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Your Hometown Newspaper

THURSDAY, NOV. 5, 2026

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly to partly sunny.
Tonight: Clouds increase. Shower chances after midnight.

HIGH: 62 **LOW**: 49

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Operation Green Light is a go: honoring all those who served

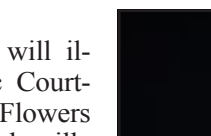
The REPORTER

Hamilton County will illuminate the Historic Courthouse and Bridge of Flowers in downtown Noblesville green through Nov. 11 as part of Operation Green Light, a nationwide initiative to honor veterans and recognize their service and sacrifice.

The Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Department will also light signs and other features throughout its parks during the month of November.

The effort coincides with Veterans Day on Nov. 11 and serves as a visible reminder that veterans are valued, appreciated, and supported by the communities they call home.

"Our veterans have given so much in service to our country, and we want them to know their sacrifices have not been forgotten," Hamilton County Commissioner Christine Altman said. "Lighting our buildings and landmarks green is a simple gesture, but it carries an important message. We see you, we appreciate you, and we stand with you."



Altman

Hamilton County is encouraging residents, businesses, and community organizations to participate by replacing a single exterior light bulb with a green one or displaying a green light in a window.

Residents are encouraged to share photos of their green lights on social media using the hashtag #OperationGreenLight.



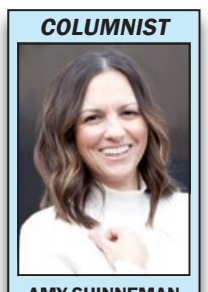
Photos provided

Sites across the county will be lit green in honor of veterans who sacrificed for all of us.



Letting go & holding on

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

At different points in our lives, we are ready and able to release certain things. Maybe these are tangible things, or beliefs we hold onto.

Some of that can be attributed to where we are at in our lives. We age and gain wisdom through living life experiences that allow us to let go of things that no longer serve us well.

I like to think of it as packing up a box of mementos and deciding what I want to hold onto. What is worthy of keeping?

An interesting thing happens when I go through the same box of stuff years later. I see things that I held onto and think, *Why did I keep that?*

I was afraid of letting go of something that had significant meaning at that time in my life, but when revisiting, it no longer feels relevant. Sometimes it is a piece of paper or trinket from my childhood that helps me feel connected to my younger self.

Whatever it may be, I have found that many things that I hold onto that I think are valuable, become less significant to me as time goes on. The sense of security or comfort that "thing" provided vanishes.

The same thing applies to my disability. For years, I held onto the belief that I was unworthy because I was born "damaged."

At my lowest, I felt like trash that needed to be tossed out. While that is incredibly painful to even type out, it is how I saw myself for decades.

Now I can look at that belief I had about myself and think, *Why did I ever hold onto that?* Wishing I could go back in time and apologize profusely to myself. Thankfully, I have been able to let that lie go.

If I find myself heading near the direction of that thought pattern, I have the tools

See *Letting Go* . . . Page 2

Sign up to 'SERVE' local veterans

By JON BALDWIN
Clay Township Military Library & Museum

SERVE Village, the Hamilton County neighbors-helping-neighbors group, is holding SERVE Veterans Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14.

Volunteers will fan out across Hamilton County to help veterans with simple cleanup projects at their homes: raking leaves, picking up sticks, tidying garden beds, porch clean-up, light cleaning, and decluttering. It's simple work that says a big thank you.

Here are two ways to be part of it:

1. Nominate a veteran – a family member, a friend, a neighbor down the street, or yourself – who could use a helping hand. Share what they'd like done and a little of their story. Nominations close Friday, Nov. 6, so the team has time to plan each project.

2. Sign up to serve – grab your rake and bring your crew. Wear layers and closed-toe shoes, dressed for yard work and November weather; the meeting location is provided when you register.

More details and signup information can be found at **servevillage.org**, or contact the SERVE Village team at **info@servevillage.org**.

"Mom" sayings

COLUMNIST



AMY SHANKLAND
Perfectly Imperfect

Moms can be weird sometimes. I can say this because I am one.

My husband John and I were discussing some of the unusual sayings our mothers shared with us when we were young. We're not sure where most of these came from, but the memories certainly make us smile.

Here are some of my mom's strange sayings.

"You look like you were sent for and couldn't make it." Mom would say this to me whenever I was crushed or disappointed in life. With my droopy shoulders and woebegone expression, she shared this with me in a warm, compassionate tone accompanied by a hug. I had no idea what it all meant, but I at least knew she was trying to cheer me up.

"If you keep pouting like that, a bird's gonna come perch on your lip." I recently discovered this saying online as a common folklore saying. Whenever Mom said this phrase to me, I would imagine a giant, colorful rooster swooping down to sit on my lip. It did the trick and made me quickly suck in my bottom lip.

"You look like Grandma Grunt with her tooth out in front." Mom reserved this saying for when I was in a foul mood. I have no clue who Grandma Grunt was, but I imagine she wasn't a pretty sight.

See *Sayings* . . . Page 2

Tipton FFA member awarded national American FFA Degree

Submitted by Tipton Community School Corp.

Each year, the National FFA Organization honors FFA members who show the utmost dedication to the organization through their desire to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

The American FFA Degree is bestowed upon a select group of students in recognition of their years of academic and professional excellence. This year, more than 5,800 American Degrees were awarded. Emily Hartley, a member of the Tipton FFA chapter, was awarded the American FFA Degree at the 99th National FFA Convention & Expo on Oct. 24.

Hartley is a 2025 Tipton High School graduate and currently attends Purdue University majoring in Agribusiness Management with a minor in Organizational Leadership.

Sponsored by Bayer, Cargill, Case IH, John Deere, Rabobank, and Syngenta, the award recognizes demonstrated ability and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing, or service programs.

To be eligible, FFA members must have earned at least $10,000 or earned at least $2,000 and worked at least 2,250 hours outside of class time through a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in which they own their own business, hold a professional position as an employee, or conduct research. Recipients must also complete 50 hours of community service and demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and civic involvement through the completion of a long list of FFA and community activities. Less than 1 percent of FFA members achieve the American FFA Degree.



Photo provided by Tipton Community School Corporation

Emily Hartley, 2025 THS graduate, received her American FFA Degree at the 2026 National FFA Convention.

After being recognized at the national convention, each recipient of the American FFA Degree receives a gold American FFA Degree key and certificate.

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HSE School Board approves 2026-2027 teacher contract

Submitted by HSE Schools

The Hamilton Southeastern Board of School Trustees approved the 2026-27 teacher contract with the Hamilton Southeastern Education Association (HSEA) on Wednesday, Nov. 4, marking the end of a collaborative collective bargaining process.

"Our teachers do incredible things for students every day, and finding ways to recognize their dedication is important to us," Superintendent Dr. Matt Kegley said. "We're grateful for the partnership with HSEA and the shared commitment to supporting our educators while remaining responsible with district resources."

"Hamilton Southeastern Education Association is grateful to our membership for voting to approve the contract with 97 percent voting 'yes,'" HSEA Bargaining Co-Chairs Craig Frawley and Brie Toste said. "The bargaining team worked tirelessly to represent all 1,249 bargaining unit members to present them with a contract that honors their experience, education, and professionalism. In a time when cost of living and insurance rates are rising, the contract provides teachers and their families with monetary and professional benefits that rival surrounding districts."



Kegley

Under the approved contract, eligible teachers will receive a total base salary increase of $1,828. To combat rising health insurance costs, the district contribution to insurance increased nearly $2.5 million, providing a critical investment into the full compensation package for teachers. The agreement also includes a $500 increase for new teachers hired at the beginning of the 2026-27 school year. Starting salaries for teachers hired after ratification will increase by an additional $500.

Additional compensation through supplemental payment approvals include a $4,000 base salary payment for teachers who attain a master's degree and a $500 base salary payment for teachers hired between Nov. 7, 2025, and the end of the 2025-26 school year who are otherwise ineligible for the primary salary increase.

Looking ahead, the district will present salary increase recommendations for classified staff and administrators at the Board's Nov. 11 meeting.

The full agreement will be available at **hseschools.org/board/contracts**.

Gov. Braun extends gas tax suspension

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Indiana Governor Mike Braun signed executive orders on Wednesday, Nov. 4, to prioritize affordability, extending Indiana's energy emergency and delivering another month of relief at the pump for Hoosier families.



Braun

This action continues diesel tax relief and extends the suspension of the Gasoline Excise Tax and the Gasoline Usage Tax through Dec. 4.

"Affordability is my top priority, and I'm using every tool available to help Hoosier families and farmers save money at the pump," Gov. Braun said. "We're keeping these savings for Hoosier families and farmers in place for another month while protecting funding for our roads and infrastructure."

The governor first took action to make fuel more affordable in Indiana for Hoosiers in April, delivering the most affordable gas in America throughout the summer.

Executive Order 26-35 extends the statewide energy emergency declared on Aug. 7 for another 30 days, beginning Nov. 5 and continuing through Dec. 4. The order suspends collection of Indiana's Gasoline Excise Tax and Gasoline Usage Tax in all 92 counties for the duration of the emergency.

In a second executive order, Gov. Braun also continued the suspension of special fuel restrictions for Indiana farmers and timber harvesters, allowing them to use dyed diesel fuel in qualifying highway vehicles engaged in agricultural and timber harvesting operations to help reduce transportation costs. As Indiana farmers harvest corn and soybeans across the state, these savings will go a long way.

Gov. Braun remains committed to making local units of government whole and using current reserves to allow the Indiana Department of Transportation highway fund to continue all fiscal year 2027 projects and maintenance uninterrupted.

Letting Go

from Page 1

now to stay away from being swallowed up by past beliefs about myself.

It's been a long time since I have gone there and stayed. Believe me, I have gone back there, but I have not stayed.

The tools require diligent sharpening.

I want my disability and value to be one thought, not separate.

Part of advocating for people with disabilities is working to undo damage and misinformation that is ingrained into our world. The disabled community is the largest minority group in the world, yet improvements and practices lag and stall.

It is a minority group that anyone reading this could join at any time.

My mind is boggled by the things we are still to this day fighting for surrounding disabled people's rights to necessity and functionality.

Letting go of my anger that surrounds this is helpful in keeping me focused and faithful to my mission. If I dwell in the space of anger, that I do have a right to feel, I am not moving forward. I am stuck and not helpful.

While anger can be used as a motivator, for me personally, it is not a good one.

Just like that old box of stuff that is no longer helpful in my life anymore. Anger needs to be something I can look at and think, *Why did I hold onto this for so long? It is not serving me anymore.*

Letting go does not mean tossing every single piece of the "keepsake box."

It is sometimes a continuation on with some of the invaluable things you have picked up along the way. Just cleaning things up a bit or trading things out.



Photo provided by Amy Shinneman

Our columnist's first leg braces.

I want to keep the resilience, humble courage, and strength to carry on that I have picked up along the way.

Something tangible I have kept are my first leg braces. They are tiny. To me, they are symbolic of when my fight began.

Those are things I would never pick up and think, *Why did I keep those?*

Instead, I would think, *I am so glad I kept those.*

I am letting go of things continuously. I am also holding onto the most valuable things in my "box" that will continue to serve me and help me to make the impact on the world that I am here to make.

Until next time …

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



Sayings

from Page 1

John's mom, whom he affectionately called "Muzzler," had her own interesting sayings. These included:

"You do and you'll clean it up." Muzzler used this reply whenever John would say something in Japanese (he's a former Marine who spent some years in Japan) or when he would say a complicated word. I've since borrowed it to carry on the family tradition. You're welcome, Muzzler.

"I think you have Malpetus Pooey/Inflammation of the Rum Gum." Muzzler always said one of these terms whenever John or one of his brothers was sick. As a writer and a word enthusiast, I must give her double points for these phrases, even if they don't contain real words.

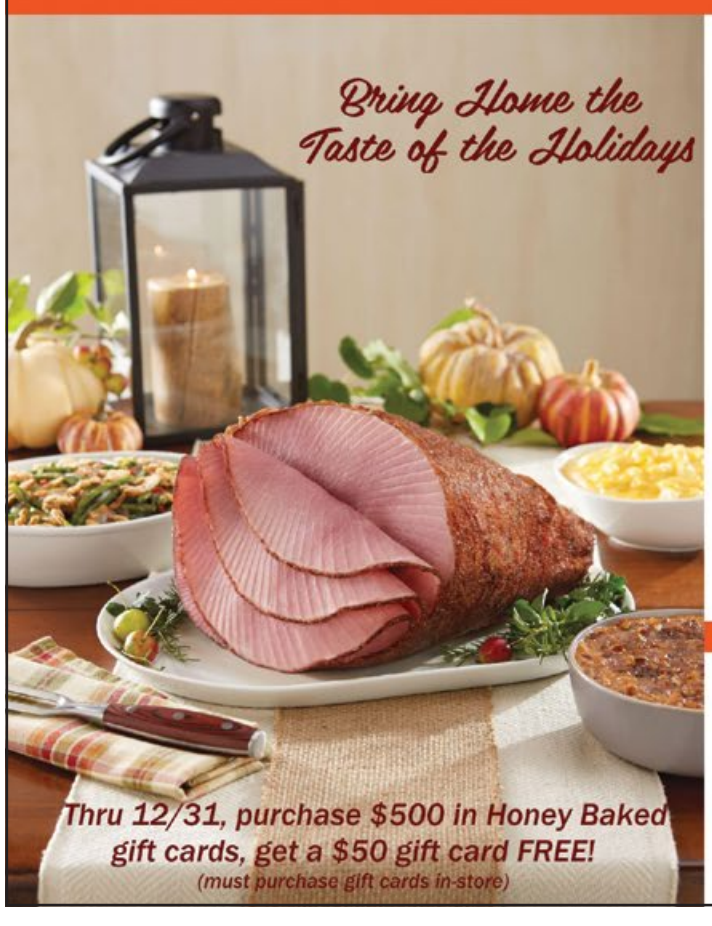
"A great big bee came out of the barn with a bundle of sticks under his arm!" Muzzler would say this back in the days when she smoked. She would come into John and his brothers' room with a lit cigarette, turn off the light, and tickle all three of them. I'm not sure how a little bee can possibly carry sticks under his nonexistent arm. But I did discover this saying is based on a classic children's tickling rhyme, "Bumblebee was in the Barn."

I kind of envy Mom and Muzzler. Their creative expressions obviously made an impact on their children. I don't have any interesting or clever sayings I repeat often, other than reminding my sons that whatever bad is happening in our lives is typically "not the end of the world."

What creative sayings did – or does – your mother say? I'd love to hear them in an email sometime.

*Amy Shankland is an empty-nester, writer, and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John and two dogs. You can reach her via email at **amys@greenavenue.info**.*

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Hamilton County Democrats celebrate historic election night, leading in 22 of 41 contested races

Submitted by Hamilton Co. Democratic Party

The Hamilton County Democratic Party (HamCo Dems) is celebrating a historic Election Night, with Democratic candidates leading in 22 of 41 contested races, according to the Hamilton County Election Office's unofficial results.

While Democrats made significant gains across Indiana and the nation, Hamilton County experienced a political shift of its own, with Democrats leading in more than half of the races they contested.

"That's seismic," said HamCo Dems Chair Josh Lowry during the party's Election Night Watch Party at Sun King in Fishers. "When we moved into leadership, we set a goal of 10 wins this year. Every volunteer in Hamilton County worked to make this happen."

The foundation for today's Hamilton County Democratic Party was built over years of organizing, including the leadership of former chairs Dayna Colbert and Jocelyn Vare. Their work helped establish the infrastructure, relationships, and community engagement that made this election possible.

"We've planned. We've built. And now, we've flipped the switch on Hamilton County," Party Vice Chair Meredith Fox said.

Democrats made significant gains in county government, leading in three of four contested County Council races and three major countywide offices: Sheriff-elect Charles Hollowell, Clerk-elect Alexandra Wilson, and Superior Court Judge-elect Emily Angel Shaw.

That momentum extended into township government, with Democratic victories in Clay, Delaware, and Fall Creek township board races, along with the Fall Creek Township Trustee's office.

Hamilton County helps break GOP supermajority in legislature

Hamilton County also played a pivotal role in reshaping the Indiana Statehouse.

Democratic candidates Lindsay Gramlich (Carmel), Racheal Bleicher (Westfield), Stephanie Jo Yocum (Fishers), and Lauren Cole (Fishers) emerged as key figures in the election's legislative shift. Cole's defeat of longtime incumbent and Indiana House Speaker Todd Huston in House District 37 was among the night's most consequential results.

"Lindsay, Racheal, Stephanie, and Lauren are some of the best candidates I have ever seen. They all worked so hard," Lowry said. "Just as a resident of Hamilton County, I am very grateful that I will have these four in the Statehouse."

Meanwhile, State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn continued to build on her support in House District 32, winning approximately 61 percent of the vote. Together, these races contributed to Democrats breaking the Republican supermajority in the Indiana House.

A congressional victory years in the making

Another defining moment came in Indiana's 5th Congressional District, where Democrat J.D. Ford's apparent victory marked a significant shift in a district long represented by Republicans.

Ford's performance in Hamilton County helped build the coalition of voters across the district that propelled his campaign.

"J.D.'s win is a testament to an elected official using their office for good," Fox said.

For Hamilton County Democrats, the result represents another milestone in the county's changing political landscape and an opportunity for residents to have new representation in Washington.

Multiple victories

Hamilton County also saw many additional key victories. That includes Kerry Forestal winning Senate District 31 and Kristina Moorhead winning Senate District 29. Plus, Democrats won three of the four County Council seats: Christopher Daniel in District 1, Nathan Bullock in District 2, and Jason Frank in District 4.

Democrats also won a plethora of township seats. That includes a clean sweep of the Delaware Township Board members (Bethann Buddenbaum, Jennifer Dean Chaudry, and Patrick Schooley), the Fall Creek Township Board members (Alex Hunt, Mulalo Rikhotso, and Joe Weingarten), and the Clay Township Board members (Gregory Daniels, Michael Needham, and Matthew Phelps). Plus, Stephanie Hunt became the Fall Creek Township Trustee and Jenna Stewart became the first Democrat elected to the Noblesville Township Board.

Democrats also elected their first Carmel Clay school board member, Michele Kirby.

The work continues

The results of the 2026 election reflect years of organizing, volunteer engagement, candidate recruitment, and community investment.

But for Hamilton County Democrats, Election Night is not the finish line.

The party remains committed to working with newly elected officials, community partners, and residents across the political spectrum to strengthen local government and ensure Hamilton County continues to serve all who call it home. The work that brought Hamilton County to this moment will continue long after Election Night.

Atha: thank you to our excellent community

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

Westfield Washington Schools Superintendent Dr. John Atha released the following message to the community on Tuesday night, Nov. 3.



Atha

Dear Westfield Community,

Tonight, I am filled with gratitude for our incredible Westfield community.

Throughout this referendum process, I have said that this would be a defining moment for our school district. Tonight, our community has made a decisive statement about its commitment to our students, our teachers, our staff, and the future of Westfield Washington Schools.

First and foremost, thank you for your overwhelming support, trust, and investment in our schools. Thank you to everyone who engaged in this complex conversation, asked thoughtful questions, attended meetings, shared perspectives, and exercised their right to vote. Regardless of how you voted, your voice matters, and your engagement makes our community stronger.

I also want to recognize our dedicated educators, staff, families, and community volunteers who helped make this possible. Your passion, commitment, and belief in our students reflect what makes Westfield such a special place.

Tonight does not simply mark a victory to celebrate. It marks a commitment we must honor.

Our community has placed its trust in us, and we will not take that trust lightly. We made promises throughout this process, and now we must deliver on them.

That means maintaining responsible class sizes, attracting and retaining outstanding teachers, strengthening school safety, investing in counselors and student supports, and rebuilding our financial reserves.

These are not simply goals we discussed during a referendum. They are commitments to our students, our staff, and every member of this community who has invested in the future of our schools.

We will hold ourselves accountable to these commitments. In the coming weeks, we will establish a regular schedule of community updates to share our progress toward these goals. We want our community to see how these resources are being used, what progress we are making, and how this investment is making a difference for our students and staff.

Our excellent community deserves nothing less than transparency, responsible stewardship, and meaningful results.

Our work is far from finished. In many ways, it is just beginning. Our best days are ahead of us, and together, we will continue building a district where every student is prepared to be Life Ready.

Thank you, Westfield, for believing in our schools, supporting our educators, and investing in the future of our students. We are grateful for your trust, and we are committed to earning it every day.

Carmel encourages community members to recycle campaign signs

The REPORTER

Carmel Utilities is partnering with the Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste Center and Recycle Force to recycle campaign signs generated from the 2026 election season. This recycling initiative prevents an abundance of yard signs going to a local landfill as they cannot be recycled in regular curbside pickup. If residents do not plan on returning their campaign signs to individual candidates, they are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to recycle.

From Wednesday, Nov. 4 through Saturday, Nov. 21, Carmel residents are encouraged to bring their campaign signs and metal stands to the below location, per the appropriate dates and times listed below. Please note the schedule changes due to the upcoming holiday observances.

Carmel Household Hazardous Waste Site, 901 N. Range Line Road, Carmel:

- Open Tuesday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. and noon
- Closed Mondays
- Closed Wednesday, Nov. 11 (in observance of Veterans Day)

Signs can be dropped off only during the hours listed above. Please do not leave signs during non-business hours.



Graphic provided by City of Carmel

The map shows the location of the Household Hazardous Waste center off of Range Line Road and Hagan Burke Trail.

Sheridan Community Schools looking ahead after referendum outcome

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

Sheridan Community Schools (SCS) is beginning the process of evaluating its financial future following the outcome of its operating referendum in the Nov. 3 election.



Mundy

Superintendent Dave Mundy expressed disappointment in the outcome, but ultimately thanked the community members who participated in the election and those who volunteered their time to share information and answer questions about the referendum.

"Of course this is not the outcome we wanted," Mundy said. "But as we always have; we will do everything in our power to make SCS an amazing experience for all who attend. We will take some time to analyze where we stand, and while we might have some tough decisions to make in the coming months, we will continue to make those decisions with all of our staff, our students, and our families in mind."

The referendum outcome, combined with the financial impact of recent state legislation (SEA 1), places the district in a challenging financial position. In the coming months, district leadership will work with staff and the School Board to evaluate the budget, consider potential adjustments, and identify ways to continue the district's core mission, which is creating future leaders.

Mr. Tyler Henning, School Board President, emphasized that "future considerations will be intentional and centered on the needs of the entire district, with students remaining at the heart of every decision."

Although the financial landscape may look slightly different in the coming years, SCS remains committed to its students, staff, families, and community. It is and continues to be a GREAT day to be a Blackhawk.

Jessica Bailey elected as Indiana's next Comptroller

Submitted

Jessica Bailey has been elected Indiana's next State Comptroller, winning 943,508 votes (49.1 percent) to Elise Nieshalla's 923,115 votes (48 percent). Nieshalla called Bailey Wednesday morning to concede.



Bailey

Bailey released the following statement:

This morning Elise Nieshalla called me, and I want to start by thanking her for that call and for her years of service to this state. Races this close are hard on everyone involved, and it takes grace to make a call like that. I meant it when I told her I respect her for it.

I got into this race because I know government works better when people can see what it's doing. That's the lesson I learned from six years on a school board and eight years as Porter County Clerk. And as I traveled the state, I heard from countless Hoosiers who were simply frustrated that too much governing is happening behind closed doors, where special interests and insiders call the shots and regular residents are shut out.

With this historic victory – the first time a Democrat has won this seat in 40 years – Hoosiers are sending a very clear message: It's time to let the light in.

I am committed to providing the accountable and transparent government Hoosiers deserve. The State Board of Finance will not run three-minute meetings with no questions and only unanimous votes while I hold a seat on it. The Transparency Portal is going to get rebuilt so a Hoosier who wants to know where their tax dollars go can actually find a clear answer. Every exemption, every transfer, every big request is going to get asked about in public because that is what the public is owed.

To my husband Tom, to my kids, to my family who put up with a campaign schedule that asked more of them than I had any right to ask, thank you. To the volunteers, the union members, the small donors who gave what they could and the team who believed in this before I fully let myself believe it, I appreciate you and will continue to rely on you as we chart a new course for the Comptroller's Office.

Now is the time for us to restore checks and balances and I intend to spend every day of this term making sure our government works for us.

Thank you, Indiana. Let's get to work.

AG Rokita issues statement following midterm elections

The REPORTER

On Wednesday, Nov. 4, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita issued the following statement regarding the midterm election.


Rokita

Elections matter, and the results last night will have an effect on Hoosiers and Americans across the country.

With several conservative attorneys general that we partnered with getting caught in a national crossfire resulting in them getting voted out of office, the work we have been doing on issues that matter to Hoosiers is more important now than ever.

The same is true at the Statehouse. We have lost valued conservative leaders in the General Assembly like House Speaker Todd Huston and Chairman Chris Jeter, who were instrumental in helping advance some of our work, including our efforts to combat illegal immigration by passing the FAIRNESS Act. I want to thank them for standing up to protect Hoosiers. As the leadership in the General Assembly changes, the work our office does to serve as a bulwark of liberty in Indiana will only become more significant.

Here is what has not changed. I will keep listening and doing the work the people of Indiana elected me to do. We will still successfully defend life and the unborn. We will successfully combat illegal immigration. We are still going to kill woke policies and transanity. We are still winning against Big Tech too and the harms it is inflicting on our children.

Speaker Todd Huston issues statement following election loss

Submitted

On Wednesday morning, Nov. 4, Indiana House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) released the following statement after his loss to Democrat Laruen Cole.


Huston

This was an incredibly challenging midterm election and ultimately the national headwinds were too difficult to overcome in a number of our races.

We're so proud of our team and all our candidates who stepped up to serve and spent countless hours in their communities, listening to voters and talking about the issues that matter to Hoosiers.

While I'm disappointed by the results, I'm incredibly proud of the progress we've made in Indiana to grow our economy, bring good-paying jobs to our state, lower taxes and create thriving communities where people want to live, work, start a business and raise their family.

It's been the honor of my life serving Hoosiers in Hamilton County and across our great state. I'm grateful for the opportunity and all that we've accomplished together.

J.D. Ford flips Fifth District for first time in four decades

The REPORTER

Congressman-elect J.D. Ford will be the first Democrat to represent Hamilton County in the U.S. House of Representatives since January 1993, when Congressman Jim Jontz left office after being defeated by Republican Steve Buyer in the November 1992 election.

In defeating incumbent Republican Victoria Spartz, Ford became the first Democrat to flip a congressional district containing Hamilton County since Jontz won in 1986 – a full 40 years ago.

On Election Night, Ford spoke to campaign volunteers and supporters.

"Tonight, Hoosiers made history, and they sent a message that will be heard far beyond Indiana's 5th District," Ford said. "This victory belongs to every person who has felt ignored by Washington, every family struggling to make ends meet, and every voter who believed that change was possible. Hoosiers are demanding leaders who put people ahead of powerful interests and deliver results that make their lives better. I'm truly honored that Hoosiers have trusted me to be the person who fights for that change, and that's exactly what I intend to do."


Ford

Ford centered his campaign on lowering everyday costs, protecting access to affordable healthcare, and restoring accountability in Washington.

"Hoosiers are working harder, paying more and getting less in return," Ford said. "Families are struggling to afford groceries, utilities, and healthcare while powerful corporations and wealthy interests continue to get ahead in Washington. That's not the government Hoosiers deserve. I'm going to Congress to fight corruption, stand up to corporate interests and make sure the decisions being made in Washington put people and their families first."

Ford's victory represents a significant shift in a district represented by Republicans since 1993. Hamilton County, the suburban heart of the district, swung 26 points toward Democrats in four years.

"Tonight, voters proved that no seat belongs to a political party. It belongs to the people," Ford said. "Whether you voted for me or not, I will fight for you. I will listen, show up and never forget who sent me to Washington. To every voter, volunteer and supporter who made this historic victory possible, thank you. Tonight, we celebrate what Hoosiers made possible. Tomorrow, we begin the work of delivering the change they voted for."

Indiana House Republicans choose Ben Smaltz as the new speaker

By GREGG MONTGOMERY & TONY SANDLEBEN

WISH-TV | **wishtv.com**

House Republicans selected new leaders Wednesday, and Senate Republicans announced they had formally voted on the leadership team they previewed earlier in the fall.

House Democrats made no changes to their leadership team, while Senate Democrats plan to make their choices Friday.

House Republicans selected Rep. Ben Smaltz of Auburn as the next House speaker. The House Republican Caucus also chose Rep. Matt Lehman of Berne as majority leader and Rep. Jake Teshka of North Liberty as majority caucus chair.

Republicans also had to choose a leader in the House of Representatives after current House Speaker Todd Huston of Fishers lost his reelection bid Tuesday.

Smaltz issued a statement.

"I'm honored to be selected by my colleagues to serve as Speaker-elect and lead the House Republican caucus," Smaltz said. "We had a disappointing night last night, but Republicans maintained the majority in the House and we will continue to champion the common-sense, fiscally responsible leadership Hoosiers expect and deserve. We will continue to build on the progress we've made in Indiana and focus on the issues important to Hoosiers – lowering cost of living, growing our economy, and expanding opportunity for Hoosiers across our state."

House Democrats made no changes to their leadership, House Minority Leader Phil GiaQuinta said Wednesday.

The Indiana Senate Republican Caucus elected its previously announced leadership team Wednesday for the upcoming General Assembly session, with state Sen. Chris Garten of Charlestown as Senate president pro tempore.

Under Senate rules, the Democratic caucus also will weigh in on Garten's selection when the Legislature meets for Organization Day on Nov. 17.

Garten named Sen. Eric Koch of Bedford as majority floor leader. The caucus elected Sen. Tyler Johnson of Leo as majority caucus chair.

Garten said in a statement that both Indiana and the country are at a point that requires "bold leadership."

"I am incredibly humbled that my caucus members have named me the next Indiana Senate president pro tem," Garten said. "Senate Republicans do not take the opportunity to serve lightly. We know we must earn out constituents' trust each and every day."

A news release said Republicans will work to strengthen schools, defend freedom, scrutinize the allocation of tax dollars, and find ways to cut more taxes.

Democratic leaders on Wednesday said they hoped their midterm election successes would lead to a greater focus on affordability and other everyday issues at the Indiana Statehouse.

Democrats went into Tuesday with 30 of the 100 seats in the Indiana House of Representatives. They needed to flip four seats to break the Republican supermajority.

Lawmakers will gather at the Statehouse on Nov. 17 for Organization Day, the ceremonial start of the 2027 General Assembly session.

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at **wishtv.com/news/politics/indiana-house-republicans-choose-ben-smaltz-as-new-speaker**.*

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Gov. Braun says he's "eager to tackle affordability" with new General Assembly leadership

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

On Wednesday evening, Nov. 4, Indiana Governor Mike Braun released this statement following the change in Republican leadership in the Indiana General Assembly.


Braun

Congratulations to Senate President Pro Tem-elect Chris Garten and Speaker-elect Ben Smaltz on their new leadership roles. Over the years, we have worked together to deliver results on issues important to Hoosier families, and I am eager to continue that collaboration.

As we look ahead, our shared focus must remain on addressing the kitchen table concerns facing hardworking Hoosiers, lowering costs, increasing opportunity, and ensuring affordability remains at the center of our work together.

Victoria Spartz after her loss: "I am not going anywhere"

Submitted

Congresswoman Victoria Spartz issued the following statement after losing her re-election bid for Congress.


Spartz

Democrats ran a ruthless, well-funded, well-organized offensive across the country, using lies and exploiting people's frustrations. However, I believe people will wake up and realize how destructive Democrat policies are.

Republicans can't afford another cycle of disorganization, weak turnout, and soft messaging. We need to get sharper, tougher, and far more effective. We need to engage Democrats in debates over real policy solutions. We also need to clean up our own party and confront those who collude with Democrats.

As for my race, God always has a reason for everything. Now I will have more time back home in Indiana to regroup and reorganize – instead of wasting my time on Democrat circuses in D.C.

And to my political adversaries in both parties: I am not going anywhere. I will have more time on the ground now – be careful what you wish for! I will make some announcements in the next few months.

Two Hamilton County nonprofits selected to participate in Giving Machine Indy

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank and Trinity Free Clinic have been selected to participate in Giving Machine Indy this holiday season, offering residents a hands-on way to support neighbors facing food insecurity and barriers to health care.

Opening Nov. 18 between the Carmel Christkindlmarkt and Hotel Carmichael in Carmel, the Giving Machine allows visitors to select a charitable donation through an interactive vending machine experience.

Instead of purchasing an item for themselves, donors choose an item or service to benefit someone in need through a participating nonprofit. Examples of items include purchasing a dozen eggs, school break meals, and more for the food bank, or antibiotics, eye glasses, or heart medicine for the clinic.

Donations designated for Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank will support its work supplying food to local pantries and feeding programs. Donations designated for Trinity Free Clinic will support free medical, dental, and vision services for uninsured, underinsured, and low-income Hamilton County residents.

"No family should have to wonder where their next meal will come from," said Suzanna Hobson, executive director of the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank. "The Giving Machine offers a simple way to help us stock pantry shelves and put food on our neighbors' tables. We're thrilled to be part of this initiative that turns the spirit of giving into something tangible for Hamilton County families."

"Good health shouldn't be out of reach for any family in our community, especially during the holidays," said Mel Wischmeyer, executive director of Trinity Free Clinic. "The Giving Machine provides a way to help neighbors get the medical, dental and vision care they need, from a checkup to a filling to a new pair of glasses. We're grateful to be part of an experience that turns the spirit of giving into healthier, brighter days for local residents."

The Giving Machines are part of the Light the World initiative sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The church covers the initiative's operating costs, allowing 100 percent of donations to go to participating nonprofits.

Residents, families, and businesses are invited to make a visit to the Giving Machine part of their holiday traditions and select donations benefiting either organization.

The Giving Machine will be available from Nov. 18 through Jan. 3, and is open 24 hours while the machine is on site near the Carmel Christkindlmarkt. Please note that the Carmel Christkindlmarkt does not open until Nov. 21.



Photo provided

Suzanna Hobson, executive director of the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank (left), and Mel Wischmeyer, executive director of Trinity Free Clinic.

About Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank

Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank collects and distributes food to support food pantries and feeding programs throughout Hamilton County. Through partnerships with donors, volunteers, businesses and community organizations, the food bank helps keep local pantry shelves stocked year-round. Learn more at **hchfoodbank.org**.

About Trinity Free Clinic

Trinity Free Clinic provides free medical, dental and health services to uninsured, underinsured, and low-income residents of Hamilton County. Its staff and volunteer professionals provide patient-centered care with respect and dignity. Learn more at **trinityfreeclinic.org**.

Hamilton County Judge sets $2.5M cash bond for Fishers man charged with crimes against children

Submitted

On Monday, Nov. 2, Charles Coriaty, 63, Fishers, was charged on 20 felony counts related to child sex crimes:

- Child Exploitation, a Level 5 Felony (10 counts)
- Possession of Child Pornography, a Level 6 Felony (seven counts)
- Possession of Child Sex Abuse Material, a level 6 Felony (three counts)

His bond has been set to $2.5 million, cash only.

Coriaty was investigated by the Hamilton County Metro ICAC Task Force after receiving a CyberTip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). This CyberTip was generated by NCMEC after receiving information from SmugMug. This tip contained approximately 175 images, many of which contained photos of juveniles from swimsuits or sports ads where an AI application was used to modify the photos to make them appear nude.

Detectives with the Hamilton County Metro ICAC Task Force served a search warrant on the suspect's SmugMug account where additional images of child sex abuse material (CSAM) were located that were produced using an AI application from clothed photos found on websites and advertisements.

A search warrant was conducted on Coriaty's residence where additional images of CSAM were located in computer file folders named "Teen Models," "Braces," "School Portraits," and others.

The task force is headquartered at the Fishers Police Department and is comprised of detectives from the following agencies: Fishers Police Department, Carmel Police Department, Westfield Police Department, Noblesville Police Department, Greenfield Police Department, Anderson Police Department, Hamilton County Sheriff, Madison County Sheriff, and Homeland Security Investigations. The task force focuses on internet crimes against children and investigates child exploitation cases in Hamilton, Hancock, Madison, and Tipton counties.

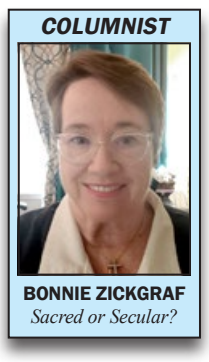
Coriaty is being held at the Hamilton County Jail.

A charge is merely an accusation, and the arrested person(s) is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Thanks for reading!



Isolation in retirement & the ladder



There are those among us that live alone throughout the year, but during the holidays, being "single" by any cause (divorce, or from the loss of a loved one … or even by choice) can still be especially tough, lonely, and down-right depressing.

I became a widow seven years ago after almost 40 years of marriage. The heartbreak of grief is not a journey I'd wish for anyone.

Let's face it. Loss can be grueling whether from the loss of a friend, a family member, a partner, a pet, a job, a home … hurt can run deep! Despair can creep in and become overwhelming. Sometimes we're thrown into a situation beyond our control or not by any of our own doing, but by the ways of this world. Yet … here we are.

And during the dark times, we can find ourselves in isolation. Even on days when we feel "okay," we become … "eh." Ambivalent towards life as we crawl our way back to "a new normal."

(Oh, how I disliked that phrase! Not sure why. Maybe because it sounded like "work." I was never "normal" to begin with! How can I go back to where I've never been in the first place?)

On the other hand, being occasionally isolated can be refreshing! I know that as a single person, I can drink directly out of my own milk carton if I like. I don't need to be concerned about playing my music too loud, watching TV programs as the sole Supreme Commander over the remote control, and just walking around the house quite scantily if I choose to do so. I confess, I run outside to feed my birds sometimes wearing a purple top with green pajama bottoms and hot pink slippers. I'm not really eccentric. I'm … just … single and I am alone.

Or, am I?

Yes, we do seem to pray more about the topic of loneliness as the holidays approach. Being alone is one thing. Feeling lonely in isolation is quite another. Yet today, I experienced the surprising ways of God and I'd like to share this brief, true-life incident with you here. And it all happened right here in Noblesville, Indiana!

As a bit of background, I retired after working the past 60 years of my life. I wasn't sure full retirement was meant for me. I sometimes felt lonely and "lost," so I prayed quite a bit for God's guidance, yet His answer always seemed to be the same. "Rest and receive deep joy."

I prayed that I heard Him right … that He didn't really mean, "Deep rest and receive joy." I know this time clock isn't in my hands, but God knows I'm not quite ready for the "deep rest" either. So again, I asked for guidance and wisdom to learn the path God now wants me to take in retirement.

I'm so very glad we have a patient God. He knows I can be a slow learner! I ask that He speak to me every day to show me the "new normal retirement" way. In fact, my relationship with Him has grown much deeper since becoming a widow. Jesus is my sparkle and my treasure, especially since reading Matthew 6:21, "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." (NLT)

This is not to say we must be single or old or anything else to have a relationship with our divine Creator. We just need a heart that's open enough to receive Him and, at least for me, to be still enough to get close and to hear Him. We can do this through prayer. So again I prayed, what exactly is this "deep joy" He continues to tell me about? What next do I need to do to please God in my "new normal" of retirement?

God … do you hear my prayers in my isolation and loneliness?

Then I heard Him speak through the people at worship in Noblesville.

During the "Children's Moment" by the altar, the Director of Children's Ministries spoke to the numerous "wee ones" about forgiveness and how we must forgive to find our sparkle and joy.

(Wait … did she just say "sparkle and joy" through forgiveness?)

Then during the sermon, the youth director reflected on the gospel of Luke 1:68-79, also about forgiveness and "doing enough" for God. Wait … did he just say …?)

Then he used a 10-foot-tall ladder in the front of the sanctuary to repeatedly climb up and down, over and over again, to explain the up-and-down path of life while trying to earn God's favor and salvation.

When he was "doing good" in life for God, he climbed up the ladder. When he wasn't doing very well, he demonstrated by coming back down the ladder. I'd have to watch the YouTube re-runs of the sermon to find the exact number of times he climbed up and down that ladder, but he definitely wore himself out. Just like we do in our own lives.

We can become lonely or alone in isolation. We begin to feel the ambivalence, like we don't matter. Like nobody cares. Like our prayers aren't being heard or answered. "My God, my God. Why have you forsaken me" – especially during the holidays? (See Matthew 27:46, NIV.)

We can never climb that ladder high enough to earn our salvation or to fully meet perfection. We are human beings, not perfect, but always longing, always climbing. In fact, we don't need to climb that ladder at all.

Then the pastor said it! God came down that ladder to be with us through Jesus Christ.

If you are lonely, afraid, worried, grieving, angry, bitter, carrying any burden at all, please talk to God about it. Pray to him in solitude. You will not feel isolated. The prayer doesn't need to be fancy – just make it from the heart. And don't give up. Unlike this world, God will never give up on you.

He hears every prayer, and every prayer is answered in His time and in His way. He will make your path clear for the glory of the Kingdom. You are God's child, fully forgiven, and always loved.

Yes, I received deep joy today when I heard God speak through His people. How blessed we are to have a loving and caring God who wants to stay connected to us. He doesn't like isolation either and we don't need a ladder to reach Him. Just a prayer.

Rev. Bonnie Zickgraf is a retired pastor, registered nurse, electroplater, and podcaster. She continues to serve various preschool, youth, and adult ministries, including the Nurses' Honor Guard for the State of Indiana. She loves to laugh, write, eat, and pray! Send comments to ***bonniezickgraf@gmail.com****.*

Fishers Maker Playground to hold first-ever free STEM Day

The REPORTER

From building mini robots to driving remote-control cars with VR headsets, families can get a hands-on look at science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) during Fishers Parks' first-ever **STEM Day** from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at Fishers Maker Playground, 8100 E. 106th St., Fishers.

During the event, visitors of all ages can explore the 15,000 square-foot maker-space, which is typically only available for ages 16 and older. Families can explore the facility, try out equipment, and meet local students and educators who are putting STEM skills to work.

"We are excited to welcome our youngest makers and innovators into Maker Playground," Fishers Parks Director Marissa Deckert said. "STEM Day brings creativity to life through exciting, hands-on experiences. From robotics and high-powered rockets to 3D printing and power tools, we're inspiring curiosity and empowering the next generation of innovators."

Activities and demonstrations include:

• Watch competition robots in action with Fishers High School's award-winning robotics team.

• Check out a student-built electric go-kart from Purdue Polytechnic Anderson.

• See demos on 3D printing, laser cutting, and CNC machines.

• Drive a remote-control car using a VR headset.

• Build your own bristlebot, a miniature robot powered by vibrations.

• Explore the science behind high-powered rockets.

• See limestone carving demonstrations.

• Test out a variety of tools like drills, hammers, and screwdrivers at the Power Tool Petting Zoo.

STEM Day brings together local businesses, educators, and organizations, including Fishers Robotics, Purdue Polytechnic Anderson, Ivy Tech, local 3D printing distributor Fabricate, and Tanaka Chonyera of Maker Playground's High-Powered Rocket Bootcamps. Visitors can also meet the educators behind Maker Playground's fifth-grade Make 5 program in conjunction with Hamilton Southeastern Schools and learn about other STEM opportunities.

Maker Playground is Fishers Parks' public makerspace featuring professional-grade equipment for woodworking, metalworking, 3D printing and more. Memberships are available for students ages 16 and older and adults, with upcoming classes open to the public, including 3D Making: 3D Printing on Nov. 17, Household Heroes: Doorknob + Lockset Installation on Nov. 18, and Porch Goose Festive Outfit Workshops on Nov. 21, Dec. 10 and 19.

STEM Day is free and open to all ages. Visitors can stop by anytime between noon and 5 p.m. No registration is required. Learn more about STEM Day, Maker Playground memberships and upcoming classes at **FishersMPG.com**.





Thirty years of celebrations: Chef Nancy Nearon brings "An Old World Affair" to The Mill Top

The REPORTER

For more than 30 years, Chef Nancy Nearon has been the cook behind the table at celebrations across central Indiana. On Thursday, Dec. 3, from 6 to 9 p.m., she will play host to her most personal one yet: An Old World Affair, an evening of wine, cuisine, and storytelling at The Mill Top Banquet and Conference Center, 802 Mulberry St., Noblesville.

Nearon's career reads like a tour of the region's favorite rooms. She was Executive Pastry Chef at Morton's The Steakhouse and at Red's The Steakhouse in Indianapolis, cooked at Hotel Indy, and served as Director of Culinary Operations at The Grove Estate in Peru.

In Noblesville, she was Executive Chef and Kitchen Manager at Barley Island and Deer Creek Pub, running the kitchen beside a brewery that made its own beer on site. She later led a department at Whole Foods Market in Indianapolis, and today she is Corporate Executive Chef at The Mill Top. Banquets, weddings, wine dinners, and holiday celebrations have been her stock in trade for decades – she has managed back-of-house commercial kitchens for 25 years.





Photos provided

Chef Nancy Nearon invites you to An Old World Affair at The Mill Top on Dec. 4. The evening before, she will be joined by her brother Edwin Brochin, a master falconer and award-winning filmmaker.

One evening stands apart. Nearon was featured in the world-acclaimed film *Falconer: Sport of Kings*, where she created the feast set for a king and prepared the entire menu for the film.

"Cooking, baking, and managing teams – that is my whole history, and I love all three," she said.

On Dec. 4, she will share the stage with her brother, Edwin Brochin, a master falconer and award-winning filmmaker. Brochin will present his family's Ancient Vines wines – award-winning, 100-percent Tempranillo from Spain – with the stories and film behind them, and guests can meet Tiffany, his hawk.

A separate matinee on Thursday, Dec. 3, from 4 to 6 p.m. will feature his documentaries on animals and extinction awareness. Nearon's own presentation pairs passed and stationary appetizers and her Franco-Iberian savory and sweet pies – every one made from scratch – with five wine flights.

The evening also marks The Mill Top's 15th anniversary, and Nearon will announce her new restaurant: a very fine steakhouse opening at The Mill Top in 2027. She hopes the night does what her best events have always done: bring Hamilton County people together, business to business, and neighbor to neighbor.

Tickets are $140 Early Bird through Nov. 15, then $150 General Admission; the matinee is $45, sold separately. Tickets and information are available at **OldWorldAffair.eventbrite.com**.

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Photo provided

Sheridan Public Library now offers Pure Flix free with a library card

The REPORTER

The Sheridan Public Library (SPL) announces its newest digital offering, Pure Flix, now available free to all registered cardholders. Through a partnership with Library Ideas, LLC, SPL joins libraries nationwide in providing streaming access to Pure Flix's catalog of family-friendly entertainment.

Pure Flix offers a wide selection of family-friendly movies and series, including original content such as *Ainsley McGregor Mysteries*, *Jep and Jess: Beyond the Bayou*, *When Hope Calls: Brookfield*, *County Rescue*, and *Crossroad Springs*. The collection also includes heartwarming romances, uplifting dramas, and inspirational stories starring familiar faces such as Candace Cameron Bure, Danica McKellar, Jen Lilley, and Trevor Donovan.

Library patrons now have access to Pure Flix's extensive catalog of movies and TV series at no cost with their library card. Pure Flix can be streamed on smart TVs, phones, tablets, and computers, giving patrons convenient access to positive entertainment at home or on the go.

"We're always looking for new ways to serve our community, and Pure Flix gives our patrons access to positive, family-friendly entertainment they can enjoy together," SPL Executive Director Kim Riley said. "We're excited to add this valuable streaming service to our collection. The timing of this addition to our offerings comes at a perfect time as we prepare to close on Nov. 4 for three to four weeks to finish our remodeling project."

To learn more or to start exploring Pure Flix, visit **sheridan.lib.in.us**.

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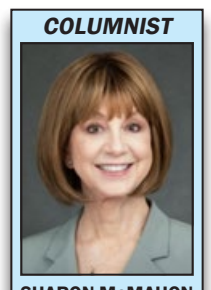
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As sunlight decreases, be mindful of your mental health



"Aquarius / Let the sunshine in, let the sun shine in, the sun shine in" – The Fifth Dimension / "HAIR" (1969)

We have been very blessed to have some great weather and sunny days the past few weeks, perhaps even broken some records! At our house, we have many trees around so they of course have been shedding their leaves permitting more sunshine to enter the house. Of course, the time change also makes a difference as our evening darkness is descending sooner on the clock.

Why am I rambling on about this you may wonder? For many people, the shorter days and decreased sunshine for the most part can cause a disorder known as SAD, or Seasonal Affective Disorder. While there are obviously depressive episodes which are not associated with SAD, I will not be addressing those here and should be addressed only by those who are trained and licensed in that area.

SAD is a disorder that reflects the sometimes profound changes which light deprivation can cause in the brain.[1] There are some who may be seriously affected by the decreased sunshine and shortened daylight hours in the winter months, and some who are only mildly affected yet still feel adverse outcomes of those shortened daylight hours. If you are like most people who deal with SAD, your symptoms begin in the fall and continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you feel moody.

Treatments for SAD may include light therapy (phototherapy), psychotherapy, and medications. Symptoms specific to winter-onset SAD, or "winter blues," may include irritability, low energy, heavy or "leaden" feeling in the arms or legs, oversleeping, and appetite changes which may include carb cravings. Seasonal despondency can also be exacerbated by holiday pressures or expectations, workplace deadlines, and financial issues.

It is important to take steps to keep your mood and motivation steady throughout the year. Consider increasing your fitness regimen or at least keep it steady during the winter months if your physical condition warrants. Walk whenever possible – outside if the weather permits, inside on a treadmill or a shopping mall if necessary. Stretching and flexibility are particularly warranted this time of year as we increase our bending, reaching, lifting, decorating, or preparing for holiday events. Strength training is vitally important as well. Not only will you feel more energetic and focused through the dark winter months, you will get a head start on your early spring training!

Of course, we all indulge in a few goodies through the holiday season, but remember to be mindful of the refined carbohydrate treats and offset that indulgence with quality protein and complex carbs in your eating plan. If your physician approves a Vitamin D supplement, that may help you during the low sunshine and shorter days to come.

[1] mayoclinic.org

Sharon McMahon, CNWC

The opinions expressed in this article are not intended to replace advice of your personal physician or licensed health professional. Please consult your physician for to any issues you may have related nutrition or fitness activity.

From the desk of Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood



Update No. 183

Next week, we will celebrate seven student-athletes (Addie Doak, Ayla Madara, Taylor Morrison, Sydney Sanders, Hattie Graham, Allie Bushey, and Amira Leer) as they sign letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level. Their accomplishments provide an opportunity to reflect not only on their individual achievements, but also on the educational experience that helped shape their journeys at Hamilton Heights.

While each student's path is unique, they share many of the qualities that define successful learners and leaders: a commitment to excellence, a strong work ethic, resilience in the face of challenges, and a willingness to make the most of every opportunity. Those traits have been developed through years of learning, competing, serving, and growing within our schools and community.

These seven students represent more than seven signing-day celebrations. They are part of a larger story that unfolds every year as Hamilton Heights graduates pursue success through colleges and universities, career and technical programs, military service, apprenticeships, and workforce opportunities. Though their destinations may differ, they share a common foundation built through the experiences, relationships, and opportunities they found here.

For a rural public school district, that is something to celebrate. Hamilton Heights continues to demonstrate that school size does not determine the size of a student's opportunities. Our students compete, excel, and distinguish themselves alongside peers from schools of every size. Their success reflects the collective investment of dedicated teachers, coaches, staff members, families, and community partners who support students every step of the way.

That commitment to helping students discover their potential extends far beyond athletics. It can be seen in our classrooms, student organizations, performing arts programs, and extracurricular activities where students develop confidence, creativity, leadership, and life skills that will serve them long after graduation.

A wonderful example is our upcoming high school fall production, *Who's Dying to Be a Millionaire?* Under the direction of Theater Arts Teacher Brooks Myers, this student-driven production showcases the collaboration, creativity, discipline, and dedication that are hallmarks of a Hamilton Heights education. Through experiences like theater, students learn to think critically, work as a team, solve problems, and perform with confidence in front of others.

I invite you to join us Nov. 13 to 15 to support these talented students and enjoy what promises to be an entertaining production. Whether on the stage, the field, in the classroom, or in the community, our students continue to demonstrate that when given opportunities to learn, grow, and lead, they are capable of remarkable things!

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping every Hamilton Heights student pursue a bright future.

#WeAreHuskies

Suburban North Club to hold "Kicking the Stigma" fundraiser in Noblesville

Submitted by Tom Fisher

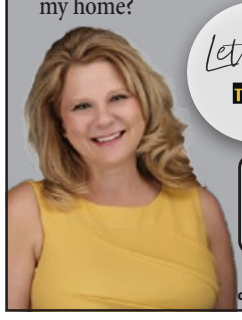
Suburban North Club (SNC), 16065 Prosperity Drive, Noblesville, will play host to a Kicking the Stigma event from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17.

SNC is a 501(c)(3) organization that hosts 12 Step Recovery meetings for a number of different recovery organizations. The goal with this event is to:

- Outline the history of recovery at SNC, from inception to today.
- Honor Jim Irsay for his generosity to SNC, his integral role in our success, and to share the promise he had us make to him.
- Present the opportunity for people to support SNC's Endowment Fund through the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF), who will send speakers to the event.
- Fundraise through a silent auction. The Indianapolis Colts have donated a Kicking the Stigma edition football, signed by TE Tyler Warren, with a certificate of authenticity (several other items will also be available for auction).
- Present speakers who will share their recovery experiences at SNC.

Hor d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided. Please plan to attend. **Click here** for more information.

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Westfield community bids farewell to current Shamrock Springs Elementary School building

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

Hundreds of former students, staff, families, and community members gathered at Shamrock Springs Elementary on Thursday, Oct. 29, for a farewell open house celebrating the building's more than 30 years of history before the school transitions to its new facility.

The evening brought together generations of Shamrocks who returned to reconnect with former classmates, colleagues, and teachers, revisit familiar spaces, and reflect on the memories made since the school first opened in 1994.

Throughout the open house, fifth-grade student ambassadors led tours of the building, sharing their school with visitors, while guests also had the opportunity to explore the halls and classrooms at their own pace.

A special portion of the evening featured remarks from current and former school leaders, including Anne Gardener, the school's inaugural principal who opened Shamrock Springs in 1994 and former principals Dr. Joe Mantalone, Dr. Chris Baldwin, and Robb Hedges.

Speakers reflected on the school's history, the relationships formed within its walls, and the generations of students and educators who have helped shape its legacy. Baldwin emphasized that while the building itself holds a special place in the community, the heart of Shamrock Springs has always been the people who learn, teach, and grow together.

The current Shamrock Springs building is known for its distinctive architecture (including the famous ramp in the main entrance) and has been a recognizable part of the Westfield community for decades.

While the district recognizes the building's historical and sentimental significance, aging infrastructure, including roofing and plumbing systems, presented significant challenges. After evaluating the costs of necessary repairs and renovations, constructing a new facility was determined to be a more cost-effective, long-term solution for serving students and the growing community.

The current building will eventually be demolished and replaced with athletic fields, restoring the fields that previously occupied the site of the new school.

As Shamrock Springs prepares for its transition over the coming months, students and staff are looking forward to the opportunities the new building will provide while carrying forward the traditions, relationships, and school culture that have defined Shamrock Springs for more than three decades.

Westfield Washington Schools extends its appreciation to everyone who attended the farewell celebration and helped make the evening a meaningful tribute to the school's history.

Mementos

If you are interested in receiving a memento of the current Shamrock Springs building, please reach out to the SSES PTO at **ssespto@wws.k12.in.us**.



Photo courtesy of Rocks Media House

Explore photos from the Farewell Celebration

Rocks Media House documented the evening, capturing reunions, building tours, and special moments shared by attendees. Community members can view and download photos from the event at no cost.

Click here to view the Shamrock Springs Farewell Celebration Photo Album.

Historical photos of the current building

For those unable to attend, Rocks Media House also created a separate photo collection documenting the current building's classrooms, hallways, and other spaces. The collection serves as a visual record of the building's history and offers alumni and community members an opportunity to take a virtual walk through Shamrock Springs.

Click here to explore the Shamrock Springs building photo archive.

Emagine Theatre invites service members to watch free movies on Veterans Day

The REPORTER

Emagine Entertainment will once again recognize and honor military service members by inviting them to see a movie of their choice for free on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11.

For one day only, all active military and veterans can visit the box office at Emagine Noblesville, located at 13825 Norrell Road in Hamilton Town Center, and receive a free ticket for any film of their choosing.

To redeem this one-day only offer, guests must provide either of the following types of military identification at the box office on Nov. 11:

- Service ID Card
- Discharge Papers

Tickets cannot be purchased in advance. Guests must redeem their ticket at the box office on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Online and phone bookings are not accepted as guests must show proof of service at the box office to redeem their tickets.

Limit one ticket per military service member. Tickets are valid for any movie in any format, including 3D, Super EMX, and EMX. Tickets must be used on Wednesday, Nov. 11, are non-refundable, and have no cash value.

For a full list of showtimes, go to **emagine-entertainment.com**.



Special Olympics Indiana announces 2027 Polar Plunge Dates at SKYLAKE Adventures

Submitted

Special Olympics Indiana announced on Thursday, Oct. 29, the opening of registration for its 2027 Polar Plunge season. The two-day season showcase is scheduled for March 5 and 6, 2027, at **SKYLAKE Adventures** just east of Sheridan.





Photos courtesy of SKYLAKE Adventures & Special Olympics Indiana

The 2027 Special Olympics Indiana two-day Polar Plunge showcase event will feature a school plunge on Friday, March 5, followed by a community plunge on Saturday, March 6. Participants will brave the cold water of SKYLAKE'S six-acre lagoon to raise funds for year-round sports training, competition, health, and leadership programs for more than 20,000 Hoosiers with intellectual disabilities.

"Polar Plunge is about so much more than getting into cold water. It is about people coming together, challenging themselves and showing their commitment to our athletes," said Jeff Mohler, president and CEO of Special Olympics Indiana. "We're excited to bring this tradition to SKYLAKE Adventures and introduce participants to a new venue where we can continue building on the success of this important fundraiser."

A new home for Polar Plunge

The 2027 event marks the first time SKYLAKE Adventures will host the Polar Plunge season showcase, which previously took place at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis.

Opened in June 2026, SKYLAKE Adventures is a 133-acre outdoor adventure destination just north of Westfield's Grand Park Sports Campus. Its six-acre lagoon, white-sand beaches, and outdoor gathering spaces will provide an ideal setting for the annual event.

"Special Olympics Indiana is an incredible organization and we're honored to welcome Polar Plunge to SKYLAKE Adventures," said Sean "Mouse" Howard, co-founder of SKYLAKE Adventures. "We built this destination around bringing people together and creating memorable experiences. Having the opportunity to support these athletes, their families and the entire Special Olympics community is something we're incredibly proud of."

During last week's press conference, representatives demonstrated an ADA-accessible mat designed to provide a more accessible route into the lagoon for participants with mobility challenges, including individuals who use wheelchairs. The demonstration highlighted the organizations' shared commitment to creating an inclusive experience for Polar Plunge participants.

Special Olympics athlete Sam Routt also participated in the announcement, sharing a personal perspective on the impact of Special Olympics Indiana and what Polar Plunge means to the athletes it supports.

Registration is open now

According to Special Olympics Indiana, the 2027 Polar Plunge season will feature more than 20 events across the state from January through March. Individuals, families, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies and community organizations are encouraged to participate.

In 2026, more than 3,000 Hoosiers participated in Polar Plunge events statewide, raising more than $1 million for Special Olympics Indiana. Nearly 1,000 individuals have registered for the two events that will move to SKYLAKE Adventures in 2027.

For registration information, event details and the complete season schedule, visit **PolarPlungeIN.org**.

About Special Olympics Indiana

Special Olympics Indiana is a nonprofit organization that is part of the global Special Olympics movement, created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities. Its vision is an inclusive world, driven by the power of sport, through which people with intellectual disabilities live active, healthy, and fulfilling lives.



Fan experiences & more unveiled ahead of Big Ten Volleyball Tournament debut at Fishers Event Center this November

The REPORTER

The Big Ten Conference will usher in a new era of collegiate volleyball this fall with the launch of its inaugural Big Ten Volleyball Tournament at Fishers Event Center, home of Major League Volleyball's Indy Ignite.

The top 15 teams in the regular-season standings will qualify for the tournament, bringing the nation's premier volleyball programs together in one venue for the first time.

From Nov. 20 to 25, three matches will be played in the opening round of the tournament, followed by four second-round matches. The competition will then progress through the quarterfinals and semifinals, culminating with the championship match slated for Nov. 25. One off day will be built into the tournament schedule. The official tournament bracket will be announced on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

Just announced: Big Ten Fan Village (it's free!)

Whether you have tickets to the tournament or just want to be part of the excitement, the Big Ten Fan Village is the hub for volleyball, community, and fun. Fans can watch every tournament match, grab official merchandise, capture the moment with photo ops, enjoy grass volleyball courts, crafts and activities, food trucks, bonfires, and more. A great place to connect with fellow fans, celebrate the game and be part of the action all week long! More information is available **here**.

The Big Ten Fan Village is free and will be open daily from Nov. 20 to 25 at Nickel Plate District Amphitheater, 1 Municipal Drive, Fishers.

Daily themes

- **Friday, Nov. 20** (open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.): Opening Celebration Day and Concert featuring Toy Factory
- **Saturday, Nov. 21** (open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.): Family Day featuring appearances from the Indy Ignite and youth-programmed activities
- **Sunday, Nov. 22** (open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.): Girls in Sports and Leadership Day
- **Monday, Nov. 23** (approx. 6 to 9 p.m.): Explore Hamilton County/Major League Volleyball Draft Hosted by the Indy Ignite
- **Tuesday, Nov. 24** (4 to 10 p.m.): Semifinals Watch Party
- **Wednesday, Nov. 25** (5 to 10 p.m.): Championship Watch Party

Community involvement

As part of the inaugural Big Ten Women's Volleyball Tournament, Big Ten School Visits will bring the excitement of the tournament directly to Fishers students, reaching approximately 5,000 children across 19 schools.

Programming includes reading visits at 13 elementary schools (K-4), volleyball instruction at three intermediate schools (grades 5 and 6), and morning pep rallies welcoming students at four junior high schools (grades 7 and 8). Each student will receive a Big Ten drawstring bag and pencil, creating a tangible connection to the tournament while fostering community pride, promoting the sport of volleyball, and engaging the next generation of fans.

These efforts are in conjunction with the City of Fishers, the Indy Ignite and their beloved mascot Pepper and Firestarters. Appearances began Oct. 28 and will run through Nov. 20.

Sign up here to be notified when single-session tickets go on sale.





Sheridan celebrates spooktacular Track or Treat

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, the Sheridan High School Student Council held its annual Track or Treat. This event is a great way to bring the community together for a scary fun evening.

SHS Student Council thanks everyone who participated: Cheerleading, Blackhawk Alumni Club, Blackhawk Cares, FFA, SYAP, CARES Club, SEFI, Boys Basketball, High School Volleyball, Wrestling Club, High School Baseball, Fine Arts Booster, Color Guard, Athletic Department, Yearbook & Graphic Design Team, and Greek's Pizza.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored. The Senior Level Sponsor is Daughters Property Services. The Junior Level Sponsors are Patton Automotive and Lyons Realty. The Sophomore Level Sponsors are the Sheridan Education Association, Greek's Pizza, WKRP Indy Real Estate, and Suga Boo Properties. The Freshman Level Sponsors are Sheridan Heating & Cooling – John Smith, Gosia's Rustic Kitchen, Sheridan Elementary PTO, Black Talon Wrestling Club, Creekside Chiropractic, and United Animal Health. Also, Toxic Waste Candy donated candy for the evening.

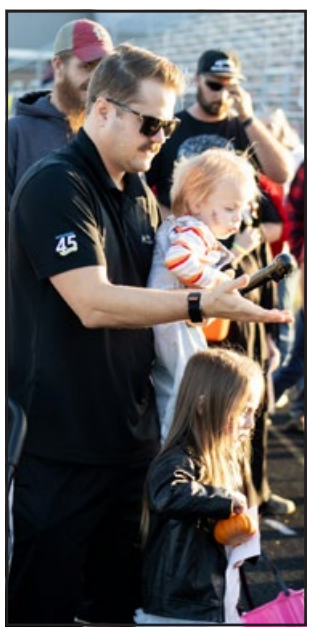
It was a fun and light-hearted evening for everyone who attended. It literally was a packed track!





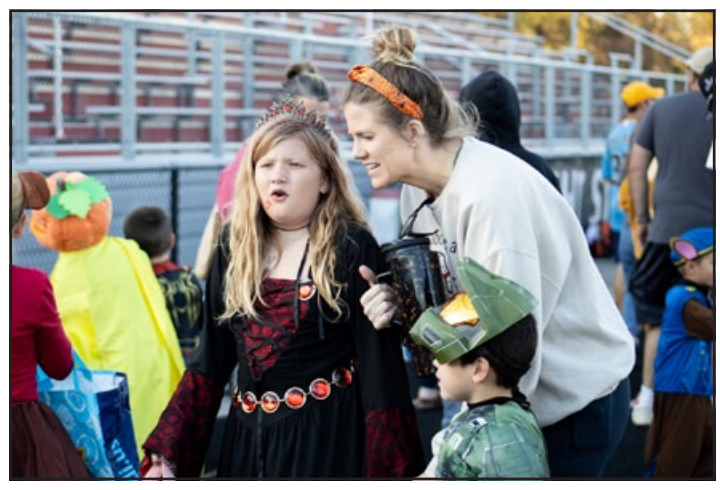




























Photos by Allison Waitt

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10/30 – Murder Mystery Night
11/6 – All the Way Frank: Sinatra Tribute
11/21 – Dueling Pianos
11/22 – Drag Me to Brunch
11/27 & 11/28 – ESQUE: Burlesque
11/29 – The Magic of David Ranalli
12/4 – Franc D'Ambrosio: Holiday Cheer
12/5 – A Sinatra Christmas

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Stars & Stripes wants your photos of veteran memorials

By JON BALDWIN
Clay Township Military Library & Museum

A wonderful opportunity has come our way, and I hope many of you will take part in it.

Stars and Stripes, the newspaper for our military community, is building an interactive map of local veterans memorials across the country – not the big national monuments in Washington or Pearl Harbor, which are already on the map, but the memorials in our own hometowns: the ones only locals know about, that a visitor passing through could easily miss.

They are asking readers to help by sending in a photo they took themselves, along with the exact street address of the memorial and their name. It can honor veterans of one war, or veterans more broadly, from any war. The photo must be your own, and free of any copyright or other restrictions.

If you know of a local memorial – here in Hamilton County or wherever your hometown is – please consider sending your photo and information directly to Gianna Gronowski at *Stars and Stripes* at **Gronowski.Gianna@stripes.com**, or **WebEditors@stripes.com**.

You can read more about the project at **this link**.

These small, local markers tell a story that the big monuments cannot tell on their own, and every one we help document is a veteran – or a group of veterans – remembered a little more fully. Thank you for considering it, and please feel free to pass this along to anyone else who might have a memorial in mind.

Celebrate Santa's magical arrival at Noblesville Cabela's on Saturday

The REPORTER



Photo provided

Santa's Wonderland, the free family Christmas tradition, officially kicks off with Santa's magical arrival, cruising into Cabela's on a Tracker boat at 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 in Noblesville.

Families are invited to join the festive outdoor event to welcome Santa as he arrives from the North Pole to Santa's Wonderland – the free experience that transforms the outdoor retailer into a magical Christmas village with free holiday activities and festive giveaways.

The parade will feature the Noblesville Marching Band full of holiday cheer. After the parade, Santa will light the Christmas tree, and families will enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies.

Starting Sunday, Nov. 8, families can visit Santa's Wonderland in-store to receive a free 4-by-6-inch studio-quality photo with Santa, as well as a free shareable video. Free reservations open are open now at **cabelas.com/santa**.

Blackhawks make good showing at cross country conference meet

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

The Sheridan High School cross country teams had a fantastic showing at the Hoosier Heartland Conference on Saturday, Oct. 10.

For the girls, Murphy Buskirk and Arya Strater both earned Honorable Mention All-Conference with their 17th and 18th places. Arya got her PR of 31:26 on this very challenging course. Jessica Dunbar placed 22nd, and Vivian Olivas placed 23rd.

"Everyone raced so well, and we are proud of how hard they worked," Head Coach Elaine Morgan said.

The boys placed fourth overall with a team score of 86. Tommy Rusk and Eli Lesnet were both All-Conference with their eighth and 11th place finishes. Sergio Quiroz placed 23rd. Avery Garrett placed 30th, and Logan Burch placed 33rd.

"The boys team did excellent, battling the enormous hills to finish well," Morgan said.



Photo provided by Sheridan Community Schools

Eli Lesnet and Tommy Rusk.



Ford's Garage offers free burgers to veterans & active-duty military

The REPORTER

This Veterans Day, Ford's Garage is honoring the brave men and women who have served our country with a free burger or up to $16 off an entrée!

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, U.S. military veterans and active-duty service members are invited to enjoy a complimentary American Standard Burger entrée or up to $16 off any other entrée at participating Ford's Garage restaurants nationwide.



Photo provided by Ford's Garage

It's Ford's Garage's way of saying thank you to those who have served and continue to serve our country.

Ford's Garage is located at 13193 Levinson Lane #100 in Hamilton Town Center in Noblesville.

Winterfest returns to Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre next month

Submitted

Celebrate the many holidays of the season in a way that only Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre (GHDT) can provide.

Winterfest is scheduled for 5 p.m. Dec. 5, 3 p.m. Dec. 6, 5 p.m. Dec. 12, and 3 p.m. Dec. 13, all at The Florence, 329 Gradle Drive, Carmel. Tickets are available at **this link**.

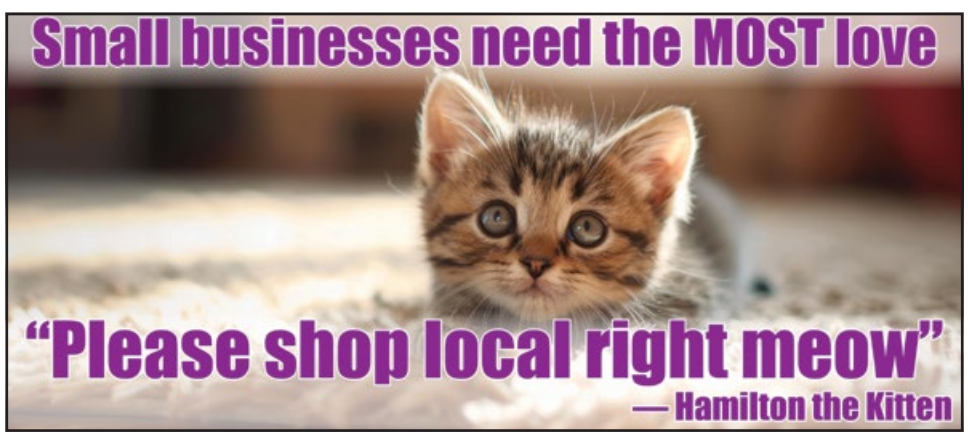
Winterfest will leave you feeling sparkly, jolly, and ready for what many call the most wonderful time of the year. Grab your passport and travel the world with GHDT as they dance their way through St. Nicholas Day, Kwanzaa, Diwali, Santa Lucia Day, Las Posadas, Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, and Christmas.

Afterward, come to the festive lobby for cookies and cocoa with the dancers. Your ticket price includes the perfect after concert celebration of a hot cocoa bar and holiday cookies that will send you out the door with a warm heart and toasty toes. This magical new tradition takes place at The Florence, mere steps away from The Carmel Christkindlmarkt and the twinkling magic of Carmel City Center. This offers a delightful holiday pairing of festivities, food, and a glimmering dance performance that celebrates the many holidays of the season.

With multiple opportunities and times to see this effervescent concert, *Winterfest* is certain to pair with any of your holiday outings.

Winterfest Concert Partner is Dr. Sajal Bose and Mrs. Kalyani Bose.





King Jugg Brewing Company breaks ground on new Downtown Noblesville location

Submitted by City of Noblesville

On Monday, Nov. 2, the City of Noblesville and King Jugg Brewing Company officially broke ground on the new brewery on the site of the former Bolden's Dry Cleaners in downtown Noblesville, located along the White River and within the city's Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) District.

Bolden's Dry Cleaners was a family-owned business in downtown Noblesville for 63 years and closed in July 2023. The city acquired the property in July 2023 and announced King Jugg Brewing Company as the redevelopment partner in January 2025. Construction is underway, with an anticipated opening in 2027.

The 10,300 square-foot development will transform the former dry-cleaning property into a vibrant, family-friendly gathering space with indoor and outdoor dining, live entertainment, and direct access to the White River and Nickel Plate Trailhead. The redevelopment represents another significant investment in downtown Noblesville, creating new opportunities for residents and visitors to dine, gather, and support local businesses.



Rendering provided

Key features

• $4,000,000 Investment from King Jugg

• 10,300 square feet (3,200 Indoor Dining, 1,900 Outdoor Dining, 3,200 Kitchen Space)

• Indoor and Outdoor Dining

• Children's Play Area

• Raised Stage/Dance Floor

• Attached Public Restroom

• Frontage along the White River and Nickel Plate Trailhead

• Public Art

• To Go Drink Window

• Within the Embrace Downtown Project Limits

"Today's groundbreaking is another exciting step forward in our continued investment in downtown and we look forward to welcoming King Jugg to Noblesville," Mayor Chris Jensen said. "King Jugg is the right fit for our thriving, family-friendly downtown, and we're excited to see this property transformed into a destination for residents and visitors. Its location along the White River, connection to the downtown square and surrounding amenities will enhance the experience for all who choose to shop, dine, and visit Noblesville. We are grateful to King Jugg for its Investment in Noblesville and look forward to the positive impact this project with have on our thriving downtown."

King Jugg has operations in Broad Ripple and Fishers and is known for its craft beer, food, live music, sporting events, and community involvement. King Jugg also prioritizes giving back through programs like Bikes for Kids, which provide bikes to local kids in need, including North Elementary in Noblesville.

According to the King Jugg Brewing Company Team – Mike Finnegan (Owner), Aaron Pearlman (Owner), Leslie Halkovich (Owner), Randy De John (Managing Partner), and John Jakob (Head Brew Master): "We're excited to bring King Jugg Brewing to downtown Noblesville and create a destination for great beer, live music multiple nights a week, and what we hope will become the best sports bar in town. Mayor Chris Jensen and his team have been incredible partners throughout this process, and their commitment to supporting local businesses and investing in the community is second to none. We're especially proud to be adding public restrooms along the White River Greenway, providing a great amenity for the entire community. We can't wait to open our doors and become part of Noblesville's continued growth and success."

Visit **noblesville.in-.gov/848/King-Jugg** for project updates.

— WESTFIELD —

NOTICE OF THE ADOPTION OF A DECLARATORY RESOLUTION BY THE WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND OF A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON
(EAST SIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA)

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield Redevelopment Commission (the "Commission"), being the governing body of the Department of Redevelopment of the City of Westfield, Indiana (the "City"), on September 21, 2026, adopted its Resolution No. 33-2026 (the "Declaratory Resolution") making certain proposed amendments to the declaratory resolution and the economic development plan (the "Plan") for the East Side Economic Development Area, each as previously amended (the "2026 Amendments"). The 2026 Amendments remove certain parcels from the East Side Economic Development Allocation Area, all as more particularly described in the Declaratory Resolution.

A detailed description of the proposed 2026 Amendments, together with maps and plats of the East Side Economic Development Area and copies of the Declaratory Resolution, can be inspected at the office of the Executive Chief of Economic and Community Development, 2728 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074.

Notice is hereby given that the Commission will conduct a public hearing on Monday, November 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. (local time), in the Assembly Room of Westfield City Hall, located at 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074, to receive and hear remonstrances and objections from all persons interested in or affected by the 2026 Amendments and the proceedings pertaining thereto. Written remonstrances to the 2026 Amendments may be filed with the Commission prior to the public hearing at the office of the Executive Chief of Economic and Community Development, 2728 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074, and via email to Jenell Fairman at: jfairman@westfield.in.gov. After considering the evidence presented at the public hearing, which may be adjourned from time to time, the Commission will take final action determining the public utility and benefit of the proposed 2026 Amendments and whether the proposed 2026 Amendments are reasonable and appropriate when considered in relation to the Plan, and confirming, modifying and confirming, or rescinding the Declaratory Resolution.

WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

R8842 *11/5/26, 11/9/26*

NOTICE OF THE ADOPTION OF A DECLARATORY RESOLUTION BY THE WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND OF A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON
(GRAND JUNCTION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA)

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield Redevelopment Commission (the "Commission"), being the governing body of the Department of Redevelopment of the City of Westfield, Indiana (the "City"), on September 21, 2026, adopted its Resolution No. 34-2026 (the "Declaratory Resolution") making certain proposed amendments to the declaratory resolution and the economic development plan (the "Plan") for the Grand Junction Economic Development Area, each as previously amended (the "2026 Amendments"). The 2026 Amendments remove certain parcels from the Grand Junction Economic Development Allocation Area, all as more particularly described in the Declaratory Resolution.

A detailed description of the proposed 2026 Amendments, together with maps and plats of the Grand Junction Economic Development Area and copies of the Declaratory Resolution, can be inspected at the office of the Executive Chief of Economic and Community Development, 2728 E. 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074.

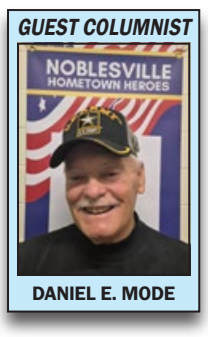
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WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

R8843 *11/5/26, 11/9/26*



Nine strategies for success after high school



New graduates are busy making plans and racing into a future of change. As parents, the mission is to help them slow down and ask "What's next?" Each of the following nine strategies are from interviews with veterans who offered suggestions for parents and children to discuss future plans.

1. Provide role models of leadership.

Army SSG Kyle Leichtman believes parents "have a responsibility to embrace their role as a teacher and leader." He encourages "focusing on emotional and physical health." When problems arrive, SSG Leichtman said, "Concentrate on effort and initiative over errors of judgment."

2. Use goals and rewards as motivators.

To clarify values and goals ask, "Where do you spend your time and money?" That one question gives both of you all the information necessary to understand what really motivates your child.

Army Captain Timothy Lee's strategy is for parents to "encourage a positive attitude in what children do and what they say." Captain Lee advises, "Help create a plan for a future your child is excited about."

Former Navy Seal Commander Admiral Raymond Craven's powerful 19-minute YouTube video "Make your bed" discusses how Navy Seals train for success.

3. Talk about money.

PFC Johnson is a 19-year-old Marine saving for her future. She said, "It is important for parents to teach children about saving early, spending wisely, and prioritizing goals to make dreams come true."

Army ILT Gary Dayman was determined to attend college and study electrical engineering. He achieved his goals with part-time jobs, internships, and an ROTC scholarship. Dayman believes that "it's critical children understand that anything is possible if they are willing to eliminate negatives and do what is necessary." Dayman went on to build a series of companies worth $4.7 billion with over 5,000 employees.

4. Encourage and model healthy habits.

Children mirror attitudes and behaviors they see and hear every day. This is important when parents are trying to provide a balanced lifestyle. A healthy environment is a powerful gift that can separate those who succeed and those who struggle.

Marine combat veteran SSG Michael Karman stated, "The ability to accomplish missions requires continuous mental and physical readiness."

5. Mentors are pathways to success.

LTC Steve Vetrano is a 34-year Army combat veteran and commander of the Noblesville VFW. He suggests children talk with those who are successful and find out they made their dreams come true. Mentors can be parents, teachers, coaches, or anyone who willing to discuss their journey.

6. Make career choices that offer excitement and challenge.

Success after high school requires a clear vision of the future. As a family, create strategies and options necessary to support ambition. Explain how a "job" is about money, and a "career" is about fulfilling dreams.

Jules Goody is a 101-year-old WWII Army Veteran. His advice is, "Find out early what you love and spend your life living with joy."

American writer Mark Twain famously said, "The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and they day you figure out why."

See *Success* . . . Page 15

Meeting Notices

The Atlanta Redevelopment Commission will hold a meeting to adopt the 2027 Spending Plan at 5:45 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, 2026, at Atlanta Town Hall, 105 E. Main St.

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold a Board of Trustees meeting at 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, 2026, at 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

The Hamilton County Commissioners will meet in an executive session at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, 2026.

A regular meeting will follow at 2 p.m. in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

*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**.*

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Upcoming Broadcasts

Tues Nov 3 - Girls Basketball
7:20 pm Danville vs **Hamilton Heights** | Girls Basketball | Varsity | Husky Sports
7:30 pm Ben Davis vs **Fishers** | Girls Basketball | Varsity | Fishers Sports
7:30 pm Southmount vs **Sheridan** | Girls Basketball | Varsity | Bragg Sports

Wed Nov 4 - Girls Basketball
6:00 pm Decatur Central vs **Noblesville** | Girls Basketball | JV | HCTV Sports
7:30 pm Park Tudor vs Covenant Christian | Girls Basketball | Varsity | Indiana SRN
7:30 pm Decatur Central vs **Noblesville** | Girls Basketball | Varsity | HCTV Sports

Fri Nov 6 - Girls Basketball
5:50 pm Life Academy vs Calvary Christian | Girls Basketball | Varsity | Indiana SRN

Sat Nov 7 - Girls BasketBall, College Football
1:15 pm Anderson vs Franklin College | College Football | HCAC | Indiana SRN
6:00 pm Avon vs **Noblesville** | Girls Basketball | JV | HCTV Sports
7:30 pm Center Grove vs **Fishers** | Girls Basketball | Varsity | Fishers Sports
7:30 pm Avon vs **Noblesville** | Girls Basketball | Varsity | HCTV Sports

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Thank you for reading The Reporter!

Which is scarier: the show or that they're done for the year?







Reporter photos by Bill Miller

The Graveyard Stompers wrapped up their series of October performances last weekend. On Friday, Oct. 30, they rocked the house at The Coterie in Kokomo (top), and then gave a great outdoor show at Indiana University's homecoming on Halloween (above).

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

The One Place of Worship

These are the decrees and laws you must be careful to follow in the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has given you to possess—as long as you live in the land. Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains, on the hills and under every spreading tree, where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods. Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places.

You must not worship the Lord your God in their way. But you are to seek the place the Lord your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go; there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. There, in the presence of the Lord your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the Lord your God has blessed you.

Deuteronomy 12:1-8 (NIV)

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Success

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7. Develop effective communication skills.

Employers rank the ability to effectively communicate as a requirement for immediate and future success. Explain the power of listening with interest.

Veteran advocate and former U.S. Airman Lisa Williams recommends that "parents and children jointly develop visions of the future that includes discipline and the ability to confidently interact with others." Airman Williams believes that "achieving goals and objectives takes time, and failing can be an excuse to quit or an opportunity to learn."

8. Faith is what you believe to be true.

LTC Army Chaplin James C. Berbiglia (Ret.) teaches that "the foundation of faith comes from self-esteem." He goes on to say, "How can children believe in themselves or a higher power if they have no confidence or understanding of what they value?" Nurturing a positive self-image requires parents to pay attention, listen, and reinforce the strength of conviction.

9. Live with honor.

By 18, children will have approximately 6,570 days to observe values, dissect morals, and discover what is important. Ask: *What are my children learning about living an honorable life?* Mixed messages of ethics and morals are confusing and makes it difficult for children to understand what is right or wrong.

Marine fighter pilot Colonel Bruce Rutherford served two tours in Vietnam and understood honor and sacrifice. I learned about honor by watching the way he treated his wife, himself, and others.

Don't let those you love fall victim to: *If I knew then what I know now, things would be different.* If your family examines and applies some of these ideas and suggestions from our Veterans, Mission Accomplished.

Daniel E. Mode, M.S., U.S. Army. Medical Corp., is a psychologist and author.

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.

Thanks for reading The Reporter!



Hamilton County Reporter

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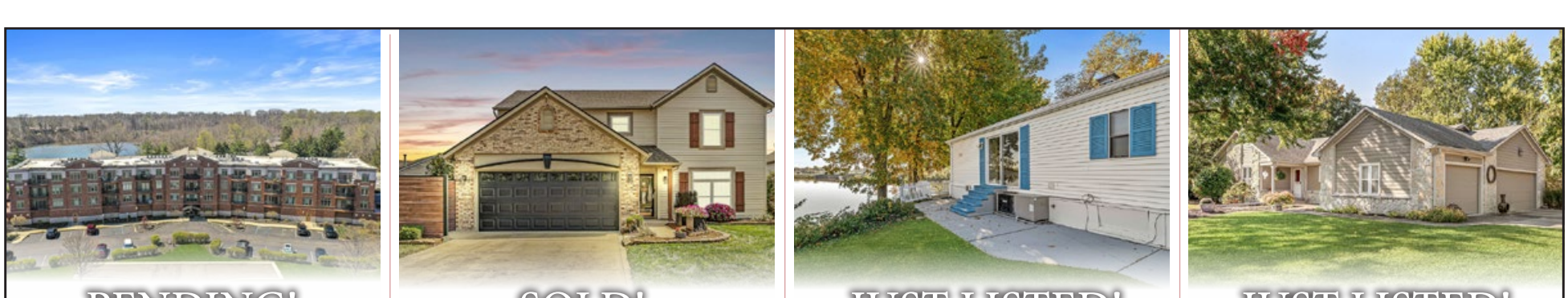
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PENDING!
20971 Shoreline Unit 410
NOBLESVILLE
Enjoy low-maintenance waterfront living in this gated 2BR, 2BA Morse Lake condo. Features include fresh paint, new carpet, boat slip, two garage spots, storage, and stainless kitchen. Luxury meets convenience.
Listed at $299,900

SOLD!
9919 Fountain Cove Drive
INDIANAPOLIS
This 3BR, 2.5BA near Geist Reservoir offers an open concept floor plan, new roof, carpet, and remodeled primary bath. Versatile living spaces, updated kitchen, spacious fenced-in backyard, and a heated golf simulator garage!
Listed at $299,900

JUST LISTED!
34 Blue Water Drive
CICERO
Enjoy waterfront living on Morse Reservoir. This spotless 2BR, 2BA manufactured home features new updates, a screened porch, private boat dock, and close proximity to Cicero's shops and restaurants. Vacation year-round!
Listed at $399,900

JUST LISTED!
102 Maplewood Drive
NOBLESVILLE
Discover this desirable South Harbour ranch featuring a 3-car heated garage, updated kitchen, vaulted family room, patio, and fantastic neighborhood amenities including a lakeside pool and clubhouse.
Listed at $329,900

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