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THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER

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Tonight: Partly cloudy.



HIGH: 80 LOW: 50



paulpoteet.com

Fishers YAP receives \$100K to expand academic support

The REPORTER
Indiana Youth Institute (IYI) has awarded Fishers Youth Assistance Program (FYAP) a grant totaling \$100,000. IYI made the grant in connection with Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana (SYPI), an initiative Lilly Endowment Inc. launched in 2023. The initiative seeks to help youth-serving organizations working throughout the state improve their abilities to promote the academic, physical, and social well-being of young people ages 5 through 18. With this support, FYAP will further build on its academic remediation programs. The funding will allow FYAP to expand its small-group and individual tutoring programs to

FISHERS youth Assistance PROGRAM
serve greater numbers of students. This work will help more local students strengthen their reading skills, address academic challenges, and build a stronger foundation for future success. “We are incredibly grateful for this investment in Fishers Youth Assistance Program and in the students we serve,” FYAP President Debbie Mann said. “This grant will allow us to expand the academic support we provide and reach more students who can benefit from additional help. By investing

Photo provided
With this generous grant, Fishers Youth Assistance Program will be able serve a greater number of students.
in students during the summer and throughout the school year, we can help them strengthen their skills, build confidence,

Life is a gift

I met my friend Rainey in middle school. Throughout the years, we have been through a lot of life together. In high school, she didn't miss a beat and helped me so much after a major surgery our senior year. We were college roommates and she has always been one of my most supportive friends. I love her dearly. Four years ago, she shared with me that she was diagnosed with breast cancer. While a multitude of emotions ran through me, all I wanted to do was show her the same support she always has shown me. Rainey is one of the strongest women I know, and I am proud to call her a friend. During her diagnosis and treatment time, she shared some thoughts with me about my disability. Throughout her battle, she was able to relate to me in ways she never could before. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and I want to highlight, support, and respect those who have battled or are battling this disease. Disability can happen to anyone at any time. Her diagnosis came as many do, a complete shock. She was on a college visit with one of her sons when she opened up her MyChart message and saw the word, “carcinoma.” In the months that followed, she had countless doctor's appointments, followed by a bilateral mastectomy. From there, it was a long and grueling road to recovery. She feels “lucky” that her cancer was caught at the earliest detection point possible. As a nurse, she had put off her mammogram for two years because of life and all that comes with working and raising children. She put her health on the back burner as many women do, and now she works to advocate for regular mammograms, and women prioritizing their health.

COLUMNIST
AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

Parkview Health DNA Insights now available at Riverview Health

Community members in Hamilton County & surrounding areas can now access no-cost research genetic screening

The REPORTER
Parkview Health is expanding access to its DNA Insights research program by offering enrollment through Riverview Health, making it easier for residents to participate in no-cost genetic screening and contribute to groundbreaking health research. DNA Insights, developed in partnership with Helix, is designed to help participants better understand their genetic health risks while advancing the future of personalized medicine. “DNA Insights demonstrates the powerful impact that research and innovation can have on community health,” said Dr. Jamie L. Renbarger, Chief of Precision Health and Academic Medicine at Parkview Health. “As we’ve

PARKVIEW DNA INSIGHTS
expanded the program across the region, we’ve made participation more convenient and accessible. Offering DNA Insights through Riverview Health gives more individuals the opportunity to better understand their health, take proactive steps to help prevent disease and contribute to research that may benefit future generations.” As part of the enrollment, participants will complete an online informed consent form to receive a no-cost genetic screening to learn about their inherited risk for certain hereditary can-

Riverview Health
Powered by **PARKVIEW**
cancers, including breast, ovarian and colorectal, as well as a hereditary form of high cholesterol (familial hypercholesterolemia) that increases risk for heart attack and stroke. Participants can also gain insights into their regional ancestry and selected genetic traits, such as caffeine sensitivity and sleep patterns. Individuals with positive results are offered a no-cost genetic counseling session with a genetic counselor to understand their results and discuss proactive, preventative care planning. Results may also help guide testing for family members who could be affected. “Healthy communities start with giving people the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their care,” said Dr. Eric Marcotte, Chief Medical Officer and practicing Primary Care Physician at Riverview Health. “By bringing DNA Insights to Hamilton County, we’re expanding

See *Gift* . . . Page 2

Westfield Lions celebrate 96 years of service with Anniversary Dinner & awards

By JEFF LARRISON
Westfield Lions Club
The Westfield Lions Club celebrated 96 years of service to the community on Oct. 1 with its annual Anniversary Dinner, recognizing several members for their outstanding contributions to the club and the community. Twenty-seven Lions received Perfect Attendance pins at the meeting, including Ted Engelbrecht, who was recognized for 55 years of perfect attendance, and Bob Benson, who has achieved an impressive 57 years. Joel Davis was awarded a Richard Miyamoto Fellowship for his dedicated service to the club and the community. The award is named in honor of Dr. Richard Miyamoto, renowned for his work in audiology and speech and language pathology. The fellowship was presented by Past District Governor Eric Schuman, a trustee for the Indiana Lions Speech &

Photo provided
(ABOVE, from left) Dennis Lloyd (Mark Hallett Memorial Award), Linda Hallett (Lion of the Year), Jacqui Lloyd (Mark Hallett Memorial Award), and Carrie Larrison (Melvin Jones Fellowship). (TOP RIGHT) Eric Schuman and Joel Davis, who won the Miyamoto Fellowship. (CENTER RIGHT) Jeff Larrison and Bill Nesbitt, who received the ISBVI Fellowship. (BOTTOM RIGHT) Jeff Larrison and Dr. Kathleen Busby, who received the ISBVI Fellowship.
Hearing Project. Lions Bill Nesbitt and Dr. Kathleen Busby received the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Fellowship for their volunteer efforts involving vision screening of elementary school students and

See *Lions* . . . Page 2

Noblesville School Board member Christi Crosser earns gold seal

The REPORTER
Congratulations to Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees President Christi Crosser on earning a gold seal leadership certification from the Indiana School Boards Association.

Crosser

This certification strengthens advanced knowledge in key areas such as student achievement, fiscal oversight, and public transparency.

Come meet the candidates

The Reporter is doing our part to help voters make informed decisions when casting their ballots whether early, absentee, or on Election Day. The Reporter will publish Candidate Bios for all candidates who choose to engage with our readers. Those will publish every Monday through Friday through Election Day (and at [this link](#)), and those pages will be updated as more candidates choose to submit their information. Polling places are listed on Page 7 at [this link](#). Please note that Vote Centers will **not** take effect in Hamilton County until the May 2027 primary election. This is a free public service we are providing both to candidates and our readers.



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Heights names six September Coffee Bean Award recipients

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corporation

Hamilton Heights High School recognizes the following students who were named as Coffee Bean Award recipients for the month of September. They include Gavan Hite, Lillie Hooper, Fiona McDonald, Tyler Miller, Addison Mize, and Addison Webb.

The name and award, inspired by *The Coffee Bean*, a book written by Jon Gordon and Damon West, delivers a simple, yet powerful message on positive change. All students nominated receive a certificate of recognition.

At the end of the month, the names of the students who were nominated during the month are included in a drawing where the first seven names drawn are called down to the office to enjoy a hot chocolate or coffee and a donut.

The monthly award objective is to encourage more acts of kindness, positivity, school spirit, and help foster a closer sense of community at the high school. Students and staff can nominate students. You can send a nomination by visiting our Student Services page at hs.hhschuskies.org.



Photo provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation (From left) Fiona McDonald, Gavan Hite, Tyler Miller, Lillie Hooper, and Addison Mize. Not pictured: Addison Webb.

FYAP

from Page 1

FYAP is one of 168 youth-serving organizations awarded SYPI grants totaling more than \$40 million. A full list of grant recipients is available [here](#).

About Fishers Youth Assistance Program

Fishers Youth Assistance Program (FYAP) walks alongside children and families in the Fishers community by connecting them with resources and services that help them overcome challenges and thrive. FYAP provides family education, tutoring, mentoring, counseling, and assistance with food, clothing, and financial needs. Through partnerships with schools, community organizations, volunteers, and donors, FYAP works to strengthen the well-being of local youth and families. To learn more about FYAP, [click here](#).

About Indiana Youth Institute

Indiana Youth Institute’s mission is to improve the lives of all Indiana children by strengthening and connecting the people, organizations, and communities that are focused on kids and youth. IYI is Indiana’s premier source for high-quality data on child well-being and data-informed action to address challenges Hoosier children face. It leads the FIVE by 50 vision as a connector and convener to ensure that every child will have a network of five caring, supportive adults in their life by the year 2050. Visit iyi.org to learn more.

About Lilly

Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based, private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff, and location. In keeping with the founders’ wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education, and religion. Although the Endowment maintains a special commitment to its founders’ hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana, it funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion.

GIFT

from Page 1

After her surgery, she lost many abilities due to minimal range of motion in her arms. She had to adapt and rely on others during this time. She and I had several conversations during this time about her loss of independence and how she felt lonely, even though she had a wonderful support system.

She was determined to not miss a moment of her kids’ activities and school events, even on the toughest days. She went to a school events in a wheelchair and reached out to me sharing her thoughts on those experiences.

“I thought about you a lot on those days. It was like a day in the life of Amy. I remember my son pushing me through crowded high school hallways and stopping to talk to people who seemed unaware of my presence. I was not always included in the conversations above me except for a brief, Hey, good to see you out and about! Feeling, ok? Sometimes those talking around me would turn the conversation away from me and I was left in the wheelchair facing a wall.”

When I asked her if her perspective shifted or changed in the way she views disabilities or chronic illness since her diagnosis and fight against breast cancer, this is what she said:

“Yes, thanks to you. I was minimizing my experience by saying things like, it could be a lot worse, or I am lucky I don’t need chemo. That’s true, and I have a cousin who was diagnosed with more advanced breast cancer than mine on the day of my mastectomy. She had a much harder and longer fight than me. I told myself I was never going to feel sorry for myself again because I had it easy compared to her. I remember telling you that and you stopped me right away and told me it is ok to feel bad about what was happening to me. You told me it could be worse, but it could be a lot better, too. Thank you for that important lesson, friend. You have no idea how much that helped me come to terms with my diagnosis and the loss I felt.”

Finally, I asked her if her diagnosis changed the way she views me and my disability. She said, “As adults, you have taught me so much about the parts of people’s lives we don’t see and how challenges can become opportunities. You are a realist and an optimist at the same time when you write and talk about your disability, and that is exactly what I needed to inspire me to get through my battle with cancer and to



Photo provided by Amy Shinneman After her cancer diagnosis, Rainey (left) ran the Indianapolis Mini-Marathon with Amy and Jamie Shinneman.

encourage me to try and help others through theirs.”

Rainey ran in support of Humbly Courageous shortly after her diagnosis (which was truly remarkable), and before her surgery. She also ran with us at the last Indianapolis Mini-Marathon. She said if there is one thing that her battle with cancer taught her it is that “life is a gift, no matter how hard it can be at times.”

For my full “interview” with Rainey, please visit

my website, humblycourageous.org.

Until next time... Amy Shinneman is a former National Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, disability blogger, freelance writer, wife, and mom of two boys. She is the recipient of The Reporter’s Winter 2025 Ink-Stained Wretch award. You can find her blog at humblycourageous.org and reach her on Instagram @ashinneman.

DNA

from Page 1

access to information that can help individuals better understand their health, identify potential risks earlier and take proactive steps alongside their healthcare team. We’re proud to offer a resource that can benefit not only participants, but families across our community for generations to come.”

Eligibility & enrollment

DNA Insights is open to individuals age 18 or older with a Riverview MyChart account, or who are willing to create one. Individuals

can sign up for a Riverview MyChart account at any time and do not have to be a Riverview or Parkview patient. There is no cost to participate, and health insurance is not required. When enrolling online, participants based in Central Indiana should select the option to receive a Helix buccal swab collection kit by mail.

To learn more or enroll, visit parkview.com/DNAInsights. To create a Riverview MyChart account, [follow this link](#).

LIONS

from Page 1

Dennis Lloyd. The award recognizes new and newer Lions who have been quick to answer the call to service, going above and beyond in fulfilling the Lions Club motto, We Serve.

The award was established in memory of Lion Mark Hallett, a retired fire fighter who passed away unexpectedly in 2025. Although Mark was a new Lion, he made an immediate impact on the club through his hard work and willingness to serve others.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship, one of the highest honors in Lions Clubs International, was presented to Carrie Larrison. Carrie was recognized for her extensive service to the club, including volunteering at numerous events and projects, recruiting several new members, and serving the community.

The Roy O. Hadley Lion of the Year Award was presented to Linda Hallett. Linda’s hard work on the Club’s Golf Outing Committee was

instrumental in the success of this year’s event. She has also recruited numerous members into the club and regularly volunteers at club events and projects.

In addition to the awards presentation, Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt provided the Lions with an update on several major developments taking place throughout the county. He discussed several infrastructure projects in the works and provided an update on the County’s flood recovery efforts.

About the Westfield Lions Club

The Westfield Lions Club was founded in 1930 and has been serving Westfield and the citizens of Hamilton County for 96 years. The club is always looking for men and women who are interested in stepping up to serve others and make a difference in their community. For more information about the Westfield Lions Club and how to become a member, visit westfieldlions.org.

SHERIDAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

FINANCE & DISTRICT UPDATE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026
6:00 P.M.

HS/MS AUDITORIUM
24185 Hinesley Road, Sheridan IN

District Updates

Financial Update

Community Q&A

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SEASON PRESENTING PARTNER

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Beck’s Hybrids named presenting sponsor of World Food Championships

The REPORTER

The World Food Championships (WFC) has announced that Beck’s Hybrids and SOYLEIC™ will serve as the Presenting Sponsor of the WFC2026 Awards Show, taking place at 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center’s Fall Creek Pavilion in Indianapolis.

The WFC Awards Show will provide the culminating celebration of WFC2026, where the 10 World Category Champions will be crowned following four days of championship competition. The evening will also recognize competitors, performances, and achievements from throughout the event, celebrating the culinary talent, dedication, and ‘Food Sport’ spirit that define the WFC.

The partnership brings SOYLEIC to the WFC following Beck’s recent acquisition of the exclusive licensing rights to the

SOYLEIC soybean patents from the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council. Developed through decades of farmer-funded research at the University of Missouri and USDA Agricultural Research Service, SOYLEIC soybeans are a high-oleic, low-linolenic variety designed to produce soybean oil with improved stability and high-heat performance without hydrogenation. The technology also provides a domestically sourced alternative to imported oils while creating new market opportunities for farmers.

As the largest family-owned seed company in the United States, Beck’s brings a long history of farmer-driven innovation and investment in agricultural research to the partnership. The addition of SOYLEIC expands that work into an area with a direct connection to food, bringing the story of soybean production and innovation closer to the chefs,



competitors, and consumers who ultimately experience food at the table.

“Food Sport begins long before a chef steps into the kitchen,” said Mike McCloud, Founder and CEO of the World Food Championships. “It starts with farmers, ingredients and the innovation that makes better food possible. SOYLEIC is a great example of that connection. Beck’s is helping take a technology developed through years of farmer-funded research and bring it to new markets, and we’re excited to have that story represented as part of the WFC Awards Show.”

The partnership creates an opportunity for Beck’s

and SOYLEIC to introduce WFC competitors, culinary professionals, and fans to the role that agricultural innovation can play in the food system. SOYLEIC’s high-oleic soybean technology is designed to deliver oil with improved stability and performance under high heat, characteristics that have potential applications across foodservice and culinary operations.

“SOYLEIC represents the kind of farmer-driven innovation that can create value well beyond the field,” Beck’s President Scott Beck said. “We’re proud to bring SOYLEIC to the World Food Championships and to be part of an event that celebrates the people, products and ideas that come together to create great food. The WFC Awards Show gives us a unique opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of these talented competitors while sharing the story of how innovation in agriculture can connect farmers to new opportunities throughout the food system.”

The 2026 World Food Championships will bring together more than 1,200 competitors representing all regions of the United States and from around the world, competing across 10 categories for more than \$400,000 in prize money. Indianapolis will crown the World Category Champions, who advance to the Final Table to compete for the title of World Food Champion.

Competitors, partners, and fans can stay up to date on the 2026 World Food Championships at worldfoodchampionships.com.

Halloween News

Have a safe Halloween at Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran Church will hold a fun, safe, family-friendly Trunk-or-Treat in the church parking lot from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31.

The church is located at 10055 E. 186th St., Noblesville.



Photo provided by HEPL

Acclaimed author Kelly Yang came to HEPL in 2022. She’s shown here in front a Front Desk-inspired display case that was created by a library staff member.

Award-winning author Kelly Yang returns to Hamilton East Public Library

The REPORTER

Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) will welcome No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling author Kelly Yang back to the Fishers Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19.

Yang previously visited HEPL in 2022, where she was a popular guest with local readers and families. She returns this fall to celebrate the release of the graphic novel adaptation of her beloved novel *Front Desk*.

language kids can understand. Reading her books can spark many meaningful conversations between kids and caregivers. Additionally, Kelly loves inspiring young budding writers to tell their own stories.”

Following the program, Yang will be available to sign books. LoudMouth Books will be onsite with a selection of books available for purchase. Registration is required to help HEPL and LoudMouth Books prepare for the event.

Presented in partnership with LoudMouth Books, the event will give children, families, and fans of Yang’s work an opportunity to hear her discuss *Front Desk* and the new graphic novel adaptation, illustrated by Fumio Obata.

First published in 2018, *Front Desk* is inspired by Yang’s own childhood experiences as a first-generation immigrant living and working in a motel with her family. The story follows 10-year-old Mia Tang, who manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel while her immigrant parents clean the rooms. As Mia navigates family, friendship, and her dream of becoming a writer, she finds the courage to stand up for others and pursue her own goals.

Yang is the author of more than 15 books for children, teens and adults, and *Front Desk* was named “one of the best books of the 21st century” by Kirkus Reviews. Her books have earned multiple awards, including the Asian Pacific American Award for Literature, the California Young Reader Medal, the Parents’ Choice Gold Medal, the Strega Prize for literature in Italy, and have featured on multiple best of the year lists, including Amazon Best Book of the Year, *Washington Post* Best Book of the Year, *Kirkus* Best Book of the Year, *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year, NPR Best Book of the Year, and *Publisher’s Weekly* Best Book of the Year.

“We are excited to welcome award-winning author Kelly Yang back to the Hamilton East Public Library!” Systemwide Program Coordinator Allison Kartman said. “Children and families will get to hear from Kelly about the release of the graphic novel version of her popular title, *Front Desk*. Kelly has the unique ability to distill big ideas and topical issues into

For more information about this event and to register, please visit HEPL’s calendar of events.

About Hamilton East Public Library

Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) serves the communities of Fishers and Noblesville, providing access to resources, experiences, and spaces that inspire lifelong learning, creativity, and community connection. In addition to offering story-times, programs, and special events, HEPL is committed to supporting local residents through initiatives and community-driven partnerships. Through programs, outreach, and collaborative efforts, HEPL connects people of all ages to stories, ideas, and opportunities that enrich their lives and strengthen the community they share.

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Carmel’s College Wood Elementary earns ‘Blue Ribbon’ designation

The REPORTER

On Monday, Oct. 5, Governor Mike Braun announced recipients of the second annual Indiana Blue Ribbon Schools designation. This year, 16 public and private schools across the state were selected for this recognition for their exceptional academic achievement and commitment to student success.

College Wood Elementary Schools in Carmel is among the designees.

“Indiana’s Blue Ribbon Schools represent our state’s commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive,” Gov. Braun said. “These schools continue to set the bar high and show what is possible when families, schools, and communities work together to create classrooms where students are supported and prepared for the future.”

The Indiana Blue Ribbon Schools designation celebrates schools that demonstrate exemplary academic performance and innovative approaches to meeting the needs of stu-

dents. These schools have fostered environments of excellence, serving as models of educational leadership and impact for communities statewide and beyond.

“With more than 2,300 K-12 schools across Indiana, to be named one of the top 16 is an incredible accomplishment,” Indiana Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner said. “This level of excellence is only possible when strong educators work hand-in-hand with families to meet the unique needs of every learner.”

The National Blue Ribbon Schools designation was first established in 1982. As education is returned to the states, the U.S. Department of Education has encouraged states to continue to celebrate the achievements of their local schools and the positive impact they make on the lives of students. The Indiana Department of Education annually names a new cohort of designees.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Indiana Blue Ribbon Schools designation.



Braun



Jenner

Applications open now for state’s new Advanced Nuclear Ready Communities program

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Governor Mike Braun recently announced the [Indiana Advanced Nuclear Ready Communities program](#), with applications now available online.

This is an initiative that supports Hoosier communities seeking designation as sites for nuclear energy-related development. The program is a key component of Indiana’s all-of-the-above energy strategy, designed to attract clean energy investment, drive high-tech innovation, and support affordable, reliable power for Hoosiers.

“This program empowers local communities with a strategic road map to clear the way for clean energy investment, which in turn will lead to lower energy costs for Hoosiers and unlock high-paying career opportunities in Indiana’s energy and manufacturing sectors,” Gov. Braun said. “By leading the way in advanced nuclear development, we are making a direct investment in long-term energy affordability, ensuring our businesses stay

competitive and our utility costs remain stable and resilient for generations to come.”

Local leaders should [visit the application page](#) to apply, submit documentation, and share their community’s interest in hosting next-generation energy infrastructure, including SMRs and advanced nuclear facilities.

To support interested applicants, the Indiana Office of Energy Development (OED) has posted a comprehensive [digital toolkit](#) featuring templates, reference materials, and educational resources that guide local leaders through each step of the qualification process.

All Indiana counties and regions, in coordination with their cities and towns, are eligible to apply for designation. Community leaders are encouraged to engage with OED to assess baseline readiness and obtain technical assistance before submitting a formal application.

Community leaders seeking more information about the program or with questions about the application process may contact nuclear@oed.IN.gov.

Indiana starting anonymous school safety tip line in January

By TOM DAVIES Indiana Capital Chronicle

State officials are planning to launch an anonymous tip line regarding safety concerns that will be available for all K-12 schools starting in January.

The line will be monitored 24 hours a day year-round as part of what will be a \$1 million investment to ensure all schools have access to a platform for reporting possible safety issues, the governor’s office announced Friday, Oct. 2.

Enrollment in the program is optional and will be offered to all schools at no cost.

“Students, staff and families will be able to anonymously report bullying, threats, violence or concerns about someone who may be struggling,” Gov. Mike Braun said. “Every Hoosier student deserves a safe place to learn. So, if you’re worried about yourself or someone else, speak up.”

The state’s Office of School Safety will hold outreach and education ses-

sions with schools about the program over the coming months.

“Safety concerns do not stop when the school day ends,” Office of School Safety [Director Julie Smith](#) said. “This will provide 24/7/365 monitoring by trained safety specialists, with urgent concerns escalated to designated school officials and emergency responders when necessary.”

Braun created the [Office of School Safety](#) last year as part of his public safety agenda. The new office absorbed Indiana’s [Secured School Safety Board](#) in overseeing millions of dollars in annual safety grants awarded to schools.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita operates a separate anonymous reporting system – [Eyes on Education](#) – that focuses on alleged inappropriate curriculum or staff actions. It includes issues involving LGBTQ+, so-called critical race theory, discrimination, and Charlie Kirk comments.

This story was published on Oct. 5, 2026, at indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Get for Carmel Clay Parks & Rec’s Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail

The REPORTER

A not-so-spooky Halloween celebration is returning this October with Carmel Clay Park & Recreation’s (CCPR) Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail. Individuals with disabilities and their families are invited to enjoy an afternoon of fun on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 1-3 p.m. at River Heritage Park, 11813 River Road.

The event offers a sensory friendly alternative to traditional trick-or-treating, allowing participants to enjoy the fun of Halloween without loud music, frightening decorations and other spooky surprises. Friendly volunteers dressed in non-threatening costumes will hand out treats along River Heritage Park’s fully accessible trails, with seasonal games and activities

available at the end of the trail.

“Everyone, regardless of age or ability, should have an opportunity to enjoy Halloween,” said Kelvin Solares, CCPR Inclusion Program Supervisor. “Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail gives individuals and their families a chance to celebrate in a way that feels comfortable for them while still enjoying what makes the holiday special.”

Registration for the Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail is \$7 per trick-or-treater, while accompanying family members are free. [Preregistration is required](#). Trick-or-treaters should bring their own bag or basket for candy.

Want to get involved? Volunteers are needed to hand out treats, host activ-



Photo provided by Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation

ities, and help with setup/teardown. [Click here](#) to sign up to volunteer. Local organizations are also invited to participate by handing out candy, promotional items, or other goodies along the trail. Organizations interest-

ed in participating can contact Kelvin Solares at kso-lares@carmelclayparks.com for more information.

To learn more about CCPR adaptive programs, visit carmelclayparks.com/programs/adaptive.

Hamilton County Community Foundation receives \$35K Duke Energy grant for workforce training

The REPORTER

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, the Duke Energy Foundation announced it is awarding grants to two Central Indiana organizations supporting workforce development efforts.

Locally, the Hamilton County Community Foundation (HCCF) will receive \$35,000 for its Hamilton Works pro-

gram. HCCF plans to advance three goals with this funding: build a coordinated em-

ployer engagement model for Hamilton County adult workforce programs; expand Ivy Tech Community College student internships with local employers; and establish the multi-county Suburban Indy Workforce Partnership.

The shareholder-funded grants aim to equip Hoosiers with in-demand skills and industry-recognized credentials to meet the needs of the region’s employers.

“I regularly speak to



business leaders and local officials in the communities we serve, and they consistently share with me that a skilled workforce is the key component of continued economic growth,” Duke Energy Indiana President Stan Pinegar said. “This grant will help expand the state’s talent pool, create opportunities for individuals facing barriers to employment, and strengthen Indiana’s competitiveness when

attracting companies. It’s a smart investment in our customers and where they live and work.”

About the Duke Energy Foundation

The [Duke Energy Foundation](#) provides nearly \$30 million annually in philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities where Duke Energy customers live and work. The Foundation is funded by Duke Energy shareholders.



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Photo provided

Hear Broadway hits, Disney classics & more from The Sharpe Family Singers

The REPORTER

You’ve seen them on Broadway, *American Idol*, and *America’s Got Talent*, and in dozens of national TV commercials. Or maybe you are among the 14 million fans who follow them on social media or the 100 million who watch their fun viral videos on YouTube and TikTok every month.

The Sharpe Family Singers have put the “family” back into wholesome family entertainment. Their live

Best of Broadway show – a tightly choreographed, interactive multimedia production – features Broadway showstoppers from smash hit musicals, mega-hits from the Disney songbook, blockbuster soundtracks from popular films and a wide variety of Top 40/Contemporary pop hits.

You can see them perform live at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Payne & Mencias Palladium. [Click here](#) to get your tickets.

Noblesville selects Oak View Group to manage Riverview Health Arena at Innovation Mile

The REPORTER

Noblesville city officials announced on Tuesday, Oct. 6, a new partnership with **Oak View Group** (OVG), a global leader in premium live entertainment infrastructure and services, to operate and book the 3,400-seat **Riverview Health Arena** at Innovation Mile. The arena is home to the Noblesville Boom, the Indiana Pacers’ G League affiliate.

Through the partnership, which began with the TradeUp Festival on Sept. 19, OVG now oversees the arena’s day-to-day operations, live event programming and booking, while working closely with the city to further establish the venue as a destination for sports, concerts, family entertainment, and community events.

Oak View Group named Marcellus Barksdale, a former student-athlete at Indiana University Indianapolis, as General Manager of Riverview Health Arena to lead the team’s efforts in Noblesville. He joins Oak View Group from



Photo courtesy of Matthew Doudt Photography & City of Noblesville



Barksdale

Learfield, where he created commercial value across college athletics, brands, media, and live events. He is also the co-founder of SoulFeast Week, a food and culture platform built around community, hospitality, and cultural tourism.

“We recently completed our first year at Riverview Health Arena at Innovation Mile, and the response exceeded our expectations, with more than 60,000 visitors and over

70 unique events hosted during our inaugural year,” Mayor Chris Jensen said. “That strong start has created incredible momentum, and we’re excited to build on it alongside Oak

View Group. OVG brings tremendous experience and industry expertise, and we look forward to working together to expand programming, grow attendance, and continue positioning Riverview Health Arena as a premier destination for events in America’s Hometown.”

Located within Innovation Mile, an initiative created by the City of Noblesville to help drive economic development and growth in the area, Riverview Health

Arena hosts a wide range of events, including concerts, sporting events, family shows, corporate and non-profit events, graduations, and more. Innovation Mile is a 600-acre innovation, tech, sports, and entertainment district on the east side of Noblesville fronting Interstate 69.

“We look forward to partnering with the City of Noblesville in positioning Riverview Health Arena as a powerful catalyst for economic development that draws more people to Innovation Mile and the region,” said Greg O’Dell, President of Venue Management at Oak View Group. “With Marcellus leading our efforts as General Manager at Riverview Health Arena, we are excited for the future in Noblesville.”

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‘Clear pattern’: Boone County considers removing auditor following data leak

By **KARA KENNEY**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Boone County commissioners and council members are considering removing the county auditor after a data leak exposed employee names and Social Security numbers.

Boone County held a public hearing Tuesday on the removal of Auditor Debbie Crum, who took office in 2021.

An internal investigation found Crum emailed the names and Social Security numbers of all 290 county employees to the Indiana Department of Child Services. Weeks later, a DCS employee emailed the document to

four Boone County employees and two county vendors.

Boone County highway worker Matt Schaller was among the employees the data leak impacted. He testified at Tuesday’s public hearing.

“It’s not fun to deal with,” Schaller said. “We deserve better from our elected officials. Our data is still at risk and that’s what we need to protect.”

Crum apologized Tuesday for the incident.

“I’m sorry it happened,” Crum said.

County attorney Beth Copeland said Crum’s mistakes extend far beyond the data leak. During an hour-long presentation, Copeland alleged Crum repeatedly shared sensitive information over email.

Copeland also said Crum had a history of poor bookkeeping, payroll issues, paying invoices from incorrect funds, and failing to upload contracts to a transparency portal. She alleged these errors cost the county thousands of dollars.

Copeland also accused Crum of nepotism, claiming she hired and paid her daughter for county work in 2023 and 2024.

“This is a clear pattern of not just negligence, but almost a complete disregard for so many different processes,” Copeland said. “The DCS issue is the proverbial straw that broke the camel’s back.”

Crum admitted to hiring her daughter but said the work was brief and the pay was minimal. The auditor said that while she made mistakes, she should not lose her job.

“What I’m asking is the facts be considered in their full context,” Crum said. “Some of these allegations concern mistakes that were corrected, some of them information provided by HR and other departments and other elected officials.”

Several Boone County residents and employees testified in support of Crum.



Crum

“I think it’s a poop show, and I think you’re out to get her for no reason,” county employee Terri Batts said. “It’s a bunch of crap. Everyone comments it’s a witch show and it really truly is. As you can tell from the evidence, nothing she’s done is criminal.”

“We must stand up for and stand beside our elected officials,” resident Karen Morton said. “She is an elected official.”

Both the county commissioners and county council must decide if Crum is guilty of “refusing, neglecting, or being unable to perform the official duties pertaining to her office.”

This would be the first time in Indiana history a county official was removed from an elected office for that reason.

The county commissioners and council will vote on a resolution in approximately two weeks. If both bodies approve the removal, a judge will then consider the case.

Crum’s attorney cited a Supreme Court case, *State of Indiana v. Beth Neff*, in which the state tried to remove the Yorktown Clerk-Treasurer for failing to perform statutory duties. The Delaware Circuit Court declined to remove Neff, ruling her conduct was misfeasance rather than nonfeasance. The Supreme Court affirmed that decision, noting the case did not meet the rare criteria for removal.

Boone County Communications Director Brent Wheat said the county is taking the issue seriously.

“The process speaks for itself, and we’re trying to be very transparent about it,” Wheat said. “We’re looking at it with our due diligence and making sure it’s done right.”

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/i-team/clear-pattern-boone-county-considers-removing-auditor-following-data-leak.

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Letter to the Editor

Reader: I have trust in Trustee Robyn Cook

Dear Editor:

I’ve had the opportunity to get to know Robyn Cook over the years through several conversations, and with the upcoming election for Jackson Township Trustee, I felt like I should also share why I believe she deserves to continue in that role.

I’m a resident of Jackson Township, so I want someone who genuinely cares about the people who live here. Someone who thinks about decisions not just in terms of what they mean on paper, but how they affect people and the community as a whole.

That’s what I see in Robyn. She understands that being trustee means people may need help at all hours of the day. Life’s problems don’t just arise during regular business hours, and I know she makes herself available when people need her, even if that means nights and weekends. I appreciate her compassion for people and how seriously she takes the responsibility of being trustee. She understands that her decisions have both financial and quality-of-life consequences, and I’ve always found her thoughtful about both.

I also know Robyn and I share a concern about the growth coming to our area. Jackson Township is a special place, and as more development moves our direction, I believe we need to be thoughtful about how we grow while preserving the identity of our community. From the conversations I’ve had with Robyn, I know that matters to her too.

But honestly, those things aren’t the main reason I’m writing this. What stands out to me is Robyn herself.

We see plenty of examples these days of people in elected positions who become caught up in personal vendettas, fame, power, money, political pressure, or other outside influences. In my interactions with Robyn, I’ve never gotten the impression that she is motivated by those things.

She seems able to block out the outside noise and focus on a much simpler question: What is the right thing to do for the people of Jackson Township?

That matters to me.

I don’t expect perfection, because no one can be held to that standard. But I do believe Robyn approaches the job with integrity, compassion, and a genuine concern for the people she represents. Most importantly, I trust her.

As a resident of Jackson Township, that’s something I value tremendously in the person who serves as our trustee.

For those reasons, I’m supporting Robyn Cook for another term as Jackson Township Trustee.

Jay Trauring
Cicero, Jackson Township

Letter to the Editor

Taxpayers are not ATMs

Editor’s note: This letter is written in response to Janet Hart Leonard’s column published in the Monday, Oct. 5 edition of The Reporter.

Dear Editor:

Stop guilt-tripping taxpayers into making a false moral choice! There is an assumption circulating that ‘no’ voters do not appreciate value or return on investment. It is reasonable to expect transparency, accountability, fiscal responsibility, and an improvement in student outcomes! Schools are trusted stewards of public funds, and expectations are high.

Over the past five to six years school spending has risen well above the current inflationary rate. How can you justify building 20 percent of your budget on funding that may never materialize? And to make matters worse, only a fraction of the 2018 Referendum funds went to safety and security. Taxpayers were misled. They should submit a line-item budget and let voters determine spending priorities!

Administrative pay packages are excessive. There are too many hands in the pot along with too many competing priorities for available dollars. No wonder teacher compensation falls short. Also, do not underestimate the impact of the mayor’s overuse of TIF Projects and how that might impact funding. He would have taxpayers believe it is “free money” while it is quite the opposite!

We do not need any more new football stadiums or tennis courts let alone an ‘N’ in the middle of a roundabout. Why did we need a new high school extension when enrollment is down – the answer is more complex than to hinge it on changes to the School Voucher Program. Do not mistake a ‘no’ vote for a lack of understanding. We understand infrastructure dollars come from a separate funding stream.

Our taxes have continued to rise over the past five to six years. Enough is enough! We also have budgets to balance and bills to pay. That is our collective reality! Where do taxpayers go to ask for extra dollars when we have a short fall? What about Seniors living on a fixed income? They cannot ask SSA for increases in their COLA or monthly benefit. Many families need those dollars for their own budgets, not higher taxes. Landlords are signaling they will push the added costs to renters.

We attended the superintendent’s talk, and it was both unimpressive and poorly prepared. We do not trust that spending will be on the low side of the Referendum. Our home has and continues to do research and math. It will cost us another \$950/year. Of course they are framing the Referendum on the low side. They are becoming afraid and want it to pass.

You state that misinformation is circulating. That very well could be true. You cannot cry ‘misinformation’ just because your version of the facts does not necessarily pass the smell test.

We have voted yes in the past. This time around our home will vote no. Something must change before our home says yes in the future.

Desiree Moody
Noblesville

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.

Flesh, Fear, and Forever:
An eschatological view of artificial intelligence

Colossians 3:1-15 (NLT)

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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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Prison Island’s “Horror Story” brings a haunted prison experience to Indianapolis this Halloween

Submitted

Editor’s note: In September, The Reporter’s own Aida Karim visited the first Prison Island location in the United States. You can read that story at [this link](#).

Think you’re brave?

This Halloween, Prison Island is putting Indianapolis to the ultimate test as Prison Island’s *Horror Story* comes to life after dark beginning on Friday, Oct. 16, at Castleton Square Mall. For a limited time and on select dates only, once the clock strikes 7 p.m., the ghosts of the prison’s past return after dark as teams have to battle their way through physical, mental, and strategic challenges, all while trying to survive the night.

Tickets are now available via Fever’s app or website at [prisonisland-indianapolis.com](#).

Brought to life by immersive entertainment specialists Make It Now and co-produced with Fever, the global live entertainment platform, Prison Island transforms for Halloween into a haunted world where guests become part of the story.

Starting Oct. 16 on exclusive nights only, darkness falls and eerie sounds haunt the halls of Prison Island as ghosts of the prison’s past return to their cells. The question is no longer whether you can beat the cells, but whether you can beat the horror.



Photo provided by Prison Island

This is much more than a traditional haunted house. Beyond the prison doors, more than 47 cells offer different tests of strength, strategy, speed, and skill. Teams of two to five players have 60 minutes to choose their own path to victory, moving cell to cell and deciding which challenges they want to take on. Every challenge earns points, every decision shapes the experience, and every team has the same goal: beat as many cells as possible to climb the leaderboard.

But during *Horror Story*, the cells are no longer the only thing teams have to worry about.

Bringing a new layer of storytelling, *Horror Story* transforms the prison from a

place of competition into an immersive world of supernatural encounters. Teams will need to think fast and work together because when the ghosts arrive, only the bravest will survive.

Horror Story highlights

• **The Prisoners Have Returned:**

Ghostly prisoners roam the prison, appearing when teams least expect them and bringing the story of Prison Island’s *Horror Story* to life after dark.

• **Cells After Dark:**

The cells remain intact, but a sinister new atmosphere descends upon the prison as multiple senses are activated with dimmed lights and frightening sounds.

• **Survive the Night:**

Teams must rely on communication, strategy, and memory as they attempt to conquer the challenges while faced with unexpected ominous barriers.

• **New Night, New Horror:**

No two nights are the

same as live performers and unscripted encounters take center stage. You never know what, or who, you might see next.

• **Limited Time Only:**

Prison Island’s *Horror Story* is a limited-time transformation, meaning guests may only enter the haunted prison while the ghosts are still roaming ... at their own risk.

Three weekends to put your bravery to the test

Your chance to enter the haunted prison is limited as Prison Island’s *Horror Story* will take over Indianapolis for a limited time only.

• **Oct. 16 and 17** from 7 to 11 p.m.

• **Oct. 23 and 24** from 7 to 11 p.m.

• **Oct. 28 and 31** from 7 to 11 p.m.

Gather your fearless friends, choose your team, and prepare to enter a haunted prison like never before.

In Hamilton County, high performance can hide executive burnout

Hamilton County is built on high performance. In Carmel, Fishers, Westfield, and Noblesville, the people next door are often executives, business owners, physicians, and attorneys, along with the spouses who keep everything running around them.

That culture has a blind spot. Around here, if your numbers are good, everyone assumes you are good. That assumption can be wrong.

I am a licensed clinical social worker and a co-founder of CEREVITY, a network of independent licensed clinicians that works with executives and other high achievers. A 2026 CEREVITY review, **67 percent of High-Achievers Peak During Peak Strain**, looked at 287 high achievers who sought therapy through our network. Sixty-seven percent said they were performing at their peak during the same period their strain was at its worst.

Read that again. For two out of three people in that review, the best results came at the worst time. The quarter that earned the bonus was the quarter they stopped sleeping.

That is why results are a poor warning system. Boards look at revenue. Partners look at billable hours. Spouses look at the promotion. Everyone is watching the scoreboard, and the scoreboard says everything is fine.

There is a reason for that pattern. From the outside,

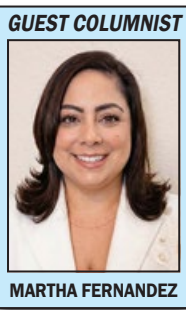
strain often looks like drive. The executive answering email at midnight looks committed. The owner who never takes a day off looks dedicated. The parent who coaches, volunteers, and closes deals looks like a model of balance. In a community that rewards all of that, the warning signs get applause.

The cost shows up later. A separate 2026 CEREVITY review, **Why Executives Wait 21 Months for Therapy**, looked at 307 executives and found they waited a median of 21 months before a first session. Fifty-eight percent waited until a crisis forced them to act. By then, the strain that never showed up in the numbers is showing up everywhere else: in a marriage, in a health scare, in a sudden resignation.

Consider a composite drawn from patterns I see, not any one person. A regional vice president in Fishers just had her best year. She also has not taken a real vacation in three years, is snapping at her teenagers and cannot remember the last time she enjoyed a weekend. Her company sends her a congratulations note. Nobody asks how she is.

If performance is not the signal, what is? Watch for the quieter changes. Sleep that keeps getting shorter. Irritability with the people you love most. A calendar with no time off in it. Hobbies that disappear. A drink

See *Burnout* ... Page 9



GUEST COLUMNIST

MARTHA FERNANDEZ

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Patrons pack Potter’s Bridge for fall festival



Photo provided by Bev Poindexter
 This year’s Potter’s Bridge Fall Festival was another big success. Families enjoyed live music, arts and crafts, lots of good food, and scenic views along the White River Greenway. While the bridge was cleared for pedestrian use after the August flood, crossings were managed a bit differently than in years past, with access limited to 250 people at a time.

Former Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann endorses Ballard of Secretary of State

Submitted
 On Monday, Oct. 5, former Indiana Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann, a Republican who served in the Pence Administration, endorsed independent candidate and former Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard for Secretary of State.

“As Lieutenant Governor I was privileged to work alongside Greg,” Ellspermann wrote in a statement. “It was refreshing to see how Mayor Ballard deeply engaged with Indianapolis constituents, implemented forward-thinking initiatives, and worked with both sides of the aisle

to improve our Capital City. Greg Ballard will lead with highest integrity as Indiana’s Secretary of State: listening to Hoosiers, protecting our elections, and working in a non-partisan manner to make Indiana better. Please join me in voting for Greg Ballard for Secretary of State in November.”

Ballard thanked Ellspermann and said she’s the kind of public servant needed in government today.

“I’ve got enormous re-



Ballard

spect for the former Lieutenant Governor and always have,” Ballard said. “She’s a rational, practical, problem-solver – and we need more people like her in government. I appreciate her support and our shared commitment to doing the right thing for Hoosiers. People from all backgrounds are noticing the policy-driven, respectful tone of our campaign. Sue embodies this as a public servant, and I am humbled by her support.”

Learn about new NASA telescope at free IU Kokomo Observatory open house

The REPORTER
 Learn more about a NASA telescope launched in August at the Indiana University Kokomo Observatory’s free monthly open house.

Patrick Motl, professor of physics, will begin the open house at 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, with discussion of the Nancy Grace Roman Telescope, which launched Aug. 30, and is designed to map the cosmos and solve major mysteries involving dark energy and exoplanets.

The telescope, originally called the Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope, is named after Nancy Grace Roman, NASA’s first chief of astronomy and the “mother of Hubble,”

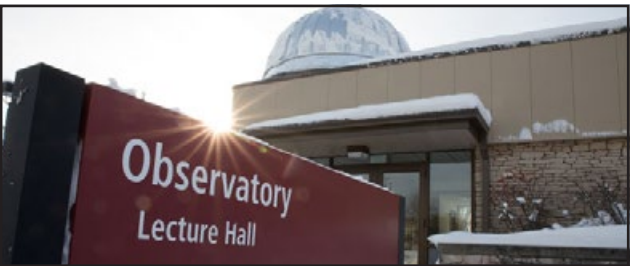


Photo provided by IU Kokomo

for her foundational role in planning the Hubble Space Telescope.

After the presentation, stargazers may be able to see Saturn, the Andromeda galaxy, the ring and dumbbell nebulae, and the wild duck cluster through the Observatory’s telescopes. They include a six-inch Takahashi refracting telescope and a 16-inch Meade reflecting telescope mount-

ed together. The Takahashi provides exceptionally sharp images of planets, while the Meade allows viewers to see fainter objects in the sky, due to its larger light-collecting area.

Observation will continue through 10 p.m., weather permitting.

The Observatory is at 2660 S. Washington St., Kokomo. Free parking is available on campus.

BURNOUT

that has become a nightly requirement. Those are the signs that strain is building, even while the numbers climb.

Hamilton County can do better by its high performers in a few simple ways.

Families and friends can ask a different question. Not “How is work?” but “How are you sleeping?” or “When did you last take a day off?”

Employers can stop treating great results as proof of wellbeing and make confidential mental health care

easy to use before anyone is in crisis, with no reporting back to the boss.

Leaders in the county’s companies, hospitals and congregations can talk openly about getting help themselves. One respected voice saying, “I saw a therapist during my best year at work,” can change what a whole office believes is normal.

And the high performers themselves can get help while things are still going well. Therapy is not only for when life falls apart. It

can be the thing that keeps it from falling apart.

This community celebrates people who push hard and win. It can also be the place where pushing hard and getting help are seen as part of the same strength.

Martha Fernandez, LCSW, is a licensed clinical social worker who co-founded CEREVITY, a private-pay concierge network of independent licensed clinicians built for high achievers. Her book is *Wired to Burn*. You can learn more at cerevity.com.

from Page 8

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<https://lifetimelegacylawyers.com>

CLICK TO LISTEN

Upcoming Broadcasts

Wed Oct 7 - Volleyball and Noblesville Candidate Night
 6:00 pm **Noblesville Candidate Night** | IN House Dist. 29 & School Board | HCTV
 6:50 pm City Alliance Semis I | Varsity Volleyball | Indiana SRN
 6:50 pm City Alliance Semis II | Varsity Volleyball | Indiana SRN

Thurs Oct 8 - Girls Volleyball
 6:00 pm Brownsburg vs **Noblesville** | JV Girls Soccer | HCTV Sports
 7:30 pm Brownsburg vs **Noblesville** | JV Girls Soccer | HCTV Sports

Fri Oct 9 - Football
 6:45 pm Eastern vs **Sheridan** | Football | Bragg Sports
 6:50 pm Terre Haute South vs Chatard | Football | Indiana SRN
 6:50 pm Covington Catholic vs Cathedral @ Butler Bowl | Football | Indiana SRN
 6:50 pm **Guerin** vs Mt Vernon | Football | Indiana SRN
 7:00 pm **Fishers vs Westfield** | Football | Fishers Sports Network

Sat Oct 10 - Volleyball, Freshman Football & College Football
 10:00am Carroll vs **Fishers** | Varsity Volleyball | Fishers Sports Network
 10:00 am **Westfield vs Fishers** | Freshman Football | Fishers Sports Network
 1:15 pm Mount St Joseph vs Franklin | HCAC Football | Indiana SRN/HCAC

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Aspire Indiana Health expanding specialty services, relocating from Noblesville to Carmel Health Center

Submitted

In its mission to lower barriers to accessing high-quality healthcare for Hoosiers from every walk of life, Aspire Indiana Health is expanding its medical Specialty Services and relocating the practice from Noblesville to its Carmel Health Center.

Aspire launched specialty services – which includes dermatology, rheumatology, and neurology – last year to fill a gap in care for lower-income

households. Aspire accepts Medicaid and Medicare plus most traditional forms of insurance, and also offers sliding-scale fees for those lacking insurance.

The in-person demand for these services was such that Aspire outgrew its space in Noblesville, necessitating the move to a permanent home at its Carmel clinic



Oh

as part of the expansion: Physician Assistant Holly Watson, rheumatology; and Dr. Andrew Bridge, dermatology. They join existing practitioners Dr. Gregory Bell, rheumatology; Dr. Kenneth Mankowski, neurology; and Nurse Practitioner Kaitlin Walden, rheumatology.

Specialty services appointments can be made by calling (317) 552-0475 or through a referral from a primary care provider. For more information, visit aspireindiana.org/specialty-services.

“We’re thrilled to expand these critical services and give the team more space at our Carmel Health Center,” Chief Medical Officer Dr. Holly Oh said. “The need for this specialized care is very high, and Aspire is dedicated to lowering healthcare barriers. We are very grateful to our partners at AndHealth for helping us introduce and enhance Specialty Services.”

Aspire’s approach to Specialty Services is a model of comprehensive treatment and ongoing support. The goal is to help patients reduce or eliminate symptoms, support a healthy lifestyle, and stop progression of symptoms through a personalized treatment plan that can include medication, nutrition, and environment/lifestyle care.



Graphic provided

Aspire is a Federally Qualified Health Center and Indiana Community Mental Health Center with clinics in Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Madison, Marion, and Shelby counties.

About Aspire
Serving Central Indiana since 1966, Aspire Indiana Health is a nonprofit community health system with services including behav-

ioral health, primary and specialty care medicine, pharmacy, substance use disorder treatment, infectious diseases, deaf services, crisis continuum, recovery housing, abused/neglected children advocacy and programs addressing the social drivers of health such as housing and employment. Learn more at aspireindiana.org.

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This Fire Prevention Week, take these steps to keep loved ones safe

The REPORTER

This Fire Prevention Week, the American Red Cross Indiana Region offers steps you can take to help prevent a fire in your home and keep your loved ones safe.

Across the country, the Red Cross responds to more than 60,000 disasters a year and most of these are home fires. These fires are devastating for the people involved. But there are steps everyone can take which will help not only help prevent a fire from starting but also help keep everyone safe should an emergency occur.

First: steps to help keep you safe

Check out the first 10 steps below to learn what you should do.

Have a plan. You may have less than two minutes to escape from a burning home. Draw up a household fire escape plan and practice it twice a year.

1. Everyone in your household should know two ways to escape from each room in your home.

2. Decide where to meet once you get outside. Select a meeting spot at a safe distance away from your home, such as a neighbor’s home or landmark like a specific tree in your front yard, where everyone knows to meet.

3. Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for

people, pets, or things.

4. Time your fire drill and find out how long it took everyone to get out.

5. If a fire starts in your home, get out safely, then dial 911.

Smoke alarms save lives. Smoke alarms can cut your risk of dying in a fire nearly in half.

6. Place smoke alarms on each level of your home, including inside and outside bedrooms and sleeping areas.

7. In addition to testing your alarms once a month, change the batteries at least once a year, if your model requires it.

8. Check the manufacturer’s date of your smoke alarms. If they’re 10 years or older, they need to be replaced because the sensor becomes less sensitive over time. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

9. Identify two exits from every room.

10. Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.

Second: steps to help prevent a fire

Steps 11 through 20 focus on things you can do to lessen the chance of a fire in your home.

Be safe in the kitchen.

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. Follow these five steps to help you avoid a cooking fire:



11. Never leave cooking food unattended. If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove. Use a timer to remind yourself that the stove or oven is on.

12. Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking.

13. Keep kids away from cooking areas by enforcing a “kid-free zone” of three feet around the stove.

14. Keep anything that can catch on fire — pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, and towels or curtains — away from your stove top and oven or any other appliance in the kitchen that generates heat.

15. Purchase a fire extinguisher to keep in your kitchen.

Heat your home safely.

Home heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires. As the time of year nears when people turn the heat back on, take these five steps to heat your home safely:

16. Never use a cooking range or oven to heat your home.

17. Never leave a fire burning in the fireplace unattended. Make sure any

embers in the fireplace are extinguished before going to bed or leaving home. Use a glass or metal fire screen to keep embers in the fireplace.

18. Space heaters:

It’s critical to keep at least three feet of space around all heating equipment, and never leave space heaters unattended.

19. If you must use a space heater, place it on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, such as a ceramic tile floor. Don’t place it on rugs and carpets, or near bedding and drapes. And keep children and pets away from the heater.

20. Plug space heater power cords directly into outlets. Never an extension cord. Turn it off every time you leave the room or go to sleep.

According to the **National Fire Protection Association**, there was a home fire every 23 seconds in 2024 which claimed a life every two hours and 14 minutes. During Fire Prevention Week, the Red Cross urges everyone to develop their evacuation plans, check their smoke alarms and help keep the members of their household safe.

Postal Service announces holiday shipping dates

The REPORTER

The U.S. Postal Service has announced the recommended mailing and shipping dates for the 2026 holiday season.

For expected delivery before Dec. 25, the Postal Service advises customers to send mail and packages by the following dates:

2026 Holiday Shipping Dates for Contiguous U.S. (Lower 48 States)

- USPS Ground Advantage service: Dec. 17
- First-Class Mail: Dec. 17
- Priority Mail: Dec. 18
- Priority Mail Express: Dec. 19

2026 Holiday Shipping Dates for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Territories

- USPS Ground Advantage service: Dec. 16

- First-Class Mail: Dec. 17
- Priority Mail: Dec. 18
- Priority Mail Express: Dec. 19

For a complete list of suggested dates to send packages to military or international addresses, the Postal Service recommends visiting the USPS **holiday shipping page** beginning mid-Oct.

During the holiday season, customers should always plan to mail and ship packages early to ensure arrival by Christmas Day.

For tips on mailing and shipping preparation, ordering free shipping supplies, packaging guidelines (including restricted and prohibited item information), and Post Office location hours, visit usps.com or the **USPS YouTube channel**.

Melvin Dwayne Jones

September 14, 1958 – October 4, 2026

Melvin Dwayne Jones, 68, Anderson, passed away on Sunday, October 4, 2026, while vacationing in Illinois. He was born on September 14, 1958, to Melvin and Betty (Dorris) Jones in Indianapolis.

Melvin proudly served his country as Sergeant First Class in the United States Army and worked for many years as a truck driving instructor. He enjoyed traveling, military tanks, and bourbon collection, amassing 141 different bottles. Melvin was a foodie and enjoyed cooking, playing board games, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his mother, Betty E. Jones; second wife, Sharon Jones; children, Robert (Amy) Jones, Melissa (Justin) Treadway, and Brandon (Cozette) Jones; four grandchildren, Kaitlyn (Matthew) Borders, Connor Treadway, Jonathan Jones, and Caiden Treadway; and his sisters, Nancy (Randy) Dawson and Sandra (Dave) Imel.

Melvin was preceded in death by his father, Melvin H. Jones; and his first wife, Kelly J. Jones.

A private family burial will be at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Indianapolis. A celebration of Melvin’s life will be held at a later date. Please contact the family directly for more details.

Donations in Melvin’s memory may be made to American Lung Association of Indiana, 12800 N. Meridian St., Suite 125, Carmel, IN 46032 (lung.org/about-us/contact-us/indiana); or American Heart Association, PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692 (heart.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Amanda “Mandie” Whitson

April 10, 1975 – October 4, 2026

Amanda “Mandie” Whitson, 51, Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, October 4, 2026, at River-view Health in Noblesville. She was born on April 10, 1975, in Noblesville.

Mandie was an eighth-generation Noblesville resident and worked as a Hamilton County court clerk. She liked flower gardening, painting, and taking road trips. Mandie loved listening to music, and she did not read music but had the God-given talent to play piano by ear, especially beautiful classical music. She enjoyed her quiet time but also loved spending time with family and friends. Mandie loved watching FOX News for hours.

She is survived by her mother, Vicki Jackson; sister, Jennifer Whitson; brother, Craig Whitson; grandmother, Carol Swaynie; half-sister, Gabbriel Whitson; half-brother, Luke Whitson; nieces, Autumn Whitson, Sierra Whitson, Hope Whitson, and Katelyn Kimmerling; nephews, Hunter Kimmerling, and Leland Kimmerling; aunts and uncles, Mike & Debbie Swaynie and Randy & Debbie Kern; and many other loving family members.

She was preceded in death by her father, Michael Whitson; grandparents, Tipton & Mildred Whitson; and grandfather, John Swaynie.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, October 10, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville, with Rev. Stanley Sutton of Refuge Christian Church and Rabbi Jeff Adler of Shaarey Yeshua congregation officiating. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

DO NOT FORGET THE LORD

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.

Deuteronomy 8:3-5 (NIV)

Christina “Christy” Sue Dormady

December 31, 1942 – October 1, 2026

Christina “Christy” Sue Dormady, a loving, resilient, creative woman, passed peacefully on October 1, 2026, surrounded by family. Christy was born on December 31, 1942, in Indianapolis, to Oscar and Dora Havens. She was known for her dedication to her family and her students. She had a heart full of empathy that touched everyone she met.

Christy’s passion for education led her to dedicate much of her life to teaching. She was first and foremost an educator at heart, working as a special educator with a focus on reading. She retired in 2004 from the Indianapolis Public School System, but her love for teaching remained a passion, and she returned to the classroom in California, where she moved to be closer to her family. Christy was a pillar of support for her family and was deeply involved in the lives of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She held a special love for Lake Wawasee, a place she cherished deeply. She was an avid sewer and reader, and she held a particular fondness for British mysteries. She was also an ardent fan of IU athletics, especially basketball. She was a member of the Cicero United Methodist Church. In her younger years, Christy nurtured a beautiful garden that was the envy of her neighbors. Even in retirement, she continued to cultivate her creativity through crafting.

Christy is survived by her children, Deborah Dormady (Beth Staropoli), Todd (Alicia) Dormady; her grandchildren, Chris (Crystal) Dormady, Austin Dormady, Aden Dormady, Cole Dormady, Sydney Dormady; her great-grandchildren, Libby Dormady and Ethan Dormady; and her brother, David (Kathy) Havens. Christy was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar and Dora Havens, and her brother, Stephen Havens.

Through every stage of her life, in Cicero and California, Christy remained a beacon of love, resilience, and dedication. Her zest for life was contagious, and she had an innate ability to make those around her feel valued and loved. Christy’s legacy will continue to live on through the many lives she touched.

Christy’s wishes were to have a simple cremation. Her care and services have been entrusted to Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Homes in Cicero.

Please join us in celebrating her life by sharing your most cherished memories of Christy. We encourage you to upload photos and leave your thoughts on the memorial page as a way to honor her memory.

Condolences: hartleyfuneralhomes.com

James “Jim” Streeter

January 26, 1937 – October 3, 2026

James “Jim” Paul Streeter, 89, Carmel, passed away on Saturday, October 3, 2026. He was born January 26, 1937, in Kokomo, son of Paul Robert and Ferol Josephine (Garbert) Streeter.

As a farm boy, Jim grew up in Kokomo in a loving home with his parents and two brothers. Following graduation from Northwestern High School, he married his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Betty Wolfe Streeter, in 1956. Jim attended Purdue University, then continued his education at IUPUI where he earned his bachelor’s degree. He was an avid Purdue fan, and the Indianapolis Colts, Indiana Fever, and the Indy 500.

Jim and Betty loved to travel! With friends they traveled the world visiting six different continents. As a Construction Project Manager for Hunt Construction, Jim traveled extensively managing global construction projects.

Jim was a Carmel Symphony Emeritus board member.

In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 67 years, Betty (Wolfe) Streeter; brothers, Jack Streeter and Joe Streeter; and son-in-law, Ross Houston.

Survivors include his daughters, Julie Houston and Jayne (Art) Enlow; grandchildren, David (Melanie) Houston, Kathryn (Keith) Houston Gibson, Kyle (Elli) Vanover, Brayden (Katie) Streeter, and Cogan (Kayleigh) Streeter; and three great-grandchildren.

Family and friends will gather at 10 a.m. Friday, October 9, 2026, at Carmel United Methodist Church, 621 S. Range Line Road, Carmel, where the Funeral Service will begin at 11 a.m.

A Committal Service will take place at 1:30 p.m. at South Union Cemetery, 00NS 1050 West, Kokomo.

In memory of Jim, donations may be made to the Carmel United Methodist Church Endowment Fund, 621 S. Range Line Road, Carmel, IN 46032; or the Carmel Symphony, 760 3rd Ave. SW, Suite 102, Carmel, IN 46032. Envelopes will be available at the service.

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

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

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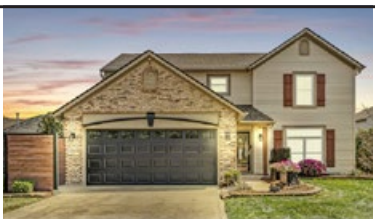
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