrophy, but never anyone this close to my diagnosis.

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

See *Lifetime* . . . Page 2

My friends over the years

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

When I first moved to Sheridan, I was in the third grade. Neither my family nor I knew anyone here, as we had moved from Lawrence and had lived in Michigan before that. The transition was fairly easy, and it wasn't difficult to make friends. I like to help my friends out whenever I can, since they helped me settle in when I moved to Sheridan.

Here at Sheridan, I have stuck with mostly the same friend group. The people who were easiest to make friends with were those in the same class as me. I have occasionally lost and gained friends, either from them moving to/away from the school, or just no longer having the same interests. I can be friends with pretty much anyone, but I prefer if they have some things in common. For example, I enjoy going outside, which means I like to be friends with people who like to go outdoors.

My friends mean a lot to me, especially the ones from the start. They stuck with me through the rest of elementary school and all of middle school. There are a lot of cool things I have learned from my friends over the years. I appreciate having people to talk to and hang out with.

I believe that friends are important, and that everyone should have some. They bring joy to your life and can help you out in tough situations.

COLUMNIST



DANIEL HMIELEWSKI
Sheridan High School Student

Noblesville High School students to lead school board candidate forum

Submitted by Noblesville Schools

Noblesville High School student journalists will lead a forum on Monday, Sept. 21, that will feature board candidates explaining their views on topics and questions selected by the students.

There will be three candidates on the ballot this fall running to fill two open seats on the Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees. All candidates have indicated that they plan

to participate in the student forum.

"Our student journalists first hosted this event in 2024 and we received a lot of positive feedback," Superintendent Dr. Dan Hile said. "It's really a win for all involved. Students get a meaningful real-world experience, candidates get to share their views with the public, and community members get to learn about each candidate."

The event is open to the



Dye



Forgey



Ray

public and will be held at the Noblesville High School auditorium on Sept. 21, beginning at 6 p.m. For those unable to attend in person, the event will also be live-streamed and recorded.

The following candidates have filed to run for the Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees on this fall's ballot:

- Denise Dye
- Joe Forgey (incumbent)
- Misti Ray (incumbent)

Demand for Hamilton County Health Department's services returns to levels not seen since 2020

The REPORTER

When the City of Fishers established its own health department in 2020, some people thought the Hamilton County Health Department's workload would decline permanently.

Instead, it did the opposite.

Just five years later, explosive population growth throughout Hamilton County has brought the department's service demand back to (and in many cases beyond) pre-2020 levels, leaving the department with staffing shortages and space constraints, according to Health Department Administrator Jason LeMaster.

"Hamilton County continues to be one of the fast-

est-growing counties in Indiana, and public health demand has grown right alongside it," LeMaster said. "Many people assumed we would become a smaller organization. What we've experienced instead is tremendous growth that has stretched our staff, our building, and our resources."

Hamilton County's population has grown nearly 9 percent since 2020, increasing from approximately 349,000 residents to nearly 380,000. Population projections estimate the county will exceed half a million residents by 2050.

That growth is reflected



LeMaster



HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

across nearly every Health Department program. Environmental inspections, water quality programs, mosquito surveillance, vital records, and community health services have all experienced significant increases. The department's Food Safety Program is now operating at its highest workload on record, driven by growth in restaurants, temporary food vendors, and community events, creating additional inspection and compliance responsibilities.

At the same time, the department's primary building has reached capacity. Seasonal employees, interns, public education programs, and expanding services routinely exceed available workspace. The department also continues to operate its Vector Control Program from temporary facilities.

See *Health* . . . Page 2



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HEALTH

from Page 1

To keep pace with demand, the Health Department recently requested seven additional positions during the upcoming budget cycle. The department is also pursuing additional state and federal grant opportunities to offset rising costs for supplies, equipment, and services.

“We recognize the financial pressures facing

both taxpayers and local government,” LeMaster said. “That’s why we’re aggressively evaluating every revenue opportunity available and carefully prioritizing our staffing requests. Our goal is simple: continue providing the high-quality public health services our residents expect while responsibly planning for Hamilton County’s future.”



Yakety Yak, Let's Give Back

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

Sept. 10 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Woolly Yak Ranch & Winery
3124 E. 266th St., Arcadia

This will be a fun-filled evening for the whole family:

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

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

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

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

LIFETIME

from Page 1

When we started chatting on Instagram six years ago, we began dreaming about the day when we would meet face to face.

After arriving to Sydney on the first day, we soon realized that being in the same time zone was quite the novelty. We began excitedly messaging one another in real time!

I told her that I was struggling to stay awake until my new bedtime for the next 10 days. It was tough! She suggested that we hop on a video chat while she made dinner to pass some of my time and help me stay awake.

I eagerly accepted and soon I was watching her cook dinner for her family. I felt like I was watching myself as I watched her walk across the kitchen to get things. There were subtle nuances that I completely understood. The ways she was adapting to things was identical to me. Something others may not have even noticed.

Fast forward a couple of days to the morning of her arrival. I woke to a message from her saying, “Ahhh today’s the day! Just got to the airport!” (She lives about eight hours from Sydney, so



Photo provided
(From left) Jamie Shinneman, Amy Shinneman, Rhi, and her mother and father.

it was a short flight for her to get to me). My stomach was full of butterflies and nervous anticipation.

A few hours later, my husband and I anxiously waited outside of our hotel where we were to meet. Waiting those last few minutes felt like an eternity.

What would this moment be like that I had pictured thousands of times in my mind? Would I feel peace from the repair of the gaping hole? Would I meet all her expectations? It felt like a lot of pressure to put on one moment.

My heart raced as I repeatedly scanned the crowd for any sign of another wheelchair.

Suddenly, I saw her dad pushing her towards me, with her mom by their side. As soon as I started to roll towards her, a lady stepped into my pathway for an instant. It felt fitting that there would be one final obstacle to meeting someone “just like me.”

We both reached out for a hug and clung to one another. It was astonishing how quickly my gaping hole shrank. I could have endlessly sobbed in that moment, but I did not want to scare my Aussie friends away.

That moment was healing for all of us in our own ways.

As the day progressed, we strolled along side by side. The chemistry was natural and there was an aura of deep understanding surrounding the two of us. That thread that connected us together, weaving one of the most beautiful images in our tapestries of life.

One thing I really wanted to do for her was let her take a spin in my duo bike. I knew exactly how much that would mean to her. I would encourage you to read her blog post that she wrote on our experience meeting. It was beautiful to read her description of that moment (livingabled.com.au/sydney-marathon-2026-a-meeting-of-a-lifetime).

Until next time ...

With her and her family at the finish line the next day, we had the motivation we desperately needed to reach the end.

On our final evening together, we enjoyed a nice dinner and had a wonderful time laughing together and getting to know each other more. There was an undertone of sadness knowing our time together was quickly ending.

How do you say goodbye to someone you waited your whole life to meet? We headed back to our hotel and were all struggling to leave one another.

With tears in all our eyes we hugged goodbye. We needed one final hug and vowed to see each other again someday.

Traveling across the world to meet Rhi and her family was everything I had ever hoped for and more. My soul felt at peace knowing hers was too. The meeting of a lifetime for both of us.

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.

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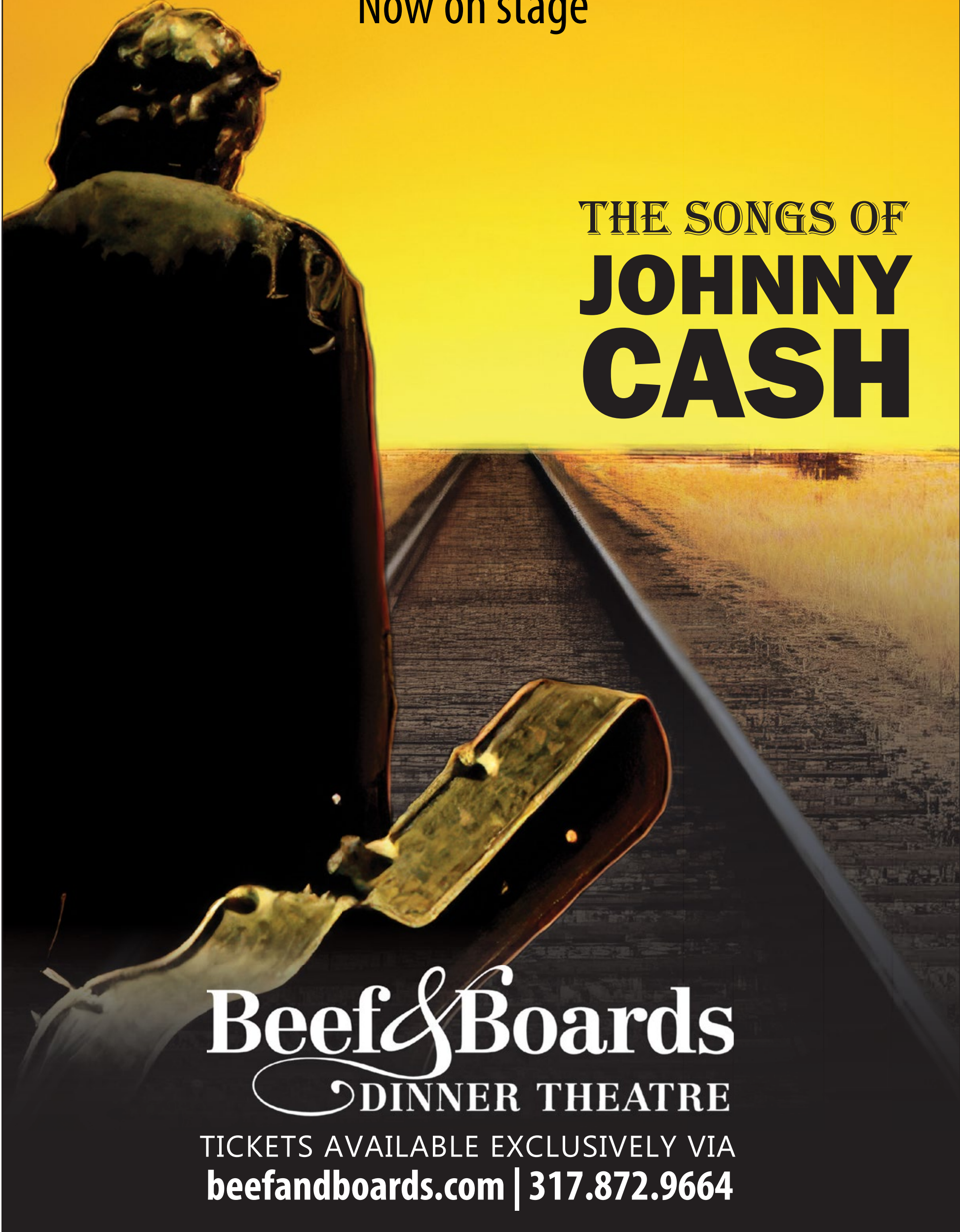
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Johnny Cash deserves to live on in collective nostalgic imagination

By GLENN DOBBS
A Seat on the Aisle

I have finally reached the demographic where nostalgic entertainment is increasingly appealing. Theaters have taken notice. There is a plethora of legacy musicians whose music has been fashioned into “Jukebox Musicals.” Everyone from the Beach Boys to Michael Jackson have had Broadway runs.

In the last two decades, there has always been at least one such show on the boards at any given time. The reason is simple enough. The music has broad nostalgic appeal, and the shows are much cheaper to produce than traditional musicals.

So it is with *Ring of Fire*, which now is enjoying a long run at Beef and Boards Dinner Theatre. The notes in the program declare, “*Ring of Fire* brings the story of the musical icon Johnny Cash’s story of love, faith, struggle with success, rowdiness, redemption, home, and family to the stage.” All of that ambition and 30 songs from the Cash song-book!

Sounds good. Let’s see it. Director Jeff Stockberger has assembled nine very talented performers who, over the course of the show, each play an astonishing number of different instruments. The musical virtuosity of the different cast members was a real pleasure to experience. I counted one actor playing six different instruments!

It was a challenge to distinguish one performer from another. Individual characters are not identified by design. It allows the cast, as they move through the phases of Cash’s long career, to assume different roles. They constantly flowed from one vignette to the next. So it was difficult to note one performer over another. Long-time Beef and Boards veteran, Sarah Hund, was delightful in her turn as Minnie Pearl at the Grand Ole Opry.

Luke Darnell functioned as an avatar of Cash and served as a loose narrator of sorts, bringing gravitas to pivotal scenes. I did note Tyler Breeding, who channeled a young Johnny Cash in his prime. It was mesmerizing how well he looked and sang like Cash. I should stress that all of the actors were uniformly terrific singers and performed Cash’s hits with joyful exuberance. Together, the cast made a delightful tribute band.

And therein lies the crux of the matter. *Ring of Fire* is not really a play in a traditional sense. Although some songs were explained with light narration, there is no drama here. Johnny Cash was a notoriously mercurial man given to swings between religious ecstasy and dark violence. He fell from grace and rose to redemption again and again. It was these internal conflicts that made his music so compelling. Cash never tried to hide his many flaws. It was his openness that made him so authen-



Photo by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com
Sarah Hund performs “Flushed from the Bathroom of Your Heart” as Minnie Pearl.

tic. This production glosses over such issues and coats his story with a sugary sweetness reminiscent of a Disney film. The real Johnny Cash never shows up.

To be fair, I am not sure how you could do a biopic about such a complicated man and perform 30 of his songs as well. I suppose this is the point. How do you capture a performer who could be both deeply empathetic and capable of self-immolation at the same time?

Johnny Cash deserves to live on in our nostalgic imagination. His music is deeply embedded into the American consciousness. It is easy to imagine Cash in his 1953 convertible Cadillac, top down, traveling down a two-lane highway somewhere in Middle America to his next gig. His trusty Martin dreadnought guitar riding in the

back seat, and the horizon ahead bright and full of promise. For many, as we age and our memories become increasingly gauzy, it is what we like to imagine America was like back then. When music was good, and the world less complicated. God, it seems like yesterday.

“*I’ve been everywhere, man.*” – Johnny Cash

Bottom line: Recommended. Although this show is not really a biography of Johnny Cash, the music alone is worth the trip. It is not often you get to experience live music of such outstanding caliber and should not be missed.

Ring of Fire continues at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre through Oct. 4. Tickets are available at BeefAndBoards.com.

Read more great play reviews from *A Seat on the Aisle* at asota.wordpress.com.

Letter guidelines this election season

With the approach of the Nov. 3 General Election, the Hamilton County Reporter is establishing some Letters to the Editor guidelines to keep things fair and balanced.

Letters addressing new topics about the upcoming election or the policies of individual candidates will be accepted until the end of the business day on Thursday, Oct. 22, and will be published on Friday, Oct. 23.

Letters in response to new topics published in our Oct. 23 edition will be accepted until Tuesday, Oct. 27, and will be published in our Wednesday, Oct. 28 edition.

These deadlines will give candidates and their supporters the opportunity to reply to letters addressing new topics.

Straight letters of endorsement will be accepted until Thursday, Oct. 29, and will publish on Friday, Oct. 30.

Please send your letters to
News@ReadTheReporter.com.

Letters to the Editor do not represent the opinions of The Reporter or our staff.



Letter to the Editor

Westfield Washington Township needs fresh eyes

Dear Editor:

Let’s be honest. Most people don’t pay much attention to the Washington Township Board. I really didn’t either until I started digging into what this board actually does, then I realized how important these three seats really are.

The board helps oversee budgets, compensation, township finances, fire/EMS funding, and township assistance. As Westfield keeps growing, those responsibilities are only getting bigger. Washington Township’s certified 2026 budget is now more than \$7 million, with major commitments for fire/EMS, debt service, and assistance for residents in need.

I’ve seen a lot of conversations on social media about Westfield’s growth and how we are going to manage it responsibly. I think that’s a fair question. To me, that makes this exactly the time to bring some new skills and fresh perspectives to the table.

Tradara McLaurine brings degrees in Accounting and Legal Studies along with senior executive leadership. Her own campaign emphasizes fiscal transparency, data-driven planning, and long-term capital planning tied to Westfield’s growth. Those are the kinds of skills I want when someone is reviewing budgets, compensation, contracts, and financial controls and asking, “Do these numbers actually make sense?”

Bennie Britt brings decades of corporate operations, project leadership, and process improvement experience. That matters in a fast-growing community where fire protection, services, and major projects all have to keep pace. I like the idea of having someone on the board who is used to asking who owns a process, whether it is working, and how we know. Britt has specifically called for data-driven budgeting and planning ahead for fire and EMS needs rather than reacting later.

Michael Cardwell brings 32 years of Army service, leadership experience, a focus on responsible use of taxpayer dollars, and open decision making. Those skills matter when overseeing public safety, township assistance, and increasingly complex financial decisions.

One brings real financial knowledge. One brings decades of experience figuring out how organizations and processes actually work. And one brings decades of leadership and public service.

That feels like a REALLY good combination to me. As Westfield grows, I want a township board prepared not just to react, but to plan ahead.

That’s why I’m supporting Tradara McLaurine, Bennie Britt, and Michael Cardwell. I think they bring the fresh perspective, real-world experience, and willingness to ask good questions that Washington Township needs right now.

Joey Mayer
Westfield

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

PERFORMANCE DATES

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Elks lead nation in honoring 9/11 heroes on 25th Anniversary

Submitted

Twenty-five years after September 11, 2001, Elks Lodges across the United States, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and the Panama Canal will come together to remember, honor, and never forget.

Through Patriot Day ceremonies and community events, Elks will pay tribute to the nearly 3,000 Americans who lost their lives and honor the firefighters, police officers, first responders, military members, and ordinary citizens whose courage and sacrifice defined that day.

September 11 brought America together in its darkest hour. Twenty-five years later, the Elks are committed to keeping that spirit of unity, patriotism, and service alive.

For more than 157 years, the Elks have served America and its communities. Today, nearly 800,000 members in approximately 1,800 Lodges continue that tradition, contributing more than \$553 million in



charitable service, goods, and volunteer time in 2025 alone.

We remember those we lost. We honor those who served. We recommit ourselves to serving the communities and country they gave so much to protect. The Elks will never forget.

About the Elks

Founded in 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is one of the nation's largest and oldest

charitable and patriotic organizations. Noblesville Elks Lodge #576 located just off the square has been serving Hamilton County since 1900. Through 1,800 local Lodges, Elks members provide millions of dollars and countless hours of volunteer service each year to support veterans, children, scholarships, youth programs, and communities across the country.

For more information visit Elks.org or stop by the lodge at 35 S. 9th St., Noblesville. For membership information, visit join.elks.org or contact the lodge at nob576@ori.net.

Westfield's Hailey Gerard makes Columbia College dean's list

The REPORTER

Columbia College in Columbia, Mo., recently announced its dean's list for the Summer 2026 Semester (May to August 2026).

Hailey Gerard of Westfield was named to the

dean's list.

To be named to the dean's list, a student must have completed 12 undergraduate credit hours in a 16-week period and achieved a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 on a 4.0-point scale.

New members elected to Allied Solutions Center Board of Directors

The REPORTER

Five local community leaders have been elected to the Board of Directors of nonprofit Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts. Board members serve three-year terms on a volunteer basis.

• **Cheri Dick** of Zionsville is a community volunteer who also serves on the boards of Indiana Landmarks, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Zoo, Honeywell Arts Academy, and Indiana Arts Commission. She holds an MBA from Butler University and was recognized as Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Eric Holcomb.

• **David Greene** of Carmel retired from First Merchants Bank as Region President of Indianapolis. He has served on boards for Impact Indiana and the Hamilton County Community Foundation and is a member of the Heroes Foundation cycling team. He holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Michigan State University.

• **Joyce Irwin** of Westfield retired as President and CEO of the Community Health Network Foundation. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University and serves on the Ivy Tech Hamilton County Board of Trustees.

• **Jack Russell** of Cicero is President and CEO of OneZone Chamber. He holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and serves on boards including Invest Hamilton County and the Hamilton Heights Education Foundation.

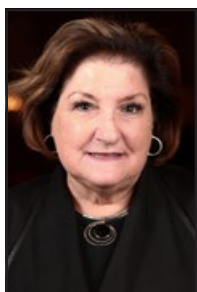
• **Julie Siegler** of Indianapolis retired from Lilly Endowment as Vice President of



Dick



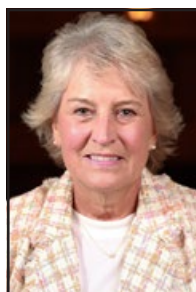
Greene



Irwin



Russell



Siegler

Administration. The Central Michigan University graduate serves on the Called to Care Steering Committee for Peyton Manning Children's Hospital and volunteers extensively with the NCAA and Indiana Sports Corp, including host committees for the Super Bowl and Final Four.

The board's officers for the next two fiscal years are Jimmy Rayford, Chair; Bain Farris, Vice Chair; Carl Butler, Secretary; Brian Urbanski, Treasurer; and Kathleen Krusie, Immediate Past Chair.

About Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts

The mission of Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts, celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2026, is to engage and inspire the Indiana community through enriching arts experiences. The nonprofit organization's campus in Carmel includes the 1,500-seat Payne & Mencias Palladium concert hall, the 500-seat Tarkington proscenium theater, and the black-box Studio Theater. Allied Solutions Center presents and hosts hundreds of events each year, including the annual *Center Presents* performance season, featuring the best in classical music, jazz, pop, rock, country, comedy, and other genres. Educational and experiential programming for all ages includes children's concerts and camps, book clubs, lectures, and classes in music and stand-up comedy. Allied Solutions Center is home to the affiliated Great



American Songbook Foundation and provides space and support services for six res-

ident arts companies. More information is available at TheCenterPresents.org.

Indiana State Fraternal Order of Police endorses Danny Lopez for State Representative

Submitted

The Indiana State Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) has endorsed Danny Lopez in his reelection campaign for Indiana State House District 39.

"Danny Lopez has been a strong partner to the 13,000 members of the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police, and we are proud to stand behind him for reelection to the General Assembly," Indiana State FOP President Bill Owensby said.

The Indiana FOP represents more than 13,000 law enforcement professionals all across the state of Indiana. The organization

protects law enforcement professionals in every community, individuals committed to keeping Hoosier families safe.

"The members of the Indiana FOP put their lives on the line every day to ensure families and neighborhoods all over Indiana are safe and can thrive," Lopez said. "I am honored to have the support of their support, and I am eager to continue working alongside them on the issues that matter to law enforcement and public safety."

Learn more about Lopez at LopezForIndiana.com.



Lopez



JOHN & JUDY HUSSEY 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

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PICK-UP SCHEDULE: Monday, September 14th & Tuesday, September 15th from 10am – 6pm or by appointment only. A forklift, and operators will be available during scheduled pick-up times.

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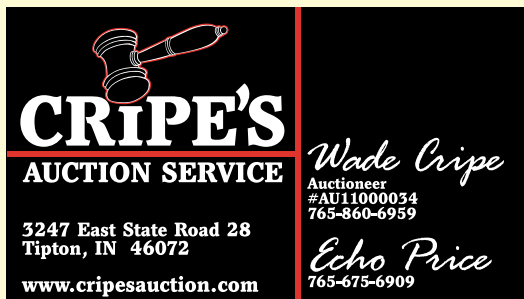
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Wade Cripe, Auctioneer #AU11000034



When life hands your friends lemons . . .

The seventh annual Sam's Lemonade Stand took place last Sunday, Sept. 6 in Noblesville. What began as a small yet noble effort by one young man to raise money for his classmates in need has grown into a commanding fundraising effort with a \$30,000 goal. All money goes to Fueled for School, which helps pay for meals for Noblesville Schools students whose families cannot afford them. Thank you to everyone who came out to support this important cause, and thank you to Greta Speaks for performing during the festivities. (Reporter photos by Bill Miller)



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Reporter photos by Bill Miller

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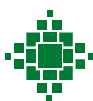
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Rep. Spartz asks VA for transparency on \$2B investment in Indiana

**Submitted by
Office of U.S. Rep.
Victoria Spartz**

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) [sent a letter](#) to Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins and Veteran Health Indiana Director Mike Hershman seeking greater transparency on roughly \$2 billion in funding advanced by the U.S. House of Representatives for the replacement and modernization of the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis and a new VA clinic.

"After meeting with veterans across my district, it is clear that we still have significant work to do to improve access and quality of care, particularly in mental health,"

Rep. Spartz said. "With roughly \$2 billion of taxpayer money at stake, we need transparency, real competition, and accountability to make sure these investments actually deliver better care for Hoosier veterans."

Rep. Spartz is asking the VA to provide information on how the funds will be spent, the competitive bidding and procurement processes for the projects, and the criteria used to select IU Health for the planned Fishers clinic. She also requested summaries of bids and proposals received, including bid amounts and alternatives considered.

The letter also raises



Spartz

concerns about increasing health care market concentration and asks what safeguards will be in place to prevent providers from shifting additional overhead, facility, or other costs to the VA and taxpayers.

"More spending does not automatically mean better care," Rep. Spartz said. "Congress has an obligation to make sure these dollars are spent efficiently and transparently for the benefit of our veterans - not special interests."

Rep. Spartz requested a response from the VA by Oct. 8, 2026.

[Click here](#) to read the full letter.

Read your FEMA letter carefully

The REPORTER

If you applied for FEMA assistance you will receive a letter by mail or email. If the letter says you are "not approved" for assistance, it does not mean that you won't receive assistance.

It is important to read the letter carefully because it will include the amount of money FEMA may provide and information on the appropriate use of that money. The letter will also explain your application status and advise what you need to do to appeal if you disagree with the decision.

Often, you only need to send additional information or supporting documentation for FEMA to continue reviewing your application for financial assistance. Examples of missing documentation may include:

- Proof of insurance coverage
- Settlement of insurance claims or denial letter from insurance provider
- Proof of identity
- Proof of occupancy
- Proof of ownership
- Proof that the damaged property was your primary residence at the time of the disaster
- For more information on understanding your FEMA letter, please visit [FEMA.gov/letter](https://www.fema.gov/letter).

Appealing FEMA's decision

If you disagree with FEMA's decision or the amount of money provided, you can submit an appeal letter and

documents supporting your claim, such as a contractor's estimate for home repairs. You have 60 days from the date of your letter to appeal.

At the end of your FEMA letter, look for an appeal form that can be used to send us additional information about your situation. This form can help make sure you have the information FEMA needs and gives you space to explain why you need help.

Appeals must be postmarked within 60 days of the date noted on your FEMA letter. Appeal letters and supporting documents may be uploaded to your personal FEMA online account. To set up an account, visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disasterassistance) and follow the directions. You can also find step-by-step instructions for creating an account and uploading documents by visiting [DisasterAssistance.gov: A Guide for Survivors](https://www.fema.gov/disasterassistance).

Other ways to submit documents include:

- **In-person:** If you need assistance to upload documents, you can head to an in-person site near you. Find locations by visiting [on.in.gov/August2026Disaster](https://www.fema.gov/August2026Disaster).
- **Mail:** FEMA National Processing Service Center, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville MD 20782-7055
- **Fax:** (800) 827-8112 Attention: FEMA

All documents you send to FEMA as part of your ap-

peal should include your

- Full name
- Current phone number and address
- Disaster number and nine-digit FEMA application number written on all pages, and
- Address of the disaster-damaged home.

If you choose to have a third party submit an appeal on your behalf, include a statement signed by you, authorizing the third party to appeal a decision on your behalf, unless those documents are already on file.

For more information on your FEMA letter and how to appeal, visit [FEMA.gov/appeal](https://www.fema.gov/appeal).

Check the status of your application any time

FEMA's online status tracker is the fastest and easiest way for you to see the latest updates on your application for assistance. The status tracker is accessible 24/7 in your account on [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disasterassistance). On the site, click "Check Status" and sign in or create an account. Once logged in, click the "Status" tab to see the status tracker for updates on your application or next steps you may need to take.

If you have questions, call the FEMA Helpline at 1-800-621-3362. If you use a relay service such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, provide FEMA your number for that service when you apply.

After securing armed robbery conviction, AG Todd Rokita warns Hoosiers to play it safe when buying or selling online

**Submitted by Office of
AG Todd Rokita**

Indiana Attorney General and avid Facebook Marketplace user Todd Rokita is advising Hoosiers to put personal safety first when meeting strangers in person after negotiating online to buy or sell items.

The warning follows a recent victory by AG Rokita's appeals team upholding an armed robbery conviction stemming from an agreement made on Facebook Marketplace to buy a cellphone.

"Hoosiers buying and selling through online forums should never let the allure of a good deal get in the way of good judgment," AG Rokita said. "If an online transaction requires meeting a stranger in person, play it safe. Choose a secure, well-lit, and well-traveled public location with plenty of people around. Consider meeting on the property of the local police station or sheriff's office. No bargain is worth risking your safety."

In *Smith v. State*, the Indiana Court of Appeals affirmed the defendant's conviction for armed robbery following an encounter arranged through Facebook. The victim (the seller)

and defendant (the buyer) agreed to meet at the defendant's house near the University of Indianapolis to complete the sale of a Samsung cellphone. Instead of paying for the phone, however, the defendant forcibly took it and pulled a knife when the seller tried to get it back. The seller then fled.

The defendant challenged his conviction, but the Indiana Court of Appeals rejected his arguments, siding instead with AG Rokita's appeals team.

"Like many Hoosiers, I enjoy the convenience of shopping Facebook Marketplace," AG Rokita said. "But this case is a stark reminder that an ordinary online transaction can turn



Rokita

dangerous when you meet a stranger face to face."

AG Rokita offered the following tips for in-person meetings between online buyers and sellers:

- Meet during daylight hours whenever possible.
- Choose a busy, well-lit public location.
- Consider meeting on the property of a local law enforcement agency or location they have designated as a safe-exchange area.
- Avoid inviting unknown buyers or sellers to your home.
- Tell a friend or family member where you are going and whom you are meeting.
- Consider bringing another person with you.
- Trust your instincts and walk away from a transaction if circumstances seem suspicious or unsafe.

Read the Indiana Court of Appeals opinion [online](#).

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

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Letter to the Editor

Dolly Parton never ceased to amaze

Dear Editor:
Dolly Parton will be missed for many reasons, but don't forget her guitar playing skills.
A 1979 YouTube clip shows her effortlessly playing an acoustic guitar wearing acrylic nails on her right (picking) hand. I've been playing guitar for decades and can't do it with natural nails.
Dolly and Glen Campbell were such complete performers that people overlooked their guitar playing. It's heartening to see so many non-country music artists like John Mayer paying tribute to Parton.
She bridged a lot of gaps. Is that gift still transferrable to politicians?
Jim Newton
Itasca, Ill.

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

BUSINESS CARDS

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- What is my process for buying a home?
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- Who should I call to refinance my home?
- Who should I call when I have someone who wants to buy my home?



Let's Talk
Tucker



Scan here to view Dani's current listings.

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20100 State Road 37 N.
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This commercially zoned property near Noblesville and Cicero offers incredible potential. It features nearly an acre, paved parking, and a 900-square-foot building with high visibility. An ideal business space.
Listed at \$450,000



102 Oak St
Columbus, IN, 47201
This commercially zoned property offers incredible potential for various business opportunities. Featuring a 900-square-foot building, paved parking, and high visibility on nearly an acre, it's ideal for your business.
Listed at \$250,000



17090 River Road
Noblesville, IN, 46062
Rare commercial opportunity to grab an acre of land with great road frontage zoned I-2 heavy industrial. If you have been looking for a place for your outdoor storage to build your business – look no further!
Listed at \$200,000

317.407.6969
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Weekday arts speaker series kicks off Sept. 29

Luminaries lineup highlights music, history & more

The REPORTER
Local artists and experts will share their work and insights in the 2026-2027 season of Luminaries, the weekday speaker series presented by Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts.
Luminaries presentations take place 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays on alternative months in the Robert Adam Room of the Payne & Menzies Palladium, 1 Carter Green, Carmel. More information and tickets at only \$10 are available at (317) 843-3800 or TheCenter-Presents.org/Luminaries.
The 2026-2027 schedule features:

Americana and Jazz Collide
Sept. 29
Sam Butler and Garrett Fasig, leaders of the Indianapolis-based Visions Jazz Ensemble, discuss the origins and techniques behind their new project, *Of the People*. Blending two unique American art forms in recognition of the nation's 250th birthday, the album features classic songs like "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" and "Ghost Riders in the Sky" in inventive new jazz arrangements. Commissioned by the Timeless Music Project, the genre-bending collection is set for release this year.

Carmel's Lost Composer
Nov. 17
Classical composer Frederick Hunt was born and raised in Carmel and drew inspiration from the area for his music. Although virtually unknown today, he corresponded with Jean Sibelius and worked with other mid-20th century classical musicians including Howard Hanson and Roy Harris. Hamilton County Historian Emeritus David Heighway will discuss Hunt's life, and clarinetist Eric Salazar will perform two of Hunt's compositions.

Soulful Journeys of Women: Making a Historical Connection
Jan. 26
Soulful Journeys of Women (SJOW) is dedicated to educating, inspiring and entertaining audiences through powerful portrayals of resilient women of color overcoming extraordinary obstacles on their journeys toward freedom and independence. In this dynamic presentation, SJOW founders Donnice Robinson and Tracey Wynn will discuss the organization's creation and perform portrayals of legendary figures such as Madam C.J. Walker, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells and Sojourner Truth, sharing timeless lessons of courage, perseverance, and determination.



Photo by Mark Sheldon
Garrett Fasig (left) and Sam Butler of the Visions Jazz Ensemble will present Americana and Jazz Collide on Sept. 29, the first event in this season's Luminaries speaker series at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

After the Applause: Legendary Mothers of Jazz
March 23
Marking Women's History Month, jazz vocalist and educator Laura Gabriele will present an intimate musical and historical exploration of iconic women of jazz who were also caregivers, community builders and working artists. Drawing from her own experience, she will highlight the sacrifices they made, the livelihoods they built, and the challenges of balancing artistry with the drive to nurture, while maintaining identity. The inspiring presentation will include performances of selections made famous by artists such as Peggy Lee, Lena Horne, Sarah Vaughan, and Billie Holiday.

Seven Wonders of Indiana Music History
May 25
Rick Wilkerson of the Indiana Music History Project will explore Indiana's rich musical legacy of groundbreaking musical movements and artists, from Richmond's pioneering Starr-Gennett record company and Indianapolis' influential Indiana Avenue jazz scene to Gary's world-changing Jackson 5. Indiana also became a national hub for record production, fostered gospel innovation through Bill Gaither's empire, helped launch major R&B talent through WTLC-FM, and influenced punk and new wave music through independent artists and labels that inspired future generations.

Two free accessible vans for Hoosiers with muscular dystrophy

The REPORTER
For families living with muscular dystrophy, something as simple as a trip to the grocery store or a doctor's appointment can feel like an insurmountable challenge.
The Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation (MDFF) gives away accessible vans every year to Hoosiers in need of transportation through the Accessible Van Giveaway Program. Thanks to the incredible generosity of supporters, MDFF has selected four families to each receive an accessible van from the 2026 Van Giveaway application cycle, and the organization was able to find and customize two vans in time for the Mobility Gala: Retro Rewind.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, MDFF will hold its annual gala and give two families the keys to their accessible vehicles. The Sears Family from Wheatfield and the Carter Family from McCordsville will each receive their van keys, greatly increasing their quality of life as they navigate the challenges of a son living with a form of muscular dystrophy.
The '80s-themed gala will take place at The Biltwell, 950 S. White River Pkwy. West Drive, Indianapolis.

Agenda for the evening
• 5:30 p.m.: Cocktail hour, auction, and check-in
• 6:30 p.m.: Dinner is served
• 7:10 p.m.: Accessible Van Giveaway Program and Handing of the Keys
• 8 p.m.: Casino gaming entertainment
• 10 p.m.: Event ends
What is muscular dystrophy?
Genetic mutations interfere with the production of muscle proteins necessary to build and maintain healthy muscles. This rare, complicated disease impacts more than 6,000 Hoosiers. Both children and adults can face significant financial, physical, and emotional challenges.
More about the Accessible Van Giveaway Program
A decade ago, MDFF's Accessible Van Giveaway Program started with giving away one van a year to a Hoosier family living with muscular dystrophy. Thanks to community support, MDFF has increased the number to two vans each year starting in 2020. Over the past few years, sometimes three vans have been given each year. Selecting four families this year to each receive a van is a wonderful honor.
These customized vans are life-changing for fam-



ilies navigating the daily challenges of muscular dystrophy, restoring their independence and connection to their community. Without a van, these families become isolated by their mobility limitations. Wheelchair-accessible vans typically range from \$50,000 to \$100,000, depending on whether they are new or used and the type of modifications required – a cost that places them far beyond the reach of most families already facing the financial burden of managing a progressive neuromuscular disease.
"Every family deserves the freedom to participate in life – to attend school events, visit loved ones, access medical care, and simply enjoy the world around them," MDFF President Jacob Buehler said. "An accessible van isn't just about

getting from point A to point B. It's about dignity, independence, and staying connected to what matters most."
About the Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation
The Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation is dedicated to providing direct financial assistance, equipment, and support to Indiana families affected by muscular dystrophy and related neuromuscular diseases. Through programs like accessible van donations and home modifications, MDFF works to enhance dignity, independence, and quality of life for individuals and families navigating the challenges of progressive neuromuscular conditions.
For more information about MDFF's programs or to make a donation, visit mdff.org.

More students filing FAFSA to aid in college affordability

Submitted by Office of State Rep. Danny Lopez
In 2023, the General Assembly passed a **new law** requiring Hoosier high school seniors, with opt-out provisions, to complete and submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** to help more students unlock funding to pay for college. Students must complete and submit the FAFSA to access federal grants, scholarships, and student loans at most educational institutions, including colleges, universities, and vocational schools.
Since the law passed, Indiana has seen a consistent increase in the number of students filing the FAFSA. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education recently reported the Class of 2026

surpassed the previous year's total by nearly 400 students and more than 300 high schools achieved the commission's goal of a 60 percent completion rate. Over 50,000 high school seniors this year now have access to state and federal aid to help pay for continuing education.
A breakdown of Indiana's FAFSA filing rate by region, county, or school is available here.
Hoosier students considering college or training for a high-paying, in-demand career should complete the FAFSA to unlock financial support and other resources that can help them achieve their educational goals.
Visit **Learn More Indiana** for available options and assistance.

‘JUST ONE Community’ fundraiser looks to build long-term resilience programs for veterans & first responders

The REPORTER

Holistic Healing and Health Foundation (HHH), an Indiana-founded non-profit with a national vision, is returning to its roots as it brings the JUST ONE Community Fund-raiser to Carmel from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at American Legion Post 155, 852 W. Main St.

HHH is working to bridge the gap between crisis intervention and long-term resilience for Veterans and First Responders through a whole-person, integrated approach. The organization is building a growing network of best-in-class partners and developing programming in Indiana and beyond designed to

create sustainable pathways toward health, purpose, connection, and long-term resilience.

“JUST ONE is really about the idea that one person, one connection or one opportunity can change the direction of someone’s life,” said Aleeza Goggins, Founder and Executive Director of Holistic Healing and Health Foundation. “We want people to come have a great evening with us, but we also want them to see what is possible when a community comes together around the people who have spent their lives serving others.”

HHH is developing separate men’s and women’s programs for Veterans and

First Responders through a structured continuum that extends beyond a single retreat or intervention. Its model integrates immersive experiences with individualized assessment, equine-based programming, health and wellness, nutrition and fitness, personal development, trauma-informed support, community connection, and ongoing resources delivered alongside specialized program partners.

The goal is not simply to help someone through a moment of crisis, but to help create a sustainable path toward strength, purpose, connection, and long-term resilience.

The Sept. 12 event will give the public an opportu-

nity to meet members of the HHH team and some of the organizations and individuals helping build that work.

JUST ONE will feature live music by Kyle Knoth, cornhole, raffles, community and partner displays, food and drinks available for

See ONE . . . Page 12

Community News

Flood Relief Food Drive this Saturday in Westfield

Hoosier Hometown Markets will hold a Flood Relief Food Drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at the IMMI Conference Center, 18880 N. East St., Westfield. The food drive will take place as part of the Great Shop-tember Market.

Attendees can donate non-perishable food, which will go to the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank and its network of local pantries to support flood victims.

If you donate five or more items, you will get VIP discounts and offers. Thank you for doing your part.



Photos provided

Scenes from last year’s Saving Second Base fundraiser, the 10th anniversary.

Saving Second Base cancer fundraiser returns to Cicero

Motorcycle ride benefits Phi Beta Psi national cancer research initiatives & community needs

Submitted

The 11th annual Phi Beta Psi Motorcycle Rally, held in conjunction with the American Legion Riders Post 341, will take place Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Cicero American Legion, 50 Washington Ave.

All proceeds benefit Phi

Beta Psi’s National Cancer Research Initiatives and Local Community Needs.

A delicious free-will donation breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m., with rally registration from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Kickstands are up at 11 a.m.

After a scenic motorcycle rally, riders will return to

the Cicero American Legion for a 50/50 drawing, raffles, and a live auction. Do not miss the fun!

If you cannot join on Sept. 19, you can still help fight cancer by donating directly to Phi Beta Psi, Delta Chapter, on Venmo. [Click here](#) to make your donation.

American Senior Communities celebrates largest graduating class of nursing scholarship program, strengthening nursing workforce

The REPORTER

American Senior Communities (ASC) and [Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County \(HHC\)](#) proudly recognized 21 graduates of the Opportunities to Nursing Excellence (O2NE) Program at a luncheon on Sept. 2 at the Bridgewater Club in Carmel.

The O2NE scholarship program was created to support employees who aspire to advance their careers in the nursing field. The program reflects a shared commitment to fostering professional development and strengthening the long-term care profession across the state.

Among the graduates is Kimberly Pope, LPN at Riverwalk Village.

The O2NE program provides a valuable pathway for caregiver staff to become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) by offering direct funding to accredited nursing schools, all while allowing participants to continue working in their current roles. Funding provided through the program covers tuition and book expenses and supports participants with the flexibility to pursue their education without financial hardship.

To date, the program has created educational and career advancement opportunities for nearly 300 graduates. Many earned their RN licensure and have been promoted to clinical management positions.

“We are extremely proud of the talented and dedicated clinical professionals who serve our residents every day, and the accomplishments of our O2NE graduates are a wonderful reflection of that commitment to excellence,” said Alicia Sims, Chief Nursing Officer at ASC. We believe invest-



ing in our team members and supporting their professional growth benefits everyone; our employees, our communities and, most importantly, the seniors we serve. We congratulate the graduating class on this well-deserved achievement.”

Julie White, Vice President of Long-Term Care at HHC of Marion County, said, “Congratulations to this year’s O2NE graduates and for the sacrifices you made while pursuing additional credentials while continuing in your current roles. HHC is thankful to have sponsored 14 graduates this year and a total 270 O2NE nursing graduates to date. The program demonstrates the tremendous impact that HHC’s investment in career advancement can have on ASC’s workforce. We have a 71 percent retention rate for O2NE graduates over 18 years with 69 currently serving in leadership positions. As more team members advance to become Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses, we will continue to strengthen the workforce and expand our ability to provide the heart and compassion to provide quality of care to serve a vulnerable population.”

About American Senior Communities

American Senior Communities (ASC) offers a wide variety of Lifestyle and Care Options including Garden Homes, As-

sisted Living, New Energy Wellness, Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation, Memory Care, Skilled Nursing Care, Hospice, and Respite. ASC’s mission is to compassionately serve each customer with quality care and excellence. To learn more about American Senior Communities, visit [ASCCare.com](#). For career opportunities, visit [Career-withASC.com](#).



Wed Sept 9 - Girls Soccer
5:30 pm **Westfield vs Noblesville** | Girls JV Soccer | HCTV Sports
6:45 pm **Fishers vs Hamilton Southeastern** | Girls Soccer | Southeastern Sports
7:00 pm **Westfield vs Noblesville** | Girls Varsity Soccer | HCTV Sports

Thurs Sept 10 - Volleyball
7:20 pm Heritage Christian vs Covenant Christian | Varsity Volleyball | Indiana SRN
7:30 pm **Fishers vs Hamilton Southeastern** | Volleyball | Fishers Sports Network

Fri Sept 11 - Football
6:45 pm **Sheridan vs Clinton Central** | IHSAA Football | Bragg Sports Media
6:50 pm New Palestine HS vs Mt Vernon HS | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
6:50 pm Covenant Christian vs Heritage Christian | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
6:50 pm Cathedral vs Chatard | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
7:00 pm **Westfield vs Noblesville** | IHSAA Football | HCTV Sports

Sat Sept 12 - Volleyball and Girls Soccer
9:00 am Lake Central vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Volleyball | Southeastern Sports
10:00am Homestead vs **Fishers** | Girls Soccer | Fishers Sports Network
5:30 pm Crown Point vs **Fishers** | Girls soccer | Fishers Sports Network

Tues Sept 15 - Boys Soccer and Volleyball
5:30 pm **Zionsville vs Noblesville** | JV Boys Soccer | HCTV Sports
6:00 pm **Hamilton Heights vs Noblesville** | JV Volleyball | Noblesville Sports
7:00 pm **Zionsville vs Noblesville** | Varsity Boys Soccer | Varsity | HCTV Sports
7:30 pm **Hamilton Heights vs Noblesville** | Varsity Volleyball | Noblesville Sports



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Student artwork will be exhibited at Carmel International Arts Festival

The REPORTER

High school students from Carmel High School and University High School are finalizing their artwork entries for the 2026 Carmel International Arts Festival (CIAF) annual exhibition and scholarship program.

The art department chairs for Carmel High (Jen Bubp) and University High (Tasha Barger) each expect to submit 50 to 70 pieces of art in various media: painting, fiber, photography, jewelry, charcoal, ceramics, and others. The submitted artworks will be on display at the Indiana Artisan Gallery on Range Line Road in the Carmel Arts and Design District during both days of

the festival, Sept. 26 and 27.

Cindy Roberts-Greiner, board member and director of the student show, said, “The student exhibition is an important component of the CIAF’s primary mission to educate the community through the arts. This year, we will be awarding \$17,500 in scholarships to chosen students.”

In addition to the scholarship competition, students say they are excited to see their creations displayed in a professional art gallery.

According to Indiana Artisan Gallery Executive Director Rosalyn Demaree, “Allotting space for the high school student art show is a pleasure. I’ve continually

been impressed by students’ creativity and talent.”

In addition to providing a professional exhibit space, the gallery also sponsors two scholarships, the “People’s Choice Award” at \$500 each. Visitors to the Gallery can vote on their favorite pieces of art. The ballots for these awards are tallied at the end of the festival.

All of the CIAF scholarships, plus added awards supported by the Carmel Arts Council, Indiana Artisan Gallery and Tri Kappa Sorority, will be announced during the festival. On Saturday afternoon and Sunday, ribbons will be placed on winning entries.

The CIAF committee



expects nearly 30,000 people to attend this year. The festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26 and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27.

You can learn more about the festival, including a map showing locations of each stage, by visiting carmelartsfestival.org.

Upcoming informational meetings about Westfield Washington Schools operating referendum

The REPORTER

Westfield community members are invited to learn more about the proposed operating referendum from Superintendent Dr. John Atha during the opportunities listed below:

- Monday, Sept 14 at 6 p.m.: WWS Community Presentation (Open to the Westfield community) in the Board Room at WWS Central Office, 19500 Tomlinson Road, Suite B, Westfield
- Tuesday, Sept 15 at 6:30 p.m.: Westfield GOP

“State of Our Schools” in the Board Room at WWS Central Office, 19500 Tomlinson Road, Suite B, Westfield

- Wednesday, Sept 16 at 8 a.m.: OneZone Chamber Board of Directors Presentation at Gaylor Electric Headquarters, 10405 Crosspoint Blvd., Indianapolis
- Thursday, Sept 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: State of the Schools Cham-



Atha

ber Luncheon at Shamrock Station, 333 Hoover St. **Registration is required.**

- Thursday, Sept 17 at 7:30 p.m.: Lions Club, 1101 E. 169th St., Westfield
- Monday, Sept 21 at 6:30 p.m.: The Courtyards of Westfield, 2419 Collins Drive, Westfield
- Tuesday, Sept 29 at 6 p.m.: WWS Community Presentation (Open to the Westfield community) in

the Board Room at WWS Central Office, 19500 Tomlinson Road, Suite B, Westfield

- Thursday, Oct 8 at 7 p.m.: Village Farms HOA Clubhouse, 453 E. Greyhound Pass, Carmel
- Wednesday, Oct 28 at 6 p.m.: Kimblewick (55+ Community), 2598 Lord Murphy Drive, Carriage House

If you’re part of a local organization that would like to invite Dr. Atha to speak, please email comms@wws.k12.in.us.

ONE

purchase through the American Legion, and opportunities to learn more about HHH and its developing programs.

The evening will also highlight HHH’s JUST

ONE campaign – “One act. One connection. One community stronger.” – inviting individuals, businesses and organizations to consider the role they

can play in strengthening the community surrounding Veterans and First Responders.

HHH recently launched its new website, giving the

public a deeper look at the Foundation’s mission, developing programs, partners, and ways to become involved. Visit holistichealingandhealth.org.

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The Reporter’s policy on obituaries

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

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

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TODAY’S BIBLE READING

IDOLATRY FORBIDDEN

You saw no form of any kind the day the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman, or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below. And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the Lord your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven. But as for you, the Lord took you and brought you out of the iron-smelting furnace, out of Egypt, to be the people of his inheritance, as you now are.

Deuteronomy 4:15-20 (NIV)

Karen Sue (Machnik) Bolin

December 26, 1944 – September 6, 2026

Karen Sue (Machnik) Bolin, formerly Molnar, 81, Westfield, passed away September 6, 2026. She was born on December 26, 1944, in Wyandotte, Mich., daughter of Joseph and Cassie (Olkowski) Machnik.

Karen was a 1963 graduate of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel High School, Wyandotte, Mich., where she was well known and enjoyed being involved in various school activities. Following graduation, she began a career in the administration office with Wayne County, Mich., until her retirement.

Before marrying Captain John Bolin, Karen seldom traveled farther than the west coast when visiting her brothers. New opportunities became available for Karen to travel throughout the world as Captain Bolin’s wife, frequently occupying the third seat in the cockpit. During her travels, she logged an extraordinary one million air miles.

After moving to Westfield, Karen found a new source of joy when working as a school bus aide with the Washington Township Schools for five years.

As a woman of deep faith, Karen was a firm believer in Jesus Christ and Almighty God. Her faith remained steadfast and brought her strength and comfort through the years.

In addition to her parents, Karen was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Captain John Bolin; and son, Scott Molnar.

Survivors include her brothers, Joseph Machnik and Joseph Dominczyk; nephews, Joe Machnik Jr. and Michael Machnik; and grandniece, Casmira Machnik.

There are no services scheduled at this time.

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

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

Meeting Notice

The Sheridan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold the annual budget public hearing along with the regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at the library, located at 103 W. 1st St.

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

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6178 NORTH WOODHAVEN DR.
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This turnkey 3BR, 2BA ranch in McCordsville features fresh paint, granite counters, and LVP flooring. Enjoy the new wood privacy fence and covered deck. Community pool and playground are steps away!

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18532 ORIENTAL OAK COURT
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Beautiful 4BR, 2BA 2 half baths in Oakmont of Noblesville. Situated on over half an acre (.68) wooded lot featuring a screened porch and finished basement along with a three car tandem garage. This move-in ready property awaits you.

Listed at \$559,900

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18149 ATLANTIC ROAD
NOBLESVILLE

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

Won't last long!

Listed at \$274,900

SOLD!

2513 SHERIDAN COURT
CICERO

This desirable 3BR, 2BA Cicero ranch on .44 acres features a remodeled kitchen with quartz counters, wood-burning fireplace, spacious primary suite, and private, wooded backyard with two storage sheds. Lake access and boat docks.

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