

The Hamilton County Reporter

Your Hometown Newspaper

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026

Arcadia | Atlanta | Cicero | Sheridan | Tipton
Carmel | Fishers | Noblesville | Westfield

WISHTV NEWS GATHERING PARTNER

Like & Follow us!

TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Sunny.

Tonight: Mostly clear.

HIGH: 66 **LOW**: 42

paulpoteet.com

The Goddard School of Carmel City Center gives back again

Submitted

Last week, The Goddard School of Carmel City Center held a canned food drive, turning giving back into a little friendly classroom competition.

The school has eight classrooms, and each pair of classrooms was assigned a different canned vegetable: green beans, corn, peas, or carrots. Goddard families were encouraged to donate, and the two classrooms that collected the most cans would win a popsicle party.

Needless to say, Goddard families showed up in a big way. There was an incredible turnout, and the generosity of those families was truly heartwarming. After a week of friendly competition, green beans took home the victory and earned the popsicle party.

While Goddard's little learners were excited about the popsicles, the greatest reward was teaching them the importance of kindness, generosity, teamwork, and helping those in need. Donations are going to a food pantry at a local church.

At The Goddard School of Carmel City Center, even the youngest learners can make a big difference in their community. Everyone at Goddard is incredibly proud of the children, teachers, and families for coming together to support such a meaningful cause.



Photo provided by The Goddard School of Carmel City Center

Green beans won the friendly canned food drive competition at The Goddard School of Carmel City Center.

Westfield students become 'Life Ready' through Japanese exchange

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

For 35 Westfield High School (WHS) students, the summer of 2026 included an exciting opportunity to travel more than 6,000 miles from home.

In July, these students spent two weeks in Japan as part of the Yamate Gakuin Exchange Program, an ongoing cultural exchange between WHS and Yamate Gakuin Junior and Senior High School in the Yokohama area.

The experience began months before the group boarded a flight. In April, Westfield families welcomed 72 Yamate students to Indiana for two weeks. The visiting students attended classes at WHS, practiced their English, experienced American culture, and became part of their Westfield host families' everyday lives.

In July, WHS students traveled to Japan. While abroad, they lived with host families, explored Japanese culture, and learned to navigate a place where the language, traditions, food, transportation, and rhythms of daily life are often very different from their own.



Photo by Rocks Media House

Westfield students were able to take part in a mock school day while in Japan.

"The Yamate Gakuin Japanese Exchange Program can be a life-changing experience, whether you are hosting, traveling, or both," said Michelle Goudy, assistant coordinator of the Yamate Gakuin Exchange Program, chaperone, and a WHS teacher. "It opens your world to the cultural differences and similarities between Japanese and American students."

While in Westfield, Yamate students attend WHS for much of their stay and experience the community with their host families. That can mean trying American and Mexican foods (hamburgers being particularly popular), attending sporting events or concerts, exploring Indiana, or simply experiencing everyday life with a Westfield family.

See *Exchange* . . . Page 2

Holiday Inn taking reservations now at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, opens Nov. 27

The REPORTER

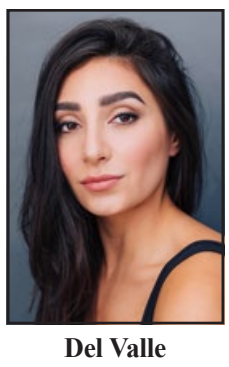
It's a year-round romance when Irving Berlin's *Holiday Inn* makes its Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre debut this holiday season. Opening Nov. 27, the musical is a recent adaptation of the Oscar-winning 1942 movie musical starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire.

Looking to make a change, Jim Hardy (David Sajewich) decides to leave his career in show business to settle down on a farm he bought in Connecticut. But he soon realizes his talents were better suited for the stage. When he meets Linda (Joy Del Valle), a local schoolteacher who had once dreamed of being a performer herself, Jim sees a way to salvage his failing farm. Together, Jim and Linda turn the farmhouse into an inn that presents dazzling performances on holidays.

Their new "Holiday Inn" celebrates each holiday from Thanksgiving to the Fourth of July, with a parade of hit songs including "Blue Skies," Easter Parade," "Steppin' Out With My Baby," "Heat Wave," "Be Careful, It's My Heart," "Cheek to Cheek," and Irving Berlin's famous "White Christmas."



Sajewich



Del Valle



Hassel

But when Jim's best friend Ted (Corey Hassel) tries to lure Linda to Hollywood to be his new dance partner, his dreams could be shattered once again.

Sajewich, Del Valle, and Hassel are making their Beef & Boards debuts in *Holiday Inn,* along with Sarah Mae Banning in the role of Lila Dixon. Returning to the Beef & Boards stage are Lanene Charters as Louise Badger, Brett Mutter as Danny, and ensemble members Jacob Butler, Joey Boos, Sarah Daniels, Logan Hill, Deb Wims, Selena Robinson, Joseph Rafael Davila, and Sally Scharbrough. Parker Joh is making his debut in the ensemble.

Holiday Inn is on stage for 42 performances through Jan. 3, 2027. Beef & Boards' holiday buffet is included, along with coffee, tea, or lemonade. Gourmet desserts and bar beverages are available for purchase.

A special New Year's Eve celebration takes place on Dec. 31, including dancing to live music after the show and a champagne toast and balloon drop at midnight followed by a breakfast buffet.

Tickets are available exclusively through Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre at **BeefAndBoards.com** or by calling the box office at (317) 872-9664. Patrons are advised that tickets purchased from third-party sellers may not be valid for performances and may include additional fees.

Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Indiana's only year-round professional dinner theatre, has been serving up exceptional entertainment since 1973.

12 Guy-mandments

COLUMNIST



TIM RATHZ
Forty-something in Fishers

I live by a code. Sure, it's a code that I break and change constantly, but a code nonetheless. Some would refer to it as "guy code" or even "bro code." I'm calling this list of rules Guy-mandments (at least for the purposes of this column).

Guy-mandments are a specific set of rules that guys have to follow or risk being ousted from Guy-dom and suffer embarrassing ridicule. Now that I've properly mansplained it, here is a list of 12 of these rock-solid directives that will make sure you have a mockery-free existence. Unless, of course, you're a woman. In which case you don't care and already realize this is absolutely ridiculous. Either way, here we go …

I. If it is sprinkling rain, thou must not turn on thy windshield wipers until visibility is almost zero. Or until thy wife reacheth over from the passenger side to turn them on.

You know that little annoying dribble rain? If you are a guy, you understand that you must not show weakness, so therefore no little sprinkle is going to force you to turn on your wipers. You must, indeed, wait until you almost drive into a ditch before clearing the windshield. And even then, you only use one single wipe. You may then repeat it when you almost wreck again. That way, other drivers don't think you're a wienie who can't handle a little mist. There is judgment everywhere!

See *Guy-mandments* . . . Page 2

How can sports affect your academic performance?

COLUMNIST



LIZZY SUMMERS
Sheridan High School Student

Editor's note: The Sheridan Student Column is brought to readers by Sheridan High School's Accelerated English 9 class, taught by Ellie Arrowood.

Imagine being part of a team that works together towards a goal, where every member contributes to its success. Sounds like a college experience, right? What if I told you that this team is not just any team but a group of individuals who are constantly pushing themselves to be better both on and off the field?

This is the reality of student-athletes, and the benefits of being part of a sports team extend far beyond the playing field. Engaging in sports has physical benefits, such as improved cardiovascular health, increased strength and flexibility, and enhanced coordination. However, the benefits of sports go beyond the physical.

Participating in sports has also been shown to have an impact on mental health, reducing stress and anxiety while promoting self-confidence and self-esteem. For example, a study by the National Alliance on Mental Illness found that students who participated in sports had lower rates of depression and anxiety compared to those who did not. In addition, the camaraderie and teamwork involved in sports help develop life skills such as communication, leadership, and problem-solving.

Many people assume that being a student-athlete means sacrificing performance for athletic success and your life. However, the opposite is often true. Student-athletes have been shown to have higher GPAs and better attendance records compared to their non-athletic peers. This is because sports require discipline, hard work, and time management skills, which are also essential for success. For instance, a study by the NCAA found that student-athletes who participated in sports had a higher graduation rate

See *Sports* . . . Page 2

NYSA
NOBLESVILLE YOUTH SPORTS ALLIANCE
ONE COMMUNITY ● 7000+ KIDS ● 16 PROGRAMS
www.noblesvillesports.com @noblesvillesports

Letter to the Editor

Shaffer: new tax rate in Carmel is "unwelcome"

Dear Editor:

Despite inflation and high taxes, a majority of Carmel voters last week added 21 percent to their property tax rate.

Approved was a school referendum that added 24 cents per $100 of assessed property value to a maximum of 42.74 cents.

The existing property tax rate is 2.0167.

The new rate will be 2.4441; or 21 percent higher.

A generous move for some and an unwelcome surprise for those on fixed income.

Bill Shaffer
Carmel

*Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to **News@ReadTheReporter.com**. Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.*

Sports

from Page 1

compared to those who did not. Furthermore, the structure and routine of a sports schedule can actually help students stay organized and focused, making it easier to balance responsibilities.

Participating in sports is not about winning games or championships; it's about developing life skills, building relationships, and becoming a better person. The benefits of sports extend beyond the playing field. They influence academic performance, mental health, and overall well-being.

So whether you're a seasoned athlete or just starting, remember that sports are not a hobby but a way to grow, learn, and succeed.

Exchange

from Page 1

The exchange is designed to be reciprocal as the families of WHS students who travel to Japan are required to host Yamate students when they visit Westfield. There is intentionality behind placements as well. Students complete profiles about themselves and their interests to help group leaders match them with host families. A student who enjoys hiking, for example, might be paired with a host family who shares that interest.

When WHS students traveled to Japan, Yamate was on summer break. The school creates a mock school day, however, so Westfield students can still experience what it is like to be a Yamate student. Students are assigned Japanese student buddies and are led through an assigned schedule. Students get to sample courses like Japanese, Kendo, Music, Korean, Math, and others taught by Japanese teachers.

"I think it opens the kids' eyes to what is out in the world, and it makes them more curious about all the different opportunities that are out there," Goudy said.

Students also participate in cultural activities and excursions throughout their stay. Yamate's parent organization provides significant support for the exchange, including a cultural day, Japanese luncheon, and trip to Tokyo Disney Sea. During some school excursions and outings with their host families, Westfield students walk through streets and visit sites that are thousands of years old.

The relationships formed make the experience truly educational and personal. Rather than experiencing Japan only as tourists, WHS students become part of a household for two weeks. They see what everyday life looks like for another family while learning to communicate, adapt, and build relationships across cultural and, sometimes, language differences.

"The homestay aspect allows our students to deepen relationships started in April," said Stacey O'Brien, Coordinator of the Yamate Gakuin Exchange Program, Content Area Director of World Languages, Chaperone, "as well as establish new friendships with host siblings, their families, and others in the community. Living the authentic daily life in another culture challenges preconceived ideas we may have here in the U.S. It teaches our students that there are multiple 'right' ways to do things and introduces them to varied viewpoints about the world. Having a host family also provides much more context than a typical tour might. Host families share the history of a place, the traditions of modern families, and can answer our students' follow-up questions to deepen their understanding."



Photo by Rocks Media House

More information about the Exchange Program

The partnership between WHS and Yamate Gakuin began in 2022 with planning and relationship-building before the first student exchange took place in 2024. The schools reunited for their second exchange in 2026, and the program is expected to continue on a two-year cycle, with the next exchange anticipated in 2028.

No Japanese language experience is required for WHS students to participate. Some Japanese host families and Yamate students speak English well, while others have varying levels of proficiency. When necessary, students and families use translation tools and find other ways to communicate.

That challenge is part of the learning experience. Students have to navigate unfamiliar situations, communicate when words do not always come easily, respect different customs, and adapt when everyday life looks different from what they know at home.

Additional information about the next exchange, including opportunities to host and travel, will be shared in August of 2027 as plans for the 2028 exchange develop. Students and families interested in participating should watch for information about a call-out meeting at the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year.

Guy-mandments

from Page 1

If you are married, you also know that your wife will, indeed, reach over and do it herself out of frustration. And she will usually do that a good two minutes before you were planning to do it. When this happens, do not argue. Just let it happen. The other judgy drivers will see your wife next to you and understand what happened.

II. When thou maketh s'mores over an open fire, thou must catcheth said marshmallow on fire until it is a crispy piece of charcoal.

Everyone loves s'mores. But when you're a guy, you love s'mores AND you love fire. Some people like to keep the sweet treat a few inches above the flame to get that perfect shade of brown. Not guys. We cram that fluffy mouth pillow directly into the blue part of the flame, like it's the 1692 Witch Trials. What comes out is a perfectly blackened, gooey man treat.

III. When thou haveth children, thou must tell the worst eyeroll jokes ever.

There is nothing that makes a dad prouder of himself than when he knows he nailed a horrifically corny dad-joke. He waits all day long just to hear his kid say, "I'm hungry." Everyone runs for the hills at that point, because they know what is coming next … "Hi, hungry, I'm Dad!"

IV. When thine football team scoreth a touchdown, thou shalt immediately high-five someone. Giving knuckles is also acceptable, but if thou dost this, thou must blow it up.

Few things are more exciting than when your favorite team crosses the goal line. As a guy, when our sports teams score, we have to let that excitement out. Otherwise, we could possibly spontaneously combust. Trust me, it's science. That being said, the easiest way to do this is to find the closest human (friend or stranger) and immediately high five. If you choose to give knuckles instead, afterward you must blow it up like your palm is an M-80.

V. When thou haveth children, thou must have them pull thine finger.

I think this is self-explanatory.

VI. Whilst thou art at a cookout, thou must not criticize another man's food or grill technique.

This is standard man-code. When it comes to grilling there is no commenting on his food unless it is a compliment, no touching his grill, and no cooking advice unless asked for (however, no man will ask for advice while cooking).

VII. If thou hast both male and female offspring, thou must be gentle with the girl and hardeth on the boy.

Having children is a blessing. If you are a man who happens to have both a girl and a boy, then you know that your precious little girl has you wrapped around her finger, while the boy is a crazy, smelly fartbag who must be contained. You love them both equally, but parenting them requires very different approaches. The boy usually needs some toughening up to prepare him for a professional football career, so he can buy his parents a lake house. Whereas the girl will forever be your baby and any crazy, smelly fartbags who come near her must be dealt with. Because ultimately, she will be the one to keep me out of the nursing home. And, to be honest, she is probably the one that buys me that lake house.

VIII. When thou hast an itchy back, thou must findeth an outfacing corner in your abode in order to scratcheth it.

Itchy back? Find a corner in your house. Problem solved. When one of my children buy me that lake house I will make sure there are corners built in for just that purpose.

IX. When thou art talking about thine favorite team, thou shalt refer to said team as "we."

When you're a man, you understand that as a fan, you are a part of that favorite team. Even though you don't play, coach, own, or act as a General Manager of said team, or have anything to do with them whatsoever, you know that every cheer, boo, and superstition is why they win. Again … science. So that's why I say, "WE played great last night," even though I was sitting on the couch, eating nachos, and drinking beer while watching the game.

X. When thou passeth an electric fan, thou must put thine face close to it and sayeth, "Luke, I am your father."

This is a given and must be done every single time. Yes, I know that's not technically the actual line, but it is widely accepted and better for the comedic purposes of this column.

XI. When thou dost not feel well, thou shalt revert to baby status.

This scenario is what is known as "man flu." While we act like chest beating barbarians most of the time, when we come down with a sniffle it's all over. We immediately revert to infancy and need to be waited on hand and foot. Sure, my wife went through childbirth and her epidural didn't work, but does she really know what it's like to have a clogged left nostril and a mild headache at the same time? I think not.

XII. Whilst shopping for something manly, thou must always pretendeth to know what thou art doing.

When you go to buy a manly item, like a truck or a grill, sometimes it can be intimidating. The last thing you need is for someone to think that you are lost or don't know what you're doing, even if that is the absolute truth. So, just walk around and pick random specific things to look at and pretend to read the product info, so it looks like you know exactly what you want.

While this is not an exhaustive list, I chose to do 12 of these instead of 10 so no one would think I'm trying to compare myself to Moses. Although I'm quite positive he followed these Guy-mandments as well. At least after the ones that God gave him on the mountain.

The moral of the story is…We know, as men, that most Guy-mandments are pretty stupid, but must be followed at all costs. No matter how moronic or immature they may seem, it is best to follow them and avoid ridicule by fellow barbarians.

Notice I didn't title this ***THE*** *12 Guy-mandments*. Just a simple *12 Guy-mandments*. That leaves me open for a sequel column. See what I did there?

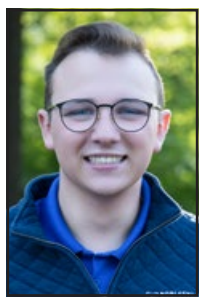
*Tim Rathz can be reached at **40somethinginfishers@gmail.com**. Follow on **Facebook** or **Instagram**.*



Noblesville Parks & Recreation Summer Camp Series earns national accreditation

Submitted by City of Noblesville

The Noblesville Parks & Recreation Department announces that its Summer Camp Series has officially earned accreditation from the American Camp Association (ACA), a nationally recognized distinction demonstrating the department's commitment to providing safe, high-quality summer camp experiences for children and families. The department received its official Certificate of Accreditation on Nov. 1.



Irwin



Statler

ACA accreditation is a comprehensive, voluntary process that evaluates camp operations against nationally established standards covering health and safety, staff qualifications and training, program activities, emergency preparedness, and overall camp management. The process includes an extensive review of policies, procedures, and operations, along with an on-site evaluation by trained ACA representatives.

For Noblesville Parks & Recreation, this achievement represents a significant milestone in a multi-year effort to strengthen and transform its summer camp programming.

"We saw the potential for what this program could become and began making meaningful changes to strengthen its operations, improve the camper experience, and establish a foundation for long-term success," Recreation & Parks Manager Parker Irwin said. "When Aliya Statler joined our team, we continued building on that progress. Seeing the program achieve national accreditation today is an incredibly proud moment."

Under the leadership of Youth Programs Coordinator Aliya Statler, the department has continued to refine its camp operations, strengthen staff training, enhance safety procedures, and expand opportunities for campers. Statler and her team played an instrumental role in preparing for the accreditation process, including the extensive documentation, operational reviews, and on-site evaluation required to meet ACA standards.

"Aliya and her team deserve tremendous recognition for this accomplishment," Irwin said. "Their dedication, attention to detail, and commitment to creating an exceptional experience for every camper are what made this possible. Aliya has taken ownership of this program and continues to raise the bar for what our summer camps can offer. This accreditation is a direct reflection of her leadership and the hard work of the entire team."



Photo provided by City of Noblesville

The Noblesville Parks Summer Camp Series offers a variety of recreational and educational experiences designed to encourage exploration, physical activity, creativity, social development, and personal growth. Through engaging activities, field trips, and structured programming, the department strives to provide an enriching summer experience for children of all ages.

Achieving ACA accreditation reinforces the department's ongoing commitment to excellence while providing families with additional confidence in the quality and safety of its summer camp programs.

Building on this exciting achievement, Noblesville Parks & Recreation is preparing for another summer of adventure, learning, and fun. Registration for the 2027 Noblesville Parks Summer Camp Series will officially open at 8 a.m. Monday, Feb. 1, 2027.

Families are encouraged to register early, as space is limited and popular camp sessions may fill quickly. Additional information about camp offerings, schedules, fees, and registration will be available at **noblesville.in.gov/parks**.

Veterans can get a free breakfast at Noblesville Cabela's

The REPORTER

As part of this nationwide salute to America's heroes, all U.S. locations will hold a free Veterans Appreciation Breakfast from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11. Veterans are invited to gather with fellow service members, share stories and enjoy free breakfast and coffee.

In addition to the free breakfast, all attendees will be entered into a giveaway raffle, where one lucky veteran will take home a Land of the Free merchandise collection as a token of appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

Cabela's is located at 13725 Cabela Pkwy., Noblesville.

The retailer also provides a 10 percent discount every day of the year for military, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and wildlife agents.



Congressman-elect J.D. Ford announces transition team

Submitted

Following his election to the U.S. House of Representatives, Representative-elect J.D. Ford announced on Friday, Nov. 6, the initial members of his transition team.



Ford

Over the next eight weeks, the team will hire staff, open district offices across Indiana's 5th Congressional District, and put everything in place so Ford can hit the ground running on Jan. 3 and begin his work for the people of the 5th District.

Cynthia Johnson will serve as Transition Chair. A former corporate attorney, she spent the past two decades serving Indiana as a trusted community leader and in various leadership roles including Indiana Democratic Party 5th District Chair, and current Chair of Hoosier Women Forward.

Judy Okenfuss will serve as Transition Co-Chair. An attorney and chemical engineer, she served as a managing partner at Ice Miller LLP where she led the firm's work on innovation and risk management. She is a longtime mentor and community leader, serving on the board of several nonprofit organizations.

Mayor Willis to speak at next GOP Women's Club meeting

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Republican Women's Club will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the Westfield Washington Township Trustee's Office, 17400 Westfield Blvd.



Willis

In honor of Veterans Day, the guest speaker will be Westfield Mayor Scott Willis, a retired Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps. Mayor Willis will reflect on his military service and the importance of honoring our veterans. He will also share his vision for Westfield, discuss upcoming city projects, and talk about his plans to seek reelection in 2027.

Attendees will also hear about Pets for Vets, an organization that pairs veterans with companion animals from shelters and rescues at no cost to the veterans. The organization also provides pet supplies to help these new companions settle into their homes.

In the spirit of Veterans Day, members are asked to consider bringing a donation of cash or a Chewy gift card to support Pets for Vets and the veterans and animals they serve. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated.

There is no cost to attend for members and sponsors; guests can attend for $5. Food and drink will be provided.

Be sure to RSVP by Nov. 12 to **hamcogopwomen@gmail.com**.

Thanks for reading The Reporter!

ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY
ON-LINE AUCTION

BIDDING OPENS: Tuesday, November 3rd @ 5pm
SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, November 14th @ 6pm
PREVIEW DAY: Thursday, November 12th from Noon-6pm
FIREARMS PREVIEW: Thursday, November 12th from 3pm - 5pm Only
PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, November 16th from Noon - 6pm
& Tuesday, November 17th from Noon - 6pm

2007 United Cargo 12' Enclosed Trailer
2018 Sure-Trac 16' Trailer
Minneapolis-Moline Wheel Weights

Firearms & Ammo, Crossbows & Pocket Knives,
Artifacts & Arrowheads, Advertising & Signs,
Household & Collectibles, Furniture, Quilts
Hot Wheels, Little Tykes, Die Cast & Ertl Farm Toys
Vtg. Toys, Marbles, Comic Books, Men's Watches
Dazey Churns, Cast Iron, Quilts & Soft Goods
Christmas Trees & Holiday Decor

Power Tools & Hand Tools, Tool Boxes & Chests,
Brand New Shop Smith 510,
Ladders, Plumbing, Electrical, Automotive,
Fasteners & Hardware Box Lots,
Cummins Machinery Drill Press

Craftsman Snow Blower & Push Mower,
Craftsman LT2000 & Cub Cadet Riding Mowers,
Lawn & Garden Tools & Equipment, Chainsaws,
Generators,
Fischer Pro Series Lift

To View Complete Sale Bill Including Pictures & Terms and to Register & Start Bidding:
Click the Calendar Link @ www.cripesauction.com
Absentee Bidding is still Available
PREVIEW - PICKUP & PAY AT
Cripe's Auction Service, 3247 E. State Road 28, Tipton, IN
765-675-6909
www.cripesauction@yahoo.com
Wade Cripe, Auctioneer
#AU11000034

CRIPE'S AUCTION SERVICE
3247 East State Road 28
Tipton, IN 46072
www.cripesauction.com
Wade Cripe
Auctioneer
#AU11000034
765-860-6959
Echo Price
765-675-6909



Tickets now on sale for SKYLAKE Adventures' winter season

The REPORTER

The next wave of adventure is coming to Hamilton County.

SKYLAKE Adventures is preparing to welcome guests for its first winter season, bringing snow tubing, ice skating, holiday festivities and more to its outdoor adventure destination in Sheridan. Winter tickets are officially on sale, with the season scheduled to kick off on Black Friday, Nov. 27.

From Black Friday through the holiday season, SKYLAKE Adventures will provide a festive atmosphere with holiday lights, a seasonal vendor village, firepits and special holiday experiences.

"From the beginning, our vision for SKYLAKE Adventures has been to create a place where families can make incredible memories together," SKYLAKE Adventures Co-Founder Sean Howard said. "Our first winter season is another exciting step toward that vision. We're bringing new adventures to Central Indiana and giving guests even more reasons to experience SKYLAKE."

This winter, guests can look forward to a variety of outdoor attractions and experiences, including:

• **Snow Tubing:** Race down SKYLAKE Adventures' new four-lane snow tubing hill during 90-minute sessions.

• **SKY Trails:** Take adventure to new heights on the park's three-story elevated ropes course. The attraction is planned for winter, with access available when operational and subject to eligibility requirements. Check out b-roll of the SKY Trails construction here.

• **Ice Skating:** Enjoy time on the SKYLAKE Adventures Ice Rink.

• **Holiday Experiences:** Celebrate the season with festive lights, a holiday vendor village, firepits and additional seasonal activities.

Winter attractions are scheduled to operate from Nov. 27 through Jan. 4, including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, with adjusted hours on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Holiday experiences will be offered during the festive season.

SKYLAKE Adventures is introducing a flexible ticket structure designed to help guests choose the experience that best fits their winter adventure.

Following the holiday season, SKYLAKE Adventures plans to continue offering winter attractions Thursdays through Sundays through Feb. 28, with additional operating days on Jan. 18 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) and Feb. 15 (Presidents' Day), weather and operating conditions permitting.

Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets and parking in advance, review attraction requirements and check operating schedules before visiting. For tickets, schedules, and additional information, visit **skylakeindiana.com**.

One-day Kid's Holiday Market showcases handmade gifts, creative businesses & next generation of local entrepreneurs

The REPORTER

For one day only, Westfield Washington Public Library (WWPL), 17400 Westfield Blvd., will transform into a festive holiday marketplace where young entrepreneurs take center stage.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the library will host the Kid's Holiday Market, featuring handmade gifts, original artwork, holiday creations and more, all sold by local children.

Hosted by The Academy of Chaos, the free, family-friendly event invites the community to shop small, discover unique gifts, and support the next generation of business owners.

Visitors can browse booths filled with imaginative creations, including handmade jewelry, beaded accessories, original artwork, bookmarks, sewn goods, pet gifts, ornaments, candles, craft kits, and other one-of-a-kind treasures. Each booth represents a young entrepreneur who has turned a creative idea into a small business.

Beyond the holiday shopping experience, the Kid's Holiday Market provides participating children with valuable opportunities to develop real-world business skills. From pricing products and managing money to marketing merchandise and interacting with customers, these young business owners gain hands-on experience in entrepreneurship while building confidence, independence, and communication skills.

The market also offers a memorable shopping experience for families. Children can browse alongside parents and caregivers, while special volunteers will be available to help younger shoppers select surprise gifts for loved ones.

With the holiday season approaching, the Kid's Holiday Market offers an opportunity to find meaningful, locally made gifts while making a difference in the lives of young creators. Every purchase supports a child's creativity, hard work, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Community members are encouraged to bring their holiday shopping lists, explore the creativity of local youth, and help turn big dreams into real-world opportunities.

About The Academy of Chaos

The Academy of Chaos encourages creativity, entrepreneurship and hands-on learning through experiences that empower young people to explore their interests, develop practical skills and bring their ideas to life. Learn more at **theacademyofchaos.com**.





Letter to the Editor

Always thank a Veteran

Dear Editor:

As we approach and rightly acknowledge Veterans Day on Nov. 11, there will be many communities recognizing our nation's veterans, both retired and active duty.

Of all World War II veterans who served, less than 0.2 percent of those are still living. Korean War veterans, of whom my Uncle Bob is one, count for 728,000, with most being in their late 80s into their 90s. Veterans of the Vietnam War, of which I watched horrific news items on a daily basis in the mid-to-late 60s, number fewer than 850,000 as I write this.

We acknowledge, honor, and revere those who made choices that, frankly, most of us would never choose to do: to serve humbly and courageously in the service of our country.

As a descendant of a Patriot who fought in the Revolutionary War, and one who saw some of my own classmates who served in Vietnam lose their lives and sometimes returned with serious PTSD, I am so in awe of these veterans and their commitment to our country.

I would like to share a poem I wrote about an experience several years ago in North Carolina.

The Dry Cleaning Man, 1998

He was the owner; a tall, Black, 50ish, slender man with a toothy smile.

Good morning, ma'am, it is a fine day
Yes, sir, it certainly is, she said, as she hurried on her way.

Months passed, maybe a year, always same greetings, same smiles

Seated behind the counter today; the same smile, the same greeting,
wearing his full dress Army uniform
Memorial weekend

Isn't it just a fine day, ma'am he said
Thank you for your service, sir, she replied.

No one has ever said that to me, said Dry Cleaning man, and I surely thank you.

We were told to not wear our uniforms coming back into the States, he said.

They blame us, and I guess I understand, so many left for dead.

I never knew his name.
He was the Dry Cleaning Man, and a Patriot.

Weeks later, I ask, where is your boss today?
Heart attack, instant, yesterday
Did anyone else say "Thank you, sir, for your service" to him, I wonder?

Say it.

Sharon McMahon,
Past Chapter Regent
Horseshoe Prairie Chapter, NSDAR
Noblesville

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to ***News@ReadTheReporter.com****. Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.*

One branch. 251 tears. Always Faithful.

By JON BALDWIN
Clay Township Military Library & Museum

Today, Nov. 10, Clay Township Military Library and Museum, 10801 N. College Ave., Carmel, will open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a special open house recognizing the 251st birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

The Continental Congress authorized two battalions of Marines on Nov. 10, 1775, eight months before the Declaration of Independence. Marines have marked that date as the Corps' birthday for more than a century.

Visitors can explore the museum's military-history collection while learning about Marine traditions and symbols that many civilians rarely encounter:

• Why the birthday message of Commandant John A. Lejeune is read every year.

• How the oldest and youngest Marines take part in the traditional cake ceremony.

• What the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor represents.

• Where the names "Leatherneck" and "Devil Dog" originated.

• How Kokomo-born Opha May Johnson became the first woman to enlist in the Marine Corps.

This is a Marine Corps Birthday open house, distinct from Veterans Day on Nov. 11. Nov. 10 highlights the history and identity of one service branch; Veterans Day honors all who served honorably in the nation's Armed Forces.

Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Marine veterans and families are especially encouraged to visit, share memories, and learn how the museum is preserving local service through its Honor Roll, oral histories, and Veteran Profiles.

Questions? Call (317) 435-7194 or email **claytwp-militarymuseum@gmail.com**.

Semper Fidelis – and happy birthday, Marines!

Fishers hotel worker receives Hoosier Hospitality Award

Submitted

The Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC), in conjunction with Governor Mike Braun and Indiana Secretary of Commerce Chuck Goodrich, recognized 18 tourism industry professionals with the 2026 Hoosier Hospitality Award during a ceremony at the Indiana Statehouse.

The awards recognize individuals who demonstrate exceptional service and make a meaningful impact on Indiana's tourism and hospitality industry through their work at hotels, restaurants, attractions, and other visitor destinations.

Among this year's honorees, four award recipients represent Sprague Hotel Developers, accounting for more than 22 percent of all statewide award recipients. The achievement reflects the company's commitment to delivering exceptional guest experiences and the dedication of the individuals who bring its hospitality values to life every day.

Ben Rewers, lobby ambassador at the Hampton Inn by Hilton in Fishers is among the awardees.

Rewers brings genuine warmth and kindness to every guest he meets. For four years, he has been a bright presence in the hotel, creating memorable moments that make visitors feel truly welcome in Indiana. His Hoosier Hospitality shined when he connected with a youth baseball team – sharing laughs, creating secret handshakes, and making each child feel important. The connection meant so much that the team FaceTimed him on his day off and invited him to their game. His natural ability to make guests feel valued and at home is exactly what this award celebrates.

Janeen Sprague, President and CEO of Sprague Hotel Developers, expressed tremendous pride in the four honorees and gratitude for the commitment demonstrated by team members across the organization.

"Hospitality is much more than providing a place to stay," Sprague said. "It's about making people feel welcome, creating meaningful experiences, and leaving a lasting impression. These four individuals embody everything we believe hospitality should be, and I couldn't be prouder to see their efforts recognized at the state level. An award like this is a reminder that our greatest asset has always been our people. We have incredible individuals throughout our organization who take pride in serving others and making a difference in the communities where we operate. While we're celebrating four award recipients today, this recognition represents the hard work and dedication of an entire team. We are truly fortunate to have them representing Sprague Hotel Developers."



Photo provided by Sprague Hotel Developers

Ben Rewers, lobby ambassador at the Hampton Inn by Hilton in Fishers, is among the awardees.

The Hoosier Hospitality Awards shine a spotlight on the individuals whose outstanding service strengthens Indiana's reputation as a welcoming destination. For Sprague Hotel Developers, having four of the state's 18 honorees recognized is a meaningful milestone and a testament to the people-first culture at the heart of the organization.

Click here for more information on the 2026 IDDC Award Ceremony.

Vicious Biscuit salutes heroes with free entrée on Veterans Day

The REPORTER

In honor of Veterans Day, Vicious Biscuit is serving up gratitude with a complimentary entrée for all active-duty military members and veterans who present a valid military ID or proof of service (i.e.: VA card, DD-214 or veteran-designated drivers license).

The company's commitment to showing appreciation extends beyond the holiday with a 20 percent year-round discount for both military members and first responders in recognition of their service to community and country.

The gesture has made a meaningful impact. In 2025, Vicious Biscuit served 602 complimentary meals on Veterans Day, representing more than $7,250 in value.

The complimentary offer also includes Vicious Biscuit's limited-time fall menu item, the Old Country Reboot, featuring potatoes, crispy fried chicken, and maple sausage gravy topped with two cage-free eggs cooked over medium, or to preference, then finished with black pepper and chives. The item is available through Nov. 22.

Learn more by visiting **viciousbiscuit.com**.

BUSINESS CARDS

Arvin Masonry
Historical tuckpointing
Foundation repair & replacement
All things masonry
Noblesville 317-645-7460



Explore, Play, and Connect with Hamilton County Parks & Recreation!
Beautiful trails, playgrounds, and special events.
myhamiltoncountyparks.com • 317-770-4400

Green Avenue GRANT$ & MORE
• Grant Research
• Proposal Writing
• Planning
• Other Fundraising
Your Road To Fundraising Success!
(317) 750-1204
www.greenavenue.info • amys@greenavenue.info

NOBLE BUSINESS ADVISORS
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
Wendy Stevens CPA, CGMA, MSA
Certified Business Advisor
Phone | 317.281.9063 • Fax | 317.219.0510
wendy.stevens@wstevenscpa.com
52 South 9th Street, Suite 3 • Noblesville, IN 46060
www.wstevenscpa.com
W. Stevens LLP DBA Noble Business Advisors

Live Music At Pasto Italiano
Benito DiBartoli Every Wednesday
$25 Bottles of Select Wines on Wednesday
Reservations Recommended
PASTO ITALIANO RESTAURANT & BAR
3150 E. SR 32 Westfield
317-804-2051
Closed Sundays



Sheridan Retirement
502 W. 7th St.
Sheridan, IN 46069
62 Years Old or Older. Disabled Any Legal Age
Water, Sewer and Weekly Trash Removal included in rent.
1 and 2 bedroom units available.
Limited Rental Assistance Available for those who qualify
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider"
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
317-758-5061
TTY 711

The Dani Robinson difference
• What's the market value of my home?
• What is my process for buying a home?
• Who should I call for home repairs/remodeling?
• How do I learn about building a new home?
• Who should I call to refinance my home?
• Who should I call when I have someone who wants to buy my home?
Let's Talk
Scan here to view Dani's current listings.
Call Cicero your "Home Sweet Home!"

22585 Vos Hiatt Avenue
Cicero, IN, 46034
Welcome to walkable Cicero. This 1.73-acre property features an open-concept interior, large kitchen, fenced yard, and huge barn. Enjoy new vinyl flooring, a new AC unit, and a new well pressure tank. Welcome home!
Listed at $419,000

30 Blue Water Drive
Cicero, IN, 46034
Welcome to your peaceful Morse Lake retreat featuring a screened porch with water views, a beautiful courtyard, an open kitchen, a primary suite, two bedrooms, a storage shed, and a new carport.
Listed at $249,900
Talk To Dani Robinson REALTOR®/BROKER/SRES
317.407.6969
DaniR@talktotucker.com
TalkToDani.com
Talk to Tucker REALTORS
F.C. TUCKER COMPANY

Foster Success launches FriendsGiving campaign to support older foster youth

Campaign aims to raise $180,000 by the end of the year, has $30,026 start

Submitted

Indiana-based nonprofit Foster Success is launching its annual FriendsGiving awareness and fundraising campaign. The campaign has a goal of raising $180,000 by the end of 2026 to support Indiana teens and young adults transitioning out of foster care. The campaign starts with $30,026 already raised from attendees at the Annual Taste of Thanks event held Wednesday, Nov. 4, in Carmel.

The annual FriendsGiving campaign supports all Foster Success programs, such as the Basic Needs program, to ensure every young person has the tools and resources they need to achieve self-sufficiency.

Indiana teens and young adults transitioning out of foster care need assistance with basics like housing, utilities, transportation, childcare, and healthcare connections that families often help with. Foster Success provides financial support and one-on-one guidance to help them build a future that leads them toward a safe, secure home and enables them to earn a living for themselves.

"Many of us take for granted the support we have from our families to navigate the world, but that is not always the case with a teen or young adult transitioning out of foster care," said Travis Tester, Foster Success Chief Development and Communications Officer. "The FriendsGiving campaign will ensure that our young people continue to have the support of Foster Success that also includes assisting them with emergency housing or utility support, a financial literacy course, or helping them find a job. They should never face these challenges alone."

Foster Success supports young people by providing assistance in key areas including Educational Success, Financial Empowerment, Health and Well-Being, Workforce Readiness and Youth Engagement. In 2025 alone, 452 young people received help through the Health and Well-Being and Basic Needs programs, allowing them to focus on education, employment, and long-term goals instead of daily survival.

For more information, visit **fostersuccess.org**.











Reporter photos by Bill Miller

(ABOVE, from left) Rowan Grae, Foster Success President & CEO Dr. Maggie Stevens, Chelsea McGlaughlin, and Foster Success Chief Development & Communications Officer Travis Tester. (BELOW) The Trap Orchestra performed during the event.















Reporter photos by Bill Miller

Two local businesses highlighted in Indiana Grown Holiday Box

The REPORTER



Photo provided

Indiana Grown has announced the products for the 2026 Indiana Grown Holiday Gift Box, the perfect gift for friends and family this upcoming holiday season.

This year, 400 boxes are available, featuring 14 products from 11 Indiana Grown members. Indiana Grown is a statewide initiative housed within the Indiana State Department of Agriculture to highlight local products and artisan goods.

Each box includes:

• Sweet Melissa Honey & Hive (Fishers) – Vanilla lip balm made with three simple ingredients plus essential oil.

• BeeFree (Noblesville) – Drake's Chocolate Brownie Granola Cookie Bites.

• The Lotion Company (Muncie) – Two travel size lotions in Pistachio Delight and Brown Sugar, made with high-quality, nourishing ingredients.

• Miller's Orchard (Nappanee) – Traditional Amish apple butter with a rich blend of apples, cinnamon, and spice.

• Fresco Spice Blends (Fort Wayne) – Two small batch seasonings, Coffee Steak Rub and Rosemary Salt Rub.

• Dutch Waffle Company (Plymouth) – Two packs of handcrafted Stroopwafels.

• Burlington Grain & Produce Company (Flora) – Whole-cob popcorn with salted caramel seasoning, ready to microwave.

• Bohman Bee Company (Hanover) – Salted honey combined with raw honey and bourbon barrel smoked salt.

• Abby's Elderberry (Otisco) – Black assam tea blended with organic elderberries, cranberry flavor, and hints of orange.

• Chocolat Café (Rushville) – Kinako dark chocolate bar made using their signature bean-to-bar process.

• Sixtyone20 Candles (Bloomington) – A hand-poured 100-percent soy wax candle in gingerbread scent.

"As we enter into this holiday season of giving, this gift box is an excellent way of supporting local businesses, while also sharing a little bit of Indiana with loved ones," said Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith, who serves as the Indiana Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Indiana Grown does tremendous work highlighting and promoting Indiana products that are grown or made by Hoosiers."

In 2023, Indiana Grown sold 200 holiday boxes reaching 21 states, including Indiana. In 2024, the holiday boxes sold out in less than two weeks and were shipped to 35 states, including Indiana. In 2025, the holiday boxes sold out and were shipped to 44 states, including Indiana.

Click here to learn more about the holiday box and to place your order.

Westfield Middle School Orchestra celebrates first concert



Photo provided by Westfield Washington Schools

The Westfield Middle School Orchestra recently held its inaugural concert, marking an exciting milestone in the program's first year. Under the direction of Jessica Savage, nearly 100 sixth-grade students are developing their musical talents and helping establish a new tradition of excellence in performing arts at Westfield Washington Schools. Congratulations to these talented Shamrocks!

Zionsville awarded nearly $150,000 Homeland Security grant for event safety

Submitted by Town of Zionsville



Photo provided by Town of Zionsville

Every fall, thousands of people line Main Street to watch the Lions Club Fall Festival parade roll through the Village. Every Fourth of July, crowds gather at Lions Park for fireworks. On the first Saturday night in August, Main Street closes to cars so the community can dance in the street. These are the moments that make Zionsville feel like Zionsville, and now the Town has new funding to help keep them safer.

The Town of Zionsville has been awarded $149,898.86 through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) for the Federal Fiscal Year 2025.

The grant funded vehicle barriers that the Zionsville Police Department has purchased and received.

"We are grateful to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security for their support in our efforts to keep our town safe and secure," Mayor John Stehr said. "It gives our public safety officers another tool in the toolbox to keep Zionsville residents and our visitors safe from harm."



Stehr

The reusable barriers will help keep residents and visitors safe at community events for years to come.

"The men and women of the Zionsville Police Department are fully committed to helping ensure safety and security for all town events," Chief Michael Spears said. "This grant allows us to provide a higher level of protection for all."

The State Homeland Security Program provides federal funding to help state and local agencies prepare for, protect against and respond to terrorism, natural disasters and other major emergencies. Indiana counties and municipalities apply annually through IDHS for SHSP funding to address specific, locally identified risks.







Need more news?
ReadTheReporter.com

The Ice Ribbon returns for another season at Westfield's Grand Junction Plaza on Nov. 21

Submitted by City of Westfield

The Ice Ribbon will return to Grand Junction Plaza, 225 S. Union St., from Nov. 21 through Jan. 2, 2027, offering residents and visitors another season of winter fun in downtown Westfield. The rink features Glice, a synthetic skating surface that allows skating in any weather.

"The Ice Ribbon gives families another reason to spend time together in downtown Westfield during the holiday season," Mayor Scott Willis said. "Whether you're trying skating for the first time or returning for another season, we hope you'll make a visit to Grand Junction Plaza part of your winter plans."

Tickets are on sale now at **TheIceAtGrand-Junction.com** and must be reserved online in advance. Skating sessions cost $10 per person, plus processing fees, and includes the cost of skate rental. Each session lasts 90 minutes.

ADA-accessible sleds and skate aids for beginners are also available at no additional cost on a first-come, first-served basis. All skaters must check in at the Grand Junction Café Pavilion building before their session.

Extended skating hours will be available during the Westfield Washington School District's winter break. Extended hours:

- Saturday, Dec. 19: noon to 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 21 to Wednesday, Dec. 23: 2 to 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 26: noon to 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 28 to Wednesday, Dec. 30: 2 to 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 2: noon to 7:30 p.m.

The Ice Ribbon will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

Free parking is available in designated on-street spaces along Union and Mill streets and in the public lots at Park and Poplar streets. Parking in The Union garage is free for the first three hours, with a fee for each additional hour.

Reserve your tickets now at **TheIceAtGrandJunction.com**.

Gov. Mike Braun signs Adoption Month proclamation advancing family-first policies

Submitted by Office of Gov. Mike Braun

Gov. Mike Braun signed a proclamation on Thursday, Nov. 5, recognizing Adoption Month in Indiana alongside families created through adoption. This signing advances the Governor's Family First agenda priority which includes helping parents secure affordable childcare and expanding New Parent Leave for state employees.

"Creating a family through adoption is a life-changing act that has a lasting impact on the kids who are adopted, the families they become a part of and the communities they join," Gov. Braun said. "We know children raised in stable, loving homes have better outcomes. I want to thank the Hoosier families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need, giving them a strong foundation to grow and reach their full potential."



Braun

To kick off the month, Gov. Braun invited the Carman family, whose family was created through adoption, to the Statehouse to witness the signing of the official proclamation recognizing National Adoption Month in Indiana. Attending the ceremonial signing with the families were Health and Family Services Secretary Dr. Gloria Sachdev, DCS Director Jennifer Dorfmeyer, and other members of the DCS leadership team.

In the last two years, Gov. Braun has taken several significant actions to help Hoosier families thrive. In May, the Governor expanded New Parent Leave for state employees to include foster parents ensuring they, along with adoptive and biological parents, have time to bond and care for a new child. The governor expanded paid leave for state employees recovering from childbirth, removed the previous six-month waiting period to access new parent leave, and guaranteed support for families facing the loss of a child late in pregnancy. The governor also expanded Employer Child Care Expenditure Credits and made a historic $200 million investment in affordable childcare for working families that has resulted in a 78 percent decrease in the waitlist for Child Care and Development Fund vouchers.

"As an adoptive parent, I know how special this month is," DCS Director Dorfmeyer said. "At DCS, we are committed to making sure every child in Indiana thrives in a safe, loving, forever home. We encourage families who are able to provide children with supportive and loving homes to consider adoption."

Currently, approximately 240 Hoosier children in DCS care are currently waiting for placement in an adoptive home. The average age of children waiting for placement in an adoptive home is 12 to 13 years old. Often, older youth, sibling groups, and children with high-acuity needs spend more time awaiting placement.

DCS continues to make timely permanency a top goal. During this month and throughout the year, DCS will share resources and support available to help families feel more prepared to adopt. DCS also encourages others to share resources and information, as Indiana children need loving, supportive homes – not just during Adoption Month – but every month.

For more information about adopting and to view all of Indiana's waiting children, **click here**.

Chris O'Connor, an American veteran leader

"If [your gift] is to lead, do it diligently" – Romans 12:8 (NIV)

GUEST COLUMNIST



NATE LAMAR

Chris O'Connor passed away Sept. 20 in Oxford, Ohio, while visiting his son at Miami University.

We were West Point classmates and cadet company-mates all four years. We did not get along initially: he was a blue-collar Irish Catholic, leftist Democrat hockey player from Massachusetts, while I was a W.A.S.P. farm-boy, conservative Republican distance runner from Indiana. But we made it through plebe year and its academic difficulties.



O'Connor

Becoming a Cadet Training Officer is a job nobody wants, as you are in charge of dreaded drill for parades. But in the "leadership laboratory" that is West Point, at the end of junior year our Tactical Officer told Chris he was recommending him for this role, as he didn't care what other cadets thought of him! Chris was tough and had thick skin. We became friends and were both proud to graduate in the top 75 percent of our class!

We roomed together at Fort Sill during Field Artillery School. We enjoyed Oklahoma, visiting nearby Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge and Lawton's ethnic restaurants. Thanks to his mathematical mind, Chris helped me through gunnery. Upon graduation, he went to the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C., while I went to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif. By the time I arrived at Fort Bragg for the Terrorism Awareness Course, Chris had already deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield.

From Fort Bragg, Chris' next duty station was Korea, followed by Fort Hood, Texas, where he was a Battery Commander, then Artillery Model & Simulation Officer, receiving a Meritorious Service Medal. He did so many field training exercises at Fort Irwin, he told me he almost changed his residency to California! He served on active duty until 1999, when he became a Consultant for Kepler Research in northern Virginia.

Chris then made the best decision of his life by marrying Martha Treichel. He became a Booz Allen Hamilton contractor at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. As I was occasionally in D.C. on business, he would always make time to meet. On one visit, Chris took me to my first-ever MLB game (the Washington Nationals), where I caught a ball! On another D.C. trip, I secured him and his family tickets from my Congressman when Pope Francis visited.

By this time, Chris had lost his Boston accent! But he never forgot his roots. He told me he needed to "level his bubble," by returning to Massachusetts to visit his parents and old neighborhood, as reminders of how far he had come. When the NGA contract ended, Chris joined ChangeSmith, where he was in his element doing leadership training for government and commercial

See *Leader* . . . Page 7

American Bank of Freedom

www.americanbankoffreedom.bank

NMLS#409183

Save time and open your account online!

Certificate of Deposit Specials

3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
4.00% APY*	4.25% APY*	4.25% APY*

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is current as of this issue and subject to change at any time. APY assumes that interest remains on deposit until maturity. Minimum deposit of $1,000 to open this account with a maximum deposit of $240,000 per account. Minimum balance requirement of $1,000 to earn interest. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings. Accounts may be subject to other fees, contact your local branch to learn more.

APPLIES TO NEW DEPOSITS ONLY.

American Bank of Freedom, Member FDIC.

Stop by or call your local branch today to learn more!

14611 N. Gray Road

Westfield, IN 46062

(463) 622-2930

Member FDIC | EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Carmel author & advocate launches essential special needs care workbook

Submitted

For millions of parents raising children with special needs, daily life relies on an intricate, highly specific routine. The single greatest unmanaged risk facing these families is a silent one: thousands of unwritten operational details, medical nuances, and behavioral protocols locked exclusively inside a primary caregiver's head.

To solve this critical gap, special needs mother and author Jessica Willits has announced the release of her new book, *If I'm Not Here Tomorrow*, a comprehensive 137-page operational blueprint designed to transfer essential caregiving knowledge and daily continuity protocols onto paper.

"If you were hospitalized tonight and couldn't answer your phone, would someone know how to step in and care for your child?" Willits said. "Special needs parents carry an incredible mental load—from exact food textures and non-verbal pain cues to specific sensory triggers, daily medication schedules, de-escalation scripts, and IEP accommodations. Without a central blueprint, an unexpected emergency leaves a child's safety, comfort, and routine vulnerable."



Willits

A comprehensive blueprint for daily living & emergency safety

Designed by a caregiver living this reality every day, *If I'm Not Here Tomorrow* serves as a practical, living manual that ensures a child's care remains seamless, dignified, and safe, no matter who steps in to help.

Key features of the workbook include:

- **Immediate emergency snapshots:** A "First 30 Minutes Caregiver Handoff Checklist" and "First 24 Hours Emergency Snapshot" enabling temporary caregivers or first responders to keep a child safe, fed, and regulated within minutes.
- **10 complete operational modules:** Thorough coverage of daily care routines, medication logs, sensory profiles, IEP accommodations, specialized medical equipment, household operations, and long-term transition goals.
- **Personhood over paperwork:** Dedicated sections documenting a child's unique communication nuances, favorite comforts, sense of humor, and personal dignity guidelines.
- **Advanced clinical & disaster deep-dives:** Specialized modules for G-tube/trach care, speech/AAC settings, occupational/physical therapy routines, Behavior Support Plans (BSP/ABC tracking), and emergency evacuation preparedness.

Local launch event & community gathering

To mark the release, a community launch event will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at Event Nest Carmel, 40 Executive Drive, Suite D.

The launch doubles as a supportive, welcoming gathering for local caregivers, parents, non-profit advocates, and healthcare professionals. Attendees can meet the author, connect with local health and therapy partners, and enjoy refreshments.

"This workbook isn't meant to be filled out in one night," Willits said. "Built to be completed over time at your own pace, it serves as a living document of continuity, safety, and love – designed to give special needs families the ultimate gift of clarity and peace of mind."

Admission is free, but please RSVP at **jessicawillits.com/rsvp**.

Limited copies of the book will be available at the event and are online at **Amazon**.

About the Author

Jessica Willits is a special needs mother, advocate, and author living the daily realities of caregiving. *If I'm Not Here Tomorrow* was created out of her personal journey to ensure continuous safety, dignity, and care for her children and family.

Free admission to DNR properties for veterans & active military on Nov. 11

The REPORTER

All veterans, active military personnel, and everyone in their vehicle, will be admitted free to DNR-managed state parks, reservoir properties, state forest recreation areas, and off-road state recreation areas on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11.

This includes admission to Falls of the Ohio State Park's Interpretive Center.

"The Indiana DNR honors the service, sacrifice and dedication of our veterans and military service members," Indiana State Parks Director Brandt Baughman said. "For their commitment to the nation, we invite them to come explore our state parks and properties."

Veterans and military personnel should tell the gate attendant at the property that they are a veteran or currently serving in the military.

For general information about state parks, reservoirs, forest properties, and off-road state recreation areas, see **on.IN.gov/recguide**.

For information about interpretive programs at state parks and reservoirs, see **interpretiveservices.IN.gov**.

AG Rokita leads legal campaign to end decades-long fight & restore Ten Commandments monument at the Statehouse

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita announced that, at his direction and as part of a legal campaign he is leading, his office recently filed a motion for summary judgment in federal court seeking to end a 26-year legal battle and finally allow a donated historical monument to be placed on the Indiana Statehouse lawn.



Rokita

The monument displays the Ten Commandments, the Bill of Rights, and the Preamble to the Indiana Constitution. A similar monument stood on the Statehouse grounds for more than 30 years until it was vandalized and damaged in 1991. The State accepted a replacement given by the Indiana Limestone Institute, but courts blocked its placement in 2000 under a 1971 Supreme Court decision that no longer stands.

"The Ten Commandments, the Bill of Rights, and our state Constitution's Preamble are foundational to the laws and liberties Hoosiers live under every day, and protecting those principles is exactly what my office works to do," AG Rokita said. "After more than two decades of inaction by others, I am taking on this fight and pursuing this case because it is long past time to relocate and display this monument where it rightfully belongs, and we will continue working to ensure a small group of radical activists, backed by the ACLU, doesn't prevent us from doing so."

The original injunction was based on a 1971 Supreme Court decision that has since been rejected. More recent high-court decisions, including one upholding a Ten Commandments display at the Texas Capitol, now make clear that courts must evaluate monuments based on America's long-standing history and traditions rather than that earlier standard. And as Attorney General Rokita's brief explains, that heritage makes clear that States can publicly acknowledge the role of seminal texts like the 10 Commandments.

"We're grateful Attorney General Rokita is taking on this important fight," said Joseph Davis, senior counsel at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and an attorney for Indiana. "The Supreme Court has said time and again that states are free to acknowledge their full history and culture, including the parts that happen to be religious. We're proud to stand with the Attorney General in supporting Indiana's effort to continue that tradition."



Photo provided

The monument remains in Bedford, Indiana, and would be placed near its original intended location on the Statehouse lawn.

Click here to read the filing.

LEADER *from Page 6*

clients. Chris reminded clients to be "the best version of themselves," which he also reminded friends. But he was hardest of all on himself with this phrase.

Administrations change, spending priorities and other matters, like tariffs, change. As a result, many classmates learned that a job search in our 50s is no fun. When we were suddenly unemployed, Chris and I gave each other leads and resumé critiques. He landed on his feet in Case Management at the Defense Logistics Agency.

We last saw each other in June. At his Mass of Christian Burial on Oct. 9 in Alexandria, Va., many West Point classmates, Army buddies, and civilian colleagues attended. Chris leaves a legacy of love to his wife, daughter, and son, and his legacy of leadership to the many whose paths crossed his.

On this Veterans Day, I salute the late Captain Chris O'Connor, American hero!

Nate LaMar, a career international manager, also serves as Military Academy Liaison Officer (West Point recruiter) for East Central Indiana, and was Henry County Council President from 2009 to 2019.

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





TODAY'S BIBLE READING

The One Place of Worship

Then to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name—there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the Lord. And there rejoice before the Lord your God—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites from your towns who have no allotment or inheritance of their own. Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings anywhere you please. Offer them only at the place the Lord will choose in one of your tribes, and there observe everything I command you.

Nevertheless, you may slaughter your animals in any of your towns and eat as much of the meat as you want, as if it were gazelle or deer, according to the blessing the Lord your God gives you. Both the ceremonially unclean and the clean may eat it. But you must not eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water. You must not eat in your own towns the tithe of your grain and new wine and olive oil, or the firstborn of your herds and flocks, or whatever you have vowed to give, or your freewill offerings or special gifts.

Deuteronomy 12:11-17 (NIV)

Meeting Notices

The Noblesville Common Council will meet in an executive session at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(4)(I) Interviews and negotiations with industrial or commercial prospects or agents of industrial or commercial prospects by a governing body of a political subdivision.

A work session will follow at 5 p.m. in Room A213 at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

A regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall.

The Hamilton County Airport Authority Board will meet in an executive session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9) performance evaluation.

A public meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Westfield Washington Public Library Board of Trustees will meet in an executive session at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2026.

A regular meeting will immediately follow the executive session in Meeting Room 2A at the Westfield Washington Public Library, 17400 Westfield Blvd., Unit A.

The Carmel Plan Commission will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

The Carmel Fire Department Merit Board will meet in an executive session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(5) To receive information about and interview prospective employees; IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9) To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees; and IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(19) To have communications with an attorney that are subject to the attorney client privilege.

A regular meeting will follow at 6:05 p.m. or immediately after the executive session (whichever is later) on the second floor of the Carmel Fire Department, 210 Veterans Way.

The Noblesville Board of Public Works and Safety will meet in an executive session at 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026, to discuss personnel pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(7) For discussion of records classified as confidential by state or federal statute.

A regular meeting will follow at 9 a.m. in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

*Each year, the Hamilton County Reporter requests government entities to notify us of public meetings as their Open Door Law notification under I.C. 5-14-1.5-5. The Reporter publishes these notices as a public service in our Tuesday through Friday digital editions. Meeting notices for Open Door Law compliance can be sent to **PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com**.*

Travel expert Rick Steves joins ISO for musical journey through Europe

The REPORTER

Travel expert and television host Rick Steves joins the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) for three separate performances with a musical journey through Europe, blending live orchestral performances with stunning video imagery and insights into European history and culture.

Steves serves as the audience's musical tour guide, introducing selections by Romantic-era composers including Grieg, Smetana, Strauss, Berlioz, and Verdi.

The three performances take place at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at Hilbert Circle Theatre, 45 Monument Circle, Indianapolis.

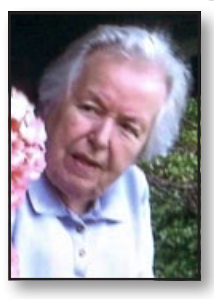
Perfect for lovers of music, history, and travel, Rick Steves' *Europe: A Symphonic Journey* offers a unique opportunity to experience Europe's musical traditions through the sounds of a live orchestra and the perspective of one of America's leading European travel experts. Meet Steves in the lobby after each performance for autographs of program books and more.

On Friday night, Nov. 13, a special Circle Theatre Tastings event will be held, teaching participants how to make four AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration cocktails. Learn the secrets behind Santa's Kiss and the Very Merry Bourbon, plus the new GrinchHopper, and a new signature spiked hot chocolate, St. Nick's Nightcap. In addition, learn how to make homemade peppermint liqueur, the secret ingredient in two of the three cocktails. Drink samples plus cookies and other light bites are included. Please note: this is a 21-and-over event. **Register here** and reserve a spot; spaces are limited!

Tickets for both evening performances are available at **IndianapolisSymphony.org**. For the Coffee Pops performance at 11 a.m. Friday, **click here**.

Sarah Holtkamp

July 12, 1935 – November 6, 2026



Sarah Holtkamp, 91, Noblesville, passed away on Friday, November 6, 2026, at Bridgewater Healthcare Center in Carmel. She was born on July 12, 1935 to Joe and Eleanor (Berhalter) White in Noblesville.

Sarah graduated from Tudor Hall in Indianapolis, received a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke, and a master's degree from Butler. She served as the secretary/treasurer of Kreagcroft, Inc. Sarah was a member of Tri Kappa and was the first and only lady who served on the American National Bank board.

She is survived by her son, Kreag (Colleen) Holtkamp; grandchildren, Kate (Micah) Rounds and Brooks Holtkamp; and her sister, Helen (Doug) Yoder.

In addition to her parents, Sarah was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Tom Holtkamp; and her sister, Mary Poulos.

Private graveside services will be held.

Condolences: **randallroberts.com**

HARTLEY - DUNNICHAY Funeral Homes
SERVING YOUR FAMILY THROUGH GOD'S GRACE
Pre-Arrangements
Celebrations of Life
Grief Support
Monuments
Honoring, Remembering, & Celebrating
317.984.3614
www.hartleyfuneralhomes.com

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.

Christy "Chris" Lambesis Miller

September 14, 1953 – November 8, 2026



Christy "Chris" Lambesis Miller of Noblesville passed away at Riverview Hospital on Sunday, November 8, 2026, surrounded by her family following a brief illness.

Born to James and Maxine Lambesis on September 14, 1953, Chris grew up in Frankton, Ind., surrounded by her close-knit extended Greek family and immersed in the family businesses, including her parents' Lambesis Food Mart. Growing up in this environment, she learned the value of hard work, the importance of family, and the traditions that connected generations.

After returning to college as an adult, Chris earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Ball State University. Her dedication to education and her love of working with children shaped a rewarding career in which she touched the lives of countless students. She taught at Hamilton Heights Elementary School in Cicero and Our Lady of Grace Catholic School in Noblesville, leaving a lasting impression on the many students and families she encountered along the way.

Chris was always ready for an adventure with her cousin Teddi, preferably with a Coca-Cola in hand. A lifelong learner with a curious spirit, she loved to travel, was an avid reader, and enjoyed discovering new places and experiences. She also had a special place in her heart for animals and adored the many faithful canine companions she loved and cared for throughout her life.

Chris is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, George and Kim Murray of Frankton; her granddaughters, Kailyn Russell of Albany, Ky., and Janai Murray of Fishers; her brother and sister-in-law, George and Debbie Lambesis of Middletown; her husband, Mike Miller, and his children and grandchildren; and many beloved cousins, niece, nephew, and great-grandchildren.

Chris maintained a special bond with the Murray family of Frankton, who remained dear to her throughout her life. She held a particularly fond place in her heart for the grandparents of her son the late Gene and Irma Jean Murray.

Private family services will be held, with a memorial celebration at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The James Family Student Support Services and Professional Development Endowment, Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, 9900 E. 191st St., Noblesville, IN 46060; or The Humane Society of Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, IN 46038 (**hamiltonhumane.com**).

Condolences: **randallroberts.com**



HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Contact Information

Email
News@ReadTheReporter.com

Web Address
ReadTheReporter.com

Publisher Stu Clampitt
765-365-2316

Subscription Inquiries
Subscribe@ReadTheReporter.com
765-585-9519

Advertising & Public Notices
Ads@ReadTheReporter.com
765-365-2316

Mailing Address
136 S. 9th St., Suite 12
Noblesville, IN 46060

