

REPORTER THE HAMILTON COUNTY
Your Hometown Newspaper

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14, 2026

ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN | TIPTON
CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Showers likely.
Thunder possible.
Tonight: Showers likely.



HIGH: 78 LOW: 60

Sheridan students in top 10% in ILEARN biology assessment

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

Every spring, current students taking biology take the state-mandated ILEARN test.

At Sheridan High School (SHS), students enrolled in biology prepare all year for this assessment. The teachers behind the biology courses are Kurt Olsan and Ryan Kelleher.

"We prepare all year long for this assessment by ensuring students have access to rigorous curriculum and hands-on experiences that bring the content to life," Kelleher said.

Students partake in labs, experiments, activities, and projects to be able to understand the core concepts of biology. During one of the most exciting experiments, students create their own self-contained

ecosystem within a two-liter bottle. This bottle, filled with earth matter, fish, plants, and worms, creates an environment where students can see Earth's carbon, nitrogen, and water cycles in action and observe biology come to life.

Through these projects, students are better able to comprehend and understand the core of biology, which they were then able to demonstrate on the state assessment. SHS students truly demonstrated their understanding and performance, ranking 27th out of 290 Indiana public school corporations — a placement within the top 10 percent.

The test measures students' understanding of key biology concepts and skills, and 65.5 percent of students at SHS scored at proficiency or above,

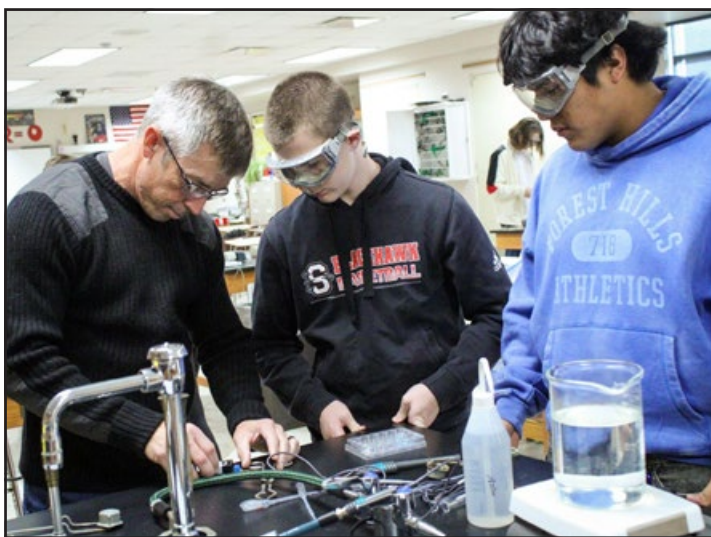


Photo by Allison Waitt

Kurt Olsan works with students in the lab.

significantly above the state average of 46.8 percent. This test highlights the district's improvement and the continued

work that Sheridan students and the science department are doing to strengthen learning and achievement.

The price of belonging

For many years of my life, I paid a price to belong. I thought I needed to sacrifice my identity to belong in the world. To matter.

My internal dialog was a constant stream of worry about what was "wrong with me." Over time that loop played simultaneously while I tried on the outside to pretend I was "normal" like I perceived my peers to be. I became a master multitasker at an early age.

I did an excellent job at it. As my friend said in my column last week, "you hid it so well." Meaning my pain. My physical disability cannot be disguised.

It was my duty to hide it. I needed to protect my family from shame and ease their burden. Early on, I started to shoulder the burden, thinking that would make things better for them if I could act as "normal" as possible.

I was very aware of how my life was causing hardships to my family. They never told me that, I just knew. The surgeries, the therapies, the doctors all took valuable time and financial resources from our family.

It felt awful knowing that and not being able to fix it. The only thing that was happening were a lot of doctors taking a stab at trying to figure me out. To help me get better. Cutting, casting, bracing, rehabilitating, but none of it "fixed" me.

When the mocking started in school, I knew that my efforts to appear "normal" were not fooling everyone. The kids that bullied me knew. Everyone knew I was disabled, but that was not a word ever used to describe me.

Crippled, handicapped, and physically challenged were words that stung every time. I still cringe when others use those words to describe me. Doctors used the most clinical and ugly words to paint my portrait. I often felt like a freak leaving my testing and appointments.

My body was just a job to them, and it felt like I was more of an object rather than a human.

The words they used in their dictations were cold, void of any empathy. As I got older, I read their words from copies of the dictations we would get in the mail. I still have some of them, and it still hurts to read them.

I felt anything but human reading their medical terms. It made me loathe myself even more than I already did. It affected the little self-confidence I had and still does to this day.

They were doing their job, but the fallout fell solely on me. I did not know how to talk to anyone about it. I was too young to form it into words. That was a living hell.

See *Belonging* . . . Page 2

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

Arcadia's own Carly Hutcherson crowned Homecoming Queen at Trine

Submitted

Trine University recognized its 2026 Homecoming court as well as its king and queen during the annual Thunderstruck Pep Rally in the MTI Center on Friday, Oct. 2.

Carly Hutcherson, a senior from Arcadia, was crowned Homecoming queen. An exercise science major in Trine's direct-entry 3+3 Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program, she is the daughter of Jeanne and Joe Hutcherson.

Active in campus leadership and student life, she serves as vice president of the Pre-Occupational Therapy Club and social chair of Gamma Phi Epsilon sorority, and is a third-year dancer on the High Voltage Dance Team. After this year, she will complete her doctoral studies at Trine University's Brooks College of Health Professions in Fort Wayne, with plans to specialize in pediatric occupational therapy.



Photo by Laura Pentecost / Trine University
(RIGHT) Trine University's Homecoming Queen, Carly Hutcherson of Arcadia, and Homecoming King, Keith Knafel of Albion, Ind., are escorted onto Shive Field by university mascot Storm.

Carmel International Arts Festival celebrates student artists with scholarships & gallery exhibition

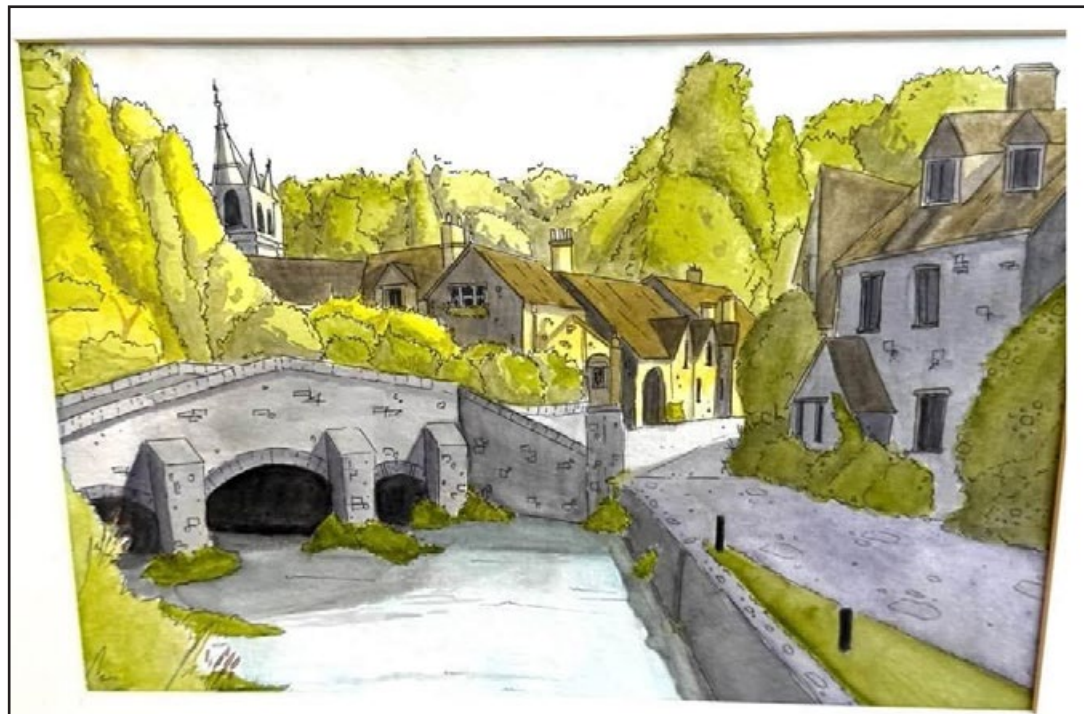
The REPORTER

This year's Carmel International Arts Festival (CIAF) was a tremendous success, welcoming more than 30,000 visitors who enjoyed an outstanding selection of artwork, including pieces by returning artists and musicians as well as exciting new talent.

CIAF also celebrated the creativity and accomplishments of local high school students through its annual High School Student Art Exhibit. Students from Carmel High School (CHS) and University High School (UHS) submitted 133 works of art, showcasing their talents across a wide range of artistic mediums.

In keeping with its mission to educate the community through the arts and support emerging artists, CIAF awarded scholarships to recognize the students' creativity, innovation, and artistic achievement.

The student artwork was displayed at the Indiana Artisan Gallery on Range Line Road in the Carmel Arts & Design District. Providing students with a professional gallery setting gives them an opportunity to share their work with the community and experience the ex-



Art provided

University High School student Liz Maitz won the \$2,500 Rosemary Waters Excellence in the Arts Scholarship for her watercolor *Spring in Finland*.

citement of exhibiting their art in a professional venue.

This year's High School Art Exhibit Scholarship recipients include:

Rosemary Waters Excellence in the Arts Scholarship (\$2,500)

- Liz Maitz, UHS — *Spring in Finland*, watercolor

Best of Show Scholarships (\$1,500 each)

- Kenzie Beaster, CHS — Acrylic
- Annabel Pollert, CHS — Watercolor
- Lillian House, CHS — Charcoal
- Dravyn Hermeena, CHS —

Photography

Innovation in the Arts Scholarships (\$1,500 each)

- Maija Gilhooly, UHS — Fashion
- Quinn Crawley, UHS — Fiber

See *Arts* . . . Page 2

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.

Election Day polling places are listed on Page 8 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.



www.noblesvillesports.com @noblesvillesports

Judicial Center	2,518
4-H Fairgrounds	3,793
TOTAL	6,311

Jackson Township Fire Department (2013-2024)

ReadTheReporter.com

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.

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](https://www.instagram.com/ashinneman).

➔ **LauriForLiberty.com** | Paid for by Lauri for Liberty



ELECTION DAY: NOV 3RD

Paid for and authorized by the Committee to Elect Devon Wellington

You can learn more about the festival, including how to participate and visit in 2027, online at CarmelArtsFestival.org.



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- K-18 yrs
- \$75 / youth \$20 / teen memberships
- M-Th open until 7pm
- Fri open until 6pm




Great Futures Start Here

SCHOOL BREAK PROGRAMS

- Outdoor Camp Crossover (spring, fall, and winter)
- Indoor/outdoor Club Daybreak (all school breaks)
- Programs start at 7:30am
- Must have Club membership. Additional fees apply.

1700 Conner St

Learn more and register at BGCNI.ORG

317-773-4372

Get to know Indiana’s comptroller candidates

By **MACKENZIE KLEMAN**
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A little-known statewide office responsible for disbursing and reporting how Indiana’s state tax dollars are spent is on the ballot this election season.

Three candidates are vying to be Indiana’s next comptroller: Incumbent Elise Nieshalla, a Republican, is seeking re-election against Democratic nominee Jessica Bailey and Libertarian John Schick.

The comptroller, formerly known as the state auditor, is responsible for accounting, disbursing and reporting how Indiana spends its \$26 billion in annual state general fund revenues.

Former Gov. Eric Holcomb appointed Nieshalla to the position in 2023.

The comptroller compiles an annual financial report for lawmakers and governors to plan future budgets, pays the state’s 30,000 employees, disburses funds to state agencies and local governments and administers Indiana’s deferred compensation fund.

She also manages the state’s transparency portal, intended for Hoosiers to know how their tax dollars are spent, and is a member of the State Board of Finance.

Nieshalla describes her ascent to the position as a natural progression from president of the Boone County Council and Indiana County Councils Association.

She spent the previous two decades in economic development and real estate acquisition for the Indiana Department of Commerce, now known as the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

The role taught her the basics of state government – “it’s all about jobs,” she said.

“For a long time, I’ve known that it’s my responsibility to do my part to keep the republic,” Nieshalla said, adding: “And here I find myself now as a leading financial officer for the state of Indiana, and doing my utmost to keep Indiana fiscally strong, disciplined, responsible and transparent.”

Democrat Bailey is finishing her second term as clerk of courts for Porter County, where she manages marriage licenses, traffic and criminal records and oversees county elections. She also spent six years with the Porter Township school board.

The apolitical nature of the comptroller’s office is attractive to Bailey, who said she was inspired to seek the nomination to make Indiana’s transparency portal more accessible to the average Hoosier.

As clerk of courts, Bailey said she started a mobile voting center out of a single-wide trailer for Porter County residents whose community polling centers had closed, so early voting wouldn’t be so inconvenient.

“I think if we just put some of that out-of-the-box thinking into the comptroller’s office, it’ll make it much easier and more accurate for Hoosiers to get information functions like the transparency portal,” she said.

Schick, a Northwest Indiana management consultant now in his fourth campaign for comptroller, joined the Libertarian Party in 2002. He rose through the ranks as secretary for the state central committee and now district leader for Congressional District 1.

Schick sees his political outsider status as an asset for the office, which he said would benefit under the direction of a comptroller who is not a member of either major political party.

“An independent state comptroller would make it clear that it’s run independently (of the governor and legislature),” he said, “and isn’t there just to have the same set of priorities as the legislature that’s making the decisions.”

Inside the transparency portal

Nieshalla is proud of Indiana’s transparency portal, an online database of state assets, contracts, employees, finances, local governments and vendors. “It’s a phenomenal tool,” she said.

In May, Nieshalla launched a new dashboard dedicated to federal expenditures in Indiana.

Federal funding surged from an average of between \$12 billion and \$14 billion a year to \$26 billion at the peak of the coronavirus pandemic and has remained elevated since then, she said.

“When you have that much money coming into a state so quickly ... those dollars are vulnerable to fraud, waste and abuse because of the administration and assimilating those funds in so quickly,” Nieshalla said. “So we needed to have the brightest sunlight on those dollars to be able to look back and look forward and say, ‘Are those dollars being spent as they were intended?’”

The federal number is now dropping each year.

National debt advocacy

Nieshalla and state Treasurer Daniel Elliott formed a coalition of 37 state financial officers who lobby lawmakers to take action on the \$40 trillion national debt, leaning on Indiana’s balanced budget amendment as a model for the federal government.

Failure to act could result in national bankruptcy – eroding the U.S. dollar’s status as the world’s reserve currency, she said.

Nieshalla worked with Hoosier lawmakers as chair of the National Debt Crisis Task Force for the State Financial Officers Foundation on a resolution asking the federal government to act. Other states are doing the same.

“They’re working to get it passed in as many states as possible to build this movement from the states, because what we’re asking the federal government to do is some of the most difficult work,” Nieshalla said, as it will require reforms of America’s most popular social programs: Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security.

“We’ve got to get back to basics and understand that resources are finite and that there are consequences for a debt load of \$40 trillion ... and \$1 trillion in annual cost of interest.”

Bailey and Schick each said the national debt is concerning, but they would prefer to focus their attention on state issues where they could have more impact.

Opponents push to improve portal

Bailey and Schick each said they’d like to make the portal more user-friendly to the average Hoosier.

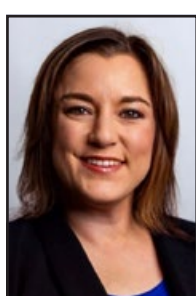
“Republicans talk a lot about the state transparency portal, but it’s not very transparent,” Schick said. “When you get into it, you realize it’s not really giving you very much information about how much money is being spent.”

A search of state expenditures in his home Porter County shows “60% of all spending goes into a single account called settlements,” he said, “and it doesn’t describe at all how all that money is being spent.”

If elected, Schick said he’d “completely” rework the site and issue regular



Nieshalla



Bailey



Schick

press releases about how state monies are spent on issues of the day like Flock cameras. “It’s spending of public money and should not be hidden behind a wall of opacity,” he said.

Bailey said there are practical solutions to site glitches – case sensitive searches requiring the exact spelling of an employee or contractor’s name, which she said could be corrected to function more akin to Google by generating suggested names and search terms.

She’d like to add other information too about the prevailing wage and minimum standards for state contractors.

“It’s a very good tool, and I think it’s a good starting point,” she said.

Bailey wants more focus on State Board of Finance

The three-member State Board of Finance supervises state funds – authorizing loans, appropriations and transfers made between accounts that don’t require legislative approval.

Bailey said she’d like to see the board engage in more public discussion, so Hoosiers aren’t left out. The meetings often last only a few minutes.

“As a county official, if I need more money in my budget, or if I need to transfer money within my (accounts), I go to the county council,” she said. “They are the fiscal stewards of the county money. ... They want to know why it wasn’t high enough. They want to know where the money went, what the expenses were, what cost went up and what I plan to do with the additional money.”

The State Board of Finance should do the same, she said. “But there’s no discussion at a public meeting, so how are taxpayers across the state supposed to know what’s happening with their money?”

Nieshalla said board members review information in advance to “make sure it’s on the up and up.” Many requests are routine, she said. Others are subject to additional scrutiny:

“We do our due diligence to make sure we understand the request, why, what it’s going toward and then we vote yea or nay.”

This story was published on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Sheridan Retirement

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Sheridan, IN 46069



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Purple Thursday

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Join us on Thursday, Oct. 15 and **Go Purple with Prevail**. By wearing purple, you are helping break the silence, raise awareness, and show survivors that their community believes them, supports them, and stands beside them.

Snap a photo, post on social media and tag us **@prevail.inc**

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Free Candy 🎃 Food Trucks

Encounter a mystical dragon, The Circle City Ghostbusters, characters from *A Nightmare Before Christmas*, and Fire Breathing and Live Vaudeville Performers as you trick or treat!

Thurs., Oct. 15

5-8:30pm

\$5 per person

(Children 2 or younger free)

Tickets available online at
myhamiltoncountyparks.com
or on-site, day of event.

Title Sponsor



Cool Creek Park

2000 E. 151st St. Carmel, IN 46033



Westfield Lions’ “Fore the First Responders” golf outing raises \$17,800

Funds will support the city’s police and fire departments

By **JEFF LARRISON**
Westfield Lions Club

On Sept. 15, the Westfield Lions held their third annual charity golf outing, “Fore the First Responders,” raising \$17,800 to help purchase much-needed equipment for the Westfield Police and Fire departments, including a Kevlar vest for WPD’s newest K-9 officer.

Funds will also be donated to the Westfield Fire’s non-profit foundation, which addresses firefighter hardship and supports bereavement, training, and their memorial.

This year’s event was held at Wood Wind Golf Course, 2302 W. 161st St., and attracted 108 golfers. Mayor Scott Willis welcomed the golfers and stayed to participate in the outing.

The success of this year’s event was due in large part to the numerous sponsors who stepped up to support the Lions. Silver Sponsors included Tom Roush Mazda, Marc Lopez Law, One Touch Automation, Moyer Fine Jewelers, Etica, Garmong, and PVA Wealth Advisors. Tom Roush Mazda also provided



(ABOVE LEFT) Westfield Mayor Scott Willis welcomes everyone to the outing. (ABOVE RIGHT, from left) Kris Murphy, Renee Jensen, Linda Hallett, and Debbie Schuller. (BELOW) Thank you to all the sponsors who made this year’s “Fore the First Responders” golf outing a huge success.

ed a new Mazda CX-7 as a hole-in-one prize, but no golfer was able to make the shot.

The Hamilton County Firefighters Local 4416 PAC stepped up to support their members by sponsoring the beverage cart and several players in the outing.

Along with the Silver Sponsors, 24 hole sponsors helped make this year’s event the most successful in its three-year history. The Westfield Lions greatly appreciate the support of all the sponsors, golfers, volun-

teers, and others who helped make the event possible.

The Lions’ Golf Committee chair, Dave Sobczak, said, “Our first responders do so much for the Westfield community, and we wanted this year’s fundraiser to provide them with equipment they can use every day.”

The Westfield Lions continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to serving the community, including supporting local schools, the Westfield Fire Department, and the Westfield Police Department.

To learn more about the Westfield Lions Club or how to become a member, visit WestfieldLions.org.



Photos provided by Westfield Lions Club



Upcoming Fall Festivals & Halloween Events

Harvest Festival at Stuckey Farm Orchard and Cider Mill

Every Saturday and Sunday through Nov. 1

A full-blown Harvest Festival with corn mazes, hayrides, pig races, apple cannons, and Adventure Acres are all part of the fun, along with fresh cider, caramel apples, and apple cider donuts.

The Arts in Autumn

Oct. 17

A free, family-friendly festival filled with creativity, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Enjoy hands-on craft stations, face painting, balloon artists, an outdoor movie, and charming fall photo opportunities.

Trunk-or-Treat at Bierman Autism Centers of Westfield

10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 17

Kids can move through decorated trunks, play simple games, and get their face painted, all in a setting built around their needs.

The event is free and sensory-friendly, designed specifically for children with autism and other developmental needs, while welcoming siblings, caregivers, and the broader community.

Bierman Autism Center is located at 16414 Southpark Drive, Westfield.

Carmel Clay Parks’ Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail

1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24

A not-so-spooky Halloween celebration is returning 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 at River Heritage Park, 11813 River Road.

Headless Horseman Festival at Conner Prairie

Thursdays to Sundays through Oct. 25

Wander through carnival-themed fun with activities for all ages, plus mesmerizing live performances of music and magic. As the sun goes down, be immersed in storytelling across the grounds. Dare to take a hayride into Sleepy Hollow and learn about Ichabod Crane’s fate while encountering the Headless Horseman.

Boo Bash at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater

Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fishers’ biggest Halloween celebration, a free event featuring live, interactive stage entertainment, themed costumes and costume parades across the AMP stage, decorated booths from local businesses and organizations handing out Halloween goodies, food trucks and more.

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.

Noblesville Celebrates Day of the Dead

Nov. 1

A rich cultural experience honoring traditional Mexican heritage. Visitors can explore community-curated ofrendas (altars), shop an artisan market featuring authentic Mexican artists, enjoy live music and dance, and sample traditional foods.

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

COME SEE WHAT’S HAPPENING ACROSS SHERIDAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

Dr. Mundy will share district highlights, provide an update on school finances, and answer community questions - including questions about the upcoming referendum.

BLACKHAWK PROUD

MILLER ☒ YES

ABOUT \$1.88 PER MONTH

Average increase for a \$350,000 home over eight years

This referendum **continues funding** already in place for teachers, school safety, academics, and student services. Without it, Noblesville Schools faces major cuts.

See what you pay now and what you would pay going with the referendum calculator.

CONTINUE WHAT WORKS. VOTE YES BY NOVEMBER 3.

See your exact cost:
www.milleryes.org

PAID FOR BY STRONG SCHOOLS NOBLESVILLE

Carmel announces water & sewer upgrades coming to Merchants Square

Submitted by
City of Carmel

The City of Carmel and Carmel Utilities have announced upcoming infrastructure improvements in the Merchants Square area aimed at modernizing local water and sanitary sewer networks.

The project will replace aging infrastructure, strengthen utility reliability, and accommodate future growth in one of Carmel’s key commercial hubs. Construction is scheduled to begin at the end of October and continue in rolling phases through the summer of 2027.

The project spans segments of Keystone Way, AAA Way, Merchants Square Drive, Medical Drive, and Range Line Road. Work will be carried out in 13 total phases to maintain traffic flow and limit disruption to the com-

munity. Work will launch with Phases 1, 2, and 3 focusing on Keystone Way:

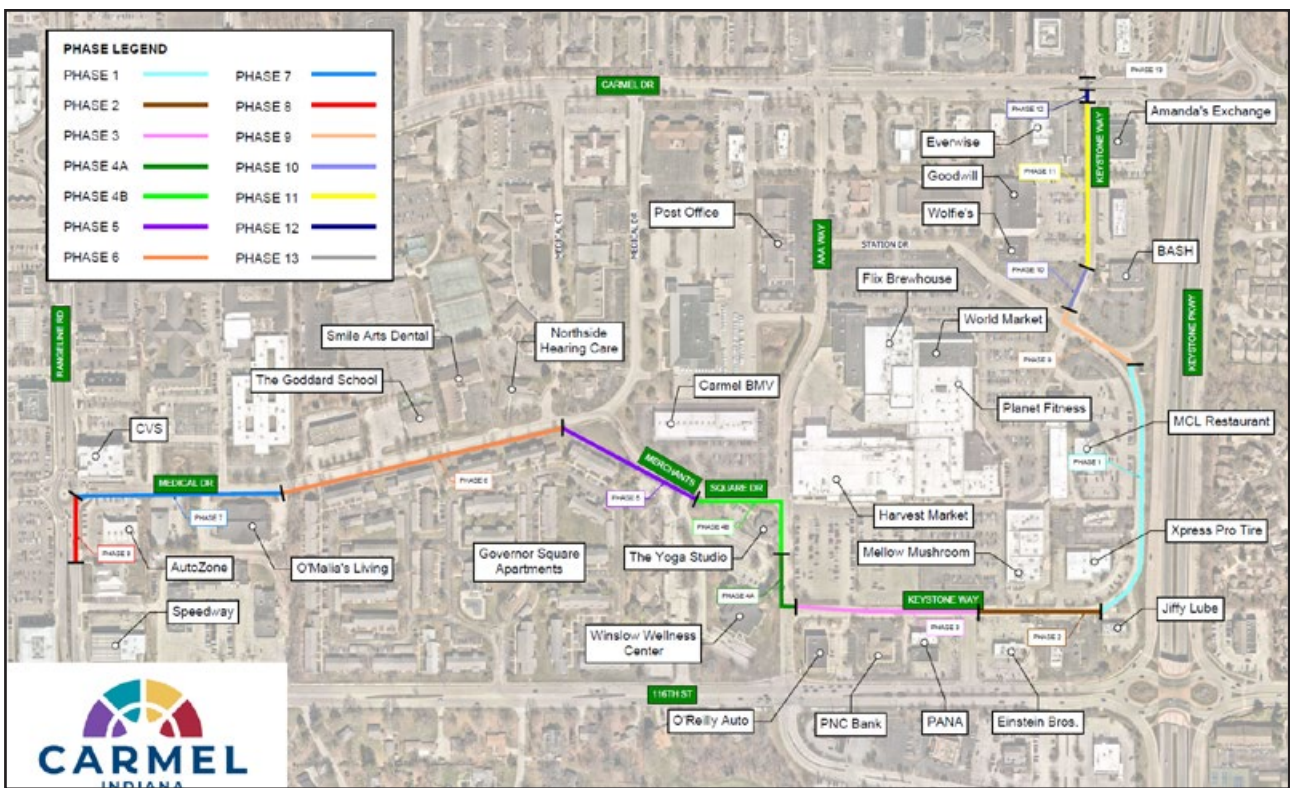
- **Phase 1:** Keystone Way, west of Keystone Parkway

- **Phases 2 and 3:** Continuing west along Keystone Way toward the AAA Way and 116th Street roundabout

To protect public safety and minimize traffic disruption, construction will move in localized, segmented steps rather than widespread closures. Clear detour signs will be posted in advance of each phase.

All businesses in the Merchants Square area will remain open and accessible throughout construction. Clear directional signage will guide customers, employees, deliveries, and emergency services safely to local destinations.

Drivers are encouraged to allow extra travel time



Graphic provided by City of Carmel

through the corridor and follow marked detour routes. For project updates,

phasing maps and detour routes, visit the [Carmel Utilities Projects page](#) or

call Carmel Utilities Customer Service at (317) 571-2442.

You can see a very high-quality version of the map shown here at [this link](#).

Sen. Todd Young can help make honest work enough

Picture a mother clocking in before the sun rises. Her day job – stocking grocery shelves, cleaning offices, or even working for local government – is necessary, but her paycheck is thin.

After rent, childcare, gas, and utilities, she sits at the kitchen table trying to decide which bill can wait. More often than not, the choice comes down to dropping her employer-sponsored health insurance or legally required car insurance – both essential to her family’s well-being. Unfortunately, tax relief arrives once a year, but children still need breakfast every morning.



CHAKA COLEMAN

Now picture that she wants to build a better life for her family, so she makes the difficult decision to reduce her hours or leave work altogether to go back to school, surviving only on intermittent jobs, paid internships, and student loans.

That mother, now an attorney and business owner, was me.

Our tax code should not deepen the strain families face daily. Under current law, the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit does not begin phasing in until a family earns more than \$2,500, meaning some parents earning the lowest wages receive little or none of the refundable credit.

Sen. Todd Young has offered a sensible correction.

In January, he and Sen. Maggie Hassan introduced the bipartisan Stronger Start for Working Families Act. The bill would begin phasing in refundable Child Tax Credit benefits with the first dollar a parent earns, helping those who take a leap of faith to invest in themselves, as well as those who simply are not in a position to earn more.

The **Tax Policy Center estimates** the proposal would cut taxes for 3.5 million families, increase recipients’ after-tax income by about \$320, and direct 85 percent of the benefits to families in the bottom 20 percent.

To those in Washington, \$320 may not seem like much. But to a single parent

raising children, \$320 can replace worn-out tires, cover school supplies, or simply keep the heat on.

In April, more than **508,000** Hoosiers received assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – nearly 80,000 fewer than one year earlier. That decline is happening as Indiana families face both federal SNAP cuts and new state restrictions, including tighter eligibility rules, lower asset limits, expanded work requirements, and more demanding verification requirements. Washington policy wonks don’t usually account for the ingenuity and gumption of a young parent who, with the support of a strong social safety net, can overcome difficult circumstances and go on to

pay more in taxes than they received in assistance.

As Hoosiers, our faith is reflected in the grace we say before a meal, but it is also the reason we act when a neighbor has none. And as Americans, our values are rooted in hard work and *opportunity*; the latter an idea woven throughout our nation’s founding. A stronger Child Tax Credit would recognize the long hours parents already put in, while SNAP helps ensure one missed shift or unexpected bill does not leave a child without a meal.

Any parent, regardless of whether they have done everything right, should be able to feed their children. That is what SNAP and the Child Tax Credit are designed to do for our state’s most vulnerable families.

My ask is twofold but rooted in the same principle: I call on Sen. Young to finish what he started with the Stronger Start for Working Families Act and I ask the entire Indiana delegation to support its passage.

Working Hoosier parents are doing everything we ask of them as tax-paying citizens. The failure is not theirs alone; honest work still does not always pay enough to cover everything.

Sen. Young has already shown that he understands the challenge. I urge his colleagues in Congress to champion and protect these programs so that they can do what they were intended to do: support our most vulnerable neighbors and give working families an opportunity to build a better life.

WORSHIP

in Spirit and Truth

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.
— John 4:24 —

We have made it our goal to set our hearts on Jesus and offer God what he has asked of us because both spirit and truth matter in worship.”

HERE ARE SOME THINGS GOD HAS REVEALED FOR OUR WORSHIP.



Singing together
(Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Acts 16:25)



Praying together
(Acts 2:42; 4:24; 16:25)



Partaking of the Lord’s Supper together
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 2:42; 20:7)



Preaching the Word of God
(2 Timothy 4:2; Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7)



Giving in the collection
(1 Corinthians 16:1; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Acts 2, 4)

Come join us for Worship!

as our honored guest!

Visitors are not required or asked to give in the collection. That is a responsibility of our members.

Stony Creek

church of Christ

(463) 287-0664 | stonycreekcoc.com





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10 AM
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Don’t miss these November performances at the Center

The REPORTER

Tickets for the following events and more at Carmel’s Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts are available now at TheCenterPresents.org.

Center Presents

Season Performances

Sponsored by Allied Solutions

The Four Phantoms in Concert

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5

The Palladium

BHI Senior Living

Songbook Series

Experience an unforgettable evening of soaring vocals, timeless Broadway classics, and the unparalleled talent of four stars who have each played the iconic role of *The Phantom of the Opera*. *The Four Phantoms in Concert* brings together these acclaimed leading men for a powerhouse performance celebrating not only *The Phantom of the Opera*, but the greatest hits of Broadway and beyond. From *Les Misérables*, *West Side Story* and *Chicago* to modern musical favorites, this show is a night of music, memories, and standing ovations.

Boney James Live

8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6

The Palladium

Drewry Simmons Vornehm Jazz Series

Saxophonist and composer Boney James returns to the Payne & Mencias Palladium for an evening of R&B-inflected jazz. James was a sideman for such artists as Morris Day and the Isley Brothers before launching a solo career that has sent a dozen albums to the top of Billboard’s Contemporary Jazz Albums chart. Among other honors in the course of his career, he has received a Soul Train Award, four Grammy Award nominations and two NAACP Image Award nominations. His new, 20th studio album, *A Simple Man*, features contributions from Grammy-winning vocalist Ledisi, trumpeter Marquis Hill and guitarist Larry Carlton.

A Conversation with Amy Sedaris

8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7

The Palladium

JPMorganChase Spotlight Series

A prolific actress, author and comedian, Amy Sedaris is the co-creator, with Stephen Colbert and Paul Dinello, of the cult com-

edy series *Strangers with Candy* and the New York Times bestselling author of three books, *I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence*, *Simple Times: Crafts for Poor People* and *Wigfeld: The Can-Do Town*. Her comedy series *At Home with Amy Sedaris* aired for three seasons on truTV and earned two Primetime Emmy nominations for Outstanding Variety Sketch Series. Other TV work has included roles in *The Mandalorian* and *BoJack Horseman* and frequent appearances on *Late Show with David Letterman*.

Simply Three

7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8

The Tarkington

Special Event

Simply Three is a high-voltage instrumental trio redefining classical crossover with rock energy and cinematic flair. Featuring Nick Villalobos on bass, Zack Clark on cello and Julian “Julz” Nguyen on violin, the Phoenix-based group transforms violin, cello and bass into an electrifying concert experience blending chamber music precision with arena-level excitement. Known for inventive takes on hits by Adele, Coldplay, Avicii and OneRepublic, plus originals like “Rain,” Simply Three has earned over 330 million YouTube views, 100 million Spotify streams and 440 million Pandora streams, and recently appeared as special guests on Il Divo’s U.S. tour.

Mavis Staples

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12

The Palladium

Katz, Sapper & Miller Pop/Rock Series

A revered voice in American music, Mavis Staples is a Kennedy Center honoree, multiple Grammy winner and a member of the rock, blues and gospel halls of fame. Her career began at age 8 with family band the Staple Singers, the legendary gospel and soul group that soundtracked the civil rights movement before scoring major hits with songs such as “I’ll Take You There,” “Respect Yourself” and “If You’re Ready.” An inspiration to generations of artists, Staples has collaborated with names like Bob Dylan, Prince, Aretha Franklin and Willie Nelson. Her 2025 album *Sad and Beautiful World* features contributions from Buddy Guy, Bonnie Raitt, Jeff Tweedy and Derek Trucks.

An Evening with Bernadette Peters

8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13

The Palladium

BHI Senior Living Songbook Series

For decades, Bernadette Peters has daz-

zled audiences and critics with her performances on stage, film, and television, in concert and on recordings, earning honors including three Tony Awards, a Golden Globe, four Emmy and four Grammy nominations. Her acclaimed Broadway performances have included Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Song and Dance*, Neil Simon’s *The Goodbye Girl* and Stephen Sondheim’s *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Into the Woods*. She has appeared in over 30 films, recorded six solo albums and written three children’s books. Recent television credits include the Apple TV+ series *High Desert* and NBC’s *Zoe’s Extraordinary Playlist*, for which she earned an Emmy nomination.

Hoosiers 40th Anniversary

Screening with Q&A

3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15

The Palladium

JPMorganChase Spotlight Series

Inspired by Indiana’s favorite pastime, the basketball drama *Hoosiers* received two Academy Award nominations, earned a spot in the Library of Congress’ National Film Registry, and is widely considered one of the best sports films of all time. Enjoy a 40th anniversary screening of the 1986 classic – hosted by 93.5 & 107.5 The Fan radio host JMV – followed by a live, in-person Q&A with screenwriter Angelo Pizzo, director David Anspaugh and actors Brad Long, who butted heads with the coach as team captain Buddy Walker, and Maris Valainis, whose character Jimmy Chitwood made the last-second shot to win the state high school championship.

Punch Brothers:

Unsung North American Expedition

8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20

The Palladium

Katz, Sapper & Miller Pop/Rock Series

Formed in 2006, Punch Brothers are a virtuosic quintet featuring mandolinist Chris Thile, guitarist Chris Eldridge, bassist Paul Kowert, banjoist Noam Pikelny and violinist Brittany Haas. Known for pushing the boundaries of acoustic music, the band has garnered critical acclaim including a Grammy Award for Best Folk Album for *All Ashore* (2018). Rolling Stone praised their work as “wild virtuosity used for more than just virtuosity.” Most recently, Punch Brothers have been focused on their musical variety show, *The Energy Curfew Music Hour*, with two seasons available on Audible and all podcasting platforms.

See Center . . . Page 9



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Letter to the Editor

Noblesville voter: Devon Wellington has what it takes to be a public servant

Dear Editor:

I am voting for Devon Wellington, Indiana House of Representatives District 29 candidate, because over many years, I have witnessed the emergence of fourth-stage cancerous growth of citizen apathy toward being a responsible citizen of our United States. And with that citizen apathy has come the loss of electing real public servants.

What is a public servant? I am sure that the “supermajority” at the Indiana Statehouse have shown themselves as not being public servants; SEA 1 shows that. That is why 38 Indiana school systems have a referendum on this year’s ballot. Is a strong public school system at the bottom of the Indiana legislators’ list of priorities? The Indiana school ranking shows that.

So, once again, what is a PUBLIC servant?

A public servant reaches out to the public – we the people. A public servant listens to the public – we the people. A public servant offers viable solutions to problems that hurt the public – we the people.

A public servant works to create an environment where basic needs are met: food on the table, roof over our heads, excellent public education, affordable health care, clean water, a fair wage, upholding of laws, and upholding our Constitution.

For 82 semesters, I told my public speaking classes that voting is not a privilege, but a responsibility of being a citizen of the USA. I added that a responsible voter is an informed voter. In other words, meet local candidates, listen to them. Do they have workable solutions to local problems? Are they willing to listen to your concerns?

And I follow my own advice. Since January of this year, I have vetted the candidates for the primary and continued to check out those running for midterm elections.

In this process, I was so impressed by Devon Wellington that I decided to volunteer to help her be elected Indiana House District 29 representative. I have witnessed this gal listen to individuals, create a workable platform, give up two weeks of campaigning to help those affected by the floods, and

create environments for citizens to meet her and for her to listen to their concerns (even to the point of messaging and listening to the deaf via her ASL; yes, she signs), and I have seen her bend down to listen to the concerns of a wheelchair-bound citizen. That is a PUBLIC SERVANT. I find Devon to be hardworking, honest, reliable, credible, empathetic, creative, and genuine.

Devon shares, “Hope isn’t just wishing that things would get better. It’s showing up and doing the work to make things better. I have hope for District 29 because I’ve seen what this community can do when we show up for our neighbors, our kids, and our schools. I’m Devon Wellington. Have hope with me and help me give District 29 its voice back.”

This is why I am voting for Devon Wellington. I invite all of my District 29 neighbors to join me in voting for Devon, a woman who, every day, reflects what a real public servant is.

We must stop the disease of citizen apathy.

Moffett R. Craig
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.

Pints & Partnerships continues in October

The REPORTER

Good drinks. Great people. Stronger business. Sponsored by Lake City Bank, join the Westfield Chamber of Commerce from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, at Sun King Brewery in Westfield for the next **Pints & Partnerships**.

Come unwind and connect with fellow members of the Westfield business community. This casual



WESTFIELD

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

after-hours gathering is designed to spark conversations, create new partnerships, and celebrate the power of doing business locally. This month, the Chamber is collaborating

with the Westfield Young Professionals Council to cultivate new connections.

If you are interested in sponsoring a future Pints & Partnerships, please reach out to Courtney Albright

at calbright@westfield-chamberindy.com.

Come see what’s on tap at the Westfield Chamber and get ready to make connections that matter. Enjoy responsibly.

CENTER

Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band: Ledbetter Heights 30th Anniversary Tour
8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21
The Palladium

Printing Partners Encore Series

Kenny Wayne Shepherd was still in high school when he recorded his groundbreaking Top 10 debut album *Ledbetter Heights*, which he recently re-recorded with producer Jerry Harrison (Talking Heads) using his original gear. Now, he and his band are on the road with a 30th anniversary tour that includes a full performance of the 12-track 1995 album and another set of highlights from his 30-year career.

Over the years, Shepherd has earned six Grammy nominations and has toured with artists such as Bob Dylan, Aerosmith, the Rolling Stones and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Gravity & Other Myths: Ten Thousand Hours
7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22
The Palladium
Family Series

Eight world-class acrobats investigate physical skill: how we obtain it, how we perfect it, and how it can transform our lives. Through the nuance of high-level acrobatics, audiences experience a heightened appreciation of the countless hours required to master the skills they are witness-

ing. This is a love letter to our bodies and the amazing things they let us do every day, a tribute to the countless hours needed to achieve great things, the dedication required to realize our physical ambitions, and the backstory that is often more spectacular than the finished product.

* * *

Other November activities include:
LIVE! from the Advanced Comedy Class
7:30 p.m. Nov. 13 and 20
The Studio Theater

After honing their short routines for four weeks, students from Allied Solutions Center’s Stand-Up Comedy Practicum will present their “graduation” shows, hosted by class instructor and professional comedian Sherra Lasley. Recommended for mature audiences.

Peanut Butter & Jam: Silly Safaris
10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14
The Studio Theater

Tickets: \$10 per child, includes two free adult admissions

Kids can learn about animals from cold climates and pet a variety of live creatures, including a real reindeer. Designed for ages 1-7 and sponsored by PEAS for Kids, interactive Peanut Butter & Jam sessions

engage young children in the joy of live performance.

Luminaries speaker series: Carmel’s Lost Composer
2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17
The Palladium
Tickets: \$10

Historian David Heighway and clarinetist Eric Salazar share the life and music of classical composer Frederick Hunt, who was born and raised in Carmel and drew inspiration from the area for his music. Though virtually unknown today, Hunt corresponded with Jean Sibelius and worked with other mid-20th century classical musicians including Howard Hanson and Roy Harris.

From The Center’s Resident Companies

• **Actors Theatre of Indiana: Little Shop of Horrors**, through Nov. 8 at The Studio Theater
• **Indiana Wind Symphony: Summon the Hero**, 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8 at The Palladium

Thanks for reading The REPORTER!
For more news, visit ReadTheReporter.com

from Page 8

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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The Dani Robinson difference

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

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Scan here to view Dani's current listings.

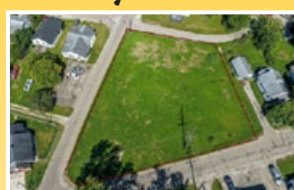
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Dani Robinson
REALTOR/BROKER/SRES



102 Oak St

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

317.407.6969
DaniR@talktotucker.com
TalkToDani.com



17090 River Road

Noblesville, IN, 46062
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SALEM

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Photo provided by Carmel Clay Public Library

Carmel Clay Public Library celebrates 10 years of its Digital Media Lab

The REPORTER

The Carmel Clay Public Library (CCPL) will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its Digital Media Lab on Friday, Nov. 6, marking a decade of providing community members with access to creative technology, digital learning opportunities, and innovative tools for self-expression.

Since opening in 2016, the Digital Media Lab has served as a welcoming space for exploring technology, developing new skills, and bringing creative ideas to life. Equipped with professional-grade equipment and software, the lab has supported projects ranging from video production and graphic design to podcast-



ing, photography, audio recording, and other digital media endeavors.

The reception to be held from 5 to 7 p.m. will recognize the Digital Media Lab's growth over the past decade and the thousands of community members who have used the space to learn, create, and connect. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the lab, view a community art show, and network with others.

“The Digital Media Lab has empowered people to develop valuable digital skills and to tell their stories,” Library IT Manager

Peter Konshak said. “We’re proud to celebrate this milestone with the community that has made the lab such a success.”

The anniversary reception is open to the public and will take place at the Main Library, 425 E. Main St.

CCPL provides a wide range of resources and programs designed to educate, entertain, and enrich the community. With a commitment to fostering lifelong learning, the library offers services and events for all ages. Find out more at carmelclaylibrary.org.

Help grow Westfield’s veteran community

Submitted

Attention veterans in the Westfield area ...

If you filled out the Westfield veterans survey, this meeting is for you.

If you’ve never been invited to join a veterans’ organization, this meeting is for you.

If you’re unfamiliar with veterans’ organizations and what they offer, this meeting is for you.

If you’re interested in forming an American Legion post or a VFW post in Westfield, this meeting is for you.

If you want to see a stronger, more connected

veteran community in Westfield, this meeting is for you.

You’re invited to attend a meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the Westfield Washington Public Library, Program Room 1A, 17400 Westfield Blvd.

Organizers will share survey results, discuss bringing an American Legion post to Westfield, and explore activities that can bring veterans together. They’ll also introduce the longer-term vision for a shared Veterans Center.

This is a chance to get in on the ground floor, share your ideas, ask questions, and help shape what

comes next.

Veterans, military families, and interested community members are welcome. You do not need to belong to an organization or have completed the survey to attend.

Do you have questions? Contact Dan Kolzow, Organizer of the Westfield Veterans Initiative, at westfieldinveterans@gmail.com.

Less than two weeks left to apply for FEMA assistance

The REPORTER

People who were affected by the storms, tornadoes, and flooding from Aug. 11 to 24 have less than two weeks left to apply for FEMA assistance. Application deadline is Sunday, Oct. 25.

Financial assistance is available for eligible survivors who need help covering uninsured costs for things like home repairs, personal property, vehicle damage, medical expenses including accessibility items, moving and storage and reimbursement for temporary housing.

How to apply for FEMA Assistance

Apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov or call the FEMA Helpline at (800) 621-3362. If you use a relay service give FEMA your number for that service. In-person help is available at support sites for submitting and updating documentation and asking questions regarding your case. To find a location visit on.in.gov/August-2026Disaster.

For video assistance

• **What to Expect Before Applying for FEMA Assistance | ASL**

• **Next Steps After Applying for FEMA Assistance | ASL**

To apply for a low-interest disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Recovery (SBA) apply online at MySBA Loan

Portal or sba.gov/disaster or call the Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955. People who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability may dial 711 to access telecommunications relay services. For more information or assistance in-person visit appointment.sba.gov to find a location nearest you.

You apply, FEMA help remains available

Stay in touch. Let FEMA know of any changes in your circumstances or contact information, including the status of your insurance settlement. Ask FEMA any questions you may have about your recovery, including any unmet needs.

Applicants can create an account on DisasterAssistance.gov where they can submit paperwork and check their status tracker for updates. For in-person assistance visit a support site, current locations can be found at on.in.gov/August-2026Disaster.

Learn more about the disaster recovery operation in Indiana at fema.gov/disaster/4933.

Disaster survivors who feel they have been discriminated against based on race, color, nationality, sex, religion, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status have the right to file a complaint by contacting FEMA at FEMA-CR-Intake@fema.dhs.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362.

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

Colossians 3:1-15 (NLT)

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The Hamilton County Reporter: it's what newspapers were like when they were good!

Ghosts, ghouls, good times take over Tipton

Downtown Tipton was the place to be last Saturday evening, Oct. 10, when the Halloween Bash came to town. Kids came in costume and spent the evening playing yard games, getting their faces painted, looking for The Great Pumpkin in the pumpkin patch, traveling down the Trick-or-Treat Trail, and enjoying food truck fare – all for free. The Graveyard Stompers performed as well, bringing their frightening brand of musical talent to Tiptonians. This year’s Halloween Bash was brought to you by the Tipton Main Street Association and presented by STAR Financial Bank. (Reporter photos by Bill Miller)



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BIDDING OPENS: Tuesday, October 6th @ 2pm
SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, October 17th @ 6pm
PREVIEW DATE: Thursday, October 15th from Noon - 6pm
PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, October 19th from Noon - 6pm
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PIONEER FALL FEST

Morris Homestead Barn

Taylor Center of Natural History
12308 Strawtown Ave., Noblesville, IN 46060

Saturday, October 17
1:00–4:00 PM

Our historic Morris’s red barn will be opened for a day of pioneer fun! Join our “quilting bee,” make a corn husk doll, fresh butter, and learn all about pioneer plants with community herbalist, Greg Monzel.

FREE



For more information call 317-774-2574
or visit myhamiltoncountyparks.com



Arts in Autumn relocating to Monon Boulevard

Submitted by
City of Carmel

The Arts in Autumn, scheduled for 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, has been relocated due to ongoing maintenance in Midtown Plaza.

The event will now take place along Monon Boulevard (indicated on the map with a red rectangle), directly adjacent to and just north of the Up and Down the Playground on the northeast corner of City Center Drive and Monon Boulevard.

Attendees and vendors are encouraged to adjust their plans accordingly and access the event area via Monon Boulevard. All other event details, times and activities remain unchanged except there will not be a movie.

Road closures
Monon Boulevard from Walnut Street to Olympian



Graphic provided by City of Carmel

Way, as well as Olympian Way from Veterans Way to Monon Boulevard will be closed to vehicular traffic from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17.

Westfield authors Danyele Easterhaus & Michelle Merritt release new book *Emergent Power*

Submitted

Westfield authors Danyele Easterhaus and Michelle Merritt are marking the release of their second book together, *Emergent Power: Midlife Women Redefining Love, Health, & Work*, out today, Oct. 14.

The pair first partnered as contributing authors on the 2025 Amazon No. 1 best-seller *Empathy Impact*, and each is now a two-time bestselling author. To coincide with the launch, both women are also introducing new podcasts: Easterhaus’s *On the Mic with D* and Merritt’s *The 2 a.m. Circle*.

In her chapter, “One More Thing,” Easterhaus writes a raw account of caring for her father through his final months and the honest work of grief and rebuilding that followed.

“This chapter came from the hardest year of my life,” Easterhaus said. “On the Mic with D grew out of that same need, a place for honest, unscripted conversations about what midlife actually feels like.”

Merritt’s chapter, “The



Easterhaus



Merritt

Posse,” is about the three friends who have carried her through career reinventions, cross-country moves, and family crises for more than three decades, and what she has learned about reinventing ourselves alone.

“Every person needs a posse – people who show up without being asked twice,” Merritt said. “Bringing The 2 a.m. Circle to life is about giving others permission to build that same kind of support system.”

The two chapters sit alongside essays from 11 other women writing about health, identity, and reinvention in midlife.

The book’s release also marks the debut of two new podcasts. Easterhaus is launching *On the Mic with D*, featuring candid conversations on relationships, culture, and leadership. Merritt is launching *The 2 a.m. Circle*, a show about the friendships people can call on at any hour. Both shows carry the themes of each author’s chapter into an ongoing conversation with listeners.



Graphic provided

About the Authors

Danyele Easterhaus is an author, speaker, and relationship-centered consultant based in Westfield, where she works with leaders and mission-driven organizations to strengthen culture and connection. She is co-author of the bestseller *Empathy Impact* and writes from the honest place between grief and growth. Learn more at DanyeleEasterhausConsulting.com.

Michelle Merritt is a senior people executive, keynote speaker, and board director based in Westfield, where she serves as President of the Westfield Police Merit Commission. A Guinness World Record holder, she is co-author of the bestseller *Empathy Impact* and believes no one reinvents themselves alone. Learn more at c3indy.com/michelle.

State Rep. Lopez to be recognized with Indiana Library Foundation’s 2026 Legislative Champion Advocacy Award

Submitted by Office of
State Rep. Danny Lopez

State Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel) will be recognized by the Indiana Library Federation (ILF) with the 2026 Legislative Champion Advocacy Award at the 2026 ILF Annual Conference: Libraries at the Crossroads of Learning, on Nov. 9.

The ILF said Lopez will be honored with this year’s award because of his instrumental work advocating for Indiana’s libraries and supporting their ability to continue serving Hoosier communities.

“My mom was a librarian for 40 years and I grew up in public libraries, so I know better than most that strong, well-funded libraries are essential to the overall quality, health, and livability of any community,” Lopez said. “This is such a special and personally moving recognition for me, I am so grateful to the ILF, and I will continue to work with their members to make sure our citizens understand what thriving libraries represent for our communities.”

As the legislature debated local property tax reform throughout the 2025 and 2026 legislative sessions, Lopez advocated for public

libraries and the protection of their funding streams and budgets. He also supported the current state budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, which includes continued funding for the Indiana State Library, statewide library services and library services for the blind.

“Library advocacy is about relationships and making sure our legislators understand what is happening in libraries across Indiana,” ILF President Austin Stroud said. “We’re grateful for those who take the time to listen to our library community and understand the work being done every day.”

The Legislative Champion Advocacy Award is given to a state or federal legislator who has promoted and supported legislative efforts for Indiana libraries, media centers, or librarianship.

Lopez was previously named the 2026 Legislative Champion by the Indiana Technology & Innovation Association and Champion Freshman Legislator by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce in 2025. In his first term, his other legislative



Lopez

efforts included boosting economic development, reforming Indiana’s courts, constraining the growth of Medicaid, supporting Hoosier youth in the foster care system, and strengthening public safety in Hamilton County.

Lopez will be formally celebrated alongside library professionals and advocates at the ILF Annual Conference, which is scheduled to take place Nov. 8 to 10 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis.

State Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel) represents House District 39, which includes a portion of Hamilton County.

About the Indiana Library Federation

ILF is the statewide nonprofit organization for all library types: academic, public, school, special and library supporters. It is the largest organization of its kind in Indiana, boasting more than 2,000 personal, institutional, library trustee and business affiliate contributing members. For more information, visit ilfonline.org.

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Tues Oct 13 - Government
6:00 pm **Noblesville City Council** | Noblesville Council Chambers | HCTV

Fri Oct 16 - Football
6:45 pm Carroll (Flora) vs **Sheridan** | Football | Bragg Sports
6:50 pm **Fishers** vs Zionsville | Football | Indiana SRN
6:50 pm Benton Central vs Covenant Christian | Football | Indiana SRN
7:00 pm Avon vs **Noblesville** | Football | HCTV Sports
7:00 pm West Lafayette vs **Hamilton Heights** | Football | Husky Sports Network

Sat Oct 10 - Volleyball, Freshman Football & College Football
10:00 am Zionsville vs **Fishers** | Freshman Football | Fishers Sports Network

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Thank you for reading The Reporter!

Aspire Indiana Health honored for crisis response

The REPORTER

Aspire Indiana Health’s expansion of crisis services has been recognized with two Champions of Health Care and Quality Awards from the Indiana Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA).

The Rely Center in Noblesville, a psychiatric urgent care and stabilization center for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, received the Behavioral Health Program of the Year Award in its first year of operation. Senior Director of Crisis Services Kaitlyn Ervin won the Behavioral Health Provider of the Year award for her leadership in behavioral health integration at Rely and Aspire’s broader crisis continuum, which also includes mobile response units and a 24/7 crisis phone line.

Opening in October 2025 thanks to a \$3.5 million investment from local taxpayers by way of the Hamilton County Council and Commissioners, Rely has served more than a thousand Hoosiers in crisis, with 19 percent of those being youths. Most crisis continuum responses were resolved without elevating to a higher level of care, diverting 47 percent of those in crisis who would otherwise have gone to an emergency room or psychiatric hospital.

“Kaitlyn exemplifies

the clinical leadership that strengthens both patient care and the people delivering it,” Aspire Chief People Officer Dr. Gina Forrest said. “Working in crisis services requires a unique combination of clinical skill, steadiness, compassion, adaptability and leadership. Kaitlyn brings each of these qualities to her work every day.”

The annual IPHCA Champions of Health Care and Quality Awards honor individuals and organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and commitment to community health in Indiana.

Rely Center is located at 17840 Cumberland Road in Noblesville and is open 24/7 to anyone experiencing a crisis. The center accepts Medicaid and Medicare, as well as most traditional insurance. Even if someone has no insurance or ability to pay, they will not be turned away from care.

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 behavior-



Photo provided
Aspire Senior Director of Crisis Services Kaitlyn Ervin (left) and Team Lead, Staff Nurse Laura Jackson.

al 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.

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.

Meeting Notices

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County GIS Policy Committee will meet to discuss GIS projects at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026, via Microsoft Teams; Meeting ID: 251 298 414 675 074, Passcode: Fd-6qa34h. You can call (219) 225-8177 and enter Conference ID 417 145 863# when prompted.

The Carmel Advisory Committee on Disability will meet at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026, in Meeting Room C at Carmel Clay Public Library, 425 E. Main St.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a), the Hamilton County Emergency Management Advisory Council will meet at 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026, at 18100 Cumberland Road, Noblesville. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Emergency Management projects.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a), the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026, at 18100 Cumberland Road, Noblesville. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Local Emergency Planning projects.

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.

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

DO NOT FORGET THE LORD

He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 8:15-20 (NIV)

— FISHERS —

**NOTICE OF APPROVED ORDINANCE
AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN REAL ESTATE
TO THE CITY OF FISHERS, HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA**
NOTICE IS HEREBY PROVIDED that on October 12, 2026, the Common Council for the City of Fishers, Hamilton, Indiana (“City”), meeting in a duly noticed public meeting, and in accordance with Ind. Code §36-4-3-5.1, passed Ordinance No. 092126C, annexing approximately 7.57 acres located outside of but contiguous to the City, generally known as the Henson Annexation (the “Annexed Territory”). This Annexation Ordinance is available for review at Fishers Municipal Center, One Municipal Drive, Fishers, Indiana 46038. If you have specific questions please contact:
City of Fishers Community and Economic Development Department
planning@fishersin.gov
(317) 595-3155

R8836

10/14/26 10/19/26

**NOTICE OF APPROVED ORDINANCE
AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN REAL ESTATE
TO THE CITY OF FISHERS, HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA**
NOTICE IS HEREBY PROVIDED that on October 12, 2026, the Common Council for the City of Fishers, Hamilton, Indiana (“City”), meeting in a duly noticed public meeting, and in accordance with Ind. Code §36-4-3-5.1, passed Ordinance No. 092126D, annexing approximately 5.89 acres located outside of but contiguous to the City, generally known as the Randall Sisters Properties (the “Annexed Territory”). This Annexation Ordinance is available for review at Fishers Municipal Center, One Municipal Drive, Fishers, Indiana 46038. If you have specific questions please contact:
City of Fishers Community and Economic Development Department
planning@fishersin.gov
(317) 595-3155

R8837

10/14/26 10/19/26

**NOTICE OF APPROVED ORDINANCE
AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN REAL ESTATE
TO THE CITY OF FISHERS, HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA**
NOTICE IS HEREBY PROVIDED that on October 12, 2026, the Common Council for the City of Fishers, Hamilton, Indiana (“City”), meeting in a duly noticed public meeting, and in accordance with Ind. Code §36-4-3-5.1, passed Ordinance No. 092126E, annexing approximately 2.98 acres located outside of but contiguous to the City, generally known as the Walters Annexation (the “Annexed Territory”). This Annexation Ordinance is available for review at Fishers City Hall, One Municipal Drive, Fishers, Indiana 46038. If you have specific questions please contact:
City of Fishers Community and Economic Development Department
planning@fishersin.gov
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R8838

10/14/26 10/19/26

Thanks for reading!

HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

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