

New Earth Festival September 26-27

53rd Atlanta New Earth Festival

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly sunny. Less humid.
Tonight: Partly cloudy.

HIGH: 80 LOW: 66



Cronin honored with Favorite Teacher Award

By **LINDSEY MARTIN**
Sheridan Community Schools

Congratulations to Sheridan Middle/High School band teacher Mr. Patrick Cronin, who was recently selected as the recipient of a Favorite Teacher Award sponsored by Dr. Volovic with Volovic Orthodontics in Westfield.

Approximately 200 to 300 student patients were invited to nominate a teacher who has made a positive impact on their lives. Mr. Cronin was chosen as the favorite teacher among the nominations. The SMS eighth-grade student who nominated Mr. Cronin simply described him as a "cool teacher." The student's family also shared won-

derful things about Mr. Cronin and the positive impact he has on students.

As part of the award, Dr. Volovic presented Mr. Cronin with several goodies and an Amazon gift card. The student will also receive a gift card as a thank-you for submitting the winning nomination.

Sheridan Community Schools is incredibly grateful for local businesses and community members who support both students and educators. Partnerships like this provide meaningful opportunities to recognize the educators who make a difference every day. Thank you to Dr. Volovic for his generosity and for helping celebrate Sheridan's amazing educators.



Photo provided by Sheridan Community Schools

Let go, but stay close

"Mom, stay right here."

That was my daughter's request every time she climbed onto her bicycle.

For the longest time, learning to ride wasn't really about learning to ride. It was about knowing I was there. She wanted my hand somewhere close – sometimes on her shoulder, sometimes near the back of the bike – as a quiet confirmation that if she wobbled, if she fell, if fear took over, I would be there to catch her.

And I was.

I walked beside her. I encouraged her. I reminded her to look ahead. I celebrated every few feet she managed without stopping. But eventually, I knew something had to change.

If I kept holding on, how would she ever discover that she could balance on her own?

So one day, I let go.

Not because she was suddenly fearless. Not because I knew she wouldn't fall. I let go because I trusted that she was ready to try – and I trusted that I could still be there without holding her up.

I walked in front of her. She faced me, the fear, the uncertainty, and the road ahead. And then something magical happened.

"Mom! Look at me!"

She was riding. On her own.

"Mom, I can't believe it! I'm going super fast!"

Her voice was filled with the kind of joy that only comes when we realize we are capable of something we once thought we couldn't do.

I was still walking beside her. I had simply stopped holding her. Maybe that is the difference between helping someone and doing something for them.



COLUMNIST

POOJA THAKKAR

Taste of Community

You can tour Hamilton County's historic jail for 150th Anniversary

Submitted by
Toni Dickover

The historic Hamilton County Sheriff's Residence and Jail, located at 810 Conner St., Noblesville, will celebrate its 150th Anniversary from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

The Hamilton County Historical Society, which leases this historic building from the Hamilton County Commissioners, has invited the families of Sheriff's Guilkey, Passwater, McCorry, and Cook to join us and tell the stories they remember and the memories they made living in downtown Noblesville with their family and as many as 50 prisoners.

For noon to 2 p.m. we have invited local authors to sell and sign their books. They will be located at individual tables around the Courthouse lawn. There will be period-specific games for kids and adults on the southeast corner of the Courthouse lawn.

The Residence and Jail will



The Old Sheriff's Residence and Jail next to the Historic Courthouse is now home to the Hamilton County Museum of History.

be open for touring, and the family members will be inside from noon to 2 p.m. for visitors to wander through and get a firsthand look at "life in the Sheriff's Residence."

Jail history

Hamilton County was founded Jan. 8, 1823.

In 1824, Hamilton County opened its first jail, a simple log cabin built near the Riverside Cemetery.

In 1853, a relocated and up-

graded structure moved closer to the courthouse square.

In 1875, when construction began on the new Hamilton County Courthouse, construction also began on the Sheriff's Residence and Jail.

Designed in the striking Second Empire architectural style, this structure was complete with limestone details and a prominent three-story square tower.

The sheriff and their family lived in the front residential

quarters while managing the jail facility attached to the residence.

C.W. Morrow was the first Sheriff to occupy this residence. He served from 1876 to 1878. A total of 33 Sheriffs and their families lived in the Residence over the 150 years.

The Hamilton County Historical Society thanks the Hamilton County Commissioners for their support in keeping the history of Hamilton County alive.



Photos provided

Heights Elementary celebrates creativity on 'Dot Day'



Photo provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation

Hamilton Heights Elementary students jumped into Dot Day with joy, imagination, and plenty of polka dot pride. Inspired by Peter H. Reynolds' *The Dot*, students spent the day exploring what it means to "make your mark" trying new ideas, creating colorful dot themed artwork, and cheering on one another's creativity. Across the building, classrooms came alive with bold colors, brave ideas, and students discovering that even the smallest mark can spark something big. The annual celebration gave our young Huskies a chance to express themselves, take creative risks, and celebrate the confidence that grows when they believe in their own abilities. (ABOVE) HHES staff showed up in dots of every shape and size to celebrate Dot Day proving creativity isn't just for kids. It's a schoolwide reminder that every mark matters and creativity connect us all.

Carmel entrepreneur makes Orr Fellowship history while building her own company

Submitted

At 22 years old, Carmel entrepreneur Jenna Burd is taking a path no Orr Fellow has taken before.

Burd, a 2026 Butler University graduate, is the first participant to enter **Orr Fellowship** while running her own company as an Orr partner.

She is the founder of Carmel-based **Yalla Solutions**, a fractional CMO and full-service digital marketing agency that helps early-stage startups and service businesses attract, convert and retain customers.

Burd joined Orr Fellowship's 2026 cohort in June after initially thinking pursuing entrepreneurship would mean giving up the opportunity to participate in the program.

"It's surreal to be the first Fellow to enter Orr while running my own company as an Orr partner," Burd said. "I originally thought choosing entrepreneurship meant closing the door on Orr. Instead, Orr came back and asked, 'Why can't you do both?'"

Orr Fellowship is a two-year post-graduate program that connects high-achieving recent college graduates with full-time, high-impact roles at Indiana partner companies. Those companies hire Fellows as full-time,

See *Entrepreneur* . . . Page 2



Burd

NYSA

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LET GO

Sometimes love means holding on. Sometimes love means letting go. Sometimes the greatest gift we can give someone is the confidence to know that even when our hand is no longer on their shoulder, we haven't gone anywhere.

I think about that moment often when I think about community. We all have moments when we are learning to ride a new bicycle: a new job, a new city, a new culture, a loss, a transition, a difficult season or simply a version of ourselves we have never met before.

In those moments, we don't always need someone to solve the problem. We may not need someone to take away the fear. We may simply need someone to say, "I see you. I understand. I'm right here." What if that is belonging? Not removing someone's struggle, but making sure they don't have to face it alone. Not carrying someone across the finish line, but

walking alongside them until they discover their own strength. Not having every answer in our backpack, but being willing to stay present while someone finds their own answers.

That day, my daughter didn't need me to ride the bicycle for her. She needed to know I trusted her. Perhaps our communities need more of that kind of trust, too. We often think community is about showing up when someone needs help.

But perhaps community is also knowing when not to help. Knowing when to stop holding the bicycle and start walking beside it. Knowing when to stop giving answers and start giving space. Knowing when to say, "I won't take away your fear, but you don't have to face it alone."

That is the kind of community I want to build: one where we trust people with their own journey while reminding them they don't have to walk it alone.

So look around you. Who

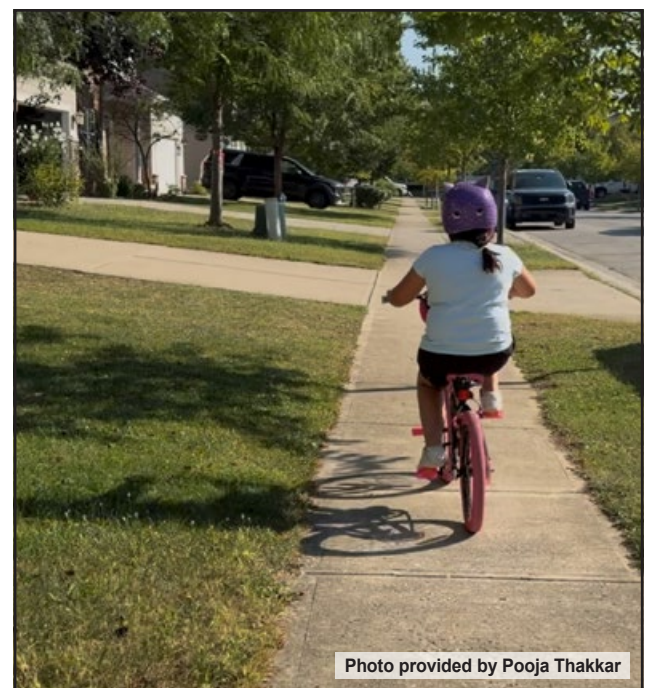


Photo provided by Pooja Thakkar

is learning to ride right now? Be the person who stays. Be the person who believes. Be the person who lets go without leaving. Then witness the magic when they look back and say, "Look at me. I'm doing it!"

Because sometimes, the most beautiful part of community isn't being the one

who teaches someone how to ride. It's being there when they realize they already knew how.

Every story shared is becoming.

Pooja Thakkar is working to build cultural connections. You can read her column each week in the pages of The Reporter.

ENTREPRENEUR

salaried employees while participants also receive access to professional development, mentorship and a network of peers and business leaders.

Through a first-of-its-kind arrangement developed with Orr Fellowship leadership, Burd is building Yalla Solutions while participating in that same Fellowship experience.

"To me, creating this path is bigger than my own experience," Burd said. "I want the next entrepreneur-minded Fellow to know there isn't one right path after graduation. Sometimes you have to bet on yourself, and sometimes the best opportunities are the ones that you forge for yourself."

Turning a college side hustle into a business

Burd's entrepreneurial journey began while she was still a student at Butler, where she took on marketing and graphic design projects to help pay her way through college.

Through that work, she

noticed a recurring problem among small and growing businesses: many understood the importance of marketing but were not yet in a position to hire an experienced, full-time marketing executive, and internal team.

Yalla Solutions was created to help fill that gap by providing businesses with strategic marketing leadership and execution without the traditional overhead associated with building a full in-house department.

Burd also saw businesses trying to adapt to a changing generation of consumers.

"Gen Z and Millennials increasingly make up the customers they need to reach, and those customers discover, research, and build trust with businesses online," Burd said. "Yalla helps local businesses adapt to that shift and market to the next generation in the way they understand best: digitally."

Building a company at 22 has also taught Burd that experience and capital are not the only resources available to a young entrepreneur.

"The biggest thing I've learned is that resourcefulness beats resources," she said. "I don't have decades of experience or unlimited capital, but I can learn quickly, surround myself with people who are smarter than me, build genuine relationships, and be willing to try things. You don't have to have everything figured out before you start."

Building a community for Orr entrepreneurs

Burd's impact within Orr Fellowship is extending beyond her own business.

In August, she launched the first cohort of the Orr Fellowship Foundry, a peer-led community designed to connect current Fellows and alumni who are building businesses, nonprofits, and other entrepreneurial ventures.

The Foundry has already grown to more than 25 members, including more than 15 founders. Members are pursuing ventures ranging from artificial intelligence startups and creative agencies to skin-care brands, real estate investing, tutoring businesses, and nonprofits.

"I came into Orr with a goal of making entrepreneurship a bigger part of the Fellowship," Burd said. "Once I realized how many Orr alumni had become business owners and how many current Fellows were already building side hustles, nonprofits, and ideas of their own, I thought, these people need to know each other."

The Foundry is designed to provide entrepreneurs with a community in which they can exchange ideas, learn from established founders, and make connections that can help move their ventures forward.

At a recent speed-networking event, Foundry members met with Indianapolis-area entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders for conversations about fundraising, sales, hiring, partnerships, and scaling.

"I wanted it to feel less like another meeting and more like a community of builders," Burd said. "Bringing Fellows together, connecting them with founders and alumni, sharing what's working and

from Page 1

what isn't, and helping each other actually move ideas forward."

For Burd, that support system is particularly important as a young entrepreneur.

"Entrepreneurship can be incredibly exciting, but it can also be isolating, especially when you're 22 and most of your friends are beginning more traditional careers," she said. "Being able to build Yalla while surrounded by ambitious peers, experienced founders and Indiana business leaders really is the best of both worlds. I get the freedom to build something of my own without having to build it alone."

Burd hopes the path she is creating will make it easier for future Orr Fellows to pursue unconventional ideas of their own.

"Entrepreneurship doesn't have to be something you save for 'someday' when you have more money, experience or the perfect résumé," she said. "You can start building now."

Her advice to college seniors and recent graduates considering Orr Fellowship is equally simple: "Why not you?"

"One of the most meaningful parts of my experience has been having experienced business leaders take my ideas seriously at 22 and say, 'Go for it. We'll help you,'" Burd said. "Having that kind of community this early in your career is rare."

Applications for Orr Fellowship's 2027 cohort close Sept. 25, 2026. To learn more about Orr Fellowship and the application process, visit orrfellowship.org.

Labor – Class I, I, III Position

The Cicero Street and Utilities Department has a full-time position opening for a **Labor-Class I, II, III.**

The position will be responsible for a variety of duties involved with operating, repairing/maintaining the street, potable water and wastewater operations and facilities according to applicable rules, regulations and laws for the Town of Cicero. For a full job description, please visit the Town of Cicero's website at www.ciceroin.org and click on the Government tab followed by the Job Opportunities tab.

From here you will also be able to access the Town's application, which will be required.

Applications will be accepted through October 9, 2026.

Please send application, along with any other pertinent documents to

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From the desk of Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update No. 179

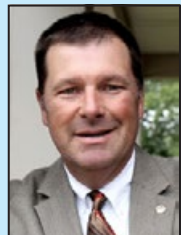
Our partners at the Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA) recently hosted a webinar on the Efficiency Scan & Fiscal Analysis of Indiana School Corporations, highlighting a new independent, evidencebased review of Indiana's public schools.

The findings present a clear and compelling picture: Indiana is producing exceptional student outcomes despite operating with significantly fewer resources than most states. According to the report, Indiana ranks sixth nationally in fourth-grade reading, maintains a recordhigh graduation rate, and continues to improve attendance – all while ranking 38th in per pupil spending, more than \$3,400 below the national average.

For Hamilton Heights, these results affirm what our community already knows: our schools deliver strong outcomes through smart, efficient use of resources and a deep commitment to students. Like many Indiana districts, Hamilton Heights School Corporation has long embraced shared services, cooperative purchasing, energy efficiencies, and multirole staffing, strategies the report confirms are now at or near saturation statewide. Districts have already captured nearly all available structural savings.

Looking ahead, continued progress will depend on investment in people, instruc-

COLUMNIST


 DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Heights Superintendent

tional quality, and equitable funding for mandated services, including special education and English Language Learners.

The report also underscores several statewide challenges that directly affect districts like Hamilton Heights. Indiana's teacher compensation has declined more than 20 percent in real terms since 2002, ranking 38th nationally, with the state posting the lowest per pupil spending growth in the country over the past 20-plus years. The study recommends strengthening teacher pay, reinstating structured teacher mentorship, ensuring consistent accountability standards across all publicly funded schools, and fully funding mandated obligations – priorities that align closely with Hamilton Heights' ongoing efforts to attract, retain, and support exceptional educators.

As we continue this important work, we are also proud to celebrate the people who represent the very best of Hamilton Heights. We are excited to invite our community to submit nominations for the second annual Distinguished Alumni Award, honoring graduates who continue to make Hamilton Heights proud through their remarkable achievements and service. This recognition celebrates alumni from Hamilton Heights High School and our historic schools (Atlanta, Arcadia,

Cicero, Jackson Central, and Walnut Grove) whose contributions have made a lasting impact in their communities and beyond. Graduates from any field of service or accomplishment are eligible, including those in the Armed Services, business, athletics, government, law enforcement, medicine, nonprofit leadership, and other areas of distinction. Nominees must be graduates of at least 15 years, and the award may be given posthumously.

Nominations are open now through Oct. 26, and anyone may submit a candidate for consideration. Honorees will be formally recognized during our Winter Homecoming celebration, where we highlight the remarkable individuals who continue to inspire future generations of Huskies. More information and the

nomination form can be found [here](#).

Finally, I want to share a brief update: the Husky Champions Club website is now live. This initiative reflects our community's ongoing commitment to supporting student opportunities, athletics, and activities. We encourage families, alumni, and community partners to explore the site and help spread the word. You can view it [here](#).

Hamilton Heights continues to thrive because of the people who believe in our mission – our students, families, staff, alumni, and community partners. As we navigate statewide challenges and celebrate local successes, our focus remains the same: providing exceptional opportunities for every student, every day.

#WeAreHuskies

Community News

State Rep. Garcia Wilburn to hold Education Town Hall in Fishers

State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D-Fishers) will hold an education town hall from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Hamilton East Public Library's Center/Stage Meeting Room, 5 Municipal Drive, Fishers.

Guests will hear about legislative changes in education along with other legislative issues and have an opportunity to share thoughts and ask questions.

Sheridan Phi Beta Psi's annual Lasagna Dinner

Friday, Sept. 25 from 5 to 7 p.m.
Sheridan High School cafeteria

Lasagna, breadsticks, salad, dessert & drink
Gluten-free & carry-out available

Adult Tickets: \$15 both pre-sale and at the door
Children ages 3 to 12: \$8 pre-sale and at the door
Tickets available from members and at the Sheridan Public Library

Proceeds go to two \$1,000 medical studies scholarships for Sheridan High School seniors. The annual Lasagna Dinner is held in loving memory of Sheridan Phi Beta Psi sister Martha Rockey.

Plenty of *real* food choices as winter nears

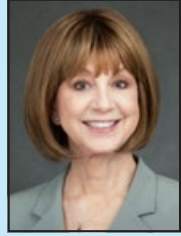
"To everything there is a season ... a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted." – Ecclesiastes 3:1,2 KJV (paraphrased)

After some consideration for my quote this week, I decided to go with the original author (Solomon) as opposed to another source ... The Byrds! Of course, there are several well-known verses at the beginning of the Chapter but for our purpose I have selected those which pertain to my topic.

I hope that you have taken advantage over the summer months to enjoy the natural bounty of local farmers and gardeners and hopefully have had the opportunity to grow some of your own vegetables and produce. Honestly, I am not a gardener but I have so much respect for those who are! We do plant tomatoes, kale, radishes, and herbs such as rosemary and basil for our home. We are very fortunate here in Hamilton County to have access to several Farmers Market locations which provide ample produce for our consumption from spring through fall seasons.

Obviously, we can eat any variety of food items throughout the year as produce and other items from around the country and around the world can be found at local grocery stores. However, for the best nutrition for our bodies it is best to consume as much local food varieties as possible.¹ Some of those items

COLUMNIST


 SHARON MCMAHON
Be Well

best found fresh in the fall season are apples, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, cranberries, kale, mushrooms, pears, and turnips. (Most of us would not eat turnips raw, of course, but you can find some delicious recipes which include this important item.)

Of course, the size of this column does not allow for me to include recipes; however, I will share a couple suggestions that I use to enjoy dark, leafy greens and cruciferous vegetables, both of which are very important nutritionally. Place your kale leaves on a baking sheet, spread with olive oil and sea salt, and bake for about 20 minutes at 275 degrees. Delicious kale chips! Also, cut your Brussels sprouts in half, place on baking sheet, spread with olive oil and balsamic vinegar and bake for about 25 minutes at 325 degrees. Remove and mix in dried cranberries and or almond slices. Yum!

Winter ... sigh. It is coming! Some of the items which can be nutritiously helpful are beets, Brussels sprouts, potatoes, pumpkin, sweet potatoes and yams, kiwifruit, lemons, and oranges. I like to include "high energy" food items in my diet. Some of those would include steel-cut oatmeal, nuts and nut butters, spinach, eggs, beans, salmon, and ginger. These days it is easy to find recipes incorporating all of the food items mentioned here. *If you are allergic to any of these foods*

See Real ... Page 4

EQUIPMENT & MACHINERY AUCTION Combined with Equipment From Retiring Farmers BRIAN UNDERWOOD & DENNIS REYNOLDS ON-LINE ONLY

BIDDING OPENS: Sunday, September 13th @ 5pm
SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, September 26th @ 6pm
PREVIEW DATES: Tuesday-Thursday, Sept. 22nd-24th from 10am - 5pm
PICK-UP DAYS: Monday & Tuesday, September 28th & 29th from 10am-5pm

EQUIPMENT OF BRIAN UNDERWOOD TRIPLE U FARMS

1997 Mack CH600 Semi, 1990 Int'l 4900 Semi, 2012 Navistar Int'l ProStar Semi, JD 8100 2-wd Tractor (7627 hrs), Westfield MKX 10-63 Auger, Westfield WR 100-31, KSI 086625 Conveyor, 2013 Kinze 3600 16/32 Planter, Unverferth 1225 35' Rolling Harrow, (4) Killbros Wagons on JD 1075 Gears, (2) Killbros Wagons on Killbros 2386 Gears

EQUIPMENT OF DENNIS REYNOLDS

JD 8285R MFWD Tractor, JD 9560 STS Combine, JD 625F Grain Platform on E-Z Trail 680 Head Cart, 2008 Drago 8-Row Cornhead on Unverferth HT25 Head Cart, Sunflower 6630 Vertical Till, Glenco 11-Shank Soil Saver w/ New Twisted Points, Krause 4830-530R 3-pt. 5-Shank Ripper, JD 724 Mulch Tiller, JD 750 Grain Drill w/ Yetter Markers, Kinze 3600 12/23 Planter, Strobel 2-Box Seed Tender, E-Z Trail 510 Grain Cart w/ Scales, Killbros 350 Gravity Wagon w/ Seed Tender (Tarp & Poly Auger) on Killbros Gear, Harvest Flow Gravity Wagon, Yetter Seed Jet, 72" Land Pride Grader Box, 1993 GMC Topkick Tandem Twin Screw Grain Truck, 1986 Mack MH6 Semi, 2004 Wilson WH5 Hopper Bottom Trailer

ADDITIONAL MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT

Tractors: 1951 Allis-Chalmers CA w/ 2-Bottom Plow, Cultivators, 7' Disk & Fr and Rear Wgts., 1952 JD 60 Tractor, 1951 FarmAll Super C Narrow Front, Allis-Chalmers D-14 w/ Loader & Rear Hitch, Int'l 884 Tractor w/ 2250 Loader (3596 hrs), 1949 FarmAll H w/ Loader, 1953 Minneapolis-Moline UB Tractor, 1978 IH 1086 (One Owner)

Combines/Heads/Carts: 2015 JD S680 Combine, Int'l 1083 8-Row Corn Head on Killbros Cart, New Idea 2-Row Corn Picker

Tillage: Brillion 10-Shank 3-pt Chisel Plow, Oliver 565

4-Bottom Plow, 24' Krause Disk

Sprayers: Bestway Field-Pro II 1200-Gallon Pull-Type, Model AT200 2-Wheel Sprayer Tank, Stainless Chem Farm Tanks w/ Pump & Mounting Brackets, 2015 JD 4045 Sprayer w/ 120' Booms

Grain Handling: Brent 420 Grain Cart, 1990 Handlair 660 Grain Vac, Killbros, J&M, Parker & Unverferth Gravity Wagons, Kewanee 600 Conveyor, 8" x 61 Buhler Auger, Neco Grain Cleaner

Semi's, Vehicles, Trailers: 1986 Ford 9000 (855 Big Rig Cummins), 1992 Int'l 4900 Truck (DT 466, Manual 5-sp), 2002 Mack CH600 Semi, 2013 1-Axle Livestock Trailer, 16' B-B Sprayer Trailer w/ Hydr. Brakes on all Axles, 2003 Chevrolet Corvette, 2013 Ram 2500ST Truck, 2007 Jeep Wrangler Sahara

Mowers: JD 506 3-pt. Rotary Cutter, 6' Ford 930 3-pt Finish Mower, 15' Bush Hog 12615 Batwing Rotary Cutter, Bush Hog 2615 Legend

Heavy Equipment: JD 312G R Skid Steer w/ D60 Bucket, JD Pallet Fork & Hay Spear, Clark Fork Truck

Misc Equip: 7' JD 45 3-pt. Grader Blade, 3-pt. Boom, Cattle Gates & Panels, Goat Tote, Load-Out Chute, 4-Head Sheep Stall, Feedlot Roller Mill, (5) Tender Feet, 48" Professional Power Driveway Groomer, CAT 1 Drawbar, Dearborn 19-6 3-pt Slip Scoop, (4) 100# Suitcase Weights, JD 3-pt. Ballast Box, JD 290 Planter, J&M Model 1074 Running Gear, New Idea 2-Row Corn Picker/Sheller (30" Rows), Hay Wagons. 2021 Ram Dually Truck Bed, 6' Case IH Utility Bucket, New Idea 3632 Manure Spreader w/ New Metal Floor, Truck & Implement Tires & Wheels, Red Bull Spray Boom

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Absentee Bidding is still Available

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Hoosiers face rising suicide rates as deaths top 1,000 annually

By **DR. JANEL GORDON**
WISH-TV Medical Expert |
wishtv.com

More than 1,000 Hoosiers die by suicide annually, a rate that sits above the national average and has climbed nearly 50 percent over the last two decades.

USA Facts data shows the increase comes as suicide remains the third leading cause of death for 15- to 29-year-olds. Globally, more than **720,000 people die by suicide** every year.

The **National Alliance on Mental Illness** says several common factors increase the risk of suicide, including mental health disorders, strained relationships, and chronic medical conditions. School or work challenges, financial difficulties, and substance use also play a role. Experts say it is vital for people facing these challenges to seek help from trusted friends or professionals.



Graphic provided by National Institutes of Health

Suicide prevention strategies

To help prevent suicide, health advocates recommend normalizing conversations about mental health and creating nonjudgmental environments. Because firearms are the most common means of suicide, experts suggest removing them from the home or securing them properly.

Other prevention steps include:

- Establishing care with primary care physicians and mental health professionals.
- Getting annual screenings for depression and anxiety from a primary care provider.
- Learning the warning signs of suicide.
- Incorporating lifestyle changes and joining support groups to stay in a community.
- Using mental health apps and encouraging pre-

vention programs at schools and workplaces.

Anyone experiencing a mental health emergency can call 988 or text 741-741 for support. Teens and young adults can also text 62640 or call (800) 950-6264.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/health-spotlight/hoosiers-face-rising-suicide-rates-as-deaths-top-1000-annually.

Man convicted of Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death

Submitted by **Westfield Police Department**

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, a bench trial commenced where Kenneth Guy faced a single charge of Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death.

In this case, the Westfield Police Department (WPD) responded to a call of an unresponsive male on Jan. 27, 2026, and suspected a drug overdose based on evidence at the scene. Through a complex investigation, the WPD Special Investigations Unit identified Guy as the source of the

drugs that killed the victim.

After two days of evidence, the Judge found Guy guilty of Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death. Guy will be sentenced on Dec. 1, 2026. Dealing a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death is a Level 1 felony with a prison sentence of 20 to 40 years.



Guy

WPD thanks its partners in the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office, Hammond Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the FBI Cast Team.

Sen. Todd Young applauds House passage of bill to keep AM radio in new vehicles

Submitted by **Office of U.S. Senator Todd Young**

U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) applauded the House of Representatives' passage on Thursday, Sept. 17, of the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act.

The legislation, which is cosponsored by Young, would direct the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to require automakers to maintain AM broadcast radio in their new vehicles at no additional charge.

"I applaud the House

passage of this bill and encourage the Senate to vote on it soon," Sen Young said. "AM radio plays a vital role in preserving public safety across Indiana. By delivering important weather updates, local news, and emergency and disaster response information, this bill will ensure Hoosiers, especially those in rural areas, continue to have access to this critical communication tool."

The legislation has amassed 60 cosponsors in the Senate. [Click here](#) to read the full text of the bill.



Young

Fishers Health Department launches free mental health navigation service

New service helps people find mental health resources, providers & next steps

The REPORTER

The Fishers Health Department (FHD) has launched a new free mental health navigation service to help people understand their options and connect with appropriate mental health resources and providers. Appointments are available now at Health.FishersIN.gov/MentalHealthNavigation.

The service offers one-on-one support from FHD's Mental Health Support Specialist for individuals seeking help for themselves, their child or another loved one. Support may include guidance for concerns such as stress, anxiety, feeling

overwhelmed or low mood, as well as help finding providers, accessing community resources, and determining next steps.

"Finding the right mental health support can be overwhelming, especially when you're not sure where to start," FHD Director & Health Officer Monica Heltz said. "This service gives people a place to begin and someone who can help them understand their options and move forward."

The new service directly



Heltz

responds to Fishers' Community Health Assessment, released last week, which identifies mental health as one of the community's top health priorities and highlights challenges accessing services and knowing where to turn for support.

The Mental Health Support Specialist can help people:

- Talk through concerns and identify next steps.
- Find mental health providers and community

resources.

- Connect with services through referrals.
- Find resources for a child, spouse, aging parent or other loved one.

Mental health navigation can support a range of needs, including early concerns that may not require therapy, medication, or other clinical care. The service does not provide therapy or replace clinical or emergency mental health care.

"Support does not have to start at a crisis point," Heltz said. "This service can help people address concerns earlier, understand what options are available and connect with the level of support that makes sense for them."

Appointments with the Mental Health Support Specialist are free. To learn more or schedule an appointment, visit Health.FishersIN.gov/MentalHealthNavigation.

Anyone experiencing a mental health emergency or immediate safety concern should call 911 or call or text the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988.

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Thanks to volunteers, Cicero Labor Day Car Show keeps growing



This year's Cicero Labor Day Car Show was another record-breaking success with 301 cars registering for the show. Thank you to all the volunteers and friends who make the Car Show so much fun every year.

Photos provided by Emily Pearson

Hamilton County Federation of Democratic Women to hold leadership workshop on finding your voice & using your influence

Submitted by Hamilton County Democratic Party

The Hamilton County Federation of Democratic Women (HCFDW) will hold an interactive leadership workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27, designed to help women build confidence, strengthen their leadership skills, and find their voice in the rooms where decisions are made.

The workshop, "Own Your Seat at the Table: Finding Your Voice, Using Your Influence & Leading in Your Community" will take place at the HamCo Dems Headquarters at the Eller House, 7050 E. 116th St., Fishers. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

HCFDW was founded with the belief that women should not only have a seat at the table, but should feel empowered and prepared to lead the discussion once they get there.

"Leadership isn't limited to holding elected office or having a formal title," HCFDW Co-Founder Jessica Irvine said. "Sometimes leadership is speaking up when you have something important to contribute, asking the question no one else has asked, respectfully challenging an idea, or bringing people together to turn a concern into action."



We want women to leave this workshop feeling more confident in their ability to do those things."

The interactive workshop will give participants an opportunity to learn and practice practical leadership skills, including:

- **Speaking up:** Finding ways to confidently enter a conversation and make your voice heard.
- **Asking powerful questions:** Using thoughtful questions to broaden conversations and move them toward solutions.
- **Disagreeing without backing down:** Learning how to respectfully challenge ideas while remaining engaged and constructive.
- **Turning concern into action:** Identifying an issue, understanding who has the ability to influence it, finding potential allies, and developing a concrete first step.

The meeting will also include an interactive discussion about what leadership actually looks like and an opportunity for participants to connect with one another and build community.

The September workshop follows several recent HCFDW programs featuring women leaders, including an immigration attorney, Democratic women serving at different levels of government in Hamilton County, and women leading organizations focused on reproductive freedom and women's issues.

"After spending the last few months hearing from incredible women leaders, we wanted to turn the focus toward the women in the room," HCFDW Co-Founder Libby Hogan said. "We don't want HCFDW to simply be a place where women come to hear from leaders. We want it to be a place where women recognize their own leadership potential, develop the skills to use their voices, and encourage one another to step forward."

HCFDW welcomes women interested in civic engagement, leadership, community involvement, advocacy, and building connections with other women in Hamilton County and beyond.

Building Better Workplaces event challenges leaders to make connection a business strategy

The REPORTER

The fifth annual Building Better Workplaces event will bring executives, HR professionals, managers, and other leaders together for a strategic look at how workplace connection drives trust, performance, and retention.



Redmon

Hosted by workplace strategist and striveHR founder Angie Redmon, the event will take place from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, at Ironworks Hotel Indy, 2721 E. 86th St., Indianapolis.

Building Better Workplaces is designed for anyone who cares about the people inside their organization, from executives setting the tone at the top to HR leaders, managers and culture champions working to create meaningful change.

This year's program, presented by premier title sponsor GadellNet, will explore how connection drives organizational success and how leaders can intentionally strengthen relationships across their teams.

"Connection isn't just about helping people feel good at work. It directly shapes how teams com-

municate, solve problems and move the business forward," Redmon said. "When people trust one another and feel supported, they are more willing to contribute, collaborate and stay. That makes connection a business strategy, not an extra."

The morning will feature a coffee chat with Kerri Novak, Director of Training & Development at GadellNet, followed by Redmon's interactive session, "Make Connection Your Business Strategy." Attendees will also have opportunities to network, share experiences and discuss what trust and engagement look like in practice.

- Ticket options include:
- **General Admission** – \$98, including breakfast
 - **Premium Ticket** – \$249, including admission, an individual coaching session with Redmon and a signed copy of *Culture Impact*

- **Company Table Package** – \$950, including admission for up to eight attendees, reserved seating, signed copies of *Culture Impact* and a customized post-event strategy session

Organizations registering more than one attendee

can use the code FRIEND20 to receive 20 percent off each ticket. The event is eligible for two SHRM Professional Development Credits.

Tickets and additional information are available at [this link](#).

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AG Rokita secures \$34.7M for Hoosier consumers in auto lending settlement

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita announced Thursday, Sept. 17, that his office has secured a multistate settlement with Credit Acceptance Corporation (CAC) that will deliver nearly \$34.7 million in cash and debt relief to Hoosier consumers and the State of Indiana. The settlement resolves allegations that CAC originated car loans consumers could not reasonably afford and failed to stop dealers from packing those loans with unwanted add-on products.

“Sometimes Hoosiers need a loan to buy a car. That’s a major purchase, and they deserve to be treated honestly when they finance it,” AG Rokita said. “Cars are already an expensive purchase, and when bad actors raise the cost by deceptively packing loans with products people don’t want – and creating loans that the lenders know can’t be repaid – the financial damage can be devastating. Thankfully, the settlement my team and I secured helps make it right, and Hoosiers who were taken advantage of will get their hard-earned money back or see their loans forgiven.”

CAC is one of the nation’s largest auto finance companies, providing car loans to consumers with limited or impaired credit histories. According to the settlement, CAC assigned each loan a proprietary “score” predicting how much the company would collect.

Investigators found that many of CAC’s low-score loans were ones consumers could not reasonably afford, including loans where CAC predicted the consumer would not even repay the principal. Many of those loans ended in default, repossession, and auction.

The settlement, effective Nov. 2, 2026, also addresses dealer “packing” of Vehicle Service Contracts (VSC) and Guaranteed Asset Protection (GAP) products onto CAC loans. CAC’s dealer compensation methods and lack of reasonable dealer oversight

led dealers to aggressively sell those products when consumers were unaware they were buying them, or were led to believe they had to buy them to get financing.

Eligible Hoosier consumers will receive cash restitution by check from the settlement administrator. They do not have to file a claim or take any other action.

More than 1,700 Hoosiers will receive direct restitution, and nearly 3,000 will receive loan forgiveness. Each consumer’s amount will be different and based on a formula calculating how much that person was overcharged.

In addition to the money coming back to Hoosiers, CAC must change how it does business. Key provisions include:

- “Off ramps” for certain risky loans made starting in December 2025 that fail quickly, including 95 percent debt relief and a ban on collections lawsuits against qualifying consumers, for five years beginning Nov. 2, 2026

- A process to prevent unlawful VSC and GAP packing, including stronger pre-purchase disclosures, a post-purchase notice with easier cancellation, and dealer monitoring

- Pre-loan disclosures about the risks of default and the value of the vehicle

- A seven-year price cap of 109 percent of retail book value for certain consumers

- Processes to prevent dealers from raising car prices because of creditworthiness or above advertised prices

“This is not all about just getting money back, but also about changing behavior and embarrassing these corporations publicly for these shameful schemes,” AG Rokita said. “When they take advantage of Hoosiers, they need to answer for it with their pocketbook and in how they operate in the future.”

Hoosiers are encouraged to contact the Office of the Indiana Attorney General about any suspected scams or scam attempts. Consumers can file a complaint by visiting indianaconsumer.com or by calling 1-800-382-5516.



Rokita

Cicero dedicates new 50-foot flag pole



Photos provided by Emily Pearson

On Monday, Sept. 7, at the Cicero Labor Day Car Show, Cicero Parks Department Superintendent Jim Hunter and the American Legion dedicated the new 50-foot flag pole and 12-by-18-foot American flag. The flag pole was made possible by the generosity of several donors.

Lauren Knapp named Husky Hero for her extraordinary impact on students & families

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corp.

Hamilton Heights Elementary School recognizes fourth-grade teacher Lauren Knapp as the newest Husky Hero.

Knapp was nominated by students and families who shared how deeply she has shaped their school experience through her compassion, responsiveness, and unwavering commitment to her students.

One student, Matthew Duprey, wrote simply and powerfully: “She always listens to me when I need to talk to her. She is also very kind.”

That sentiment was echoed in a detailed nomination from Sara Pitcher and her daughter, Kate, who described Knapp’s extraordinary care and intentionality. They highlighted the inclusive end-of-year video she created, the heartfelt letters she sent to students before their first day of middle school, and the personal notes she wrote to each child at the end of fourth grade.



Photo provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation

Lauren Knapp, fourth-grade teacher at Hamilton Heights Elementary School, was selected as the Husky Hero for the month of August for her work and contributions in the classroom. (From left) Members of the fourth-grade team including Kylee Steiner, Jenny McLaughlin, Lauren Knapp, Jody Diller (back), Craig Bowen (FC Tucker), Kim Lodge, and Jenna Daniel.

“The time and care poured into each student was remarkable,” they said. “She advocates for her students, helps them problem-solve, and teaches them to think for themselves. We felt so blessed to have her for our daughter’s teacher.”

Knapp shared that being selected as a Husky Hero is “a tremendous honor,” especially knowing she works alongside so many deserving colleagues. What makes the recognition most meaningful, she said, is that it came directly from the students and families she serves.

“Teaching is about so much more than academics,” she said. “To know that the relationships I’ve built have made an impact is incredibly special to me.”

Relationships are at the heart of Knapp’s work. She described them as one of her greatest motivators, noting that she wants every student to feel loved, supported, and believed in.

“Knowing I can make even a small difference in a child’s life is incredibly powerful,” she said. Whether she is helping a student work through a challenge, celebrating a success, or simply being someone they can talk to, those moments fuel her commitment to show up and give her best every day.

Looking ahead, Knapp

said that this recognition inspires her to continue growing as an educator and to keep creating a classroom environment where students feel included, challenged, and capable.

“I want to carry this recognition with me as encouragement to keep doing the little things that can make a big difference in a child’s life,” Knapp said.

Hamilton Heights congratulates Lauren Knapp on this well-deserved honor and thanks her for the extraordinary care, dedication, and impact she brings to her students and school community each day.

Do you know a Husky Hero? Nomination forms and information about this special recognition program for Hamilton Heights employees are available at bit.ly/hhschuskyhero. The Husky Hero Recognition program is made possible through the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation in partnership with Craig and Amber Bowen (FC Tucker). #hhedfoundation

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Noblesville native serving aboard U.S. Navy warship participates in Cincinnati Navy Week

By **ASHLEY CRAIG**
Navy Office of
Community Outreach

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – U.S. Navy sailors from across the fleet went to the Buckeye State for Cincinnati Navy Week, Sept. 13 to 20, to volunteer in the community and discuss why the Navy matters to the Queen City.

Many of the sailors are from all over the country, including Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Nevitt, a native of Noblesville.

Nevitt graduated from Noblesville High School in 2021. Upon joining the Navy, Nevitt quickly found that many of the skills and values forged in Noblesville were the same as those needed to succeed in the Navy.

“Growing up, I was always fascinated by how things work,” Nevitt said. “Throughout high school, I took many science and engineering classes catering to my curiosity. The Navy was a perfect opportunity to learn a lot about engines and other complex mechanical

and electrical systems, while fueling my curiosity and allowing me to learn how these massive ships work.”

Nevitt, who joined the Navy five years ago, is assigned to USS Harry S. Truman, an aircraft carrier homeported in Norfolk, Va.

“I come from a long line of family members who have served,” Nevitt said. “I specifically got an incredible opportunity to join the Navy and pursue a career field that I found very interesting, all while being able to serve my country.”

Nevitt is part of the second Navy Week to be hosted in Cincinnati. Navy Weeks are a series of outreach events coordinated by the Navy Office of Community Outreach (NAVCO) designed to give Americans an opportunity to learn about the Navy, its people, and its importance to national security and prosperity.

“Navy Week is a perfect opportunity for me to share all my experiences with people who may not know a lot about the Navy,” Nevitt said.

“Hopefully, showing how this decision could revolutionize someone else’s world for the better.”

Today, Nevitt serves as an electrician’s mate (nuclear).

“I am a nuclear electrician on an aircraft carrier,” Nevitt said. “I am tasked with maintaining all the electrical systems involved with nuclear reactor operation. Additionally, I help maintain all systems that distribute electrical power to the whole ship. Most importantly, I hang out with a lot of friends.”

Nevitt has had many opportunities to excel in the Navy and sees military service as more than just a job – it represents a chance to become a better person.

“There are two moments in my career that I’m proud of,” Nevitt said. “The first was successfully completing the Navy’s nuclear school program in May 2023. The second moment was completing a successful deployment where we all came home.”

Nevitt is grateful for the

Noblesville community and for those who helped make a Navy career possible.

“I’d like to shout out my mom and dad,” Nevitt said. “No matter the time, I could always call them to talk. They’ve supported me through my entire Navy career, and I really could not have done it without them. I’d also like to shout out all the friends I’ve made in the time I’ve been in the Navy. Being able to talk to friends and share experiences has been one of the most important things to me.”

Since 2005, the Navy Week program has served as the Navy’s flagship outreach effort into areas of the country without a significant Navy presence, providing the public a firsthand look at why the Navy matters to communities like Cincinnati.

Sailors hailing from the region will join crews from Cincinnati’s namesake ship, USS Cincinnati, and local commands, Navy Reserve Center Cincinnati and Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley, at com-



Photo provided by Navy Office of Community Outreach
This week, Noblesville native Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Nevitt is taking part in Cincinnati Navy Week in Ohio.

munity service and outreach events throughout the week. The week will conclude with sailors participating in Oktoberfest events along-

side naval displays and performances by U.S. Navy Band Great Lakes and the Navy Ceremonial Guard drill team.

Carmel Symphony Orchestra opens its 50th season with *HORIZONS*

The REPORTER

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) will open its 50th season with *HORIZONS: The Promise of a Vast Land* at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, in the Payne & Mencias Palladium at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts.

The concert will mark David Commanday’s first appearance as the orchestra’s Music Director. A pre-concert talk to discover the meaning behind the music will take place from 6:20 to 6:40 p.m. in the Robert Adams Room.

“Carmel has grown tremendously over the past 50 years, becoming a first-class community in which the arts play a central role,” CSO Board Chair Jerry Torr said. “The Carmel Symphony Orchestra is proud to have been part of that growth and of the development of our world-class cultural facilities. As we celebrate our Golden Anniversary, we look forward

to inspiring a new generation growing up with these extraordinary opportunities.”

The Oct. 10 concert will open with Aaron Copland’s stirring *Fanfare for the Common Man*, followed by three vividly descriptive movements from Ferde Grofé’s *Grand Canyon Suite*. The program culminates in Antonin Dvořák’s deeply expressive *Cello Concerto in B minor*, composed during the Czech composer’s years in America and filled with both expansive lyricism and poignant longing for his homeland. A special feature of the evening’s program will be the performance of *Fanfare for a New Era*, composed by Torr in the 1980s.

Featured cellist Alexander Hersh brings exceptional artistry to this masterwork. A top laureate of the 2024 Namburg International Cello Competition, Hersh made his Carnegie Hall recital debut in 2022 and has appeared with major orchestras and at

leading chamber-music festivals around the world. His combination of technical command, musical imagination and expressive depth makes him an ideal interpreter of Dvořák’s richly emotional concerto.

“I am tremendously excited to open both this anniversary season and my tenure as Music Director with a program of such sweep and emotional power,” Commanday said. “From the nobility of Copland’s *Fanfare* and the brilliant colors and vivid imagery of Grofé’s *Grand Canyon Suite* to the passion, tenderness and heroism of Dvořák’s *Cello Concerto*, this music takes us on an extraordinary journey. The musicians of the Carmel Symphony Orchestra and I warmly invite long-time friends and first-time concertgoers alike to experience these great works in the magnificent setting and acoustics of the Palladium.”

The CSO’s 50th-sea-

son theme is “Horizons to Heroes – A Season of Celebration.” Throughout the season, the orchestra will explore music ranging from sweeping landscapes to deeply human stories, honoring the richness of music shaped in America – by composers born here and by those inspired by its character and possibilities.

Explore the full season at CarmelSymphony.org.

Ticket information

To make classical music more accessible to the community, the CSO has family-friendly ticket pricing. In addition, there are special ticket prices for students (\$15 for age 18 and younger), young adults (\$30 for under age 30), and military (\$14.50 for single military ticket). These are not discount codes. Pricing for these tickets show up after a seat selection has been made when you order online at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing arts.



[Click here](#) to buy tickets. You may also call the Fifth Third Bank Box Office at (317) 843-3800.

David Commanday’s background

With a career spanning three continents, Maestro David Commanday is celebrated for delivering dynamic, powerful performances that deeply resonate with audiences. Critics consistently praise his ability to spark genuine emotion and share his love for music from the podium.

Commanday launched his conducting journey as Music Director of the Boston Ballet, touring across Europe and Asia, and going on to conduct renowned ensembles including the Pro Arte Orchestra of Vienna, the National Symphony Orchestra, and the American Symphony Orchestra.

See CSO . . . Page 8

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Braun administration working to power growth in Indiana’s skilled trades pipeline

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Governor Mike Braun’s administration is working to build a stronger pipeline of electricians, welders, and skilled trades professionals to help meet growing demand for technical talent by working with Indiana employers through the Power Up Indiana program.

“Indiana businesses need workers with the skills to build equipment, wire facilities and tackle increasingly complex challenges,” Gov. Braun said. “The Power Up Indiana initiative helps employers invest in the next generation of skilled trades profes-

sionals, ensuring Hoosiers have opportunities to develop valuable expertise and grow their wages while businesses have the talent they need to grow.”

Administered by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Power Up Indiana supports employer-led training initiatives that help workers develop specialized technical skills and prepare for more advanced roles. The program encourages employers to invest in workforce development while creating



Braun

new opportunities for Hoosiers to advance their careers and earn more in high-demand industries.

Jomar Machining & Fabricating, a manufacturer of industrial tire shredders, is using Power Up Indiana to expand technical training opportunities across its operation. Employees develop skills in welding, fabrication, electrical systems, and machine programming, creating opportunities to move into different roles within the company as their careers progress. By developing talent across multiple disciplines, Jomar is helping employees broaden their expertise while strengthening the company’s ability to perform more technical work in-house.

Professional Electrical in Goshen, Ind., is preparing the next generation of electricians through a combina-

tion of classroom instruction and hands-on experience. Power Up Indiana helps enable employees to receive training in electrical theory, workplace safety, equipment operation, and industry certifications while gaining practical experience in the field. The company has long invested in apprenticeship opportunities that help workers advance through the trade while building the technical knowledge and safety skills required on today’s job sites.

As Indiana employers continue to face demand for skilled workers, Power Up Indiana helps companies develop talent from within and create clear pathways for advancement. From manufacturing floors to construction sites, these investments are equipping Hoosiers with the skills needed to take on new responsibilities and support the industries that drive Indiana’s economy.

To learn more about Power Up Indiana, visit in.gov/dwd/power-up.

America’s AI boom has a blue-collar challenge

America’s artificial intelligence future may depend as much on electricians, welders, and construction workers as it does on software engineers.

Technology companies are investing at a remarkable pace in the infrastructure needed to power AI. Microsoft, Meta, Amazon, and Alphabet are expected to spend about \$700 billion just this year. That figure doesn’t include the additional investments required for semiconductor manufacturing and electric grid renovation.

But there’s a major obstacle: America doesn’t have enough skilled workers to build everything the AI economy will require.

By 2030, the United States could need an additional 140,000 more skilled tradespeople – welders, HVAC technicians, construction workers, electricians, and others – to meet AI infrastructure demand. Finding and training them should be a national priority.

During a recent trip to Switzerland, I was briefed on the latest data from the nearly century-old Swiss apprenticeship model. This skills-based program has helped support one of the most innovative economies in the world by providing clear, respected pathways into technical careers.

Through Switzerland’s Vocational Education and Training system, students can begin apprenticeships as early as age 15, combining classroom instruction with practical experience at participating companies. Today, roughly 70 percent of Swiss young people participate in apprenticeships spanning construction, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, healthcare, banking, and other industries.

Importantly, choosing an apprenticeship doesn’t close the door to higher education. Graduates can enter their chosen profession or continue their studies and pursue a university degree. The system therefore gives students multiple routes to successful careers rather than treating vocational and academic education as competing tracks.

Employers benefit, too. Companies see an estimated 7 percent to 10 percent return on their investment in apprenticeship programs,

and many apprentices ultimately remain with the companies that trained them. Businesses gain a reliable way to develop talent while workers receive skills tied directly to available jobs.

Programs can also evolve alongside technology and industry, rather than training workers for jobs that may no longer exist.

That approach is particularly relevant as America builds the physical foundation of the AI economy.

Demand for skilled trades is poised to increase dramatically. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang has estimated “six-figure salaries for people who are building chip factories or computer factories or AI factories.” Meanwhile, more young Americans are showing interest in vocational education as they face uncertainty about some white-collar careers and rising higher-education costs.

Employers should seize that opportunity by investing not only in wages, but also in apprenticeship pipelines.

Some states have already started. Colorado’s CareerWise program, partially inspired by the Swiss model, combines classroom education with paid apprenticeships in fields such as information technology and advanced manufacturing. Similar efforts are emerging elsewhere as employers look for sustainable ways to develop skilled workers.

Those programs should become the beginning of a broader movement.

America’s AI leadership won’t be secured by algorithms and computing power alone. It will also require people who can build chip plants, install electrical systems, wire data centers, and maintain the infrastructure beneath the digital economy.

Switzerland has spent generations building that kind of workforce. As America confronts its own AI infrastructure challenge, we should learn from its example.

Former U.S. Senator Rob Portman represented Ohio in the Senate from 2011 to 2023. He also served as director of the Office of Management and Budget, the United States trade representative, and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.



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www.mtishows.com

CSO

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A highly sought-after ballet conductor, he has led performances with the Joffrey Ballet, Ballet West, and Pacific Northwest Ballet. During his time as Music Director of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, Commanday guided the group to national prominence, earning three ASCAP awards for adventurous programming and embarking on four international tours. He has also shared his expertise in academia, serving on the faculties of MIT, Boston University, Eureka College, and his alma mater, Harvard University, where he graduated *cum laude*. Globally, the Singapore Ministry of Music invited him for four annual residencies to direct the Singapore National

Youth Orchestra, judge the Singapore National Youth Festival, and lead masterclasses in conducting, chamber music, and cello.

Beyond conducting, Commanday is an accomplished cellist who has performed alongside greats like Yo-Yo Ma, Bobby McFerrin, Matt Haimovitz, and Michael Stephen Brown. His early experience as principal cellist at Tanglewood – playing under legends like Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, and Aaron Copland – sparked his passion for conducting. He went on to hone his craft at the University of Vienna under Otmar Suitner, General Musik Direktor of the Berlin State Opera, earning the Austrian Staatsdiplom in orchestral conducting with highest distinction.

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Step Out Walk to end diabetes to take place at Grand Park

The REPORTER

On Saturday, Sept. 19, the American Diabetes Association (ADA) will hold its signature fundraising event to raise awareness, connect communities, and strengthen critical support for individuals and families impacted by diabetes. Step Out Walk: Indiana will bring together

the diabetes community, volunteers, and advocates for a meaningful walk welcoming people of all ages and abilities. The walk will take place at Droplight Grand Park, 19000 Grand Park Blvd., Westfield. Check-in runs from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Registration is free. Participants can register,

start or join a team, and fundraise at stepout.diabetes.org/750. Step Out Walk benefits diabetes research, education, management, and prevention, supporting the ADA's mission to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

CARMEL

Their support helps make it possible for OneZone to convene business and community leaders around the issues and opportunities impacting Carmel's continued growth and economic

success. Tickets for the 2026 Carmel State of the City will go on sale Monday, Sept. 21. OneZone Chamber members and community partners are encouraged to

secure their seats early for this highly anticipated annual event. To purchase tickets beginning Sept. 21, visit onezonechamber.com and click the Events tab to find the Carmel State of the City.

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Upcoming Broadcasts

Wed Sept 16 - Soccer and Volleyball
5:30 pm Zionsville vs **Noblesville** | Boys JV Gold Soccer | Noblesville Sports Network
6:00 pm Brownsburg vs **Fishers** | Girls JV Soccer | Fishers Sports Network
7:20 pm Monrovia vs Covenant Christian | Girls Volleyball | Indiana SRN
7:30 pm Brownsburg vs **Fishers** | Girls Varsity Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

Thurs Sept 17 - Volleyball
6:00 pm Zionsville vs **Noblesville** | Junior Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports
6:50 pm Bethesda vs Horizon Christian | Volleyball | Indiana SRN
7:30 pm Zionsville vs **Noblesville** | Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports

Fri Sept 18 - Football
6:45 pm **Sheridan** vs Clinton Prairie | IHSAA Football | Bragg Sports Media
6:50 pm **Noblesville** vs Zionsville | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
6:50 pm Bloomington South vs Greenfield Central | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
6:50 pm Secena vs Covenant Christian | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
6:50 pm Wes Del vs Heritage Christian | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN
7:00 pm Brownsburg vs **Fishers** | IHSAA Football | Fishers Sports Network
7:00 pm Western vs **Hamilton Heights** | IHSAA Football | Husky Sports Network

Sat Sept 19 - Football and Boys Soccer
10:00am Brownsburg vs **Fishers** | Fresman Football | Fishers Sports Network
12:00pm Center Grove vs **Noblesville** | JV Gold Boys Soccer | Noblesville Sports
1:15 pm Calvin vs Franklin College | HCAC Football | Indiana SRN



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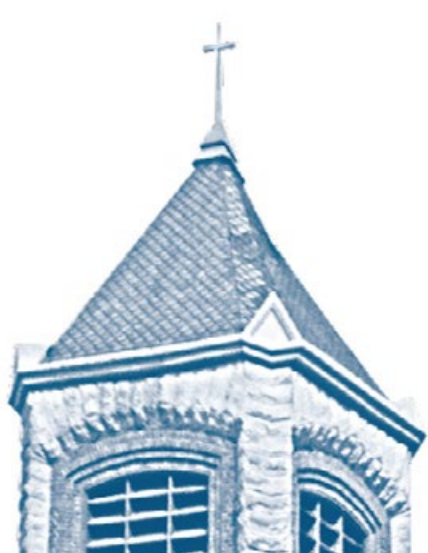
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McCordsville woman to be sentenced for Paycheck Protection Program fraud

Submitted by U.S. Attorney's Office

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Indiana has announced one sentencing as part of a nationwide enforcement action led by the Justice Department's National Fraud Enforcement Division, the Small Business Administration, and the SBA Office of Inspector General targeting fraud in the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The Southern District of Indiana was a key participant in this surge effort. From June 12 to Sept. 1, federal prosecutors across the country facilitated fraud enforcement actions spanning over 160 criminal defendants, including approximately 80 newly charged defendants, reaching approximately \$245 million in intended loss to American taxpayers.

In the Southern District of Indiana, U.S. Attorney Tom Wheeler announced that Sandra Pierce, 42, McCordsville, has petitioned the court to plead guilty to two counts of wire fraud for PPP-related fraud involving approximately \$632,905 in losses. According to court documents, Pierce was the sole owner of a business called Sandy's on the Run and purported to help individuals and businesses obtain COVID-19 relief program loans. In that position, she executed a wire fraud scheme by drafting and submitting 22 fraudulent COVID-19 relief loan applications under the names of others in exchange for more than \$100,000 from clients. Additionally, she submitted applications in her own name and received \$48,191

from the government. The total loss was approximately \$632,905. This case is being prosecuted by U.S. Postal Services – Office of Inspector General. Pierce faces up to 20 years in federal prison per count. A sentencing hearing will be set by a U.S. District Court Judge at a later date. On April 7, the Department of Justice announced the creation of the National Fraud Enforcement Division. The Fraud Division is laser-focused on investigating and prosecuting those who commit fraud against the American people. The Department's work to combat fraud supports President Trump's Task Force to Eliminate Fraud, a whole-of-government effort chaired by Vice President J.D. Vance to eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse within Federal benefit programs.

Mitch Frazier appointed president of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Indiana Governor Mike Braun announced on Thursday, Sept. 17, the appointment of Mitch Frazier as president of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), effective Oct. 5. Frazier, an experienced business leader, will work alongside Indiana Secretary of Commerce Chuck Goodrich and support the Braun administration's agenda to grow Indiana's economy and create greater opportunities for Hoosiers. Frazier succeeds Josh Richardson, who will transition out of his role as IEDC president effective Oct. 2 to move into the private sector. "Mitch understands Indiana, he understands business, and he knows what it takes to turn ideas into results," Gov. Braun said. "We're focused on creating more opportunities for Hoosiers, helping businesses grow and making Indiana the best place in the country to live, work, do business and invest. Mitch brings the experience and energy to help us keep moving that work forward." Frazier joins the IEDC from IBJ Media where he served as the company's president. Prior to IBJ Media, he served as CEO of AgriNovus Indiana and previously as CEO of Reynolds Farm Equipment. He was also a key leader at ExactTarget during its initial

public offering and its acquisition by Salesforce. He began his career in public service where he served on active duty in the U.S. Army, in federal civilian public affairs roles and in Indiana state government, including director of media relations at the IEDC. "Mitch brings a unique combination of business leadership, public service and a genuine passion for Indiana," Secretary of Commerce Chuck Goodrich said. "Our direction is clear: grow and retain talent, grow business and grow Indiana. Mitch understands that mission and knows how to build teams, partnerships, and momentum around a shared goal. I'm excited to have him alongside us as we compete to win and deliver results for Hoosiers." As IEDC president, Frazier will lead the state's economic development organization and its work to support Indiana businesses, attract new investment, and strengthen partnerships with communities, regions, and industry leaders across the state. "Indiana is home to great companies, talented people and strong communities who share a passion to build the next chapter of our economy even stronger," Frazier said. "I'm grateful to Governor Braun and Sec-



Frazier

retary Goodrich for the opportunity to work with the talented IEDC team and partners across the state to accelerate growth, investment and welcome even more opportunities for Hoosiers." Richardson has served as IEDC president since October 2025, helping guide the organization through a period of leadership transition and increased alignment across the state's economic development and workforce efforts. His overall public service with the state spans more than 18 years. "Josh stepped into this role at an important time for our organization, and I'm grateful for his leadership and service to Indiana," Goodrich said. "He has been a valued partner as we've established our direction for the Office of Commerce, and we wish him and his family nothing but success in his next role in the private sector." Richardson said, "It's been an honor to serve Indiana and to work alongside a talented team committed to creating opportunities for Hoosiers. I'm proud of the work we've accomplished together and confident in the direction Secretary Goodrich has established. I know Mitch and the IEDC team will continue building on that momentum, and I'll be cheering them on."

Delta Faucet Company announces Vahan Badalow as senior vice president of supply chain & service

The REPORTER

Carmel-based Delta Faucet Company has announced the appointment of Vahan Badalow as senior vice president, supply chain and service. In this role, he will lead the company's global end-to-end supply chain and service organization, including global sourcing, planning, manufacturing, fulfillment, and customer service. This promotion marks Badalow's formal addition to Delta Faucet Company's executive leadership team, where he will help shape business strategy and cultivate the next generation of leaders across the organization. Badalow joined Delta Faucet Company in 2014 and has worked across global supply chain management for 30 years. He previously served as Delta Faucet Company's interim senior vice pres-

ident of supply chain, where he led global sourcing, planning, manufacturing, distribution, and customer service activities. "Vahan's deep knowledge of our business and extensive global supply chain experience make him an excellent fit for this role," said Jill Ehnes, president of Delta Faucet Company and North America Plumbing. "He has consistently demonstrated strong strategic leadership, operational expertise and a commitment to collaboration. We're excited to see him bring that experience to this expanded leadership role." Prior to joining Delta Faucet Company, Badalow held operations leadership roles with Andersen and



Badalow

Target, where he developed extensive experience managing large-scale, complex supply chain environments. "Over the past 12 years, I've had the opportunity to work alongside some incredibly talented people and see firsthand what makes Delta Faucet Company such a great organization," Badalow said. "I'm looking forward to continuing that work in this role, partnering with teams across the company and building on the progress we've made together. There's a lot of opportunity ahead and I'm eager to continue building on what we've accomplished." For more information about Delta Faucet Company, visit DeltaFaucetCompany.com.

SILVER

from Page 9

extends to Indiana and soon to Alabama. We build places that reflect how people want to live, and we're excited to bring our hospitality-driven approach to one of the country's most desirable communities." The Silver Collection brand represents the company's upscale, hospitality-inspired approach to multifamily living. Unlike traditional apartment communities, residents receive

complimentary daily breakfast service, professionally curated resident programming led by a full-time Entertainment Director, and homes inspected through the company's proprietary 100-plus-point Silverized Guarantee process before move-in. Upon completion, Silver Collection at Saxony will offer one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartment homes featuring stainless

steel appliances alongside an extensive amenity package anchored by a 20,000 square-foot clubhouse. Planned amenities include a resort-style saltwater pool, high-end fitness center with steam room and sauna, co-working spaces and meeting rooms, pickleball court, pet spa, and dog park. To learn more about Silver Collection at Saxony, visit silvercollectionatsaxony.com.

Noblesville High School announces Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2027

By **ANDREW TRISLER**
Noblesville Schools
Athletic Department

The Noblesville High School Athletic Hall of Fame has announced the members of the Class of 2027. The class includes one individual inductee and two teams. They will be inducted at halftime of the boys basketball game on Friday, Jan. 15, 2027.

Nominations for the Hall of Fame are submitted by the public and voted on by a selection committee. Nomination forms are available on the Noblesville High School Athletics website in the menu under "History of Noblesville."

Erica Watson, Class of 2007 **Cross Country and Track & Field**

Watson received the IHSA Mental Attitude Award at the 2006 state cross country meet. She earned four letters each in cross country and track and was a two-time All-Hoosier Crossroads Conference selection in cross country. As a senior, she finished 21st at the state cross country meet while leading the Millers to a third-place team finish.

In track, she set the school record in the 3200 meters.

Watson was a member of the National Honor Society and was the valedictorian of the Class of 2007.

2008-09 Girls Soccer Sectional, Regional & Semi-State Champions; Hoosier Crossroads Conference Champions

The Millers defeated top-ranked Carmel 4-3 in a penalty kick shootout in the sectional semifinal and No. 4 Zionsville 2-0 in the



Graphic provided by Noblesville Schools Athletics
The NHS Athletic Hall of Fame has announced its 2027 inductees: Erica Watson (Class of 2007), the 2008-09 Girls Soccer team, and the 2020-21 Girls Soccer team.

sectional championship. Their only loss of the season came against Evansville Memorial in a Penalty Kick Shootout in the Final Four at the IHSA State Finals.

Noblesville outscored its opponents 63-0 across the regular season and state tournament. The Millers finished the season with a 19-1-2 overall record.

Goals scored during a Penalty Kick Shootout are not recorded as official goals. Winners are credited with a one goal victory.

Team Members

Chey Arvin, Michelle Blok, Nora Brolsma, Kelsey Browne, Paige Byers, MacKenzie Cain, Kylie Clark, Jessie Craig, Ellen Duckwall, Cassie Egle, Caroline Henderzahn, Grace Herron, Kallie Howerton, Stephanie Kaylor, Haley Keller, Macy Kootz, Abby Maxwell, Charlie Maxwell, Samantha Parrish, Rachel Sindors, Beth Snyder, Ashley Szalwinski, Chrissy Tchoula, Maddie Treinen, Allie Vandewater, Lauren Van Meter, and Jasmine Wodarz

Coaching Staff

• Head Coach: Mike Brady

• Assistant Coaches: Brandon Swart, Mallory Brehmer, and Ben Leeman

• Athletic Trainers: Jeff "Doc" Franciosi and Sara Simmons

• Student Trainers: Jack Russell, Jakob Boxberger, and Erin Brown

2020-21 Girls Soccer State Champions; Hoosier Crossroads Conference Champions

The Millers were ranked No. 1 in the state for the entire season, winning a second straight state championship, and closing the season as the National No. 1-ranked team by MaxPreps.

Noblesville defeated No. 3 Guerin Catholic 3-0 in the IHSA Class 3A State Championship game and outscored its opponents 54-5 on the season with a 17-0-1 overall record.

Emma Potter received the IHSA Mental Attitude Award at the State Finals, Jenna Chatterton was named Miss Soccer, and

Mike Brady was named United Soccer Coaches Region Coach of the Year.

Team Members

Lauren Adam, Abby Baker, Kate Bettner, Maggie Bischoff, Mia Brake, Ava Bramblett, Lauren Calloway, Elana Chatterton, Jenna Chatterton, Tori Goodwin, Isabella Griffey, Brooke Hines, Jacey Hoopingarner, Meskerem James, Sara Kile, Paige Landers, Makenna Maloy, Riley Maloy, Kailee Moore, Makenna Mundy, Morgan Peters, Emma Potter, Kylie Roberts, Charlie Sack, Stella Scroggin, Kiana Siefert, Paige Smucker, Paige Stooksberry, Grace Taskey, Josie Taylor, Meagan Wernke, and Gracen Willis

Coaching Staff

• Head Coach: Mike Brady

• Assistant Coaches: Kristin Hetzel, Jillian Clark, and Jake Hart

• Athletic Trainer: Kate Ash

• Student Trainer: Sammy Tuggle

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."

"Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day."

"Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

"You shall not murder."

"You shall not commit adultery."

"You shall not steal."

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

"You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Deuteronomy 5:11-21 (NIV)

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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
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Listed at \$299,900

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9919 FOUNTAIN COVE DRIVE
INDIANAPOLIS

This 3 bed, 2.5 bath beauty near Geist Reservoir offers an open concept floor plan, new roof, carpet, and remodeled primary bath. Enjoy the versatile living spaces, updated kitchen, spacious fenced-in backyard, and a heated golf simulator garage!

Listed at \$299,900

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18532 ORIENTAL OAK COURT
NOBLESVILLE

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

Listed at \$559,900

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18149 ATLANTIC ROAD
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Own this charming 1.5-acre country retreat! Features 2,000+ sq ft, 4BR, 2BA, and a new roof. Enjoy a cozy fireplace, spacious kitchen, and fenced yard. Perfectly located near Hamilton Town Center and I-69.

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2513 SHERIDAN COURT
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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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