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Senior Skills Day help get Heights students 'future-ready'

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corp.

Hamilton Heights High School's Class of 2027 took a meaningful leap toward life beyond high school during the district's second annual Senior Skills Day, a handson, fastpaced morning designed to equip every senior with essential career, financial, and realworld life skills.

The mandatory event brought together educators, local employers, community partners, and university representatives to help students prepare for their next chapter whether that path leads to enrollment, enlistment, or employment.

Dressed in professional interview attire and carrying hard copies of their resumes, seniors rotated through a series of interactive sessions focused on practical readiness:





Photos provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation

(ABOVE LEFT) Ashley Schultz from Becks Hybrids taught students how to dress for success. Students had an opportunity to put together outfits that would serve as business casual or professional, and they even learned how properly tie a tie. (ABOVE RIGHT) Every student who attended was able to participate in a one-on-one interview with one of the business partners. Matthew Mitchell from Will Power Excavation interviews Cyrus Mason.

- **One-on-one Mock Interviews & Resume Review:** Students met with local hiring managers for realworld interview practice and received personalized feedback to strengthen their resumes and communication skills.

See *Future* . . . Page 2

Taste of Community: the Ravana within us



Have you ever watched something burn and wondered what it represents beyond the flames?

Every year, during the Hindu festival of Dussehra, communities gather to watch a towering figure go up in flames. This ritual, known as *Ravana Dahan*, symbolizes the triumph of good over evil. For those unfamiliar with the tradition, the figure represents Ravana, a powerful king from the ancient Hindu epic, the *Ramayana*, whose pride and desire ultimately led to his downfall.

But this centuries-old story carries a message that reaches far beyond religion, culture, or geography. It asks a question that feels especially relevant today: What if the evil we are so quick to recognize in others is also something we need to confront within ourselves?

According to the *Ramayana*, Ravana was a learned scholar, a powerful ruler, and a devoted follower of Lord Shiva. Yet his knowledge and accomplishments could not protect him from his ego, arrogance, and choices that caused harm. His story reminds us that intelligence, success, status, and even good intentions do not automatically make us good people. How we treat others matters just as much as what we achieve.

Look around our world today. We see disagreements turning into divisions, differences becoming reasons for judgment, and conversations ending because everyone wants to be right. On social media, we can be quick to criticize without understanding the full story. In our workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities, we may speak about kindness and inclusion while overlooking the person who feels unheard or unwelcome.

And sometimes, the hardest truths are the ones we must acknowledge about ourselves.

We may volunteer, lead community initiatives, support our neighbors, and advocate for belonging. These actions matter. But do we listen when someone challenges our beliefs? Can we apologize without making excuses? Are we willing to admit that even with good intentions, our actions may have hurt someone?

Perhaps the real Ravana is not a person we need to defeat, but a collection of qualities we need to recognize within ourselves: ego, anger, jealousy, greed, prejudice, resentment, intolerance, and the need to always be right.

See *Ravana* . . . Page 2

Noblesville Rotary Club honors Ivy Tech scholarship recipients

Submitted by Anita Hagen
Noblesville Rotary Club

The Noblesville Rotary Club, along with many members of our community, were excited to host and attend the annual Scholarship Breakfast at Ginger's Café on Oct. 1.

This is the pinnacle of what we work for every year – how we portray Service Above Self in our Hamilton County community. Six local Ivy Tech Hamilton County students were honored along with family members.

This sentiment was shared by several of the recipients. One said, "This scholarship allows me to further my education all while balancing work and family commitments and more. This means the world to me."

All recipients are Hamilton County residents.

Our very popular 10th annual BrewBQ event fundraiser held on Aug. 8 raised $25,000. Proceeds from this annual event benefit scholarships for students attending Ivy Tech Hamilton County as well as the Robotics Club at Noblesville High School. Both programs advance education and workforce readiness for young people in Hamilton County, aligning with Rotary's commitment to service and community impact.

The club is now calling on area businesses to join the celebration as 2027 BrewBQ event sponsors. Opportunities range from $500 to $5,000, each offering a variety of visibility and engagement benefits.

"BrewBQ has become a signature community event, and its impact is felt long after the tents come down," said Jeff Derda, Chairman of the BrewBQ of the Noblesville Rotary Club. "We invite businesses across Hamilton County to support local education by partnering with us. Their sponsorship not only fuels a great event – it directly supports students who are shaping our region's future workforce."



Photo provided by Noblesville Rotary Club

(From left) Scholarship Recipient Dawn Summerville, Rotarian President Zach Lundin, Scholarship Recipient Yong Xiang Ren, Scholarship Recipient Justin Boone, Scholarship Recipient Bella Boehme, former Ivy Tech Hamilton County Dean of Nursing Dr. Monick Davis, and Rotarian and Ivy Tech Hamilton County Executive Director of Development & Marketing Kelly Wallace.

See *Rotary* . . . Page 2

H.E.R.S. Female Firefighter Camp empowers next generation of women in fire service

Submitted

Over the course of two action-packed days, young women participating in the H.E.R.S (Honor, Equity, Respect, Sisterhood) Female Firefighter Camp had the opportunity to step into the boots of a firefighter, experiencing firsthand the skills, challenges, and teamwork required in the fire service.

The vision for H.E.R.S. began with Lt. Abby Poynter of the Westfield Fire Department, whose passion for the fire service and commitment to creating opportunities for young women inspired her to bring the camp to life. With a clear vision of what the experience could offer, Lt. Poynter demonstrated the determination and dedication needed to turn that vision into reality. Her efforts helped create an environment where young women could explore the fire service, challenge themselves, and see new possibilities for their futures.

Photos provided

For the young women who attended, the camp was an opportunity to do more than learn how to handle firefighting equipment or complete a training drill. It was an opportunity to test their limits, discover their capabilities, and envision a future they may not have previously considered.

Lt. Poynter explained her journey and why she started the H.E.R.S. Camp:

My journey into the fire service wasn't easy. There were setbacks, moments that felt like

See *H.E.R.S.* . . . Page 2

Sheridan Student Council invites you to 'Track or Treat'

The REPORTER

Sheridan Student Council will hold its fifth annual Track or Treat from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, will take place on the track at Bud Wright Stadium.

Clubs and organizations are urged to participate to make this Track or Treat another success. Groups will be passing out candy or other items.

This is always a great opportunity to connect local organizations with families, all while showing school spirit. Come out and help make this event a fun and memorable evening for everyone.

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.



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Early Voting Totals

Below are the number of early voters as of Thursday, Oct. 22, listed by polling location. ***Click here*** *for more information on early voting.*

Judicial Center	6,139
4-H Fairgrounds	10,575
Carmel Clay Public Library	1,134
Jill Perelman Pavilion, Carmel	1,174
Wilfong Pavilion, Carmel	892
Billericay Park Bldg., Fishers	1,248
Roy G. Holland Bldg., Fishers	1,036
Cool Creek Nature Center	1,127
Westfield City Hall	699
Westfield Washington Twp. Bldg.	586
TOTAL	**24,610**

H.E.R.S.

from Page 1

failures, and times when I questioned whether I would ever find my way into this profession. When I first started, I understood very little about the fire service. I didn't know who to turn to for help, where to find resources, or even what the next step was supposed to look like. I was trying to figure it all out as I went, learning through trial and error and finding the strength to keep moving forward.

Along the way, I was fortunate enough to meet some incredible people who helped change the course of my journey. One of them was my friend Stephanie Laratta with the Carmel Fire Department. Stephanie became someone I could turn to for guidance, advice, and support when things felt difficult. She believed in me, helped me find my footing, and became part of the village I needed to find my way into the fire service.

When we talk about the fire service, we often talk about our calling to help others. We think about the patients we care for, the people we rescue, and the communities we serve. Sometimes, the person who needs our help isn't someone on a medical call or someone waiting to be rescued. Sometimes, it's a young woman standing on the outside, looking into a profession she dreams of joining but has no idea how to enter. She may have the drive, the determination, and the heart to do this job, but she doesn't know where to start or whether there is a place for her.

I know what that feels like because I was that young woman once. That is why I started H.E.R.S. Fire Camp.

If H.E.R.S. Fire Camp can help even one woman find her confidence, discover her place in this profession, or realize that she is capable of more than she ever imagined, then we have created something that will reach far beyond a single weekend.

Throughout the two-day camp, participants took part in a variety of firefighter training exercises designed to introduce them to the physical demands and technical skills of the profession. They practiced gear drills, learned techniques for searching for and dragging a person to safety, experienced flowing water through firefighting operations, and worked on breaching a wall. All are skills that can be essential during emergency response situations.

Equally important is the sisterhood the camp strives to build. Through shared challenges and accomplishments, participants have the opportunity to form connections with one another and with women who can serve as mentors, role models, and valuable resources as they consider their next steps. These relationships can help create a support system that extends beyond the camp, offering encouragement and guidance as participants pursue future education, training, and career opportunities.

Lt. Poynter's initiative highlights how one person's vision, paired with determination and a commitment to making a difference, can create opportunities that reaches far beyond a single event. By bringing H.E.R.S. to fruition, she has helped establish a space where young women can gain practical experience, develop meaningful connections, and begin to envision themselves as future members of the fire service.

Future

from Page 1

• Professionalism Panel: A crossindustry panel featuring leaders from higher education, military branches, local government, nonprofits, and private business offered candid insights into workplace expectations and career pathways.

• Dress for Success: Through demonstrations and handson activities, students learned to distinguish between business casual and business formal attire – even practicing how to tie a necktie.

• Ethical & Responsible AI Use: Indiana University Kokomo and CIESC guided students through appropriate and responsible use of artificial intelligence in college and workplace settings.

• Adulting 101: Seniors practiced foundational life skills including check writing, understanding Social Security, and emergency preparedness.

• Traffic Stop Awareness: Local law enforcement provided practical guidance on safety protocols and expectations during traffic stops or accidents.

• Financial Awareness & Responsibility: Students learned how to read paystubs, understand gross vs. net pay, budget personal expenses, and plan for financial independence.

"Senior Skills Day is all about giving our students the confidence and realworld tools they need to navigate adulthood whether their next step is enrollment, enlistment, or employment," said Jessi Cantlon, Director of School Counseling and Reaching New Heights Coordinator. "The maturity and professionalism our seniors displayed throughout the morning was outstanding. Multiple business partners commented on how impressed they were with our students, and that makes us really proud."

Local business partners praised the students' preparation and engagement:

"It was a lot of fun, and I was very encouraged by the preparedness and enthusiasm of the students that showed up." – David Speckman, WestPoint Financial Group

"We had an amazing facilitator, and I loved getting to know the other professionals on the panel. It was very rewarding to share our experiences with the high schoolers. I especially loved it when they personally thanked us at the end, often with handshakes, as that shows professionalism!" – Mimi Bergman, One Mind

Students also shared how meaningful the experience was:

"The mock interview was very helpful, and also being able to pick the minds of these successful people." – Will DeStefano

"I found it very helpful to learn what I should do when I'm pulled over and what I should expect in an interview." – Hannah Dent

Hamilton Heights High School extends its sincere appreciation to all participating business partners, community volunteers, guest speakers, and university representatives. Their time, expertise, and sponsorship made Senior Skills Day 2026 a resounding success and an invaluable experience for the Class of 2027.



Photo provided by Hamilton Heights School Corporation

Brian Doak from Doak Financial educated seniors on basic financial literacy as they move into the world after high school.

Rotary

from Page 1

The family-friendly event – set for Aug. 14, 2027 – will feature barbecue vendors, local breweries, live music, yard games, and a relaxed atmosphere for attendees of all ages. More details about entertainment, food, and ticket sales will be released in the coming months.

Businesses interested in sponsoring BrewBQ may contact Carrie Dixon at **carrie@cdi-cares.com** for a full list of sponsorship levels and benefits.

About the Noblesville Rotary Club

The Noblesville Rotary Club brings together community leaders committed to service above self. Through fundraising, volunteerism, and partnerships, the club supports local initiatives that strengthen education, health, and community development. Noblesville Rotary is always welcoming new members. We meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at Ginger's Café at 7:30 a.m. Hosting community speakers at our meetings, serving our community, and having fun are all part of Noblesville Rotary. Learn more at **NoblesvilleRotaryClub.org**.



Photo provided by Noblesville Rotary Club

Presenting this year's donation to Ivy Tech Hamilton County were (from left) Rotarian John Mahaffey, Rotarian Carrie Dixon, Rotarian President Zach Lundin, Ivy Tech Hamilton County Chancellor Rachel Kartz, Rotarian and Ivy Tech Hamilton County Executive Director of Development & Marketing Kelly Wallace, and Rotarian Jeff Derda.

Ravana

from Page 1

As the effigy burns, we have an opportunity to reflect on what we are ready to release.

In my *Taste of Community* journey, I continue to learn that belonging is not created simply by inviting people to the table. It grows when we make room for different perspectives, listen to stories unlike our own, and take responsibility when our words or actions cause hurt. Reconciliation begins when we stop focusing only on who is right and start asking how we can make things right.

We cannot control every action around us. We cannot eliminate every disagreement. But we can choose humility over ego, curiosity over judgment, and dialogue over division. We can acknowledge our mistakes and make a genuine effort to do better.

This Dussehra, whether or not you celebrate the festival, consider this invitation: What part of yourself needs to change? Which relationship needs healing? Whose story have you yet to hear?

The victory of good over evil is not only an ancient story or a spectacular night of fire. It is a choice we make every day – in our homes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and our communities.

Perhaps the most meaningful Ravana Dahan is not the one we watch, but the one we practice within ourselves.

Because a true *Taste of Community* begins when we are willing to grow, make amends, and create a world where more people feel seen, heard, valued, and welcome.

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





Photos provided by Pooja Thakkar

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- What is my process for buying a home?
- Who should I call for home repairs/remodeling?
- 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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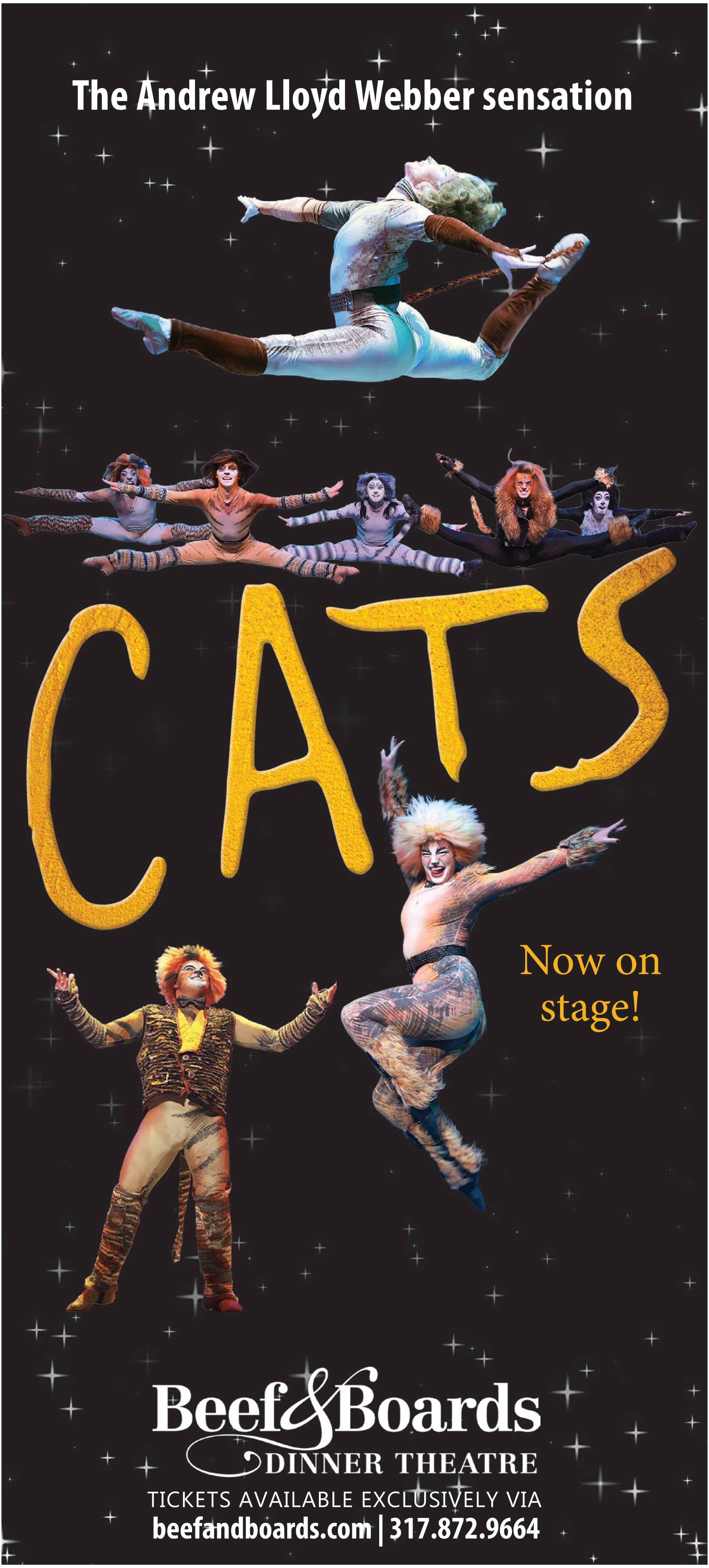
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Elise Neishalla: "From six cents to common sense"

By STU CLAMPITT
news@readthereporter.com

"We're working hard going from, as I like to say, lake to shining river, to get out the vote and to tell the great financial turnaround story for the state of Indiana," Indiana Comptroller Elise Nieshalla told The Reporter during an interview about her election campaign.

Nieshalla was appointed to the office by then-Governor Eric Holcomb on Dec. 1, 2023, following the resignation of Tera Klutz. Nieshalla is now involved in her first campaign for the office she currently holds.

That is not a new situation. Nieshalla's predecessor, Klutz, was appointed to the position in 2017. Kultz then won an election bid in 2022 before resigning in 2023.

The State Comptroller fulfills the duties of the Constitutional Office of State Auditor. The public name of the office was changed in July 2023 by legislative act signed into law by Gov. Holcomb. The formal title of the office remains the same and can only be changed by a future state constitutional amendment.

"We handle the accounting and the reporting of the state's funds," Nieshalla said. "We distribute the taxes collected on behalf of counties, cities, towns, and school districts to them to get those dollars put to good work serving Hoosiers. We also handle the state's payroll. We pay the state's bills. We also distribute funds to the state agencies. And we also administer the deferred compensation plan for the state of Indiana and administer the Indiana Transparency Portal shining the brightest sunlight in all of Indiana's finances."

Indiana's finances in the 21st century

"Twenty-plus years ago, if you remember, our state was struggling financially," Nieshalla said. "In fact, in the year 2002, they closed the books with only six cents in general fund reserves. They had spent down the other reserve funds by 74 percent, in addition to delaying hundreds of millions of dollars of payments to our schools. This was under the leadership of Democrats.

"Then Mitch Daniels came along, and he had this depth of fortitude to turn this state around financially, and the legislature followed. Now after a long string of solid Republican, fiscally conservative, and disciplined leadership, we've gone from six cents to $1.86 billion in that general fund reserve. And as I like to say, we've gone from six cents to common sense."

According to Nieshalls, Indiana is the fourth-lowest debt per capita state in the nation.

"We have a AAA credit rating now," Nieshalla said. "We have a balanced budget amendment that's the gold standard among the [other] states. We are only in a position to be able to do a gas tax holiday because of the reserves that we have in place. When we closed the fiscal year's books for '26, we had just under $4 billion in total reserves. You certainly couldn't offer a gas tax holiday in a state like a neighbor of ours."

When asked what the fourth-lowest per capita debt in the nation looks like in terms of actual dollars, Nieshalla told The Reporter it is $169 per resident. By way of comparison, the State of Illinois has $2,330 per capita debt.

"We have well-funded pensions and that is a real turnaround story as well," Nieshalla said. "Particularly when you look at the pre-1996 teacher pension fund: that was at 24 to 27 percent funded just a handful of years ago. Now we're looking at being fully funded in just a year or two. That is remarkable."

Public service experience

Nieshalla served in local government as the president of the Boone County Council and the president of the Indiana County Councils Association.

"As a member of [the Boone County Council], we were responsible for the budgeting and all the financial side of county government," Nieshalla said. "I now have the privilege of being in the office that distributes those funds to the local units of government so that they can put those tax dollars to good use. I still have the opportunity to work with all of my colleagues in local government. We're just at the service side as far as distributing those funds to them. It's a joy to get to work with them."

Final thoughts

When asked to tell our readers something most people may not know about her, Nieshalla told The Reporter about her relationship with a book most people know only as a musical.

"I absolutely love the book *Les Misérables*," Nieshalla said. "I read it when I was probably 14 years old. That book has always been an inspiration to me. It has an incredible story of redemption. And as a 14-year-old, it gave me insight into the depths of suffering that we can face as humans and the power of forgiveness and redemption in our lives."

Nieshalla said she believes it is Republican leadership that has gotten our state to the financial position it holds today.

"Remember from where we come as a state and how it is Republican leadership that has turned this state around financially," Nieshalla said. "We've gone from six cents to common sense. Indiana – we might as well call ourselves a sunshine state, too, because we are shining that bright sunlight, which is the best disinfectant on any fraud, waste, or abuse that may be there."

Nieshalla said Indiana serves the nation as a template for how to handle taxpayer dollars.

"Given that Indiana has become this model of fiscal responsibility, let's make America like Indiana. Given that it's this model of fiscal responsibility and the situation financially with the federal debt, let's make America like Indiana. We are a bright, shiny beacon of fiscal responsibility, transparency, and discipline, not only in the Midwest, but for the country."



Reporter photo

While interviewing State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla, State Representative Hunter Smith sat down at the table behind us for a separately scheduled and unrelated meeting of his own. "You're sitting in good company," Smith said. "Nieshalla received my full endorsement and it is the reason I'm here. I'm in the legislature because she encouraged me. She's been a longtime friend."

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Hollowell cites public & private sector experience in bid for Sheriff

By STU CLAMPITT
news@readthereporter.com

Charles Hollowell is the Democratic candidate for Hamilton County Sheriff. The Reporter spoke to Hollowell about why he is running for this office, why he thinks he is the best man for the job, and why he previously endorsed a Republican candidate in the May 2026 primary.

Hollowell told The Reporter he believes his experience in both the private and public sector make him the best choice for sheriff. He transferred to Indiana from Michigan when working for The Honey Baked Ham Company, where he said he was in charge of a territory with a budget of tens of millions of dollars.

Hollowell told The Reporter he also holds an MBA from Kelly School of Business with a concentration in management and entrepreneurship.

Before joining the Westfield Police Department (WPD), Hollowell was a reserve officer in Clermont, Ind. He said he started working for WPD on Jan. 20, 2003.

"At the city of Westfield, I worked up through all the ranks of patrolman, sergeant, lieutenant on patrol," Hollowell said. "Then I became a patrol captain where I was, you know, over day-to-day operations for the patrol division itself. So everything from traffic units, actually I did our first traffic unit, developed our traffic unit in Westfield, because we didn't have one before I became a captain. Then I became a major of operations over the patrol division, as well as the criminal investigations division."


Hollowell

Hollowell is currently listed on WPD's website as a Lieutenant.

Hollowell has faced scrutiny for having endorsed Sheriff candidate Dustin Dixon's opponent, John Lowes, in the Republican primary. After Lowes lost the primary, Hollowell was appointed to be on the ballot by the Hamilton County Democratic Party.

When asked why he endorsed a Republican candidate, Hollowell said it was because of his relationship with Lowes.

"When I started working in Westfield, John Lowes was my very first Field Training Officer," Hollowell said. "So he's one of the first persons that I got to know. When you come into a county and you come into places that are different, I was faced with some biases and a little bit of racism before I became a law enforcement [officer]. So then I started working with John Lowes and he basically treated me with dignity and respect."

Hollowell followed Lowes up through the ranks. After Lowes became a lieutenant, Hollowell became a sergeant. After Lowes became a captain, Hollowell became a lieutenant under Lowes' command. He also credits Lowes with his own promotion to captain.

"If I'm not running myself, I'm going to support the person who I know, who I work with, and I know personally who I actually work with on calls," Hollowell said. "I work night shifts with them. I've been on trips with them with training for work. This is a person that I actually know. I know what type of person he is."

When asked why, after supporting a Republican, he would run as a Democrat, Hollowell said he had already planned to run as a Democrat, though at a later date.

"I wasn't planning on running until I retired from the city of Westfield," Hollowell said. "I was planning on running in basically 2029 when I retired from the city of Westfield … I'm a Democrat; I've been a Democrat my whole life. "My thing is it's people over party … At the end of the day, law enforcement should be nonpartisan … When I became a captain, when I was in major operations, it was Republicans that put me in those spots. I refuse to not support people who has the qualities of doing a great job … I've been a Democrat my whole life, but that doesn't mean that I can't support a candidate that I believe is better prepared for the job than the other person."

After speaking to The Reporter, Hollowell reached out asking that we also tell our readers the following:

"I support ending the Sheriff's Office's voluntary 287(g) agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and redirecting the Sheriff's Office resources associated with that program toward local public-safety priorities. My position does not mean disregarding federal or state law. The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office will continue to follow all applicable laws, honor lawful court orders, and fulfill legally required cooperation and notification obligations."

According to his campaign website, "Hamilton County is growing, and our Sheriff's Office must be prepared to grow and adapt with it. My plan is built around three pillars: Stronger Communities Through Partnership; Professional Public Safety & Effective Law Enforcement; and Accountability, Rehabilitation & Organizational Excellence." You can read the extensive details of those plans online at **CharlesHollowell.com/pillars**.

From the desk of Heights Supt. Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update No. 182

COLUMNIST

DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Heights Superintendent

One of the greatest measures of a school district's success is not only what students accomplish while they are with us, but how they choose to serve and lead after graduation. That is why I am always encouraged to see Hamilton Heights alumni investing their talents back into our communities.

Graduates Lydia and Sterling Weatherford (Class of 2017) are doing just that through Born Again Gardens, a nonprofit they founded this year with a mission of serving others and strengthening the community they call home.

On Nov. 14 from 5 to 9 p.m., Born Again Gardens will host its inaugural fundraising gala, Garden Party, at House Family Farms, 26510 State Road 37, Atlanta. The event will bring community members together in support of the organization's mission while celebrating the power of local giving, service, and connection. Lydia and Sterling's commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for impact reflects the values we strive to instill in every Husky. It is inspiring to see former students using their vision, passion, and leadership to cultivate positive change right here at home. Learn more at **BornAgainGardens.org**.

* * *

This month, we take time to recognize a group of leaders whose influence reaches every corner of our district: our principals.

Julie Griffey and Ken Watson (HHES), Bret Bailey, Jill Landers, and Andy Smith (HHMS), and Whitney Gray, Mitch Street, and Lori Hippensteel (HHHS) guide their buildings with purpose, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to our students. Their leadership is felt in the culture they build, the relationships they nurture, and the countless decisions they make each day to support teaching and learning.

We are grateful for the steadiness they bring to Hamilton Heights and for the heart they pour into this work. Their impact is profound, and we appreciate all they do for our children, staff, and community.

* * *

This week is National School Bus Safety Week, a meaningful reminder for all of us to slow down, stay alert, and use extra care when driving near school buses in our community. School buses remain one of the safest ways for students to travel, but that safety depends on every driver honoring flashing lights, extended stop arms, and the responsibility we share to protect children on the road. Your attention behind the wheel truly matters.

See *Arrowood* . . . Page 6



Arrowood

from Page 5

As we highlight bus safety, I want to express my sincere appreciation to our outstanding team of school bus drivers. Each day, they navigate thousands of miles through early mornings, changing weather, and unpredictable traffic to ensure our students arrive safely at school and at school−sponsored events. Their professionalism, patience, and genuine care for the children they transport are evident in every route they run. They are the quiet, steady heroes of our daily routines, and we are deeply grateful for the essential role they play.

Thank you for your commitment and for the difference you make.

* * *

You won't want to miss Hamilton Heights High School's spooktacular double feature on Thursday, Oct. 29! Our FFA chapter will hold its fourth annual Trunk or Treat in the high school parking lot, while our Theatre Arts students transform the auditorium into the eerie and immersive Haunted Circus.

Families can enjoy safe, festive trick-or-treating from 5 to 7 p.m., then step right into a hauntingly creative experience designed and performed by our talented theatre students for just $1 admission.

Both events are open to the public and offer a fun, family-friendly evening that showcases the creativity, leadership, and school spirit of our students.

#WeAreHuskies

Westfield welcomes South Korean development delegation

Submitted by City of Westfield

The City of Westfield recently welcomed a delegation of South Korean developers and business representatives in partnership with The International Center.

The delegation met with Mayor Scott Willis, Executive Chief of Economic Development and Community Development Jenell Fairman, and other city leaders to discuss development opportunities and strengthen international business relationships.

During their visit, the delegation toured Westfield, traveling from Downtown to Grand Park, where they explored the facilities and grounds while learning more about the city's continued growth and economic development initiatives.

The visit also included discussions about the proposed L7 Westfield Hotel. Building on Westfield's existing relationships with South Korean businesses, the visit reflects the City's continued commitment to attracting international investment, fostering strategic partnerships, and positioning Westfield as a destination for future economic development.



Photo provided by City of Westfield

Representatives from the City of Westfield, The International Center, and the delegation of South Korean developers and business leaders toured the area.



Zionsville Cultural District Board announces 'Cultural Canvas' program

Submitted

The Board of Directors of the Zionsville Cultural District has officially announced "The Cultural Canvas of Zionsville," a new program slated for fall 2027.

Designed to honor and celebrate the full spectrum of cultural diversity across Zionsville, the initiative focuses on live creative expressions, heritage traditions, authentic cuisine, and interactive cross-cultural exchanges that bring residents together from across the town.

Created to strengthen community interaction, "The Cultural Canvas of Zionsville" will provide meaningful opportunities for participants to meet, connect, and build enduring cultural relationships. By sharing traditions, skills, and perspectives, the event aims to foster lasting partnerships and deeper cross-cultural understanding across Zionsville.

The event reflects the expanding tapestry of Zionsville's population, which, according to U.S. Census Bureau data, includes 86.2 percent White, 4.7 percent Black or African American, 4.3 percent Asian, and 3.4 percent Hispanic or Latino residents, offering an inclusive platform for residents of all backgrounds to share their unique experiences.

Multifaceted event programming

The signature event will feature a wide-ranging celebration of cultural heritage and artistic collaboration, including:

- **Live performances:** Music, dance, theater, international fashion shows, and spoken word.
- **Visual art:** Exhibitions showcasing original artwork created by local artists.
- **Authentic cuisine:** Culinary offerings reflecting diverse regional and cultural heritage traditions.
- **Interactive activities:** Hands-on cultural sharing, skills demonstrations, and collaborative experiences.
- **Dialogue sessions & panels:** Facilitated discussions on cultural diversity and community engagement, providing an open forum for residents to share personal experiences and perspectives.

Collaborative leadership & community partnerships

In alignment with nonprofit best practices, the Zionsville Cultural District will collaborate extensively with community volunteers to implement the festival. A dedicated Leadership Advisory Team – comprising Zionsville Cultural District board members, local residents, and representatives from civic, government, and nonprofit organizations – will oversee planning, marketing, implementation, and community outreach.

Participating organizations on the Leadership Advisory Team include:

- Zionsville Chamber of Commerce
- Zionsville Community Schools
- Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library
- International Women Indiana
- Sullivan Munce Cultural Center
- Zionsville Main Street
- Zionsville residents and board leadership
- Zionsville Press and Zionsville Monthly

Join the Cultural Canvas Leadership Advisory Team

Organizations and individuals seeking more information about the initiative or interested in joining subcommittees alongside the Leadership Advisory Team should email **info@zvillecd.org**.

About Zionsville Cultural District

The Zionsville Cultural District is a nonprofit organization founded in 2013 to enrich the lives of residents and visitors by promoting and celebrating the community's arts, history, and culture. The group's vision is to make art, culture, and history accessible and obvious through support, promotion, and coordination. For more information, visit **zvillecd.org**.





ACCURATE. BALANCED.
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THE REPORTER



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 no longer be accepted***.

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.

Letter to the Editor

Noblesville voter: attacks on Spartz are not based in fact

Dear Editor:

Given that free speech is the oxygen of liberty, I'd like to explain my support for Victoria Spartz for reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives.

She has a solid voting record, having represented us well in Washington – exactly what we voted her to do. She deserves to be reelected just on her record. Importantly, our congresswoman was born and emigrated from a socialist country. She is a voice of knowledge, experience, and reason against any slide toward socialism in the U.S.

She has been maligned by PAC advertising; however, today, personal research by voters is easy given AI reviews all relevant documents. According to Grok, "There is no evidence that Victoria Spartz has conducted insider trading, and the attack ads' core claims are misleading or false on the key points of personal trading, the dollar figure as 'profit,' and her opposition to reforms."

According to wisevoter.com, "She sits on the Joint Economic Committee (reports and hearings, not primary industry regulation of real estate or airlines). She voted yes on the Stop Insider Trading Act (H.R. 7008) in July 2026, contrary to claims she fought such reforms."

Her husband owns in an IRA SPG Simon Property Group and two airline stocks which the family disclosed, and I'll say with certainty, as a former asset manager, these are not the holdings of a stock trader!

Grok: "In short, the ads accurately note that family accounts associated with her disclosures show substantial SPG (and limited other) trading activity that must be reported. They inaccurately portray it as her personal trading for personal enrichment via insider information or in industries she directly regulates, and they misstate her record on reform votes."

So, my assessment is this: Reminds me of the 2012 dirty tricks when Democrat Harry Reid said Republican candidate Mitt Romney "didn't pay his taxes for 10 years." Romney denied the accusation. After the election, "Reid later expressed no regrets about making these claims, believing they influenced Romney's election loss."

No doubt the lie accusation cost Romney votes! If you're on the fence in this election because of advertising, check it out yourself. Every vote counts!

Finally, I found contemptible the two recent news stories that Victoria Spartz election signs were stolen, and I've not heard or read of apologies or disapproving from the other side. This is not harmless, it's against the law, and for newcomers, we don't do that here.

Our elections have always been tough but respectable. I hope we are not losing that social normality in Central Indiana.

George Hodgson
Noblesville

Letter to the Editor

Noblesville voter examines school district's budget

Dear Editor:

Here are some factual counterpoints to **Chris Hartig's letter** (drawn from district documents, state audits/SBOA reports, S&P ratings, and public reporting):

The ballot is not a flat "continuation" of the current 37¢ rate. It authorizes a maximum rate of 57¢ per $100 of assessed value (roughly 54 percent higher) and a maximum annual amount of $43,842,578, well above the ~$25 million the district says it needs annually. The board's August 2026 resolution committing to start at 38.5¢ in 2027 with no more than 4¢ annual steps is non-binding and can be changed by a future board; the ballot ceiling cannot.

The district's "about $1.88 more per month" figure for a $350,000 home is an average projection over eight years that assumes the district will not levy the full authorized rate each year and factors in SEA 1 homestead credits/deductions. Indiana's required ballot language estimates a larger increase (roughly $955 per year for a median home versus no referendum). Independent calculations of the full 57¢ rate produce higher potential costs (on the order of ~$19 per month at the ceiling on a $350,000 home before certain credits).

Enrollment has been declining for multiple years, per the district's own 2026 Budget Book Fall ADM figures: 10,480 (2021-22), 10,379 (2022-23), 10,352 (2023-24), 10,312 (2024-25), and 10,100 (2025-26). The district itself cited declining enrollment (lower birth rates, fewer school-age families, and more graduates than entering Kindergartners) as a driver of its multi-million-dollar deficit when it announced staff reductions in February 2026. Area population has grown while school enrollment has not.

The district already moved to cut spending and staff before the current referendum expires. In February 2026 it announced targeted staffing reductions aimed at saving over $3 million annually to address a multi-million-dollar 2026 deficit driven by declining enrollment funding, inflation, and SEA 1 effects. The superintendent stated the district was "not in crisis mode" due to prior savings and management but needed to realign with current revenue.

The district holds substantial cash reserves. Recent S&P analyses and State Board of Accounts financial statements show combined cash/investment balances in the mid-$40 million range across the Education, Operations, Operating Referendum Tax Levy, and Local Rainy Day funds (examples: ~$43.5 million to $44.9 million in recent reporting periods). Formal policy targets 8 to 15 percent of certain expenditures; management has indicated a preference for higher. The district carries an AA credit rating and is described among the stronger financially managed Indiana districts. Key funds have maintained positive ending balances.

The 2018 referendum was marketed to voters as raising about $50 million over eight years (~$6.25 million per year), primarily for safety, mental health, and teacher salaries. Assessed-value growth produced substantially higher collections from the Operating Referendum Tax Levy (audits show annual receipts in the $20+ million range in recent years; cumulative tracking by critics exceeds $100 million well before the end of the period). Most of the excess was spent rather than reserved.

The district's overall property tax rate has decreased for seven consecutive years (to $1.2510 per $100 of assessed value in 2026, per district financial highlights). Higher overall tax bills for many homeowners have been driven primarily by rising assessed values rather than rate increases by the school corporation. The referendum levy is an additional local tax.

A record number of Indiana districts (reported as 38) have referendums on the November 2026 ballot, attributed largely to SEA 1 revenue reductions and new state rules restricting referendums to even-year general elections. That statewide context is accurate but does not eliminate the relevance of local enrollment trends, prior collection amounts, existing reserves, or the difference between the marketed rate path and the ballot authorization.

The district's total proposed budget is on the order of $170 million. Salaries and benefits constitute the large majority of Education Fund and Referendum Fund spending. State funding formula rankings and cumulative tax-cap losses (district cites roughly $41 million since 2015, plus further SEA 1 impacts) are part of the district's stated rationale for seeking continued local referendum revenue.

Sally Knopp
Noblesville

Letter to the Editor

Noblesville voter takes deeper dive into school referendum numbers

Dear Editor:

Chris Hartig's reply to Denise Dye deserves a response because he gets some things right and leaves out the parts that matter most.

He's right that the cuts the district listed are real. If the referendum fails, the current 37-cent levy expires and the district loses about $25 million a year. Under the 2025 law, the next chance to vote is November 2028. I won't pretend that's painless.

But that all-or-nothing choice was the school board's doing, not the voters'. The board could have asked us to renew the 37-cent rate. Instead it put 57 cents on the ballot, a 54-percent increase for eight years, with a maximum levy of $43.8 million against roughly $25 million today.

A NO vote doesn't reject funding. It rejects the size of this ask.

Mr. Hartig repeats the district's "$1.88 more per month" for a $350,000 home. Here's where that number comes from, using the district's own calculator: take the 2034 bill, subtract the 2026 bill, and divide by eight. That isn't the average monthly increase. The calculator's own year-by-year figures average $8.19 a month above today's bill, and $9.37 if the rate climbs as fast as the board's August resolution allows. By 2034 it's $15 to $18 a month.

Even those numbers understate the referendum's own price, because they count the state's new property tax cut (SEA 1). Compare 57 cents with 37 cents in the same year and the referendum alone costs about $19 a month on that $350,000 home. Bills look nearly flat only because the tax relief the legislature just passed is being used to absorb the increase. So the honest question isn't "will my bill go up?" It's "who keeps the state tax cut, my family or the school district?"

Renters, landlords, and small businesses get no homestead relief at all. They pay the full increase.

Mr. Hartig also argues against something Ms. Dye never said. She didn't allege "gross mismanagement." She asked for an independent audit and a spending review before an eight-year commitment. That isn't a radical position. And the money isn't as locked up as we're told. State transfer reports show Noblesville Schools moved about $54 million from its Education Fund (the one that pays teachers) to its Operations Fund between 2021 and 2025. That's legal, but it shows the district has more flexibility than its message suggests, and that money has been flowing away from teacher pay.

Voters also aren't told that Noblesville already has a second voter-approved levy: an 8-cent debt referendum from the 2010 and 2013 bond votes that runs through 2032. The district's referendum page doesn't mention it. If the new rate reaches its cap before 2032, the combined referendum rate is 65 cents.

To be fair, the board passed a resolution in August limiting increases to 4 cents a year. That's a real commitment and I give the board credit for it. But it fixes only 2027. After that it limits the yearly step, not where the rate ends up, and it says the 57-cent maximum may be reached "if ever." A future board can repeal a resolution with one vote. The 57-cent rate on the ballot can't be changed.

Mr. Hartig is right that many Indiana districts need referendums. Since 2009 the state has paid for classroom operations, and a referendum is the only way local money reaches teacher pay. Nobody serious disputes that.

The question in front of us is narrower: is 57 cents for eight years the right amount, and has the district made its case clearly? On the numbers, it hasn't.

Ms. Dye said it well: "We should never have to choose between loving our schools and holding them financially accountable."

Voting NO is how we ask for a more honest number.

Carl Sampson
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.*

BREAKING DOWN
BALLOT QUESTION #3

ESSENTIAL FOR MAINTAINING CURRENT PROGRAMS & SERVICES
The referendum funds will be used to maintain current programs and services, including staffing. It cannot be used for athletic facilities or construction projects.

MAXIMUM-RATE LANGUAGE
The 57-cent rate is the maximum allowed and not expected to be used. Noblesville Schools has committed to a 2027 rate of 38.5¢, with future increases capped at no more than $0.04 per year.

THIS IS NOT YOUR INCREASE
This number on the ballot isn't what you'd pay on top of today's bill. It leaves out the referendum you're already paying and assumes the maximum rate that won't be used.

*"Shall Noblesville Schools increase property taxes paid to the school corporation for no more than eight (8) years for the purpose of funding safety and security measures in all buildings and maintaining and enhancing academic and educationally-related programs in response to reductions in property tax revenue by imposing a property tax rate that does not exceed **$0.57** and results in a maximum annual amount that does not exceed $43,842,578. If this operating referendum public question is approved by the voters, for a median residence of $350,000, the property's annual property tax bill would increase by **$955 per year**."*

MILLER YES
VOTE YES FOR STRONG SCHOOLS AND A STRONG COMMUNITY!
LEARN MORE: MILLERYES.ORG

Thanks for reading the Hamilton County Reporter!

Letter to the Editor

Maqsood explains why she's running for HSE School Board

I am Faiza Maqsood, and I believe in this community, which is why I am running to represent District 1 on the Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) School Board.

I want to authentically represent families, advocate for educators, and manage our resources to guarantee students the best educational experience available.

All three of my children graduated from HSE Schools. In classrooms and as student athletes (football, lacrosse, basketball, and track), they were challenged and supported by their educators and coaches. I owe a debt of gratitude to HSE for the hard-working, creative, and thoughtful people that my children have become – and I decided to run for school board to give back.

I attended school board meetings last year to learn more about HSE's finances. As a business systems leader that works in revenue management for a large healthcare organization, I was curious to see how HSE managed its budget. Instead, I was taken aback by the blatant disrespect towards educators, the dismissal of parents' concerns, and the ugly language used in those meetings. I gained no understanding of how financial decisions were being made.

HSE Schools were an extension of my family for 17 years. Those meetings did not reflect the community I call home.

I do not wear rose-tinted glasses; as a Muslim American with Pakistani heritage, I am not naive to the type of disrespect and intolerance that is sometimes accepted in our State. Earlier this year, our Lieutenant Governor announced his hatred for my faith practice on a national platform. Months later, an organization attempted to host an anti-immigrant rally in Fishers. In both instances, our highest-ranked elected officials offered only lukewarm responses. They did not state, explicitly, that we were all welcome here or reassure us that we were safe.

I understand the nuances and tensions of our community. Yet, this campaign has reminded me that at our core, we are caring, supportive, and understanding. Countless District 1 neighbors showed kindness to me while I was on the campaign trail. People offered us water on sunny days and encouraged my volunteers to put their safety first. I heard countless stories of phenomenal educators who changed the trajectory of peoples' lives. I met veteran teachers who are considering leaving the profession because they are struggling to make ends meet.

After months of listening and learning in District 1, I see bridges waiting to be built.

My goals are simple. I want to establish a respectful culture from the highest level of school governance. I want to ensure that our students' and families' voices are valued in decisions impacting their day-to-day lives and future opportunities. I want to support teachers who show up for students every single day, despite salaries that have not kept up with the cost of living. I want to use my revenue management skills to ensure we maximize our budget to the benefit of staff and students.

To that end, I support the referendum, which would ensure that our district does not fall into a deficit, give our instructional staff well-deserved compensation, and be a step towards retaining our experienced educators.

I am grateful to our schools, this community, and God for the people my children have become. I believe every family in this community deserves to access similar opportunities, and I want to make sure that HSE will provide that for generations to come.

I would be honored to have your support on Nov. 3.

Faiza Maqsood
Fishers

Letter to the Editor

Why vote 'yes' on Westfield Washington Schools referendum?

Dear Editor:

As I completed voting this morning, I took time to reflect on the importance of voting in this important midterm election. Along with the political offices up for a vote, we had the opportunity to vote for three Public Questions. The most important one in my mind was the referendum for Westfield Schools.

When property taxes became based on 1 percent of the assessed value, the formula for school funding changed. Schools were told if you want more than the basics, use referendums, and they did. With the passage of SEA1 by the state legislature to give homeowners some relief with their property taxes, schools, cities, towns, and other taxing bodies lost tax revenue. Now, all local government bodies must determine what they must do to meet their budget needs with the reduction of tax revenue they will receive from property taxes.

The Westfield-Washington School Board has determined that it is necessary to ask the voters to approve a referendum if they are to continue their successful mission to make Westfield students "Life Ready" when they graduate.

Two of our grandsons attended Westfield Schools for all their K-12 classes. They both played soccer while in high school, so we enjoyed many exciting games, including some in the sectional playoffs. We have many fond memories to be certain. They both graduated from Westfield High School and attended college classes at Ivy Tech and Purdue. Both have been successful since finishing their education and going into jobs in the private sector.

They both were made "Life Ready" with the education and life experiences they received in the Westfield Washington School System. We are so proud of both.

There is much data provided by the school district measuring student achievements compared with other school districts within Indiana as well as nationwide, and the fact that they graduate "Life Ready."

However, I would like to give you some real-life examples I observed while on a tour of the high school during sixth period with former Superintendent Dr. Paul Kaiser a couple years ago:

• In one classroom we entered, there was a freshman girl using computer technology to create a logo for a local business as one of her class projects. The result was outstanding.

• In another area of the school, we were able to watch several students building a wooden structure as part of a trades class.

• In the third area, we watched as an exercise/physical fitness class was wrapping up for the day.

• In an encounter with a senior, we asked what she was working on and she replied, "My college application."

• Finally, in an open area near a group of classrooms, approximately a hundred students were all intently watching, and recording with their cell phones, two of their fellow students, originally from Venezuela, performing several native dances for different occasions while in the native dress of their former home country. Later I was stunned to learn that over 70 different native languages are spoken by Westfield students. Truly a cultural melting pot.

The amazing fact is none of these students had to be there for any of these activities, which were all conducted on their personal time with dedicated educators and staff in support of their efforts.

NOW, think about how that one-hour tour might have been seen had there been no referendum funding to support these activities and more.

We have a tremendous school district with outstanding teachers and dedicated staff, and we will continue to support their efforts. We no longer have any family members attending Westfield Schools, but we voted YES for the referendum. We encourage you to do so also.

We owe it our future generations having them to be the best they can be.

Joseph Plankis
Westfield

Letter to the Editor

Thank you to our community partners

Dear Editor:

Sheridan Community Schools would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Town of Sheridan and the Marion Township Board of Boone County for their support of Sheridan Community Schools operating a referendum renewal.

On Sept. 15, the Sheridan Town Council passed a resolution supporting the referendum. The Town Council recognized that the proposed referendum is intended to replace the existing referendum and will not result in an immediate increase in the tax rate.

We are equally grateful to the Marion Township Board, which, following extensive due diligence, and voted on Sept. 17 to provide a letter of support for the referendum. Board members specifically noted their appreciation for the research and effort undertaken by the school board to demonstrate the return on investment for local taxpayers. They also encouraged Marion Township residents to support the referendum on Nov. 3.

Sheridan Community Schools is extremely grateful for the continued partnership, collaboration, and support of both the Town of Sheridan and Marion Township. Our community is strongest when we work together, and we deeply appreciate these local leaders taking the time to understand the referendum and support the future of our students and schools.

Thank you to the Town of Sheridan and Marion Township for standing with our Blackhawks and our community.

Dr. Dave Mundy
Superintendent,
Sheridan Community Schools



Letter guidelines this election season

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Please send your letters to News@ReadTheReporter.com.

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

Letter to the Editor

Sheridan voter: Root will "work for *our* best interests" at the Statehouse

Dear Editor:

I am writing to encourage everyone in State Senate district 21 to vote for Kirsten Root. I met Kirsten several months ago while attending a local meeting.

While chatting with her that evening and afterward, it became obvious to me and others that Kirsten doesn't just talk the talk, she walks the walk. She started a community initiative called Pack the Pantries, in which she is committed to filling local food pantries in our community.

She is a former social worker so she understands the importance of investing in our people- from mental health and addiction services that help prevent emergencies to strengthening child protection, domestic violence, and community-based services.

She is anti-data centers; she wants to protect our farmland, our water, and our local resources.

Kirsten also understands that rising costs are harming us in the district. She wants to address those rising costs by supporting property tax relief, but still supporting our essential local services, which includes our public schools, along with fire, police, and EMS. Along with that, she wants to expand access to early childhood education and affordable childcare, so that more families are helped.

I support Kirsten for not only these reasons, but many others. She's a fantastic, approachable individual, who when elected will always put us first, and work for our best interests.

Cheryl Popiela
Sheridan

Letter to the Editor

If it ain't broke, don't fix it

Dear Editor:

As I read all the pros and cons about the referendum renewal, one thing stood out. No one is saying that the Noblesville schools are doing a bad job. Quite the opposite. There seems to be agreement that students are receiving a top-notch education.

That hasn't happened overnight. It's been a process. Adding opportunities, building programs – it all takes time.

Through that process the school board is a key part. Continuity is vital. As superintendent of the Hamilton Southeastern Schools through 17 years of growth and change, I experienced that first-hand.

The current Noblesville School Board is functioning well. Members are diligent in their roles. Joe Forgey and Misti Ray are vital players. They deserve to continue their good work.

Dr. Charles Leonard
Noblesville

Letter to the Editor

Shaffer questions Carmel Clay Schools' impetus to borrow

Dear Editor:

Carmel voters are being asked to give its school board a blank check to borrow up to $62 million a year to offset what it claims is a $10 million shortfall in revenues.

With $350 million in debt and a proposed $55 million facility bond in referendum the works, school officials admit they can cut a mere 3.7 percent of the $266 million 2027 budget.

Enrollments aren't growth but official love affairs with debt are growing faster.

Bill Shaffer
Carmel

*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.*

Meeting Notices

The Clay Township Board will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026, at the John W. Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Ave., Carmel.

The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026, in the Board Room at the Noblesville Schools Educational Services Center, 18025 River Road.

The Hamilton Heights School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet in an executive session at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026, pursuant to I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(11) To train school board members with an outside consultant about the performance of the role of the members as public officials.

*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**.*

Carmel author J.R. Sandadi welcomes 225 people to book launch

Submitted

A gathering of 225 people filled the Carmel Clay Public Library on Saturday, Oct. 17, to celebrate the launch of Carmel resident J.R. Sandadi's debut memoir, *The Eleventh Kilometer: A Memoir of Inheritance, Endurance, and Learning to Stay*. Family and friends, including guests who traveled from India, joined members of the local interfaith and service communities for the event.

The memoir follows Sandadi's journey from rural India to the United States. It explores family, immigration, distance running, loss, service, and the meaning of being present. Its title comes from the 11-kilometer walk his father made to school each day in rural Telangana.

Nitya Sandadi, the author's daughter, served as emcee. She said the library was a fitting place for the launch because her family has spent countless hours there reading together. Library Executive Director Bob Swanay welcomed attendees, and Guru Anuradha Poduval offered the opening invocation.

At the heart of the program was a fireside conversation titled "Keep Moving, Learn to Stay." Dr. Aparna Soni, Associate Professor at Indiana University, and Dr. Tej Pareek moderated, with questions exploring family influences, the courage required to share difficult experiences, and Sandadi's decision to leave corporate life for service.









Photos provided

J.R. Sandadi completely packed Carmel Clay Public when he gave his talk during the launch of his book on Oct. 17.

"Finding the extraordinary in ordinary life experiences" was a central theme of Sandadi's reflections. The conversation explored how everyday moments, family relationships and acts of service can hold meaning worth preserving and sharing with future generations.

"JR's book relates to our own journey of faith and our own journey of family. It will feed your soul," The Rev. Jerry Zehr said.

Saumitra Gokhale, international coordinator of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, said every second-generation Indian American should read the book for a glimpse into their parents' lives as first-generation immigrants.

The program also included a reading from the memoir's epilogue and closing remarks by Charlie Wiles, founder of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, followed by a book signing.

The gathering brought together people from many stages of Sandadi's life: family, local friends, fellow volunteers from Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, classmates from BITS Pilani and Louisiana Tech University, and partners from his interfaith and community service work.

A longtime Carmel resident, Sandadi left a successful corporate career in 2017 to devote himself to service. His memoir reflects on the people and experiences that shaped that path.

About the book

The Eleventh Kilometer: A Memoir of Inheritance, Endurance, and Learning to Stay (Charaiveti Press) is available on Amazon in Kindle, paperback, and hardcover editions. An Indian edition from Garuda Prakashan is also available. More information is at **jrsandadi.com**.

Community News

SATURDAY: turn in those unwanted & expired medicines

Saturday, Oct. 24, is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, and several locations are available for you to drop off your unwanted, unused, and expired medicines.

- **Riverview Health Noblesville** from 9 a.m. to noon: in the far east parking lot, directly across from Federal Hill Commons on State Road 32.
- **Kroger in Carmel** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: outside the store located at 1217 S. Range Line Road.
- **All Meijer stores**: drop-off kiosks at each pharmacy.

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Trinity Free Clinic of Carmel joins United Way of Central Indiana's Workforce Pathways Accelerator Initiative

Submitted

United Way of Central Indiana is expanding its Workforce Pathways Accelerator Initiative to include two new community partners – one in Hamilton County and one in Marion County – as the program enters its third year of helping people earn industry-recognized credentials and land jobs that pay livable wages.

Trinity Free Clinic, based in Carmel, is the initiative's first Hamilton County partner. New Beginnings joins as the new Marion County partner. They will work alongside three returning partners – Fathers and Families Center, Public Advocates in Community Re-Entry (PACE) and Indiana Plan – all in their second year with the initiative.

United Way works to distance Central Indiana households from poverty. It does that by focusing its resources on four essential areas: basic needs, early care and learning, economic mobility, and safe and affordable housing. The Workforce Pathways Accelerator Initiative is part of United Way's economic mobility efforts, meant to help people move up the economic ladder through workforce development.

First launched in July 2024, the initiative is designed to be an "on-ramp" for people seeking industry-recognized credentials. Participants receive personalized support to navigate resources and overcome barriers like transportation, child care, and program costs. A Career Partnerships Navigator guides participants from enrollment to employment. The goal is to increase household income by at least 65 percent by helping people secure credentials and move into wage-sustaining careers.

See *Trinity* . . . Page 10





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We got in the same room, but did we connect?

GUEST COLUMNIST



KERA CHURCH SCOTT





Photos provided by Kera Church Scott

The Reporter is happy to welcome budding columnist Kera Church Scott to Hamilton County and to our pages, especially since "Be The People" may have entertained her, but it didn't connect her.

Work and leisure have taken my husband and me all over the country.

Different communities, different people, different ways of doing things. But it was Indiana's Hoosier hospitality that charmed us right out of the South. Since July 2026, we've had the pleasure of calling Noblesville home.

Boots on the ground and armed with curiosity, I began learning about my community. Through research and volunteering, I found the Be The People Rally for Indy at Indianapolis Metropolitan High School on Oct. 16.

I went alone, knowing no one, intentionally.

I've spent years welcoming strangers and making introductions. This time, I wanted to get involved without being responsible for making the connections.

I enjoyed myself. I played basketball with former Indianapolis Colts player Joe Reitz and saw organizations doing meaningful work. But between the basketball court, T-shirt station, and unused conversation tables, I wondered:

Are we connecting people, or are we just gathering them?

There's a difference.

The rally offered games, customizable T-shirts, themed drinks, and opportunities to learn about organizations serving Indianapolis.

Goodwill's displays highlighted thousands of graduations, job placements, and people served.

But the T-shirt station was the only place I noticed a line.

Three questions

A table labeled "Meet a Fellow Impact Leader" offered a 30-second timer and three prompts:

What's Indy's most underrated superpower?

Where could Indy use a stronger team?

What could you solve together that you couldn't alone?

Great questions, close to those guiding my research: What do we have? What's missing? What can we do about it?

While I was there, I never saw anyone use the tables or run a timer.

Was the most valuable activity in the room the one nobody was participating in?

Two strangers discovering a shared goal. Two organizations finding a reason to collaborate. Someone leaving knowing where they could make a difference.

Wasn't that the opportunity?

Right in front of us

At the Be The People welcome table, I spoke with two women affiliated with the organization. We discovered shared experience in elections. I expressed interest in staying connected, and one wrote down my email address.

Afterward, something occurred to me. I'd asked about their work, organization, and story. I couldn't recall being asked much about mine.

How many opportunities do we miss explaining what we do while forgetting to ask about the person standing before us?

What happens afterward?

Points scored during basketball and cornhole were matched with donations for the school – a creative combination of participation and giving. But how do we measure community connection?

Attendance and money raised matter. So do the organizations represented. But what about relationships formed, opportunities discovered, and people leaving knowing how to get involved?

What happens a month later? I don't know what partnerships developed outside my view or what follow-up organizers planned.

Two miles down the road

Afterward, I encountered a man holding a sign who appeared to be experiencing homelessness. My window was down. We exchanged greetings, and he told me, in a brief, kind exchange, that one of my tires was almost flat.

I thought about the impact displays.

Those numbers matter. But so did the man standing two miles away.

It reminded me of the distance between resources and people who might benefit from them. Between having a resource and knowing it exists.

Between wanting to help and knowing where to begin. Between needing support and knowing whom to ask.

Sometimes the missing piece isn't another program.

It's the connection.

An opportunity

I don't consider the rally a failure. I see a worthwhile purpose and room to improve.

I left with a shirt, a bag, stickers, and a few acquaintances – mostly from conversations I initiated.

Weeks earlier, I'd participated as a vendor at YART in Muncie, handing out stickers.

I got free stickers this time. But less engagement.

If someone arrives genuinely interested in getting involved, what happens next? Who learns their story? Who helps them find their place?

Who makes sure the connection survives after the tables are folded?

There's already a foundation here, built by people investing time, resources, and heart. The opportunity is to build on it: try different approaches, connect existing efforts, and support those who come tomorrow.

I'm not suggesting the people doing this work have gotten it wrong.

I'm asking whether we can give the conversations as much attention as the activities. Sometimes the most valuable connection is the person you didn't know was coming, carrying a story you haven't yet thought to ask about.

I chose Indiana because I believe in what people can accomplish together. I still do.

Gathering people is an accomplishment. Connecting them is the work.

What event?

October 19, 2026 … three days later.

I checked social media, local news, and my emails.

Still no post-event coverage or organizer recap I could find. No follow-up in my inbox, either – not even the survey I'd agreed to receive.

Now I'm glad I took my own photos. Otherwise, I might have a hard time proving the event actually happened.

How do you build lasting connections when even the event itself seems to disappear?

Kera Church Scott is an independent community researcher based in Noblesville. Her work explores the people, places, resources, and overlooked connections that shape local communities.

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Trinity

from Page 9

Over the two-year period, the initiative served 546 individuals – far exceeding initial projections. Of those, 425 obtained credentials that leads to increased job opportunities or stability and 184 improved their income. In the initiative's first year, United Way and its partners anticipated serving 40 people, but 76 enrolled and 41 earned credentials.

Existing partners, Fathers and Families Center, PACE, and Indiana Plan each received a $150,000 grant from United Way. New partners, Trinity Free Clinic and New Beginnings each received $200,000. The annual cost of the Workforce Pathways Accelerator Initiative is $1 million, which includes career navigation, participant, and program support.

The one-year grants cover the cost of participants' training and certification testing, help eliminate barriers along the way, and allow the nonprofits to hire or support coaches to guide them through training and employment. Each site serves at least 30 participants.

"A career can be life-changing. For many of our neighbors, the Workforce Pathways Accelerator opens the door. Adding partners in Hamilton and Marion counties means more people across Central Indiana can build that kind of stability," said Bernadette Monk, United Way of Central Indiana's economic mobility director.

"For 25 years, we've seen how closely health and financial stability are connected – helping someone prepare for meaningful employment at a livable wage can change the trajectory of an entire family's life," said Mel Wischmeyer, Trinity Free Clinic's executive director. "With United Way's support, we're reaching people ready to invest in themselves and providing the training, clinical experience, and support they need to build lasting stability and a different future for their children."

New Beginnings Director Evelyn Evans said, "What excites us most about the Workforce Pathways Accelerator Initiative is its potential to create opportunities that extend beyond the individuals we serve. Through our IT Certification Program and CDL Training Academy, we help adults gain the skills to pursue meaningful careers, achieve greater financial stability and create brighter futures for their families. We believe that investing in people today is one of the most powerful ways to transform communities tomorrow."

Workforce Pathways Accelerator serves Central Indiana residents, particularly those living at or below the **ALICE** threshold, including low-income individuals, women re-entering the workforce, and citizens involved in the justice system.

To learn more about the initiative, visit **uwci.org/workforce-pathways-accelerator**.



Photo provided by City of Carmel

Tickets for Ice at Carter Green are on sale now

The REPORTER

As anticipation mounts for the return of the Carmel Christkindlmarkt, you can already secure your session on the ice with tickets now at **TheIceAtCarterGreen.com**.

The Ice at Carter Green, sponsored by Allied Solutions, is set to kick off the 2026-27 season on Saturday, Nov. 21, bringing the sparkle of the holidays to Carmel.

To guarantee your spot on the ice and beat the rush, be sure to purchase your tickets in advance. Popular weekend and evening slots will fill up quickly and only a limited number of tickets will be available for sale onsite.

The Ice is open from Nov. 21 to Jan. 31, 2027, for regular sessions (except for special events noted on the calendar) during the following hours, perfect for holiday outings, family fun or a festive date night:

- Wednesdays and Thursdays: 4 to 9 p.m.
- Fridays and Saturdays: 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Sundays: 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- *Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and during teardown of the Christkindlmarkt (Jan. 4 to 8)*
- *Limited hours on Nov. 25 from noon to 9 p.m., and on Christmas Eve from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

The Ice is closed most Mondays and Tuesdays for private rentals. For more information about rentals, contact Kenna Dishmond at **kdishmond@carmel.in.gov**.

"Love Thy Neighbor": Hear Jewish stories from past & present

Submitted

The public is invited to attend "Love Thy Neighbor: Conversations That Connect Us: Jewish Stories of Past and Present," an evening dedicated to learning, dialogue, and community connection.

The event will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St. Attendees may enter through Doors 2 or 7.

Presented by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Indianapolis, the program will feature personal and historical perspectives on Jewish life, including stories from both the past and present. Participants will also hear a meaningful presentation from family members of those who lived through the Holocaust and its enduring lessons for today's world.

In addition to the main presentation, a special breakout session will be available for youth in grades 6 to 12, giving students an age-appropriate opportunity to explore Jewish history and identity and the importance of understanding people from different backgrounds.

Organizers say the event comes at a time when compassion, understanding, and mutual respect are more important than ever. The evening is designed to encourage meaningful conversations, deepen relationships across communities, and foster greater appreciation for the values that unite people of different faiths and traditions.

The program offers attendees an opportunity to gain insight into Jewish life in today's world while strengthening bonds of friendship, respect, and understanding throughout the community.

Registration is requested for all participants. Go to **noblesvillefirst.com/connect/attend-an-event**.

Do you know someone who deserves to be Sheridan's Alumnus of the Year?

The REPORTER

Sheridan Community Schools (SCS) is calling on anyone who is or has ever called Sheridan home to nominate an extraordinary person who deserves to be Alumnus of the Year.

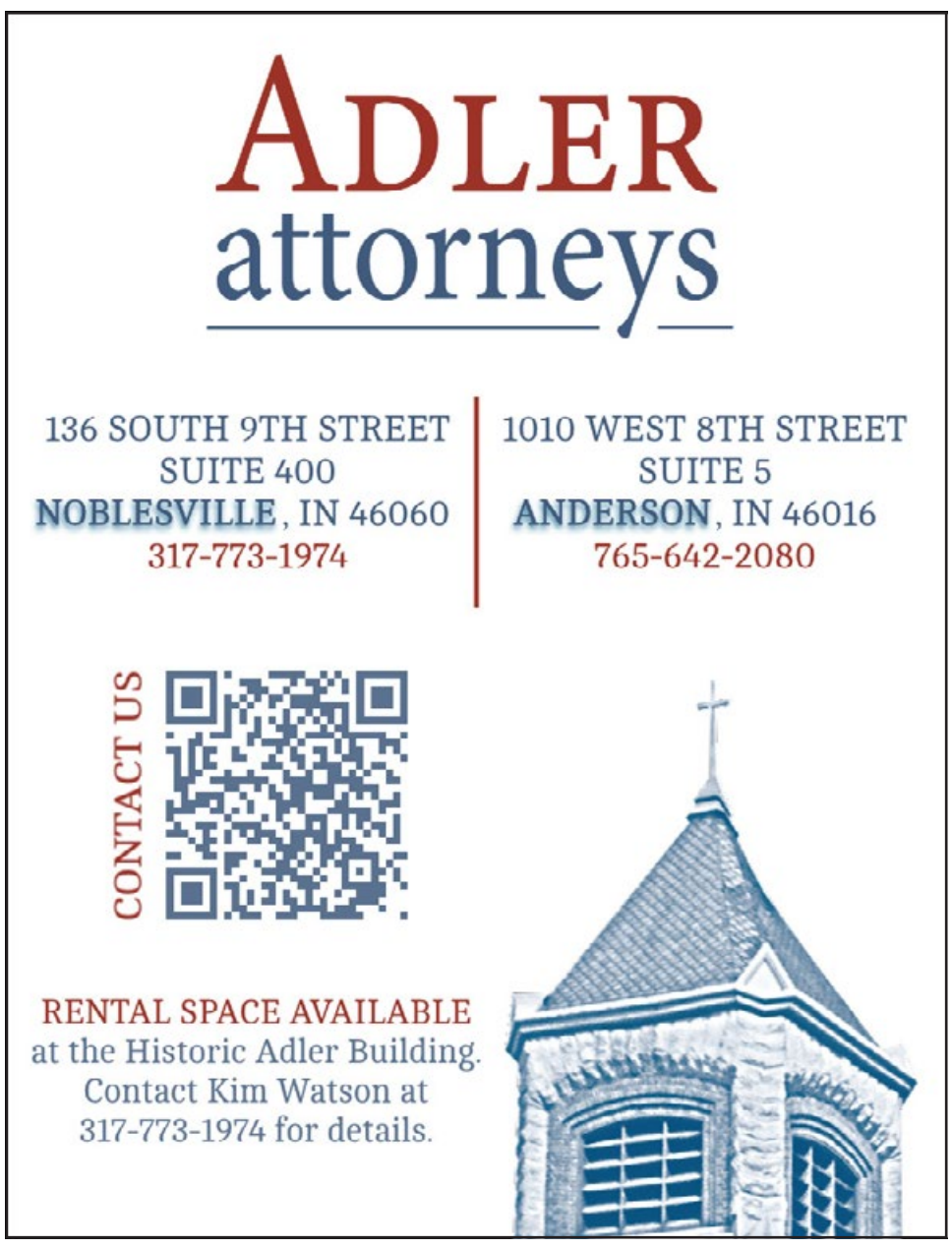
SCS has a proud history of producing graduates who make a difference not only in Sheridan, but beyond – and Sheridan wants to give them credit!

If you know of someone who, through their service, experience, or contributions, deserves this achievement, nominate them by filling out the form at **this link** and sharing your recommendation.

Written recommendations are also welcome and can be mailed to Sheridan High School Principal Rick Davis at 24185 Hinesley Road, Sheridan, IN 46069.

Think of a former Blackhawk who has made a positive impact, achieved something, or represents the values that Sheridan holds, and help the district celebrate them.









Indiana treasurer race draws competing visions for managing state funds

Republican incumbent Daniel Elliott and Democratic challenger Coumba Kebe discuss state investments, local financing & their plans for the office

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Republican Treasurer Daniel Elliott is touting nearly $1.8 billion in state investment earnings in his bid for a second term, while Democratic challenger Coumba Kebe is calling for greater transparency in how Indiana manages public money.

The Nov. 3 election pits a former software engineer and local government official against a health care executive who says her work with seniors and people with disabilities showed her the consequences of statewide financial decisions.

Both candidates want to expand the office's work with local communities and help more Hoosiers use its savings programs. But they differ on how to evaluate investment decisions, communicate with taxpayers, and use the position to influence broader state policy.

The treasurer serves as Indiana's chief investment officer, managing more than $16 billion. The job also includes leading the Indiana Bond Bank and Statewide 911 Board, overseeing savings programs, and serving as sole trustee of the State Police Pension Trust.

Although the office does not write the state budget or set property tax rates, Elliott and Kebe each emphasized opportunities for the treasurer to influence those decisions – and both candidates promised to work with lawmakers on proposals to strengthen local finances and address the financial pressures facing Hoosier families.

Elliott emphasizes earnings, experience

Elliott, first elected to statewide office in 2022, is asking voters for another four years to continue his investment strategy, strengthen cybersecurity for 911 systems, and help local governments finance infrastructure.

His office reported in August that state general fund investments had generated about $1.785 billion during his first term, including about $450.2 million in fiscal year 2026. Elliott argues that earning more from public money reduces pressure to raise taxes.


Elliott

In an interview with the Capital Chronicle, he credited the returns to a combination of available funds, investment flexibility granted by the General Assembly, experienced portfolio managers and favorable market conditions.

Before becoming treasurer, Elliott worked in software engineering and consulting and served on the Morgan County Council. He says that combination of technical experience and local government finance has helped him navigate an office with responsibilities spread across numerous boards and programs.

"I am probably the biggest nerd in the building," he said. "But if you're thinking about it, isn't somebody who's kind of nerdy who you want as your state treasurer?"

Kebe, a Noblesville resident who founded Scope Consulting, **entered the treasurer's race** after losing the Democratic primary for House District 29. She said she began advocating online about Medicaid changes before deciding to run for office, frustrated that elected officials were not listening to concerns from people working in health care.

She's spent the past decade in the Medicaid and senior care fields, including work managing budgets and operations. That experience, she argues, would bring a different perspective to the state's financial decisions.

"Government is here to provide to keep people safe and to take care of people, and we can't continue to make decisions just focused on the numbers," Kebe said. "We've got to focus on people."

A divide over investment politics

Elliott has made opposition to environmental, social, and governance investing – commonly called ESG – a central part of his tenure. He maintains that public investment decisions should focus on financial returns rather than political or social agendas.

"When we're talking about my role as state treasurer … we've got to focus on return, nothing less, nothing more," he said.

Indiana lawmakers **approved restrictions on pension investing** in 2023, giving the treasurer a role in identifying investment managers with prohibited ESG commitments.

Elliott **placed BlackRock on a watchlist in** June 2024. That December, the Indiana Public Retirement System's board **voted to replace the firm** for management of a roughly $969 million inflation-linked bond portfolio. BlackRock disputed the allegations. The decision was made by the pension board, on which Elliott serves.

Kebe, however, questioned whether that effort served taxpayers' financial interests and said she wants greater disclosure about the costs and risks of changing investment managers.

"What I would like to see less of in this office is leveraging taxpayer dollars to make political and partisan statements," she said. "This job is pretty straightforward. You invest taxpayer dollars and you focus on fiscal responsibility and making sure you maximize returns."

Kebe said the office must follow state law, but she also believes a company's treatment of workers and management practices can matter to its long-term financial performance.

Elliott, meanwhile, maintains that financial returns should drive the state's investment choices.

"There's constantly this give and take, push and pull, and so we're always adjusting that depending on the market, and that is every single day," he said.

Kebe's transparency proposals include more accessible reporting about state holdings, investment performance and fees. She wants to explain that information to Hoosiers through social media, quarterly public reporting, press conferences and community meetings.


Kebe

"[Hoosiers] want to understand how things impact them, but they don't necessarily always have the leaders who are willing to meet them on the platforms and where they're at to explain those things," she said.

Kebe also wants to use the office to advocate for changes to Medicaid and childcare policy. Those decisions, she noted, affect the workforce and the state's economic future.

"The things that I want to do will require partnership," Kebe said. "But I've started building those relationships early, even across the aisle."

Local infrastructure, 911 needs

Both candidates point to local infrastructure as a way the treasurer can help communities facing financial pressure.

Elliott highlighted the Indiana Bond Bank's new Recovery Advance Program for Infrastructure Damage, or RAPID, which launched Sept. 10 after August storms and floods. He said conversations with local officials helped identify the need for financing while communities wait for disaster assistance.

Under the **program**, communities can initially borrow up to $1 million at a fixed 2 percent annual interest rate for cleanup, emergency repairs and other eligible costs. Loans generally run for up to two years and carry a $15,000 participation fee.

Kebe said she wants the Bond Bank to work more proactively with municipalities on infrastructure needs and disaster preparation, including identifying financing options before a crisis. She also wants stronger partnerships with police officers and firefighters as the state makes decisions about its 911 network.

"I intend on bridging that gap and ensuring that we have a better partnership with our police officers and our firefighters when we're making decisions about the 911 communication system," she said.

For Elliott, protecting that network from cyberattacks would be a leading priority in a second term. He said smaller and rural communities may lack the staff and funding available to larger counties, making state support especially important.

"911 is critical infrastructure, not just infrastructure like water or roads, but infrastructure that actually saves lives," Elliott said.

His **reelection platform** highlights a statewide cybersecurity assessment, dispatcher training and emergency communication services. The incumbent said he wants to build on that work with stronger defenses for local 911 systems and said he's already discussed the issue with lawmakers ahead of the 2027 budget session.

"Most everyone has good ideas," he said. "The question is, which ideas can you afford to do? Which ideas can you prioritize?"

Elliott also sees opportunities to help local governments earn more through TrustINdiana, the state's public investment pool. Better returns and state assistance with cybersecurity costs, he said, could ease pressure elsewhere in local budgets.

Kebe further said the property tax debate needs a fuller accounting of what changes would mean for schools, police, fire departments and other local services. She opposes eliminating the tax without explaining how those services would be funded and wants to work with experts and lawmakers on a sustainable approach.

"There are a lot of professionals in the space that are eager to partner with electeds to talk about what property tax reform could look like without us losing our incredibly important local programs," she said. "That's what I would love to do: partnering with experts who can help us figure out a better, sustainable way of funding some of these programs – and not just talking about eliminating property taxes for the sake of eliminating taxes."

Reaching more families

Both candidates share an interest in getting more people to use Indiana529 education savings accounts and INvestABLE Indiana accounts for people with disabilities.

Kebe's plan includes broader outreach, including partnerships with labor unions, to explain that education savings can help families prepare for eligible trade school expenses as well as college. She said the office should do more to meet people in their communities and explain the tools already available to them.

Elliott wants to reach more veterans and other adults who may newly qualify for INvestABLE. A federal eligibility expansion that took effect in January allows people whose disability began before age 46, rather than before age 26, to qualify if they meet the program's other requirements.

The accounts allow eligible people to save for qualified disability-related expenses while preserving access to public benefits, subject to program rules.

Elliott said his first-term record and experience working with local officials and legislators make him well suited to continue leading the office.

"I have built things across the board," he said. "What I hope is that they will trust me again for this next time."

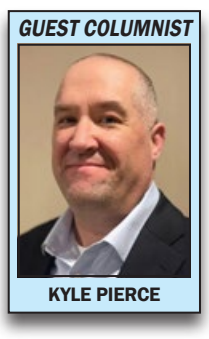
Kebe said she would press for answers about state financial decisions and serve as a fiscal watchdog for taxpayers.

"There's no allegiance to a party here," she said. "The allegiance is to the people and reporting back out to them."

This story was published on Thursday, Oct. 22, at ***indianacapitalchronicle.com****.*

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When it comes to AI and cyber scammers, it's all tricks, no treats



Scammers are getting smarter, and so should we.

Spotting a scam used to be simple. A suspicious email with misspelled words, awkward grammar, or an unfamiliar-looking link. Those were often the first clues someone was trying to steal your personal information or hard-earned money. Today, those warning signs aren't as reliable.

Artificial intelligence, or AI, has made it easier than ever for scammers to craft convincing emails, impersonate trusted organizations and even replicate the voices of people we know. A phone call that appears to come from your financial institution or a desperate plea from a family member might not be what it seems.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, an important reminder protecting your financial health requires more than making smart decisions about saving, spending, and borrowing. It also means knowing how to recognize and respond to increasingly sophisticated scams. And perhaps the most important thing to remember is a little skepticism can go a long way.

Cybercriminals have long relied on fear, confusion, and urgency to manipulate their victims, but their ability to make those tactics more convincing has changed.

Consider a phone call from someone claiming to represent the IRS, warning that an unpaid bill could damage your credit. Or a text message from someone posing as a loved one who urgently needs money to get out of trouble.

With today's technology, scammers can disguise phone numbers, create realistic messages, and even imitate familiar voices. These tactics can make it difficult to distinguish legitimate communications from fraudulent ones.

And while older adults are often considered particularly vulnerable, the reality is anyone can become a target. Scammers prey on circumstances, not just age. They may exploit financial hardship, family emergencies or someone's willingness to help.

Fortunately, even as technology evolves, some of the warning signs remain consistent. The biggest is urgency. Scammers frequently insist you act immediately, before you have time to question their story. They may discourage you from speaking with family members or create a sense of embarrassment all while walking you through detailed instructions for transferring money (another potential scam indication).

If someone pressures you to make a financial decision immediately, particularly during an unsolicited conversation, that's your cue to stop and think. While cybersecurity can seem overwhelming, protecting yourself doesn't have to be complicated.

Verify before you act. If you receive an unexpected call, email or text requesting personal information or money, end the conversation and contact the organization directly using a trusted phone number or website. Don't rely on the contact information provided in the suspicious contact. Scammers will attempt to keep you on the phone while a legitimate institution will completely understand.

Keep a close eye on your accounts. With automatic payments and digital banking, it's easy to go weeks without reviewing individual transactions. Make it a habit to regularly check your statements and account activity. Contact your financial institution if something doesn't look familiar.

Protect your personal information. Consider freezing your credit if you aren't planning to apply for a loan soon. Be thoughtful about what you share on social media, and exercise due diligence and caution should you choose to connect financial accounts to third-party apps or AI tools. Every additional place you share sensitive information creates another potential point of exposure.

Don't let embarrassment stop you from coming forward if something like this happens. Even the most cautious consumers can fall victim to fraud. What matters most is how quickly they respond.

Contact your financial institution or card issuer immediately if you suspect you've shared sensitive information or transferred money to a scammer. Many institutions help through the customer service numbers listed on debit and credit cards even on weekends or holidays.

Also consider filing a police report while the details are fresh in your memory and share that information with your financial institution. You are the first line of defense, and your institution can help you navigate the dispute process.

Technology will continue to evolve, and scammers will undoubtedly find new ways to exploit it. But one of our strongest defenses is simple: take a moment to question what we're being told. Because when it comes to protecting your financial future, a few extra moments of caution could save you months or even years of financial hardship.

Kyle Pierce is vice president of information security at Everwise Credit Union. The information provided is for educational purposes only. The views and opinions expressed are solely those of the author. This information should not be considered to constitute financial, tax, legal or accounting advice or recommendations. Please consult with an attorney, financial or tax professional for guidance.

Alleged illegal alien charged with felonies for registering & voting multiple times in Indiana

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita announced Wednesday, Oct. 21, that his office, in partnership with Vigo County Prosecutor Terry Modesitt, has filed felony charges against Francisco Aguilar Romero, allegedly an illegal alien, for unlawfully registering to vote, committing perjury, and casting ballots in multiple Indiana elections.

The charges mark the first time Indiana has prosecuted an illegal alien for the crime of illegal voting.

"Voting by illegal aliens and other noncitizens is unacceptable, and anyone who commits that act must face consequences," AG Rokita said. "Two years ago, I started a process to verify the citizenship status of registered voters in Indiana and was successful in obtaining that data from the federal government. Now, we are acting on that information and it's certainly not the end of our enforcement. This critically important prosecution is just another step in the work I've been doing ever since I was Secretary of State, when I led the effort that made Indiana the first state in the nation to enact a photo voter ID law. It is part of our office's and the Secretary of State's office's ongoing efforts to ensure our elections are safeguarded and sends a clear message that voting by noncitizens will not be tolerated."

According to the allegations in the charging papers that the Attorney General's team filed, Romero was born in Mexico, is in the United States illegally, and holds DACA status. State records show he voted in the 2018 General Election, the 2019 Municipal Election, the 2020 General Election, the 2022 General Election, the 2023 Municipal Election, and the 2024 General Election – all in Vigo County. He allegedly first registered to vote in February 2018 and later updated or re-verified his registration in August 2023.


Romero

At the times when Romero allegedly registered to vote, neither federal nor Indiana law required proof of citizenship for him to do so. Indeed, federal law has been interpreted effectively to prohibit states from requiring documentary proof of citizenship for individuals who register using federal forms. Romero was able to register simply by completing a form that stated he was a citizen.

"We appreciate the partnership with Attorney General Rokita in making sure that elections in Vigo County, and all of Indiana, are fair and safe," Prosecutor Modesitt said. "While it is unfortunate that we have a case arising out of our county, enforcement of the law is important so people can be confident in the voting process and outcomes of Vigo County elections."

According to AG Rokita, had the SAVE America Act been in place, all voters would be required to provide documentary proof of citizenship such as a birth certificate or passport. Noncitizens would not be able to do so and therefore would not be able to register to vote in federal elections.

Indiana recently passed its own proof of citizenship statute, which helped identify Romero as a possible illegal voter. That statute is subject to ongoing litigation, and the Attorney General has been successful in defending it to date.

"This case shows exactly why we need the SAVE America Act and why Congress should act immediately to pass this common-sense legislation," AG Rokita said. "If a simple checkbox is enough for an illegal alien to register and vote in election after election, then others could easily do so as well, and many have across the country. If it's happening in a state like ours, which has strong photo ID laws, imagine how rampant it is in a state like California, where basically nothing is done to safeguard its elections."

These charges are the result of a deliberate, multi-year effort by AG Rokita and his team to identify and stop illegal voting.

That effort started in October 2024, when the Attorney General worked with the Secretary of State to request citizenship verification from federal authorities for more than 585,000 Indiana voters who had registered without a state-issued photo ID. After that request was denied, the Attorney General sued the federal government in April 2025. The lawsuit ended in a major settlement in December 2025 that delivered enhanced access to federal databases that can be used to verify citizenship, which in turn produced data showing that at least 21 noncitizens voted in Indiana elections and that nearly 150 more noncitizens are registered but have not yet cast a ballot.

To act on that information, AG Rokita built the infrastructure the State needed to prosecute illegal voting cases, including establishing a process by which the Secretary of State refers possible cases to the Attorney General, expanding the investigative capacity of the Office of the Attorney General, and securing a partnership with the Vigo County Prosecutor's Office to file charges. Because cases like this are of significant statewide importance, AG Rokita said his office is best positioned to investigate and prosecute them effectively.

AG Rokita is thus pursuing cases like this vigorously, with more cases expected, and he remains fully committed to pursuing every viable case in coordination with prosecutors who share the goal of safeguarding election integrity.

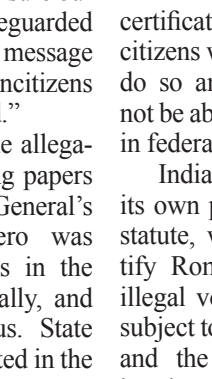
The charges against Romero include felony violations for false or fraudulent voter registration, for perjury, and for voting by an ineligible person. If convicted of the charges, Romero faces a maximum prison sentence of up to 11.5 years.

A complaint, indictment, and information merely contain accusations. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. Read the charges ***here*** *and* ***here****.*

Duke Energy Indiana president to speak at next Coffee Connections

The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber's October Coffee Connections will take place from 8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at the Westfield Washington Public Library, 17400 Westfield Blvd.


Pinegar

Duke Energy Indiana President Stan Pinegar will be the featured speaker.

Duke Energy Indiana, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, provides about 6,800 megawatts of owned electric capacity to approximately 930,000 customers in a 23,000 square-mile service area, making it Indiana's largest electric supplier.

Grab a cup of coffee and discover the power of conversation. **Click here** to register.

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.

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.

ndividuals 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

Oct. 31

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 Creates 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.

ReadTheReporter.com

— TIPTON COUNTY —

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TIPTON COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION
CO-ZO-26-26

Notice is hereby given that the Tipton County Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., in the 1st Floor Meeting Room of the Tipton County Courthouse, 101 East Jefferson Street, Tipton, Indiana, to consider the following:

An amendment of the Tipton County Zoning Ordinance concerning an additional section entitled "525 – Data Centers". Specifically, the amendment is intended to add language to the zoning ordinance that will regulate the location and conditions of Data Centers.

Additionally, Section 303 of the zoning ordinance entitled "District Land Usage" – Table A - District Use Standards, shall also be amended by adding addition use requirements for Data Centers.

These amendments will apply to the entire jurisdiction of the Tipton County Plan Commission.

The proposed amendments may be viewed in the Plan Commission Office at 101 East Jefferson Street, Tipton, Indiana prior to the hearing.

Interested persons desiring to present their views regarding the proposed amendments, either verbally or in writing, will be given an opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place; or comments or objections shall be submitted in writing in the Plan Commission Office prior to 12:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing.

The hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

Tipton County Plan Commission

R8854 *10/23/26, 10/26/26*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TIPTON COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
CO-V-27-26 Kincade

Notice is hereby given that the Tipton County Board of Zoning Appeals, on the 4th day of November 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Tipton County Courthouse, 1st Floor Meeting Room, 101 East Jefferson Street, Tipton, Indiana, will hold a public hearing to consider the following:

CO-V-27-26: Robert A. & Michelle Kincade, petitioner and owners, request approval of two (2) development standard variances to reduce the rear setback for a residential dwelling from 50 feet to 16 feet, and to reduce the front setback for a residential dwelling from 94 feet to 73 feet from the center of the road, in the AG-Agricultural zoning district.

The property is more fully described as:

Part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 20, Township 21 North, Range 6 East, Madison Township, Tipton County, Indiana described as follows:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Quarter; thence East (assumed bearing) 327.79 feet along the North line of said Quarter to the point of beginning; thence East 577.65 feet along said North line; thence South 163.05 feet; thence West 577.65 feet; thence North 163.05 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2.16 acres, more or less.

Commonly known as: 7617 East 350 South, Elwood, Indiana 46036

Parcel No.: 80-09-20-400-010.010-007

Interested persons desiring to present their views on this case will be given an opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place. Additionally, comments or objections shall be submitted in writing to the Planning Office at 101 East Jefferson Street, Tipton, Indiana 46072 prior to 12 p.m. (noon) on the day of the hearing.

The proposal may be viewed in the Planning Office prior to the hearing during normal business hours. The hearing may be continued from time to time.

Tipton County Board of Zoning Appeals

R8856 *10/23/26, 10/26/26*

— TIPTON COUNTY —

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TIPTON COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION
TIPTON COMMERCE CENTER SECONDARY PLAT
CO-S-25-26

Notice is hereby given that the Tipton County Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on November 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the 1st floor meeting room of the Tipton County Courthouse, 101 East Jefferson Street, Tipton, Indiana, to consider the following:

Approval of a Secondary Plat to subdivide approximately 79.05 acres, together with any associated rights-of-way, easements, and infrastructure improvements, in accordance with the Tipton County Subdivision Control Ordinance and applicable provisions of the Tipton County Zoning Ordinance.

The legal description of the proposed Secondary Plat is as follows:

Parcel #80-11-17-200-005.010-001

A part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 7, Township 21 North, Range 4 East of the Second Principal Meridian, Tipton County, Indiana, described as follows:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Northwest Quarter, thence South 88 degrees 20 minutes 17 seconds West (Indiana State Plane Coordinate System – East Zone) along the South line of said Northwest Quarter, a distance of 521.26 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continuing South 88 degrees 20 minutes 17 seconds West along said South line, a distance of 101.90 feet; thence North 00 degrees 42 minutes 55 seconds West a distance of 1311.75 feet to the South line of the North Half of said Northwest Quarter; thence North 88 degrees 29 minutes 31 seconds East along said South line, a distance of 583.59 feet to the beginning of a 850.00 feet radius curve to the right, being subtended by a chord bearing of South 15 degrees 02 minutes 35 seconds West with a distance of 447.55 feet; thence Southwesterly along said curve a distance of 452.88 feet; thence South 30 degrees 18 minutes 25 seconds West a distance of 407.02 feet to the beginning of a 1049.86 feet radius curve to the left, being subtended by a chord bearing of South 15 degrees 23 minutes 09 seconds West with a distance of 504.69 feet; thence Southeasterly along said curve a distance of 546.84 feet; thence South 00 degrees 28 minutes 11 seconds West a distance of 19.14 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 10.05 acres, more or less.

Parcel #80-11-07-300-008.030-001

Part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 7, Township 21 North, Range 4 East, Cicero Township, Tipton County, Indiana, described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at a point on the Quarter Section Line, said point being North 87°33'30" East 667.5 feet from the Northwest corner of said Quarter Section; thence South 02°38'00" East 665.5 feet; thence North 89°01'30" East 482 feet; thence North 00°48'00" West 678.5 feet to the Quarter Section Line; thence South 87°33'30" West on and along the Quarter Section line 503.5 feet to the point of beginning, containing 7.60 acres.

Parcel #80-11-07-200-004.000-001

The Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section Seven (7), Township Twenty-one (21) North, Range Four (4) East,

EXCEPT:

Five (5) acres of the whole East end thereof,

EXCEPT:

Part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 7, Township 21 North, Range 4 East, Tipton County, Indiana, described as follows:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Quarter; thence S 87°55' 11" West 166.063 feet along the South line of said Quarter to the point of beginning; thence S 87° 55' 11" West 457.10 feet along said line; thence North 01° 08' 01" West 1313.95 feet to the North Quarter Quarter Section Line; thence N 88°09' 28" East 455.33 feet along said line; thence South 01° 12' 55" East 1312.03 feet to the point of beginning containing 13.75 acres, more or less, subject to highway rights-of-way in Tipton County, Indiana.

ALSO:

The North Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section Seven (7), Township Twenty-one (21) North, Range Four (4) East,

EXCEPT:

Part of the Northwest Quarter of Section Seven (7), Township Twenty-One (21) North, Range Four (4) East, and more specifically described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest Corner of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section Seven (7), Township Twenty-one (21) North, Range Four (4) East marked by an iron pin; thence North on and along the West Section Line of said Section, Six Hundred Sixty point One (660.1) feet to the point of beginning marked by and iron pin; thence North on and along said West Section Line, Two Hundred Fifty-six point Zero (256.0) feet to a point marked by an iron pin; thence East perpendicular to said West Section Line, Nine Hundred Eighteen point Zero (918.0) feet; thence South parallel to said West Section Line, Two Hundred Fifty-six point Zero (256.0) feet; thence West perpendicular to said West Section Line, Nine Hundred Eighteen point Zero (918.0) feet to the point of beginning, containing Five and Forty Hundredths (5.40) acres, subject to legal highways and utility easements.

EXCEPT:

A part of the North Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 7, Township 21 North, Range 4 East, Tipton County, Indiana, and being that part of the grantor's land lying within the right of way lines depicted on the attached Right of Way Parcel Plat, marked EXHIBIT "B", described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of said section, designated as point "54" on said plat; thence North 0 degrees 35 minutes 18 seconds East 916.10 feet along the west line of said section to the Northwest corner of the 5.40-acre exception described in Deed Record 164, page 829, in the Office of the Recorder of Tipton County, Indiana; thence South 89 degrees 24 minutes 42 seconds East 46.79 feet along the north line of said exception to the east boundary of U.S. 31; thence North 0 degrees 21 minutes 13 seconds East 42.14 feet along the boundary or said U.S. 31 to point "304" designated on said plat and the point of beginning of the description: thence continuing North 0 degrees 22 minutes 05 seconds East 362.15 feet along said boundary to the North line of the grantor's land; thence North 88 degrees 29 minutes 32 seconds East 29.27 feet along said North line to point "306" designated on said plat; thence South 3 degrees 43 minutes 03 seconds West 363.73 feet to point "305" designated on said plat; thence North 89 degrees 38 minutes 47 seconds West 8.00 feet to the point of beginning and containing 0.155 acres, more or less.

ALSO:

The South Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section Seven (7), Township Twenty-one (21) North, Range Four (4) East, all in Tipton County, Indiana.

The proposed Primary Plat may be viewed in the Plan Commission Office at 101 East Jefferson Street, Tipton, Indiana prior to the hearing.

Interested persons desiring to present their views regarding the proposed plat, either verbally or in writing, will be given an opportunity to be heard at the above-mentioned time and place; or comments or objections shall be submitted in writing in the Plan Commission Office prior to 12:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing.

The hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

Tipton County Plan Commission

R8855 *10/23/26, 10/26/26*

DRIVE FISHERS

Next phase of Olio Road & Southeastern Parkway roundabout project begins Monday

Submitted by City of Fishers

Beginning at 9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26, the roundabout will transition to the Phase 2 traffic configuration, bringing significant changes to how drivers travel through the intersection.

Drivers should plan ahead and review the **Phase 2 detour map** for alternate routes before traveling through the area.

Phase 2 traffic changes

During this phase, the roundabout connections used to travel north and south on Olio Road will close.

- **Southbound Olio:** Traffic approaching from the north will be directed westbound only onto Campus Parkway/146th Street. Drivers needing to continue south on Olio Road should use alternate routes.
- **Northbound Olio:** Drivers will detour using 136th Street at the new connection to Southeastern Parkway. From there, drivers can continue east on Southeastern Parkway or use the roundabout at 136th Street and Southeastern Parkway to turn around and head west or north.
- **Eastbound traffic:** Drivers will use the bypass lane toward IU Health Fishers to reach the roundabout at 136th Street. From there, drivers can continue along 136th Street, access southbound Olio Road using the new connection, or cross Olio Road to continue east on 136th Street to Southeastern Parkway.
- **Westbound traffic:** Drivers can continue through the roundabout to travel west toward Campus Parkway/146th Street or north on Olio Road. Those needing to travel south can use the new connection at 136th Street to cross Olio Road, continue west on 136th Street to Minden Drive, and then travel south.

Nearby businesses, hospitals, and medical offices will remain open and accessible. Expect changing traffic patterns and significant delays, especially during peak hours.

Access from I-69 to IU Health Fishers will remain open via the bypass lane, and emergency access will be maintained throughout construction.

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The Reporter's policy on obituaries

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

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

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THE REPORTER

Eduardo Toledo Arrieta

August 12, 1966 – October 21, 2026



Eduardo Toledo Arrieta, known affectionately as Eddie by his loved ones, passed away on October 21, 2026.

Born in Pololcingo, Guerrero, Mexico, on August 12, 1966, to Juana Arrieta and the late Valentin Toledo, Eddie's life was a testament to the virtues of hard work, selflessness, and love for family. His journey took him from his birthplace in Mexico to various locations, including Georgia, Arkansas, and finally settling in Noblesville, Indiana. Despite the many hurdles that he faced, his humor, intelligence, and talented hands guided him through.

Eddie was a loving man of many trades; he could fix or build anything, being a handyman of great repute. He was employed in the construction industry where he was admired for his skill and dedication. He was a remarkable cook, with a special penchant for grilling. Fishing was another hobby he held dear; he often spent his free time by the water with a fishing rod in hand. His love extended beyond his human family to the animals he cared for, a testament to his compassionate nature. Eddie was a beacon of warmth and laughter, his funny anecdotes and witty remarks bringing joy to those around him.

At the time of Eddie's passing, he was survived by his fiancée, Amanda. He was a cherished member of his large family, including his mother, Juana Arrieta; his siblings Maria Toledo, Esmeralda Toledo, Christian Toledo, Bonfilia Toledo, and Hugo Toledo; Amanda's daughters, whom he held dear to his heart; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Valentin Toledo.

Eddie's life was not without its challenges, but he faced them with resilience, optimism, and an unyielding love for those he held dear. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. Services are under the direction of Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Homes – Cicero.

We invite you to leave your memories of Eddie and upload photos to the memorial page as we celebrate his life. His love, laughter, and generosity will not be forgotten, but rather will continue to inspire those he left behind.

Condolences: **hartleyfuneralhomes.com**

Patrick Anthony Seal

September 24, 1956 – October 19, 2026



Patrick Anthony "Pat" Seal, 70, Arcadia, passed away on October 19, 2026, with family by his side. Pat was born and raised in Indianapolis. He worked for AT&T from 1977 until 2009. In 2009 he retired from AT&T and started his own wiring business, Wire2U.

Above all, Pat was a man of deep faith. He was always studying, always asking questions, and always striving to walk more closely in the footsteps of Yeshua. His curiosity never faded, and neither did his joy. Pat's laugh was infectious, the kind that made everyone around him laugh too, and it is one of the things his family will miss most. In his life, Pat never met a stranger; his deep and abiding friendships were rooted in faith and community.

Pat was devoted to his wife of 36 years, Gale. He is survived by his children, Nichole, Chris (Katie), David (Mary Ellen), Priscila (Jared) Barber, Elli, and Simon; his grandchildren, Carly, Issac, Joshua, River, Zavier, Jonathan, Jaiah, Rehn, Asa, and Alaiyah; and his siblings, Mike, Mary, and Dan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jerry and Gail Seal; his sister, Barbara; and his brother, John.

Friends and family are invited to attend a visitation for Patrick from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, October 25, 2026, at Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero. A funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. Monday, October 26, 2026, at Hartley-Dunnichay Funeral Home, with Luke Erb officiating.

In lieu of flowers, to honor Pat's dedication to generosity, memorial donations may be made in his honor to one of the following organizations: Mois Bridge Kenya (checks should be made out to Andrew Harmon), 340 S. Audubon Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46219; Disciplemakers, 4393 Boron Rd., Latonia, KY 41015; or Damou Christian Mission, P.O. Box 178, Hebron, IN 46341.

In honoring Patrick's memory, we invite you to share your favorite stories, cherished memories, and photos on the memorial page. Let us celebrate Patrick's life by remembering the joy, laughter, and love he brought into our lives.

Condolences: **hartleyfuneralhomes.com**

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

Tablets Like the First Ones

Now I had stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights, as I did the first time, and the Lord listened to me at this time also. It was not his will to destroy you. "Go," the Lord said to me, "and lead the people on their way, so that they may enter and possess the land I swore to their ancestors to give them."

Deuteronomy 10:10-11 (NIV)

Martha L. Baker

February 27, 1938 – October 17, 2026



Martha L. Baker, 88, Westfield, passed away on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Copper Trace in Westfield. She was born on February 27, 1938, in Albany, Ky., to Henry and Ethel (Aaron) Perdue.

Martha was a hardworking and dedicated woman who believed in staying busy and making the most of each day. After retiring from Lucent Technologies, she went on to work another 20 years at Walmart, not out of necessity, but because she genuinely enjoyed working, staying active, and being around others.

Martha was a member of Geist Christian Church. She enjoyed cooking, traveling, and, most importantly, spending time with her family.

She is survived by her husband, David Baker; daughter, Donna Peyton; son, Steve Cash; siblings, Marie, Geneva, Mary Dot, Ruth, Norma, and Jean; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Martha was preceded in death by her siblings, Henry, Irene, Anna, and Doris; and grandson, Jonathon.

Visitation will be held from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, October 23, 2026, with funeral services beginning at 2 p.m., at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Pastor Danny Gulden will officiate. Burial will follow at Hamilton Memorial Park Cemetery in Westfield.

Condolences may be shared at **randallroberts.com**.

Martha Rea Struble

November 4, 1941 – October 18, 2026



Martha Rea Struble, 84, Indianapolis, passed away on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at Life's Journey of Avon. She was born on November 4, 1941, in Highmore, S.D.

For many years, Rea worked at Boehringer Mannhiem Biochemicals as administrative Assistant to the President of Research Division and liaison with corporate Human Resources. She took a lot of pride in the women in which she was a part of the hiring process. Later she was an executive secretary for Hurco Manufacturing before retiring. For fun, she and her husband James owned and operated a variety of businesses including the Bits and Pieces antique store in Lebanon, a restaurant in Tipton, and a food truck. For the past six years, Rea lived at Sycamore Reserve in the Castleton area where she made many friends, having a hug for everyone she met. She also had a love for small animals, whether the squirrels, chipmunks, or birds outside, or her little canine friends in the building. It was always important that she had a treat for each of them.

She is survived by sister, Iris Nicholas; her children, Jeff (Sherri) Baseley, Joni Struble, Dave (Debbie) Baseley, and Mark (Julie) Struble; and grandchildren, A.J., Kelli, Michael, Nicole, Matthew, Jonathan, David, Esther, Joshua, and Marybeth.

She was preceded in death by her birth father, Leon Perkins; mother and father, Leatha and Calvin Trowbridge; husband, James M. Struble; and siblings, Ivan Trowbridge and Inez Trowbridge.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, October 24, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675 (**support.woundedwarriorproject.org**).

Condolences may be shared at **randallroberts.com**.



HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

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