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THURSDAY, OCT. 1, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly to mostly cloudy.

Tonight: Cloudy. Showers after sunset. Thunder possible. Rain could be heavy at times.

HIGH: 85 LOW: 65



Two nonprofits benefit as Meijer opens new Fishers Grocery store

The REPORTER

On Wednesday, Meijer opened a new 75,000 square-foot grocery store at 157000 Southeastern Pkwy., Fishers. The new grocery store is the retailer's sixth Meijer Grocery store in the Midwest and its second in Indiana, following the Meijer Grocery store that opened in 2024 in Noblesville.

Fishers Grocery Store Director Janice Thongvanh and her team welcomed customers when doors opened on Wednesday morning with a round of applause, followed by a ribbon-cutting.

The team demonstrated the store's support of the community by presenting \$15,000 donations to **Fishers Youth Initiative**, serving youth and families in the Fishers and Hamilton Southeastern community through mentoring, meal assis-



Fishers Youth Initiative and the Good Samaritan Network each received \$15,000 donations from Meijer in celebration of the new Fishers Grocery store opening.

tance, and community resource connections, and **Good Samaritan Network**, helping Hamilton County residents who are underserved, at risk, or experiencing

crisis situations, access critical resources and support.

Meijer donates at least 6 percent of its net profit to community organizations annual-

ly, and each of its stores works with local food banks and pantries to help fight hunger.

See Meijer . . . Page 2

Don't hesitate to encourage others

Has anyone ever said something to you that changed your life for the better? I bet family members and friends certainly have. But what about a stranger? The situation may be more of a rarity, but I bet it happens to many of us.

For instance, I remember being a scared college student at Indiana University years ago. One afternoon, feeling like I didn't fit in with my roommate or others in my dorm, I fled to the church I (sometimes) attended.

As I sat there, sobbing my eyes out, a woman with red curly hair approached me. She quietly slid into the pew and gently took both of my hands.

"It's going to be alright," she murmured. "I know it will be."

I can't remember what else she said, but my heart lifted and I began to feel a little better. I never saw her again. When I returned to my dorm and checked my mailbox to find a sweet, encouraging little book from my mother, I cried again – this time, with tears of joy.

Fast forward to the fall of 2018. Long-time readers may remember my story about when I volunteered for the historic home tour in Noblesville that year. Two strangers approached me – Julie and Joan (pronounced Jo-Anne) – and told me they were former readers of my newspaper column.

"We think you need to bring it back," they said. I was flabbergasted. I had stopped writing my column a few years previously. I had enjoyed it, but the paper carrying the column wasn't reaching as many people as it used to.

See Encourage . . . Page 2

Tickets to all 2027 shows at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre now on sale

54th Season includes Disney's "Frozen" & Broadway's "On Your Feet"

The REPORTER

Tickets to Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre's 2027 shows are now on sale to the public exclusively through Beef & Boards, either via [BeefAndBoards.com](https://www.beefandboards.com) or through the box office by calling (317) 872-9664.

Tickets purchased through sellers other than Beef & Boards may not be valid for Beef & Boards shows, and may incur added fees.

The 2027 Season features everything from true stories about legendary singers to epic romances and fairy tale endings, and it all begins Jan. 7 with a comedy from right here in Indiana. *The Bunco Squad* follows a group of friends who get together to roll some dice in Seymour, Indiana, for a night of Bunco. But it's never a safe bet that they'll actually play the game. Instead it's a winning result of nonstop laughs that will keep audiences rolling with this Hoosier hit play! On stage through Feb. 7. Rated PG.

Next comes nostalgia with the popular musical *Grease* opening on Feb. 11. Relive the era of hot rods, diners, drive-ins, and bobby sox at Rydell High School in 1959 as "greaser" Danny and new girl Sandy try to rekindle their secret summer romance. Nominated for seven Tony Awards, *Grease* features the hit songs "Greased Lightnin'," "You're The One That I Want," and "Summer Nights." On stage through April 4. Rated PG-13.

Starting April 8 two parallel love stories are tested by the dangers of prejudice and World War II in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. Nellie, a spunky nurse from Arkansas, loves French plantation owner, Emile, but is conflicted by what she learns about him. And a strapping lieutenant falls for an island girl, but battles his own insecurities. Set in an island paradise and adapted from a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *South Pacific* won 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Score that features



Photo provided by Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre

"Some Enchanted Evening," "Nothing Like a Dame" and "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair." On stage through May 16. Rated PG.

Then the musical phenomenon that has taken the world by storm, Disney's *Frozen*, brings its captivating magic to the stage starting May 21. Based on the Academy Award-winning animated film, *Frozen* tells of the perpetual winter brought on by Princess Elsa in her moun-

tain kingdom Arendelle, and the efforts of her sister Anna and her friends to break the icy spell. With a flurry of unforgettable songs including "Do You Want to Build A Snowman," "For the First Time In Forever," and "Let It Go," *Frozen*, on stage through July 18, is the 2027 Family Show, and features a \$10 discount off tickets for all kids ages 3-15. It is rated PG.

See Beef . . . Page 2

Tipton Schools awarded \$86K safety grant

Submitted by Tipton Community School Corp.

Tipton Community School Corporation (TCSC) has been awarded \$86,000 through Indiana's Secured School Safety Grant (SSSG) Program, the largest award among the four districts in Carroll and Tipton counties.

In total, the participating districts received more than \$186,000 to support security personnel, vulnerability assessments, updated safety technology, and other critical improvements that strengthen school safety.

"This funding will support ongoing efforts to strengthen school safety across TCSC, including security personnel, vulnerability assessments, updated

safety technology, and other measures that help protect our students and staff," Superintendent Scott Jaworski said.

The SSSG program provides matching grants to public, private, and charter schools statewide to support practical, high impact improvements that enhance school security.

This year, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security awarded more than \$26 million to nearly 500 schools and school corporations across the state as part of its continued investment in school safety. Since the program's creation in 2013, Indiana has invested over \$240 million to help schools prepare for and respond to potential



Photo provided by Tipton Community Schools

safety threats.

"We are grateful for this support and remain committed to using these funds responsibly

to ensure our district continues to offer safe and welcoming environments for our students and staff," Jaworski said.



Jaworski



Go Purple with Prevail during Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Today kicks off the month of October, which we know well as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

As we welcome October, we once again invite you to #GoPurple-WithPrevail. This year, our theme is clear and powerful: Respect is the Standard, Safety is the Foundation. These words guide everything we do and reflect the world we strive to create, where everyone feels safe, valued, and heard.

Your support empowers Prevail to walk alongside survivors every day, offering compassion, resources, and hope. Because of you, countless individuals and families have found the strength to rebuild their lives with dignity and courage.

While we've made great strides, our work is far from over.

Domestic violence continues to impact far too many lives in our community. At Prevail, we see the strength of survivors firsthand – their stories fuel our mission and remind us why we must keep pushing for change.

Throughout October, we invite you to join us in raising awareness, sparking conversations, and taking action. Together, we can challenge the root causes of violence and build a culture grounded in respect and safety for all.

Learn more and get involved at prevailinc.org.

COLUMNIST



TAMI WANNINGER
Prevail, Inc.



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ENCOURAGE

“Oh ... wow ...” I said. “Yeah, I’ll think about it.” Let’s just say Juile and Joan were VERY persuasive – thank goodness. Hearing these two ladies was the push I needed to return to writing my columns. Eight years later, I’m still at it. I write for not only *The Reporter*, but the *Kokomo Tribune* as well. I grew up reading Erma Bombeck columns, stories, and books. I’ve always said if I could ever be half as good as she was, I’d be thrilled. Erma touched so many lives. Writing this column week in and week out means so much to me.

THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

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When people stop me and talk about a topic I’ve written about, I enjoy discussing it with them. I feel like, in a small way, I’m sharing life with family, friends, and yes – strangers. We all need to share life with others, don’t we? I think one of the greatest ways we can do this is to speak up and encourage one another, even people we don’t know. It’s such a simple way to spread a little kindness, and so

often those words may propel someone onto a life-changing path for the better. I’ve said it before, and I’ll say it again. Julie and Joan, THANK YOU for pausing on a beautiful fall day in 2018 to share your encouraging words. You’re a shining example of the difference a brief conversation can make in the life of someone else. Amy Shankland is an empty-nester, writer, and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John and two dogs. You can reach her via email at amys@greenavenue.info.

BEEF

Based on a true story and opening July 22, *Always... Patsy Cline* tells about the singer’s friendship with a fan named Louise Seger, who had an ongoing correspondence with Cline for the rest of her life. The show, complete with down home country humor, true emotion, and even some audience participation, includes Patsy’s unforgettable hits such as “Crazy,” “I Fall to Pieces,” “Sweet Dreams,” and “Walking After Midnight” – more than two dozen songs in all. The show’s title was inspired by Cline’s letters to Seger, which were consistently signed “Love ALWAYS... Patsy Cline.” This show is on stage through Aug. 22 and is rated PG. The rhythm is going to get you when *On Your Feet*, the musical celebrating the inspiring true story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan, opens Aug. 26. From their humble

MEIJER

Since 2008, the retailer’s **Simply Give** hunger relief program has generated more than \$100 million for its food pantry partners throughout the Midwest. The Fishers store’s first pantry partner is **Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank**, which will receive donations for its food pantry from the retailer’s holiday campaign that runs through Dec. 26. “Supporting the communities we serve is one of our highest priorities, and that commitment starts well before a new store opens its doors,” Meijer President & CEO Rick Keyes said. “We’re excited to see this store enrich lives in the

community by providing a convenient shopping option, serving as an irreplaceable community partner, and being a good neighbor.” Continuing the retailer’s ongoing efforts to ensure accessibility for all customers, the store features larger, height-adjustable changing tables in the family restrooms for the added convenience and dignity of customers with disabilities and their caregivers. As in all Meijer stores, this location also offers free access to Aira, an app-based service that provides live navigation assistance to blind and low-vision customers using the camera of their smartphones.

from Page 1

and is rated PG-13. The theatre’s 54th year wraps up during the holidays with *A Beef & Boards Christmas*. This original production makes the most of the season, with beautiful music, energetic dance numbers, colorful costumes, stirring voices, and Santa himself! Gather with friends and family for this festive production, on stage starting Nov. 26 and culminating in a special New Year’s Eve celebration on Dec. 31. **Membership & ticket availability** Both individual tickets and VIP Memberships for the 2027 Season are now available. Visit beefandboards.com for complete details. *Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Indiana’s only year-round professional dinner theatre, has been serving up exceptional entertainment since 1973.*

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ATI’s latest LAB Series event set for Sunday, Oct. 4

Submitted

Actors Theatre of Indiana (ATI) will present the next free LAB Series event at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, at the Carmel Clay Public Library, 425 E Main St. [Click here](#) to register.

The Man Who Would Be King is a new musical adaptation of Rudyard Kipling’s classic story. This new adaptation is written by DJ Salisbury with music by Neil Berg.

The story is narrated by a newspaper correspondent in British colonial India. The correspondent encounters two British adventurers intent on traveling to the remote region of Kafiristan and setting themselves up as kings among a tribe of people who are descendants of members of the army of Alexander the Great, isolated from the modern world after their Greek ancestors were stranded there by an avalanche during Alexander’s campaign through the region.

The story explores themes of ambition, imperialism, and man’s hubris, highlighting the dangers of overreaching ambition and the fragile nature of power built on deception and fear.

The show’s creative team includes nationally respected theater director and playwright DJ Salisbury (*Whisper Darkly, Moonshine & Mistletoe*) and off-Broadway composer Neil Berg (*Grumpy Old Men, The 12, Prince & the Pauper*). The show has already had multiple readings and workshops and is scheduled for a NYC premiere later in the year following the ATI reading.

Cast & Crew

- Director & Author as DJ Salisbury
- Music Director as Ginger Stoltz
- Stage Manager as Darin Murrell
- Pete Scarbrough as Daniel Dravot
- Scot Greenwell as Peachy Carnahan
- Clay Mabbitt as Cedric Marsh
- Brooklyn Stewart as Roxane
- Keith Potts as Billy Fish
- Sean Young as Nikaos
- Jaddy Ciucci as Priestess Aletha
- Nathalie Cruz as Hestia
- Josh Maldonado as Priest Imbra
- Elizabeth Akers as Ensemble

From the desk of Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update No. 180

Earlier this month, we lost Janet (Scherer) Weber, a cherished sixth- and seventh-grade teacher who served our schools for 36 years and touched the lives of generations of Huskies ... including mine.

To honor her extraordinary impact, Janet’s family invites those who knew her to consider making a [donation to the Hamilton Heights Education Foundation](#) in her memory. These gifts will continue to support the mission of HHEF and reflect the values Janet championed throughout her life. We are grateful for the Weber family’s desire to carry forward her legacy in a way that continues to strengthen opportunities for Hamilton Heights students.

One of the most meaningful ways we stay connected with our families is through the HHSC Superintendent Advisory Group, a quarterly gathering designed to strengthen communication,

deepen understanding, and ensure our community has a direct voice in the work happening across Hamilton Heights.

I began this group in 2014 as a way to bring families together with district leadership to discuss the issues shaping our schools locally, countywide, and at the state level and to provide a consistent space for engagement, information, and involvement.

Over the years, this group has become something I personally look forward to. It gives me the chance to hear directly from our families, learn what matters most to you, and share the work happening behind the scenes to support students and staff. These conversations help guide our decisionmaking, strengthen trust, and remind me of the deep partnership that exists between our schools and our community. Your perspectives genuinely shape our work, and I am grateful for the time you invest in being part of this ongoing dialogue.

The Advisory Group meets four times a year to

learn about current initiatives, hear from staff and special presenters, ask questions, and offer input on how we can continue making HHSC an even better place for students to learn and grow.

Each year, our principals recommend families who are actively engaged in their schools, and those individuals are invited to join the group. Once invited, members continue receiving meeting notices unless they choose to opt out. Today, more than 460 families are active members of this ongoing conversation.

We held our first meeting of the 2026–2027 school year Tuesday evening. We were pleased to welcome Dr. Bret Bailey, HHMS Principal and President of the Indiana Association of School Principals, as our first presenter. Dr. Bailey shared information about Indiana’s new accountability system being rolled out by the Department of Education and what it means for Heights and public education across the state.

It’s Homecoming Week at Heights, and the excitement is everywhere you turn! From spirited theme days to packed athletic events, the pep rally, parade, and Friday

night lights, this week brings out the very best of our Husky pride. There’s nothing quite like Homecoming to unite our students, staff, families, and community in one big celebration.

Join us at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, as our award-winning Hamilton Heights High School Band and Amber Guard lead the parade through Arcadia, then head to Husky Field to cheer on the Huskies as we take on the Benton Central Bison at 7:30 p.m.

Our halftime celebration will spotlight alumni from the classes of 1977, 1987, 1997, 2007, and 2017, followed by the presentation of the 2026 Homecoming Court and the crowning of this year’s King and Queen.

On Saturday, Oct. 3, Hamilton Heights will honor and induct the Class of 2026 to the Athletic Hall of Fame with lunch (ticketholders only) at noon followed by the induction ceremony in the high school gymnasium.

It’s a week full of tradition, pride, and community – everything that makes Heights special. Thank you for your continued support and for celebrating what it means to be a Husky.

#WeAreHuskies

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Young urges U.S. Senate to pass Stop Insider Trading Act

Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Todd Young

U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) recently spoke on the Senate floor in support of the Stop Insider Trading Act, legislation that would prohibit members of Congress, their spouses, and dependent children from purchasing publicly traded stocks.

Senator Young’s full remarks

I am here today to reiterate my support for the Stop Insider Trading Act and to urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

In order to make the best policy decisions possible, Members of Congress are provided access to information most Americans are not.

We receive briefings, write legislation, and serve on committees with jurisdiction over major sectors of our economy.

But serving as a Member of Congress comes with a responsibility to put public interest ahead of personal gain. We have an obligation to put the interests of the people we represent ahead of our own.

No Member of Congress should profit from insider information. There is a reason that can be difficult: members who write the rules are also subject to them.

Allowing members to actively trade individual stocks creates an obvious conflict. Even when no law is broken, the appearance of a conflict is damaging. And without a doubt, some serving in Congress today benefit financially from the current system.

But that should not prevent Congress from supporting a change that the overwhelming majority of Americans believe is needed and necessary. Recent polling shows that 86 percent of Americans favor banning Members of Congress from trading stocks.

Republicans and Democrats disagree on so many



Young

issues, but Americans across the political spectrum agree that their elected representatives should not be able to use the privileges of public office for personal financial gain.

This sentiment is echoed across Indiana. I regularly hear from Hoosiers who are troubled about those serving in Congress profiting from their positions.

Here’s the bottom line: the American people should not have to wonder whether votes in Congress are influenced by what is best for the country or by what is best for the investment portfolios of those serving in Congress.

The Stop Insider Trading Act will help ensure that Congress plays by the same rules as everyone else.

It would prevent Members of Congress, their spouses, and their dependent children from purchasing individual stocks and strengthen disclosure and enforcement requirements.

This legislation is a step in the right direction, and it’s what the people we represent want us to do.

Trust in Congress remains at an all-time low. Passing this bill will help restore some level of trust in Congress and those who serve.

Let’s do the right thing, support this bill, and put an end to swamp trading.

The Dani Robinson difference

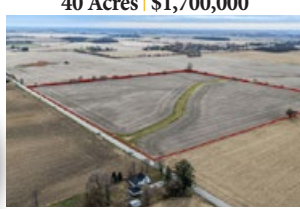
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Divine structure of a child

“People were bringing even infants to Him that he might touch them, and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” Luke 18: 15-17 (NRSVUE)

How fortunate it is that I occasionally get to do some “fun” things as a retired pastor, including teaching Bible stories to over 100 preschool children ages 16 months to early 5 years old at the Emmanuel Learning Academy in Noblesville. Learn more about the academy at emmanuelumc.org/who-we-are.

I wasn’t sure this was my true “calling” initially. After all, it takes wisdom to reshape a 20-minute “adult” sermon that I was accustomed to into a very brief four-minute Bible lesson; just long enough to keep the “littles” attention, but impactful enough that they learn something – anything about God. Well ...

Kids love visuals! You can hear a pin drop when the “Saddleback Kids” video begins to play. They’re colorful. They’re brief. They’re fun. And the kids suck it all in. All of them, including the teachers. I confess, me, too.

So, not to compete against an animated kids’ video, but at least to personally interact with them, my four-minute lesson sometimes includes wearing the color of the week.

The kids don’t care if I



COLUMNIST
BONNIE ZICKGRAF
Sacred or Secular?

wear a bright red chasuble when it’s not Pentecost. They just know that “red” is the color of the week – and they did at least repeat the word “chasuble.” Since it was red and gold, the class accepted it as a coat of many colors from the lesson of the day about Joseph’s coat in Genesis 37.

These youngsters also take turns reciting Bible verses with guidance from the Preschool Director, Annette Brown, and the teachers, then jump, sing, and exercise for several minutes before the Bible lesson even begins. I love to watch the joy on their faces. They are just genuinely happy and so willing to learn!

Then, ready for a rest break (and catching a pretend bubble to pop in their mouths), they sit quietly (for the most part) while they learn, listen, and pray together.

My heart fills with peace as they fold their tiny hands.

After the lesson, many kids “line up” for the restrooms prior to returning to their classrooms (very important!). I love to blow them kisses in the air as I exit the area, always saying “I love you” and saying, “Thank you” (also very important for kiddos).

But God, in his infinite grace, shared with me the innate divinity of children.

One small boy broke the restroom line, ran to me yelling, “I love you, too,” and hugged tightly around my legs. Then another. And another. And more, until they all came, boys and girls, all saying, “I love you” and “thank you” while blowing kisses as they returned to the re-

stroom line formation.

I ... I ... I was dumb founded. This old widow was totally taken off guard.

I remember thinking, “Wow ... what just happened?” as I blew one last kiss to the group.

God has structured all our children just so, each with the willingness to share their God-given gifts of joy, fun, and laughter. Believing in something called “love,” a concept that even adults have a difficult time to explain.

When and where do adults lose that divine structure of a child? The one so willing to learn, and accept, and to love happily, without judgement or fear or shame?

We want so much to be long and to be loved, even as adults. This divine love was the reason for God sending Jesus to earth to begin with. The kids read the verse in preschool today, from 1 John 4:19: “We love because He first loved us.” How appropriately significant.

But they didn’t have to learn it. They were born with it, joyfully sharing their gifts with their surrounding world. You (yes, you adults) were born with this, too.

Have you lost yours, this divine structure as a child?

You can get it back again through prayer. It was never truly lost, just hidden. (And I am always happy to pray with anyone at any time to help you!)

Receive God’s kingdom as a little child again. Find your unwavering faith, divinely given love, filled with joy, peace, and true happiness in your heart.

God loves you and your divine structure awaits.

Rev. Bonnie Zickgraf is a retired pastor, registered nurse, electroplater, and podcaster. She continues

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The Arrival: immerse yourself in the story of Jesus’ birth

Submitted

From the creators of *The Thorn* comes a Christmas spectacular unlike anything you have experienced before.

Witness *The Arrival* this Advent season and immerse yourself in the story of the birth of Jesus. *The Arrival* takes you along

the journey to Bethlehem, in a theatrical production featuring live music, aerial acts, movement arts, dance, and stunning visual effects. Don’t miss your chance to encounter the age-old story in a new way when the show makes a stop at the Fishers Event Center on Saturday, Dec. 19.

Tickets will be available starting with a venue presale beginning 10 a.m. today, Oct. 1, with pass-word “HOLYNIGHT” ahead of the general on sale starting at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 2, at FishersEventCenter.com.

For more information, visit thearrivaltour.com.

Have a Bank of America card? You can visit three area museums for free this weekend

The REPORTER

Bank of America, Merrill, and Bank of America Private Bank cardholders offer ways to get out and learn about the world around them with free general admission to local cultural attractions with Museums on Us.

The program provides bank credit and debit cardholders free general admission to some of America’s favorite museums and cultural institutions. As part of Museums on Us, more than 225 of the country’s most prominent cultural institutions welcome bank cardholders in for free on the first full weekend of

each month.

This weekend – Saturday, Oct. 3, and Sunday, Oct. 4 – three area museums will participate in the Museums on Us program:

- Conner Prairie Museum, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers
- Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis
- Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) Museum, 4750 W. 16th St., Indianapolis

For more information about Museums on Us, including access to a full list and locations of participating museums while

on-the-go, please [click here](#). Register for email notifications about Bank of America’s Arts & Culture programs [here](#).

Get half-off a Jiffy Lube oil change in Fishers

The REPORTER

On Friday, Oct. 2, and Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., motorists can visit the Jiffy Lube at 13855 Olivia Way in Fishers for a family-friendly community event.

In celebration of the Oct. 9 global premiere of *Matchbox The Movie*, Jiffy Lube of Indiana is offering:

- 50 percent off any oil change service from Jiffy Lube at 13855 Olivia Way
- Photo opportunities with a 2026 Dodge Duran-

go SRT Hellcat, inspired by *Matchbox The Movie*

- Take fun photos against *Matchbox The Movie* backdrop and capture a photo of your vehicle in front of a large Matel Matchbox blister pack
- Jiffy Lube-branded giveaways
- Complimentary food and refreshments (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
- A free Jiffy Lube-branded Matchbox die-cast car with the purchase of a full synthetic oil change, while supplies last

Thanks for reading
The Reporter!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT

NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS?

They’re our city’s largest employer, and they shape property values, economic development, and quality of life for everyone who lives here.

Since 2010, voters have approved funding for Noblesville Schools. That funding expires at the end of 2026.

This fall, you’ll vote on whether to continue it.

CONTINUE WHAT WORKS.
VOTE YES BY NOVEMBER 3.

Get the facts and estimate your cost:
noblesvilleschools.org/referendum

MILLER ☒ YES
PAID FOR BY STRONG SCHOOLS NOBLESVILLE

MOTORVAULT auctions 1987 Buick Regal T-Type to benefit Folds of Honor Indiana

The REPORTER

MOTORVAULT has announced the organization is auctioning off a 1987 Buick Regal equipped with the Y56 “T” Package and Buick’s LC2 turbocharged 3.8 liter V6 to raise funds for Folds of Honor Indiana.

Originally headed to MOTORVAULT as a traditional consignment, an unexpected transmission failure set in motion a completely different path. Johnson Melloh Residential donated the car to Indianapolis Cars & Coffee, a longstanding partner of Folds of Honor Indiana. In addition to proceeds from the auction, MOTORVAULT is donating its services and waiving its seller commission in support of the philanthropic effort.

“We are incredibly grateful to MOTORVAULT and Indianapolis Cars & Coffee for turning an unexpected setback into an opportunity to give back,” said Mike Daggett, Folds of Honor Indiana Founder and Executive Director. “We hope whoever brings this Buick home knows they’ve made a difference in the lives of someone in their community affected by loss through service.”

Indianapolis Cars & Coffee partners with local businesses to host car-related events that create a safe,



Photos provided by MOTORVAULT

memorable experience for all attendees. Folds of Honor Indiana has been a benefactor of Indianapolis Cars & Coffee events for over four years, and has raised more than \$250,000 together to support Folds of Honor Indiana’s mission to provide life-changing educational scholarships to spouses and children of fallen or disabled military personnel and first responders.

Folds of Honor scholarships are based on unmet need for spouses and children of fallen and disabled service members and first responders, and can cover tuition, fees, on-campus dormitory housing, meal plans and required textbooks. Scholarship recipients are required to maintain a 2.0 or higher grade-point average for the two most

recent academic terms. For young children not attending private school or secondary education, Future Use Scholarships are available to use at a later date.

To learn more about the Buick Regal, please visit motorvault.com/1987-buick-regal-t. For more information about Folds of Honor Indiana, please visit indiana.foldsofhonor.org.



IRS launches updated mobile app, expanding digital services for taxpayers

The REPORTER

The Internal Revenue Service announced last week the launch of the new **IRS mobile app**, replacing IRS2Go and expanding the agency’s digital services to give taxpayers more ways to securely access IRS tools and account services from their mobile devices.

“The new IRS app puts more services at taxpayers’ fingertips,” IRS Chief Executive Officer Frank J. Bisignano said. “It advances our digital-first agenda to meet taxpayers how and where they choose to interact with

the IRS, whether at home or on the go. Our goal is to make IRS services easy to access and more consistent across all of our platforms.”

For more than a decade, IRS2Go has helped taxpayers check refund status and find free filing resources. The new IRS app builds on that foundation by adding a broader set of secure, account-specific features. Taxpayers can now securely sign in to the official IRS app and access selected account information and self-service options, including:

- Check refund and

- amended-return status
- View available balance information
- Make payments and review payment activity
- View select notices and letters
- Access available tax records and transcripts
- Manage certain profile and communication preferences
- Access an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)

This is just the beginning; the IRS will continue expanding the app with new capabilities and services over time.

The IRS app is free and available through the Apple App Store and Google Play. Current IRS2Go users do not need to download a separate app. Users with automatic updates enabled will receive the IRS app through the normal update process. Taxpayers can also visit IRS App on IRS.gov for verified links and additional information.

The IRS app expands secure mobile access to selected IRS Individual Online Account services. It does not replace IRS.gov or the IRS online accounts. IRS.

gov continues to provide comprehensive tax information, guidance, forms, tools, and services. IRS Individual Online Account, Business Tax Account and Tax Pro Account will continue to be available through IRS.gov, with the IRS app initially extending selected Individual Online Account features only. Telephone and in-person assistance also remain available for taxpayers who need individualized help or whose issues cannot be resolved through self-service.

Taxpayers should use verified IRS links or the of-

ficial IRS app listings in the Apple App Store and Google Play and be cautious of look-alike apps, advertisements, and unsolicited messages claiming to provide access to IRS accounts. The IRS will not ask taxpayers to provide sensitive personal or financial information through an unsolicited text, email, or pop-up message.

Taxpayers who are unsure whether a message or app is legitimate should avoid clicking unsolicited links and use verified resources to locate the official app.





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Carmel business mentor helps winery shift from red to black

Submitted

Other than a wine appreciation class she took while a Food Science student at Purdue University, Nyssa Craton’s foray into wine was minimal.

“Wine wasn’t really on my radar at all,” she said.

Still, she began working as an assistant winemaker at **Wildcat Creek Winery** in 2013 at a time when she was barely old enough to drink wine. Fast forward to now and Craton is the head – and only – winemaker and owner of the Lafayette-based winery.

She purchased the business in 2025 from founders Rick and Kathy Black.

“It was good timing and I was finally in a place maturity wise where I could handle it,” Craton said. “I couldn’t really advance any more in my career unless I went someplace else. I really love this place.”

Since taking ownership the Pekin native has been working with SCORE Indianapolis mentor Richard Ellison of Carmel on strategies to increase revenues, improve business margins, better market the winery and lower the amount of debt service paid out each month. A vital tip Ellison shared was to bring on an intern who could provide Craton more time to focus on revenue-generating functions, such as promoting the wine club, advertising, and moving forward with plans to develop the Hoosier Heartland Trail – a group of area wineries and breweries.

“It’s just been really helpful to have somebody to bounce ideas off of,” Craton said. “It’s just been amazing to be able to run things by him and know right away ‘ok, this is worth pursuing.’ It takes the mental load off of me.”

When Craton began mentoring with Ellison the business was losing money. Ellison guided Craton on managing inventory to ensure that bestsellers are in stock at all times. In addition,



Photo provided

Wildcat Creek Winery owner Nyssa Craton and her employee, Brent Russell, pose with Purdue Pete.

tion, he assisted her in working with local restaurants and wine bars to have Wildcat Creek Winery wines in their establishments.

In the year they have been working together, the winery is now making \$5,000 per month.

“For a small company that’s a huge difference,” Ellison said, adding that her sales have increased 20 percent every month as compared to 2025. “A lot of the work I did with her is what her break-even is. We took a real hard look at expenses and how to save money.”

At Ellison’s suggestion, Craton has begun advertising with billboards and her first-ever commercial in an effort to expand awareness of the winery and its offerings.

Wildcat Creek’s most popular wines are its Traminette, which won “best” trophies in 2023 and 2024 at the Indiana State Fair, and Steuben, a pink, sweeter wine. Cranberry is a seasonal favorite in fall months. The new Battle-ground Blackberry has been popular since its release this summer. In all, Craton makes more than a dozen wine varieties and is looking to add a “nice, bold dry red” in time for the winter months.

She makes 2,000 cases of wine per year on the two-acre property but hopes to expand as more winery and

wholesale purchases come to fruition. Her five-year plan includes adding an event space so visitors can more readily enjoy the winery in the winter months.

Despite the ups and downs of her entrepreneurial journey, Craton thoroughly enjoys being her own boss.

“It’s been really satisfying being allowed to do what I want,” Craton said, adding that recent kitten adoption events and car show fundraisers have been successful. “Just being able to help out the nonprofits around town has been one of the most rewarding parts of the process.”

About SCORE

Since 1964, SCORE has helped 11 million entrepreneurs start or grow a business. SCORE’s 10,000 volunteers provide free mentoring, workshops, and educational services to more than 1,500 communities nationwide. With more than 70 members throughout the Indianapolis area, SCORE Indianapolis provides nearly 3,000 mentoring services annually to local small business owners through one-on-one counseling and small business workshops. For more information about starting or operating a small business, or finding a mentor, visit SCORE Indianapolis at score.org/indianapolis.

KeyBank taps Drue Anderson to lead Retail Banking division

Submitted

KeyBank announced Tuesday, Sept. 29, that Drue Anderson of Zionsville has joined the company to lead Retail Banking.

Anderson will guide the next stage of growth for KeyBank’s retail business, with a focus on disciplined execution, client experience and the bank’s long-term strategic commitments. He succeeds Kevin Sloan, who is retiring from Key at the end of the year.

Anderson brings more than 25 years of leadership experience in banking to KeyBank. Most recently, he served as Divisional Director of Consumer Banking and Head of Virtual Banking at JPMorgan Chase.

“Drue has a proven track

record of scaling retail banking operations, growing market share and delivering strong business results,” said Victor Alexander, Head of Consumer Banking at KeyBank. “His deep industry experience, first-hand branch perspective and commitment to clients, teammates and communities make him ideal to help lead our Retail Banking business forward.”

Earlier in his career, Anderson held leadership roles at Citibank, including regional director, sales manager, and financial advisor in the company’s wealth management business. In those roles, he helped deliver double-digit



Anderson

year-over-year balance and revenue growth multiple times.

A native of Central Illinois, Anderson lives with his family in Zionsville. He will be based at KeyBank’s Indianapolis office and will work with Sloan through the end of 2026 to support a smooth leadership transition.

“Kevin’s leadership has strengthened our Retail Banking business and helped position it for continued growth,” Alexander said. “We are grateful for his many contributions to our clients, teammates and communities, and wish Kevin and his family the very best.”

Learn more at key.com.

Everwise Credit Union names Jennifer Rue Deputy General Counsel

Submitted

Everwise Credit Union has named Jennifer Rue of Carmel as Deputy General Counsel, bringing more than 20 years of credit union experience spanning legal, risk, audit, and operations to the organization.

Rue joins Everwise from Financial Center, where she began her career in internal audit and went on to serve in several leadership roles, including Director of Internal Audit, VP of Enterprise Risk Management, Chief Risk Officer and Compliance Officer, and most recently, EVP of Credit Union Operations. In that role, she oversaw key operational areas of the credit union, including lending, operations, and information technology.

As Deputy General Counsel, Rue will provide legal guidance and support to teams across Everwise, including reviewing and negotiating contracts, managing litigation and outside counsel, and helping lead the credit union’s Legal team. Her broad operational experience will bring an additional perspective as Everwise works to protect the credit union while supporting the needs of the business.

“Jennifer brings a unique combination of legal expertise and hands-on credit union leadership to Everwise,” said Lyndsay Miller, Chief Legal and Risk Officer at Everwise.



Rue

“She understands the complexities of operating a financial institution and how to balance legal and risk considerations with the needs of the business. That perspective will be a tremendous asset to Everwise as we continue to grow.”

Rue earned her Juris Doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis and her Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University Bloomington. She is also a Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Credit Union Compliance Officer, and a CUES Certified Chief Executive. Rue currently resides in Carmel.

For more information, visit everwisecu.com.

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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A look back at Sheridan’s Fall Homecoming

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

Last week, Sheridan held its fall homecoming festivities. The week was filled with exciting activities such as dress-up days, fundraisers, community events, and much more! This is such an exciting time of year, and per High School Principal Rick Davis, “It was a HUGE success and a lot of fun!”

The week held a lot, but it all started with the dress-up days. At the high school, Monday was comfy day, Tuesday was class colors, Wednesday was “rhyme without a reason,” Thursday was dress like Adam Sandler, and Friday was the standard spirit wear day. Students and staff showed their school spirit and enthusiasm throughout the week as they participated each day.

A change in schedule occurred this year, which led to both the Homecoming parade and the Powder Puff game taking place Tuesday evening. Clubs, sports teams, and other groups participated in the parade as family, friends, and members of the community lined the streets. Following the parade, the high school held the Powder Puff game. Each grade level fought to the end as they tried to bring home the win! The senior girls came home victorious in Powder Puff, but the sophomores took the win in the tug-of-war contest.

On Friday, Homecoming week came to a close. At the afternoon Pep Session, various sports teams were honored as the Cheerleaders and Band completed

their routines. Games were played between various students and staff members before the anticipated Pie Teacher. This year the cheerleading squad held a fundraiser all week. The teacher who received the most funds would be pied. The winning teacher this year was Mathew Hewitt, a beloved High School Teacher, but three other staff members were also pied: Jeremy Luna, Middle School Dean; Ellie Arrowood, High School Teacher; and Ashlynn Green, Middle & High School Teacher.

Friday evening was the grand finale, and the Blackhaws came home victorious! Friday night, Sheridan High School’s football team took on Taylor and came home with a 42-0 win!

Throughout the game there were other festivities taking place. The Blackhawk Alumni Club welcomed and honored the classes of 1976, 2006, and 2016, with a reception and introduction to the fans. During halftime, the Homecoming King and Queen were announced, with Rylan Garner and Brielle Garner taking the crown! Finally, on Saturday evening, high school students came together to dance the night away at the annual Fall Homecoming Dance.

High School Principal Rick Davis thanked all those involved: “Thank you to Student Council, SALT, FFA, Blackhawk Alumni Club, and everyone who was involved in planning and presenting all of the Homecoming activities and events! What a fun week!”

Photos by Allison Waitt



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Letter to the Editor

Westfield reader calls on voters to support school referendum

Dear Editor:

Westfield Washington Schools (WWS) serves approximately 10,500 K-12 students across 10 schools. As one of the fastest-growing school districts in Indiana, its enrollment is projected to reach over 11,700 students by the mid-2030s.

WWS has been recognized as a top-tier school district both locally and nationally, consistently placing in the top tier of school systems. It holds an overall A+ rating from Niche and is highly ranked for academic proficiency and college readiness. The graduation rate is 98 percent.

A summary of how the district compares on state and national levels includes:

State rankings

- **WWS** is ranked No. 7 out of 291 public school districts in Indiana.
- **Statewide test scores:** the district ranks in the top 6 percent statewide across all testing areas.
- **High school standing:** Westfield High School ranks No. 9 in Indiana public high schools.
- **Top elementary schools:** Individual schools within the system, frequently secure spots in the top 10 elementary schools statewide.

National rankings

- **Top 2 percent nationally:** Niche places WWS at No. 140 out of 10,394 school districts in America, putting it firmly in the upper echelon of U.S. public education.
- **High school national placement:** *U.S. News* positions Westfield High School at No. 434 out of nearly 18,000 public high schools nationally, placing it in the top 4 percent of high schools across the country.

- **Athletics:** Nationally, WWS ranks No. 520 for student athletes due to robust sports programs.
- **Teaching:** the top 8 percent for quality of teaching staff.

That is who we, Westfield, are in the big picture. These accolades of our school system benefit all of our residents.

However, analyzing financial rankings shows a stark contrast between how much state funding the district receives versus the academic outcomes it delivers. WWS functions as a highly efficient but severely underfunded district compared to state and national averages.

Indiana state funding rankings

Public school funding in Indiana is heavily dictated by state tuition formulas. WWS ranks near the bottom in revenue despite its population size:

- **State funding per student:** WWS ranks No. 260 out of 290 school districts in Indiana for state-funded support. The district receives \$558 less per student than the state average.
- **Local referendum support:** Within Hamilton County, WWS’s current 17-cent referendum rate is the second-lowest among its five neighboring school districts (the new referendum has a projected rate of 33.81 cents and would replace the current 17-cent rate, only putting Westfield’s rate in the middle of the local referendum pack.

- In contrast to its low funding ranking, independent data platforms like **Niche** rank WWS as the No. 7 overall best school district in Indiana out of nearly 300, highlighting WWS operational efficiency.

The funding gap

In the past, we have passed multiple referendums to support our schools and the results speak well in favor of supporting this new referendum. The performance of WWS warrants our faith and trust in them to manage the budget this referendum will fund. I am confident in the school system’s ability to properly steward the funds needed to maintain our school system as a growing, top-tier K-12 system.

The data from all rating services says we have one of the best school systems in the nation. Without the referendum, there will be risks to keeping and maintaining the current educational system and services it provides. If the referendum fails, we risk losing the state and national rankings we fought hard to achieve. Once lost, we may never get them back. These monies are going to 100 percent make up the difference between state and local funding and provide what is necessary to ensure our children have every opportunity to be “Life Ready” upon high school graduation. I happily support WWS and the education and opportunities this referendum will fund. I hope you will, too.

Ron Moore
Westfield

Letter to the Editor

Former County Clerk Peggy Beaver supports Beth Sheller for Clerk

I am proud to announce my support for Beth Sheller in her candidacy for our next Hamilton County Clerk.

I am a former two-term Hamilton County Clerk, with almost 30 years of experience working in the Clerk’s Office. I know firsthand how important it is for a first-time elected Clerk to already have experience prior to stepping into this very complex department.

One of the most important roles of the Clerk is to oversee the election process. Beth currently serves as our Hamilton County Election Administrator. In her role as Election Administrator, she has already proven to the voters of Hamilton County her leadership skills, work ethics, and dedication in making our county election process one to be proud of.

The Hamilton County Clerk’s Office is one of the biggest departments within county government. It is imperative that we elect a Clerk with already-proven experience. The Clerk is the record keeper of all court-related case filings and provides many other services to the public. Electing Beth will ensure we are getting a Clerk who can start working for you on day one.

I hope you will support Beth Sheller and vote for her on or before Nov. 3.

Peggy Beaver
Former Hamilton County Clerk

Letter to the Editor

Anderson reader says it’s time to end “infantilizing ‘work family’ dynamic”

Dear Editor:

Corporate America is suffering from a fundamental crisis of priorities: we have traded real productivity for the hollow theater of “workplace culture.”

Today’s office environment increasingly privileges performative sociability over actual output. Team-building exercises take precedence over efficient execution. Endless meetings begin with useless icebreakers, followed by the delivery of information that easily could have been an email.

Employees who engage in constant small talk and offer sugar-coated platitudes to management are viewed as high-value assets, while dedicated professionals who simply want to clock in, do exceptional work, and go home to their lives are unfairly labeled as “quiet quitters.”

Worst of all is the unspoken rule that workers must maintain a cheerful façade – pretending they work out of passion rather than the obvious reality of earning a living.

It is time to discard this infantilizing “work family” dynamic and restore a culture rooted in merit, quality, and production.

To fix Corporate America, leadership must return to objective standards. Value should be measured by the work produced, not by an employee’s appetite for office politics or forced camaraderie. We must celebrate the quiet professionals who show up daily, keep their heads down, and consistently deliver. Performance evaluations should offer direct, honest feedback based on measurable metrics rather than subjective assessments of “soft skills.”

Colleagues do not need to be friends, nor do they need to pretend to be. It is only necessary that we work together professionally for 40 hours a week to deliver a superior product. It is time for corporate leadership to stop managing for personality and start managing for results.

James A Hilton
Anderson

Letter to the Editor

Jackson Township resident makes his case for Robyn Cook to remain Trustee

Dear Editor:

As a resident of Jackson Township for over 25 years, I felt compelled to follow up after reading Tony Cook’s recent letter supporting Robyn Cook.

Robyn has been an exceptional trustee, and my perspective comes from decades of watching her work. I’ve known her since her time at Atlanta, a relationship that grew while I served on the Hamilton County Convention and Visitors Bureau board and during my many years as a precinct committeeman at Red Bridge.

I also know her opponent, Cody Perry. Cody is incredibly trustworthy, and I would gladly encourage anyone to hire him for their flooring needs – he has always gone above and beyond the call of duty for me.

But managing a local government budget and navigating township growth requires a very specific set of skills. Robyn has brought that “above and beyond” dedication to local government for a very long time. She truly understands the policy nuances required to keep Jackson Township moving forward smoothly.

We are incredibly lucky to have both of these individuals in our community. However, when it comes to the future of our township’s leadership, I wholeheartedly support Robyn Cook to continue as our Jackson Township Trustee.

Ford Hebner
Cicero, Jackson Township

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.

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.

The Reporter will not publish Letters to the Editor containing personal attacks. [Click here](#) to read The Reporter’s policy on attack ads and Letters to the Editor.

Please send your letters to
News@ReadTheReporter.com.

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



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Wed Sept 30 - Volleyball and Soccer

6:00 pm Cathedral vs **Noblesville** | Junior Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports

6:00 pm Franklin Central vs **Fishers** | JV Boys Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

6:00 pm Franklin Central vs **Noblesville** | JV Girls Soccer | HCTV Sports

7:25 pm Franklin Central vs **Fishers** | Varsity Boys Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

7:30 pm Cathedral vs **Noblesville** | Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports

7:30 pm Franklin Central vs **Noblesville** | Varsity Girls Soccer | HCTV Sports

7:30 pm Mt Vernon vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Varsity Boys Soccer | SSN Sports

Upcoming Broadcasts

Thurs Oct 1 - Girls Soccer and Volleyball

6:00 pm **Guerin** vs **Fishers** | JV Girls Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

7:00 pm **Noblesville** vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Volleyball | Southeastern Sports

7:30 pm **Guerin** vs **Fishers** | Varsity Girls Soccer | Fishers Sports Network

Fri Oct 2 - Football

6:45 pm Delphi vs **Sheridan** | IHSAA Football | Bragg Sports

6:50 pm Southport vs Mt Vernon | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN

6:50 pm Ritter HS vs Covenant Christian HS | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN

6:50 pm Yorktown HS vs Greenfield Central HS | IHSAA Football | Indiana SRN

7:00 pm **Hamilton Southeastern** vs **Noblesville** | IHSAA Football | HCTV Sports

7:30 pm **Hamilton Heights** vs Benton Central | IHSAA Football | Husky Sports

Sat Oct 3 - Volleyball

10:30am Center Grove vs **Hamilton Southeastern** | Volleyball | Southeastern Sports

Sun Oct 4 - Music

3:00 pm School of Rock Fishers: Fall 2026 Preview Show | HCTV Entertainment

Available on the Web

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YouTube

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317-773-1974 for details.

Banks & colleagues defend homeschool families’ right to choose religious curriculum

Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Jim Banks

U.S. Senator Jim Banks (R-Ind.) joined 12 of his colleagues in filing an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to protect homeschooling parents’ right to choose faith-based curriculum for their children.

The brief asks the court to reverse a lower-court decision that wrongly stopped parents participating in California’s homeschool independent study programs from using religious curriculum. It argues that Cal-

ifornia violated the First Amendment by allowing families to select nearly any qualifying curriculum while excluding religious options.

“Parents have a God-given right to direct their children’s education,” Sen. Banks said. “California’s attack on religious homeschool families is blatantly unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court should put an end to it.”

Banks

Key Excerpts from the amicus brief appear below; the full text can be viewed [here](#).

“As part of California’s publicly funded independent-study programs, parents can teach their own children in their own homes with limited oversight from a private, nonprofit, corporation

See Right . . . Page 11

Equality PAC endorses State Senator J.D. Ford for Indiana’s 5th Congressional District

Submitted

On Wednesday, Sept. 30, Equality PAC announced its endorsement of State Senator J.D. Ford for Indiana’s 5th Congressional District.

Ford is running to defeat incumbent Republican Congresswoman Victoria Spartz, who Equality PAC says is a perennial electoral underperformer. When elected, J.D. will become the first openly LGBTQ person to represent Indiana at the federal level.

“J.D. Ford knows what it takes to win in tough places,” Equality PAC said in a statement. “He flipped a long-held Republican state Senate seat by putting people first, listening to his community, and building a campaign that reaches voters where they are. He’s proven that LGBTQ candidates can win in places where others may not think it’s possible, and now he’s bringing that same deter-

mination to Indiana’s 5th District.

“Equality PAC is committed to expanding the map and competing everywhere we can to elect LGBTQ leaders and allies who will help build Pro-Equality Majorities in Congress. J.D. has shown he can compete, win, and deliver, and we’re proud to stand with him as he fights to make history as Indiana’s first openly LGBTQ Member of Congress and bring a strong voice for Indiana’s working families to Washington.”

Ford grew up in a working-class family as the son of a union truck driver and an assisted living administrator, with grandparents who served as local officials. He learned early that public service is about people, not power. He cur-

Ford

rently serves in the Indiana State Senate, where he has fought to lower the cost of lifesaving medication, strengthen public education, and ensure every Hoosier gets a fair shot.

He’s running to bring a working-class perspective to Washington and make life more affordable for every Hoosier.

“I’m honored and grateful to receive this endorsement,” Ford said. “Representation and visibility matter, and I’m running to make sure that we continue to have a seat at the table in Congress so our voices are part of every decision. I’m running because I want to make life easier for every Hoosier, and as a Congressman I will always listen to what the people of the fifth district needs.”

State Rep. Shonkwiler issues statement on Interim Study Committee on Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications final report

Submitted by Office of State Rep. Alaina Shonkwiler

State Rep. Alaina Shonkwiler (R-Noblesville), a member of the House Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee, issued this statement following the Interim Study Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunication meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

“Hoosiers experienced significant hardships during [August’s] storms

and flooding, and the response in some areas of the state fell short of expectations,” Shonkwiler said. “Today’s discussion further reinforces the need for recent events to be investigated to know what happened, identify needed improvements, and determine whether legislative action is necessary to strengthen future respons-

Shonkwiler

es. Hoosiers deserve a response that is reliable, effective and ready to meet the challenges of future severe weather events.”

The final report will be available [here](#).

State Rep. Alaina Shonkwiler (R-Noblesville) represents House District 29, which includes a portion of Hamilton County.

Attorney General Todd Rokita announces 287(g) partnership with ICE to strengthen immigration enforcement & FAIRNESS Act implementation

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

On Wednesday, Sept. 30, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita issued the following statement announcing that his office has entered an agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act:

“Partnering with federal law enforcement is a key part of how we deport illegal aliens under the FAIRNESS Act, which we helped write and support.

“A 287(g) agreement with ICE does exactly that

– giving our investigators greater ability to work side by side with them and take stronger action to protect Hoosiers.

“By the way, every county sheriff across the state should be – and can be – doing what we’re doing. And what sheriffs across the nation are doing.

“Agreements like these do not take away from local law enforcement; they only add to their ability to keep communities safe.

Rokita

They also open up opportunities to obtain federal funding to enhance public safety, so it helps with your local property taxes.

“The fact that only seven of our 92 sheriffs have

signed an agreement like this shows there are missed opportunities for Indiana to enhance the tools they have to protect and serve. The Indiana Sheriffs’ Association should be working to make sure all 92 offices are in this program.

“If your elected official is not partnering with ICE through 287(g), you should ask them directly why that is.”

Editor’s note: As reported by WISH-TV in January 2025, Hamilton County Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush signed the 287(g) agreement, and appointed Chief Deputy John Lowes to head the local Immigration Commission.

Meeting Notices	
The Westfield Advisory Plan Commission will hold a special meeting at 7:30 p.m. (or immediately following the conclusion of the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, whichever is later) on Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026, at Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn St.	The Westfield Advisory Plan Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, Oct. 19, 2026, has been canceled.
The Westfield Advisory Plan Commission will hold a special meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026, at the Westfield City Services Building, 2728 E. 171st 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.

Gov. Braun extends gas tax suspension; farmers permitted to use off-road diesel during harvest

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

On Wednesday, Sept. 30, Governor Mike Braun renewed Indiana’s statewide energy emergency and extended his suspension of the state’s Gasoline Use Tax and Gasoline Excise Tax through Nov. 4, continuing uninterrupted relief for Hoosiers from high gas prices.



Braun

Gov. Braun is also delivering more relief for farmers by suspending the special fuel restrictions for dyed diesel. Farmers will now be able to use dyed diesel for any farm-related activities. This is a direct response to concerns raised by the farming community and will help ease that burden.

“Affordability is my top priority, and my gas tax suspensions have delivered immediate tax relief and

some of the cheapest gas in America for Hoosier families,” Gov. Braun said. “I’m delivering relief for Hoosier farmers by lifting special fuel restrictions to help ease the burden, and providing relief from high gas prices to keep more money in Hoosiers’ pockets and make life more affordable.”

The renewal follows continued disruptions to the global oil supply, including recent Houthi drone attacks in Saudi Arabia that shut down the East-West Pipeline, which accounts for 7 percent of the world’s oil supply. Houthi military advances in Yemen also threaten oil shipments through the Red Sea, while the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine continues to disrupt crude oil supplies and has left Russia’s refining capacity near its lowest level this century.

Speaker Huston commends Braun’s action

“I appreciate the Governor’s continued efforts to keep gas prices affordable for Hoosiers,” Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) said. “Indiana’s strong financial position gives us the flexibility to provide meaningful tax relief and help keep costs down for working families. We’ve also been concerned about the impact of rising diesel prices on Indiana farmers, and I’m glad we’re working with the administration to provide additional relief during the critical harvest season.”



Huston

Speaker Huston recently joined 51 other state legislators in urging Governor Braun to allow Hoosier farmers to use off-road diesel fuel, which is not taxed, for agricultural operations until the end of harvest season. The letter can be viewed [here](#).

These disruptions have realigned the global oil supply chain and placed continued pressure on fuel prices.

The renewed declaration will take effect Oct. 6, following the expiration of the current energy emergency. It will keep both state gas taxes suspended without interruption through Nov. 4 in

all 92 counties.

Gov. Braun first suspended the Gasoline Use Tax in April and expanded the relief in May to include the Gasoline Excise Tax. His continued action to suspend the gas taxes have provided Hoosier families additional breathing room to make ends meet while protecting funding for state and local infrastructure projects.

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

DRIVING OUT THE NATIONS

The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery; from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him.

Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today.

If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors. He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land—your grain, new wine and olive oil—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you. You will be blessed more than any other people; none of your men or women will be childless, nor will any of your livestock be without young. The Lord will keep you free from every disease. He will not inflict on you the horrible diseases you knew in Egypt, but he will inflict them on all who hate you. You must destroy all the peoples the Lord your God gives over to you. Do not look on them with pity and do not serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you.

Deuteronomy 7:7-16 (NIV)

RIGHT

operating a charter school. And subject to general state standards, parents can choose any curriculum they want for their homeschooling – with one exception: religion. That overt discrimination – which Respondents say is required by California’s Blaine Amendment – clearly violates the Constitution. And it is preposterous to say, as did the Ninth Circuit, that

homeschooling parents are actually state actors.

“This Court has “repeatedly held that a State violates the Free Exercise Clause when it excludes religious observers from otherwise available public benefits” and programs...

“To get around that blatant constitutional violation, the Ninth Circuit deemed the homeschool independent-study programs pub-

lic. In other words, homeschooling parents are state actors. But that’s egregiously wrong. This case presents an easy question: whether parents who teach their own children in their own homes based on curriculum they select speak and act as the government. Both case law and common sense dictate that the answer is no.”

U.S. Senator Ted Budd

from Page 10

(R-N.C.), led Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), Jim Justice (R-W.Va.), John Kennedy (R-La.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Mike Lee (R-Utah), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.), Jim Risch (R-Idaho), and Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.) in filing the amicus brief.

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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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Solicitation documents for purchasing
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from the Hamilton Southeastern School Corporation are available on the web site www.hseschools.org. (Please refer to the link near the bottom of the HSE home page referencing “Public Notices”). This website is the official source for all documents related to this solicitation. Hamilton Southeastern School Corporation is not responsible for documents distributed through any other means.
Surplus technology devices are Apple iMac computers. Please refer to the website for specific model information.
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: prior to 4:00 pm local time (EST) October 14, 2026
RECORDING OF PROPOSERS: 3:00 pm local time (EST) October 15, 2026
Vendors shall submit bids according to the Instructions, Provisions and Specifications stated in the solicitation documents. Questions should be addressed via email to HSE’s Director of Infrastructure Technologies, Tom Kouns (tkouns@hse.k12.in.us)
R8768

10/1/26, 10/5/26, 10/8/26, 10/12/26

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Enjoy low-maintenance waterfront living in this gated 2BR, 2BA Morse Lake condo. Features include fresh paint, new carpet, boat slip, two garage spots, storage, and stainless kitchen. Luxury meets convenience.
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9919 FOUNTAIN COVE DRIVE
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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

SOLD!
18532 ORIENTAL OAK COURT
NOBLESVILLE

Beautiful 4BR, 2BA 2 half baths in Oakmont of Noblesville. Situated on over half an acre (.68) wooded lot featuring a screened porch and finished basement along with a three car tandem garage. This move-in ready property awaits you.
Listed at \$559,900

SOLD!
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.
Listed at \$339,900

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