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Indy's Largest Poker Tournament

\$10,000 WINNER'S PURSE/\$25,000 TOTAL PAYOUT

Reserve a seat at [www.lionspoker.org](http://www.lionspoker.org)

Earlybird Entry Feb 28th - Mar 6th \$120.00 or \$135.00 at the door

Approved by the state of Indiana Charity Gaming Division Permit #011908

MARCH 25th & 26th 2022

Hamilton County Fairgrounds

Proceeds Support Lions Club Charitable Projects

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Hamilton County Fairgrounds

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HAMILTON COUNTY

REPORTER

Hamilton County's

Hometown Newspaper

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

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CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD

8

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NEWS GATHERING PARTNER

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny.

Tonight: Partly, then mostly cloudy.

HIGH: 59 LOW: 32

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Noblesville, Carmel, Westfield

Lions take pride in charity work



On Feb. 26, local Lions Clubs from Noblesville, Carmel, and Westfield helped Gleaners pass out food. Those helping were Lane Sims, Carmel; Mariah Allen, Carmel; Ron Williamson, Noblesville; Jeff Schneider, Westfield; Jeff Boller, Westfield; and Julia Kozicki, Noblesville. This coming Saturday, March 5, the local Lions Clubs will assist Gleaners at Hamilton Heights High School from 10 a.m. to noon.

Westfield's Movies in the Plaza series kicks off April 22

The REPORTER

Westfield Welcome has announced a new program at Grand Junction Plaza. Movies in the Plaza, sponsored by Community First Bank, will be a free series that provides fun for the whole family.

Movies in the Plaza will kick off on Earth Day, April 22, with Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* and will continue every fourth Friday through October. Additional special screenings will take place throughout the year.

"We are excited to introduce this programming to the Plaza. We hope that the community will join us for these free evenings of entertainment with their family and friends," Mayor Andy Cook said. "We are grateful to sponsors like Community First Bank that see the value of community events and are engaged with our residents. We also look forward to hearing residents' ideas on what type of programming they would like to see in this unique and incredible facility."

Movies will begin at dusk on the Great Lawn at Grand Junction Plaza. More details will be available on the Westfield Welcome [Facebook page](#).



Cook

Fishers student artists will lead public in community art project

The REPORTER

The students of Fall Creek Junior High (FCJH) are currently sharing their artwork and creative expressions at the Art Gallery at City Hall, Fishers for their *Embracing Black Culture* exhibit, now through the end of March.

On March 11, just a month after their standing-room-only presentation guided by Travis Brown of Mojo Up and FCJH visual arts department chair Michelle Feeney, these students will become teachers as they take another step in using their student voice to lead.

According to Fishers Arts Council (FAC) Executive Director Les Reinhardt, FAC has

always enjoyed sharing the artwork of students in our community. "These students have created powerful works," Reinhardt said. "Today's students are tomorrow's leaders – and offering a public space for student voice reinforces the point that their contributions matter."

Reinhardt and the FAC board wanted to extend another opportunity for these students to step into leadership roles through their art. Working alongside Feeney, a plan was created for a "community canvas" painting project where the students would become the teachers. Giving students who are



Student artists from Fall Creek Junior High School will lead the public in creating art inspired by Cubism.

Controversial school curriculum bill dies, parts could show up in new bills

By GARRETT BERGQUIST

WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

An effort to restrict how Indiana teachers approach race and social justice issues came to an abrupt end Monday after the Senate did not take up the bill.

For more than a month, the measure dominated the discussion at the Statehouse. The original bill would have explicitly

barred educators from teaching eight so-called "divisive concepts," such as the idea that members of one race, religion or political ideology are inherently responsible for past injustices committed by members of that same group.

It also would have required school districts to have parent-led curriculum advisory committees and set up a grievance

process for parents who believed their child's school had violated any of the bill's provisions. It passed out of the House on a party-line vote.

Senate Republicans rewrote the bill twice, narrowing the list of prohibited concepts and changing the curriculum advisory committee requirement to a prescription for how such bodies would function if a

school district chose to institute them. Early Monday evening, the bill's handler, Sen. Linda Rogers, a Republican from Granger, declined to bring it up for amendments on the Senate floor. Monday was the last day for the Senate to make floor amendments to House bills, so the bill died.

CSO returns to Palladium stage March 12 with Masterworks 4

The REPORTER

Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO) under Artistic Director Janna Hymes returns to the stage at the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel on Saturday, March 12 with its Masterworks 4 performance.

The concert features the Beethoven *Leonore Overture No. 3*, *Espanca Four Dances* by Ginastera, and the enchanting *Scheherazade* by Rimsky-Korsakov.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at just \$18 and are available by calling the Palladium Fifth Third Bank Box Office at (317) 843-3800, or at [Carmel-Symphony.org](http://Carmel-Symphony.org). Patrons can save 20 percent off their ticket purchase by using code CSO20. Abundant free parking – curbside or garage – is available within a short walk of the Palladium.

See Bill . . . Page 2

See Carmel Symphony . . . Page 2

Community First Bank among Best Places to Work in Indiana

The REPORTER

Community First Bank of Indiana (CFB) was recently named one of the Best Places to Work in Indiana for the eighth year in a row. This 17th annual program was created by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

The statewide survey and awards program is designed to evaluate participating organiza-

tions and honor those with the highest levels of employee satisfaction and engagement in the workplace.

"These companies consistently demonstrate to their employees how much they value their contributions," said Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar.

CFB Human Resources Director Carlonda Davis said, "We

are honored to be named as one of the Best Places to Work in Indiana once again! Through change and growth, our leadership team continues to recognize and value the hard work and level of commitment that our staff brings to the table each and every day. This award is a reflection of our values and one of our top priorities – training and retaining superior personnel to

serve our communities."

To be considered for participation, companies had to fulfill the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a for-profit, not-for-profit business or government organization
- Be a publicly or privately held organization
- Have a physical operation in

Indiana

- Have at least 15 full- or part-time permanent employees working in Indiana
- Have been in business for at least one year, at the program registration deadline.

Companies from across the state entered the two-part survey

See CFB . . . Page 3



# Jellison For Coroner

## Experienced

- 7 Years as Deputy Coroner
- Currently Chief Deputy Coroner

## Trained

- Certified Medical Legal Death Investigator
- Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Graduate
- Northwestern University School of Vehicular Homicide Investigation
- Indiana University Death Investigation
- Indiana State Coroner's Association Death Investigation
- Indiana University Department of Toxicology Breath Test for Intoxication
- FBI Child Molestation Investigation Training



Paid for by: Jellison for Coroner

A large orange campaign sign with black and white text. The sign is rectangular with a thin black border. The text is arranged as follows: "RE-ELECT" is in the top left corner, tilted upwards at an angle. "Steve" is in the top right corner in a large, bold, sans-serif font. "SCHWARTZ" is in the center, in a very large, bold, sans-serif font with a thick white outline. Below "SCHWARTZ", the text "for Hamilton County" and "Council Dist. 3" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the sign, the text "Paid for by Elect Steve Schwartz Hamilton Co. Council, Mike Peters Treasurer" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font.

RE-ELECT

Steve

**SCHWARTZ**

for Hamilton County  
Council Dist. 3

Paid for by Elect Steve Schwartz Hamilton Co. Council, Mike Peters Treasurer

Elect  
**Perry Williams**  
 Noblesville Township Board

Paid for by the Committee to elect Perry Williams Noblesville Township Board

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*Broadcast your community's news  
to readers across Hamilton County*  
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FALL CREEK JR. HIGH

# Student Artist Leaders

TEACH CUBISM



All are Welcome to Add  
Your Mark

## Community Canvas

March 11 6-8 PM  
Art Gallery at City Hall, Fishers  
info: [FishersArtsCouncil.org](http://FishersArtsCouncil.org)  
this event made possible by



**HAMILTON COUNTY**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
A CFC AFFILIATE



# CARMEL SYMPHONY

Masterworks 4 marks the orchestra's return to the Palladium stage following a brief performance pause due to this winter's surge of the COVID-19 Omicron variant. "After assessing what was occurring in January, our orchestra leadership made the decision to take a short break," Hymes said. "Without doubt it was the right thing to do, since our family-oriented programs were among the performances affected. Youngsters are invited to come up on stage with the musicians during those concerts, and it just wasn't a good time for that to be happening!"

Hymes continued, "But it appears we've turned the COVID corner, and we all are so excited and happy to be back together with our orchestra family and CSO fans. We're looking forward to packing the Palladium and presenting an evening of fan-

tastic, moving and memorable music on March 12, so please plan to be there with us!"


Following Masterworks 4, Carmel Symphony Orchestra's diverse 2021-22 season of exceptional music concludes with:

**Masterworks 5**  
Saturday, April 23,  
7:30 p.m. at the Palladium  
Guest artist: GRAMMY  
Award-winner Edgar  
Meyer, double bass  
Selections from Joplin,  
Gershwin,  
Zimmer and others

**Family Fun Concert**  
*Saturday, May 14, 3 p.m.*  
*at the Palladium*  
*Selections sure to be*  
*enjoyed by all ages plus a*  
*post-concert Drum Circle*  
*with Resounding Joy.*  
 \*\*\*



Hymes



For more information and tickets, visit [CarmelSymphony.org](http://CarmelSymphony.org), or call the Palladium Fifth Third Bank Box Office at (317) 843-3800.

The 2021-22 Carmel Symphony Orchestra season is supported by the City of Carmel, the Center for the Performing Arts, the Palladium, and Pedcor.

In accordance with public health guidelines and entertainment industry standards, the Center for the Performing Arts has adopted the following health and safety policies and protocols for its campus during the current season:

- **Masking:** Masks are required upon entry for everyone age 3 and older (worn at all times except when actively eating or

from Page 1

- **Vaccination:** All patrons age 12 and up must show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination when entering the Palladium and other CPA indoor spaces. The CPA will accept paper vaccination cards, photocopies, photos or digital images confirming vaccination status, along with valid ID. The Indiana State Department of Health offers vaccination certificates online that can be stored on a smart phone.

As an alternative to vaccination, patrons may present physical or digital proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to the event. For patrons and visitors younger than 12, no such proof is required.

Complete details, and updates, can be found at [TheCenterPresents.org](http://TheCenterPresents.org).

# ART

passionate about art the opportunity to engage and guide the public was something many of Feeney's students jumped at immediately. "As soon as I told the kids about it, they were so excited to participate," Fee-

ney explained. "They've been learning about Cubism and will be guiding guests on how to create their own painting to take home as well as contributing to the community artwork."

Cubism involves bringing different views of subjects together in the same painting, which results in works that appear abstract or fragmented.

The community artwork will be a nod to the Great Squirrel Stampede of 1822, in which thousands of squirrels destroyed cornfields as they migrated West, against their natural path. The art-

work will feature squirrels with Hamilton County landmarks in the Cubist style.

The community art project will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, March 1, in the Art Gallery at City Hall, 1 Municipal Drive, Fishers. The gallery will also be open for attendees to enjoy the students' artwork alongside Alcove featured artist, Judy Mintze. Live music and refreshments will be available; some artwork will be available for purchase.

There is no fee to participate in the community art project or the personal

paintings, and no registration is required.

For more information, email [info@fishersartscouncil.org](mailto:info@fishersartscouncil.org).

**About Fishers Arts Council**  
Fishers Arts Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to support, advocate, and cultivate visual and performing arts opportunities that educate and/or enhance the lives of those who live, work, and visit Fishers. Visit the art gallery at 1 Municipal Drive in Fishers, online at [FishersArtsCouncil.org](http://FishersArtsCouncil.org), or call at (317) 537-1670 for more information.

# BILL

Speaking to reporters afterward, Rogers and Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray, a Republican from Martinsville, said members of their caucus could not come to an agreement.

“You had some folks that felt like it didn’t go far enough and some folks that felt like it was just difficult policy and not maybe the right policy to dictate what’s going on in schools,” Bray said, adding

he personally would have  
voted for the bill.

Sen. Fady Qaddoura, a Democrat from Indianapolis, said the Senate had done the right thing. He said the bill sent a chilling effect to every school in Indiana.

"If we are serious about taking care of our kids, let's work with our teachers," he said. "Let's work with our parents. We are all in for partnerships between parents and schools, but let's

from Page 1  
not politicize this whole discussion.”

Bray said Republicans might add pieces of the bill to other legislation that has reached the conference committee stage. He said he was not prepared to specify which provisions might be added, but Republicans would not try to graft the entire bill onto another piece of legislation, as has been floated for a bill to allow permissess concealed carry.

I was born and raised right here in Noblesville. I grew up in a home without domestic violence or assault - it wasn't something I saw, or even heard about. But when I was introduced to Prevail of Central Indiana, I was shocked by the number of individuals who are affected by domestic violence. In 2018 alone, Prevail helped more than 4,000 clients in Hamilton County (nearly 80 percent of clients are women and children). Domestic violence and abuse are hard topics to discuss, so you don't often hear about them. But at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, we're breaking the taboo and raising awareness for Prevail, an organization that helps families in Hamilton County.

- **Mike Bragg**, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville

**To help Hamilton County families affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse, you can donate the following items:**

- Individually packaged snacks
- Lysol
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes

**Drop off items at  
Tom Wood Volkswagen  
in Noblesville,  
14701 Tom Wood Way.**

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# Carmel's own Jack Moe makes it to Fortnite finals

*Teams to compete for over \$3 million in prizes*

## The REPORTER

Following coverage in **The Reporter** of his burgeoning esports career, Carmel's own Jack Moe has made the Fortnite Champion Series (FNCS) Chapter 3 Finals.

Fortnite is the most popular esports game in the world with over 350 million players worldwide. The FNCS Finals comprises 50 teams of two players each – and Moe, also known by

his handle @Speguuuu, is one of those finalists. This year, competitors are fighting for a total prize pool of \$3,008,500.

To get into the Finals, Moe and his teammate won Game 5 of the semi-finals. You can watch a clip from that battle on [Twitter](#).

The Finals take place this weekend, March 5 and 6.

[Click here](#) to follow Jack Moe on Twitter.

## CFB

process to determine the Best Places to Work in Indiana. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company's workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience. Workforce Research Group managed the overall registration and survey process in Indiana, analyzed the data, and determined the final rankings. The final rankings will be announced at an awards ceremony on May 12.

For more information, visit [CFBIndiana.com](#). For more information on the Best Places to Work in Indiana program, visit [Best-PlacestoWorkIndiana.com](#).



Photo provided

At last year's Downtown Westfield Association's Dinner Party on Union: (clockwise from far side of table) Robb Blume, CFB President and CEO; Bob Hickman, Chief Credit Officer; Janelle Campbell, Residential Mortgage Sales Manager; Pete Smith, Board Member; Scott Hammersley, Commercial Loan Group Manager; and Bonnie Riley, Executive Banker.

## Letter to the Editor

### Shaffer: Growing threat of stagflation puts Carmel in jeopardy

Dear Editor:

Carmel's progressive, central-planning elites just added a new chapter to municipal fiscal fiasco.

In their just-released 2021 annual financial reports, the city and the un-elected Carmel Redevelopment Authority reported 52 bonds outstanding with \$884 million in principal owed.

Debt service in 2022 was listed at \$68 million.

However, the same bunch told the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance there are 76 bonds outstanding, including 24 not listed in the annual financial reports.

The missing 24 would have added \$146 million to the principal owed, taking the unpaid tab to more than \$1 billion.

Debt service on the total would have been \$71 million had the 24 mystery bonds been included.

Meanwhile the growing threat of stagflation puts the entire Carmel redevelopment scam in jeopardy.

**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](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com).*

*The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.*

## Solar co-op may be last chance for Hamilton Co. to receive net metering

### The REPORTER

Small businesses and homeowners have dwindling time to take advantage of the state's existing net metering policy to go solar and receive a fair credit rate for the clean energy they generate and send back to the grid.

**Carmel Green Initiative** (CGI) is urging Hamilton County businesses and homeowners to join the **Boone & Hamilton Counties Solar and EV Charger Co-op** today so they don't miss out on savings when net metering expires later this year.

"The window for going solar and receiving a fair credit is growing very slim," said Carmel Green Initiative President Leslie Webb. "I'm hopeful that homeowners and local businesses will take advantage of the waning window to go solar before net metering ends."

The co-op, run in partnership with the nonprofit group Solar United Neighbors, is free to join. Co-op members learn about solar energy and leverage their numbers to purchase individual solar systems at a competitive price and top quality. The co-op will remain open through March 31, which is designed so members can install their

systems before the June 30 net metering expiration date.

Net metering allows solar owners to receive a credit on their electric bill for the electricity they send to their neighbors on the grid at the same rate that they purchase electricity from their utility – an even swap. Despite several proposals this legislative session that would have extended net metering, under current law, the mechanism will no longer be available to new solar owners starting July 1, 2022.

"We tried our best to keep net metering in place so that homeowners and businesses could receive a fair credit for energy produced in our community that gets shared with neighbors," said Zach Schalk, Indiana program director for Solar United Neighbors. "Unfortunately, lawmakers went in another direction, which means those interested in going solar should act fast if they want the best return on their clean energy investment."

To learn more about the co-op, free solar information sessions are available online on [March 14](#) and [March 29](#).

**Thanks for reading**

MARK  
**HALL**  
FOR HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT THREE

CONSERVATIVE QUALIFIED  
LEADER

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VALUES REFLECTED IN  
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INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL  
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PUBLIC SAFETY IS JOB ONE  
DEMONSTRATED SERVANT  
I STAND FOR PEOPLE OVER  
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***"We all see it; change has arrived nationally, in Indiana, and even in our cities. Inch by inch territory has been surrendered in the name of progress. Family values and individual freedoms are under attack. We can't expect the same results for Hamilton County without fighting for the principles that made our communities so special."***

**– Mark Hall**

**WWW.MARKFHALL.COM**

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF MARK HALL



# Carmel unveils sculpture in Arts & Design District

## The REPORTER

The City of Carmel unveiled a new sculpture Monday at Main Street and the Monon Greenway. The life-size sculpture, titled “Waiting to Cross,” which depicts a playful young girl holding onto a stop sign, is part of the J. Seward Johnson sculpture collection.

Mayor Jim Brainard, members of the Mayor’s Advisory Commission on Human Relations, members of the Carmel Public Art Advisory Committee and other city officials unveiled the sculpture, which is located just south of Main Street along the Monon Greenway between Bazbeaux and Anthony’s Chophouse. In addition to its artistic value, the sculpture also serves as a functioning stop sign on the Monon Greenway at that intersection.

“Waiting to Cross” is the most recent addition to the city’s outdoor museum of public art. The sculpture was acquired to help diversify the city’s collection of sculptures and joins 15 other life-like bronze sculptures by J. Seward Johnson as part of his collection titled “Celebrating the Familiar,” which depicts realistic moments from daily life. The collection in Carmel features scenes from the 1970s.

“Great art in public spaces, in a variety of styles and



Photo provided by City of Carmel  
(From left) Dee Thornton, Mayor’s Advisory Commission on Human Relations; Mayor Jim Brainard; Carmel City Council member Jeff Worrell.

types such as murals and sculptures, enhances the enjoyment and experience in Carmel,” Brainard said. “It has been proven that the arts have a tremendous impact on economic development, which is why we continue to invest in public art to enhance the quality of life in Carmel.”

Considered “The Norman Rockwell of American Sculpture,” J. Seward Johnson applied paint to bronze

sculptures giving them a realistic, life-like appearance. He created more than 250 life-size bronze sculptures in countries throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia and his sculptures can be found in private collections and museums. Johnson used a special technique to apply paint to the bronze sculpture, making the life-size pieces appear realistic. The sculpture unveiled Monday was acquired from the Seward Johnson Atelier.

To learn more about J. Seward Johnson, visit the [Seward Johnson Atelier online](#).

Learn more about public art in Carmel by visiting in person or viewing online. You can find and an interactive map of the public art pieces at [this link](#).

List your group’s events on  
**The Reporter’s  
Events Calendar!**  
[READTHEREPORTER.COM/EVENTS](#)

# WANTED!

## Dr. Ned

### FOR HAMILTON COUNTY CORONER

Ned P. Masbaum, M.D.  
& Churchill, Hamilton County Bereavement Dog  
I.U. School Of Medicine Graduate  
Forensic Psychiatrist & U.S. Navy Veteran  
Member, National Rifle Association  
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[WWW.FORNPSYCH.COM](#)  
Paid for by Doctor Ned for Coroner



## Handling Hand & Arm Pain

We know good health can mean *doing the hobbies you love.*

**Presented by  
Heather Williams, MD**

Wednesday, March 16  
6-7 p.m.

---

Location: Riverview Health  
395 Westfield Rd.  
Noblesville, IN 46060  
Krieg DeVault conference room  
(entrance 3)

To register, visit  
[riverview.org/classes](#)  
or call 317.776.7999.



Join Dr. Heather Williams, a board-certified and fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon, as she describes the treatment options available for carpal tunnel syndrome and cubital tunnel syndrome at Riverview Health.

**The program is free, but registration is required. Attendees are required to wear masks.**



# Spartz on Ukraine: “We need to give them a chance to survive!”

## The REPORTER

Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) spoke passionately Tuesday at the House Republican Press Conference to castigate Vladimir Putin's senseless violence against the Ukrainian people – and against what she calls the feckless leadership of the Biden administration.

Rep. Spartz has family and friends still in Ukraine, including her 95-year-old grandmother.

In answering a reporter's question about the safety of people in Ukraine, Spartz said, “These people will not surrender, but we need to give them a chance to survive!”

The Reporter brings you Rep. Spartz's comments in full. You can also watch on YouTube.

\*\*\*

I didn't prepare a speech – so I'll talk from my heart.

This is not a war. This is genocide of the Ukrainian people by a crazy man who cannot get over that Ukrainian people do not want socialism, Soviet Union, communism. They want to be with the United States of America. They want to be free people and they want to be with the West, and he cannot get over it.

I'll tell you a personal story. I have my grandma – she's 95. She's, right now, in the city of Chernihiv. Actually, Chernihiv, on the part of Kyivan Rus', started Moscow and controlled Moscow. So they're bombing – they couldn't take the city – they're bombing civilians nonstop. Day and night. The whole city.

She has a daughter – she called her daughter – she lives in a little village by

Chernihiv, and her daughter told her they came into the village with heavy machine guns. [They] killed almost every person in that village, and whatever people were left – women and children – they forced them to walk in front of the tanks as a human shield because they cannot take that city.

My mom was shocked. She [my grandmother] said, no, don't cry. We are not crying here. We're going to fight, but just give us some guns so we don't just fight with sticks. This woman was born in Russia in the far east. She's a Russian-born woman.

And they're killing women and children!

Carpet bombs – they are using illegal weapons. They now have special groups that are trying to kill women and children tied to western Ukraine. I called my friend and she said she was able to get out – her friend was trying to get out. She saw a woman in a gas station get shot with her children with machine guns. So she stayed in the city.

They're leveling the cities to the ground, destroying the people. They're slaughtering them like animals. Their killing the people. It is not a war, it's a genocide because we have a crazy man that believes that he has the whole world hostage.

And then we [the United States] have a president that talks about, talks about, and doesn't do things. What? Is he going to wait for millions to die, then he's going to do more?

We have not just a mor-

al duty, we are the leaders of the free world. This is going to be the biggest genocide ever that this world has experienced. They're not asking [us] to fight for [them]. They're asking us

to help and become serious so they have the ability to defend themselves. Actually, they need to understand we're serious about the sanctions...

I can tell you one thing: If we don't stop him there, he is not going to stop. He is going to go further, and then we will have to send our children to die to fight this.

So I think we have an obligation and duty to save this world – help Ukrainian people to survive. And this president [Biden] needs to get his act together and exercise some leadership. What's happening under his watch is an atrocity. What he's doing to this country, to the world, is unforgivable.

I think we'll get together as Republicans and Democrats, but he must act decisively fast or this blood of many millions of Ukrainians will be on his hands, too!

All the oil – that was blood – flowing from Russia, and gas – we are buying that and Europeans are buying that. There's going to be blood of the Ukrainian people.

So I hope you're going to help me to send that message because we have to be strong and we have to stop him.

\*\*\*

Rep. Spartz also took a question from a reporter. Her impassioned response can be seen at [this link](#).



Spartz

## Guidelines for this election season

The Hamilton County Reporter, your hometown newspaper, is always willing to publish Letters to the Editor, guest columns and campaign announcements in our pages. But with the approach of the May 3 Primary Election, we are establishing some guidelines to keep things fair and balanced.

New campaign announcements, columns and platform articles will be accepted until the end of business on Friday, April 15.

Letters to the Editor addressing new topics about the upcoming election or



the policies of individual candidates will be accepted until the end of business on Friday, April 15 and will be published on Saturday, April 16.

Letters in response to new topics published in our April 16 edition will be accepted until Wednesday, April 20 and will be published in our Thursday, April 21 edition.

Please email your letters to the editor to [News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com).

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

### Texas Hold'em

## "Poker for Sight" Tournament

MARCH 25th & 26th, 2022

**ENTRY:** \$135 Cash at the Door

**GUARANTEED:** Over \$25,000 in Prizes!

**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS:** Receive a discount on your Buy-in for reserving your seat early. Details and registration at [lionspoker.org](http://lionspoker.org).

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CHARITY**

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**The deadline to apply is Friday, March 11, 2022, by 4:00 p.m.**

**No calls please.**

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## BLUE & YELLOW SOLIDARITY



Photo provided

## Carmel lights up Midtown Plaza, Monon Greenway bridge in support for Ukraine

### The REPORTER

The City of Carmel has changed the lighting in two prominent areas of the city to show solidarity and support for the people of Ukraine who are under attack by Russian armed forces.

Mayor Jim Brainard ordered the color schemes be changed to blue and yellow on the Monon Greenway Bridge that spans Carmel

Drive, just west of Range Line Road, and the same be done for the ambient lighting at Midtown Plaza.

“We stand in full support of the people of Ukraine who are fighting for representative government and their freedom,” Brainard said. “We are fortunate here in



Brainard

Carmel to have many residents of Ukrainian descent and we want them to know that we feel their pain and we hope and pray for peace in their homeland.”

To see more photos visit the city's [Facebook page](#), and for a short video clip of [Midtown](#) [click here](#).

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Thanks for reading The Reporter!



# Carmel Clay Historical Society temporarily moves to Orchard Park Elementary School

## The REPORTER

There are many changes happening at the Carmel Clay Historical Society (CCHS).

CCHS has moved its offices and archival items from the Depot to Orchard Park Elementary School. The temporary address at Orchard Park Drive South, which is the first street off Westfield Boulevard south of 106th Street. The doors to this building are set to lock automatically, but you are welcome to make an appointment by calling (317) 979-4236 or emailing with at least a day's notice.

That being said, CCHS asks the public to give them a few more weeks to get settled before any visits. CCHS will not receive

mail at this location. The new mailing address for the Carmel Clay Historical Society is P.O. Box 4777, Carmel, IN 46082. If you have recently sent correspondence to CCHS, the forwarding of the letters is a bit slow. However, CCHS staff say they are confident everything will soon be in line.

While change brings some challenges, CCHS staff and many volunteers have worked incredibly hard to make this move go as smoothly as possible. CCHS is grateful to Carmel Clay Schools for sharing Orchard Park Elementary at this time.

The depot is completely empty except for a few items that will move with it to a temporary location.

This decision was made to protect the Depot from machines and materials needed for the construction of the new Carmel Clay History Museum. There is not a set timeline for the move at this point, but an update will be announced once plans are finalized.

CCHS staff say they will be thrilled when this new facility is close to completion and the Depot is returned to its spot along the Monon, where it will house an important exhibit for the museum.

In other news, the CCHS staff has grown. Please contact ...

• Meg Fuertges with membership questions at [mfuertges@carmelclay-history.org](mailto:mfuertges@carmelclay-history.org)

• Emily Hanawalt for



Photo provided

collection donations at [ehanawalt@carmelclay-history.org](mailto:ehanawalt@carmelclay-history.org)

• Andy Wright for re-

search requests at [awright@carmelclayhistory.org](mailto:awright@carmelclayhistory.org)

• Debbie Gangstad for

financial support, comments, or questions at [dgangstad@carmelclay-history.org](mailto:dgangstad@carmelclay-history.org)

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## Remember when rock was young?

Actors Theatre of Indiana brings Carmel grad back to central Indiana in internationally acclaimed Elton John Tribute

## The REPORTER

Craig A. Meyer is considered to be the best Elton John tribute artist around. Meyer will bring his strong vocals and amazing talent to The Palladium, part of The Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel on Friday, March 18. His international hit show "Remember When Rock Was Young – The Elton John Tribute" will take place at 8 p.m.

Actors Theatre of Indiana is bringing this great talent to Central Indiana. Meyer will take you on a spectacular musical journey celebrating the decades of chart-topping hits of Elton John. He, along with The Rocket Band, will perform songs like "Bennie and the Jets," "Philadelphia Freedom," "Crocodile Rock," "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" and "Candle in the Wind."

This is a true celebration of the character, costumes and charisma of the famed



Photo provided

Elton John-lookalike Craig A. Meyers will put a dazzling show on Friday, March 18 at the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

pianist and singer. Meyer's fully produced show has captivated audiences around the world.

[Click here to see a one-minute preview of what you can expect from](#)

## the show.

Meyer has traversed all four corners of the entertainment industry, making strong impressions in theatre, film, television and music. On Broadway, he created the role of Clinton Badger in MGM's classic *Meet Me In St. Louis* and toured nationally in *Cats* as Skimbleshanks.

Meyer worked with Alan Menken on Disney's *Aladdin*, and with Tim Rice and Elton John on *The Lion King*. Other television and film appearances include guest starring roles on *Necessary Roughness*, *Will & Grace*, *Good Morning Miami*, *Family Law*, *General Hospital*, and *Fernwood 2Nite*.

Meyer's film credits include *Leatherheads* with George Clooney and Renee Zellweger, *Joyful Noise* with Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah, and *Identity Thief* with Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy.

Meyer has headlined for Princess Cruises, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises and Regent Cruises around the world. He has also toured internationally and recorded with music legends Barry Manilow and Frankie Valli.

"Craig A. Meyer is one of the most talented people I have ever worked with," Manilow said. "He can do anything!"

Throughout Meyer's career, he was repeatedly approached about his striking resemblance to Elton John and his uncanny ability to sound like the rock and roll legend. Meyer was eventually persuaded to expand his repertoire and began impersonating Sir Elton John.

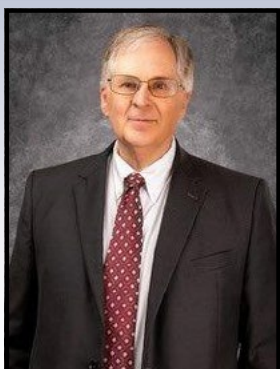
And now, ATI is a part of Meyer's return to Carmel. Meyer is a 1981 graduate of Carmel High School.

"Remember When Rock Was Young – The Elton John Tribute" is presented by Actors Theatre of Indiana and is sponsored by The City of Carmel, Current Publishing, Jill Zaniker, and Jeff and Shari Worrell.

As the pandemic continues, ticket buyers agree to follow all health and safety protocols in The Center's venues, including face coverings and proof of vaccination or testing. Find more details at [TheCenter-Presents.org](http://TheCenter-Presents.org).

Tickets are available at [atistage.org](http://atistage.org) or by calling the Box Office at The Center for the Performing Arts at (317) 843-3800.

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Photo provided

# ‘Youthful, golden-age crooner’ Mark William will be back in Carmel

## The REPORTER

Award-winning vocalist and recording artist, Mark William, will play a return engagement at Feinstein’s at Hotel Carmichael in Carmel at 7:30 p.m. on March 25 and 26. Following his triumphant debut there this past summer, William is back with his new show, “Mark William: Back With A Beat.”

Mark William hits the stage like a lightning bolt. Putting his own unique, youthful spin on a golden-age crooner styling, Mark performs a collection of timeless songs from Broadway, The Great American Songbook and beyond. Such iconic tunes include “The Girl From Ipanema,” “The Look of Love,” “Over The Rainbow,” and “On A Clear Day.”

With his glossy approach, he glides from Jule Styne to Peter Allen to Harold Arlen with charismatic ease and a spring in his step. He hypnotizes with a set of enduring classics, filtered through his youthful perspective and talent set. The show is distinctly new-age romantic, yet still evocative of the golden-age cinematic glamour.

William is the winner of two Broadway World awards: Best Debut Act, and Best Independent Recording for his critically acclaimed album, *Mark William: Come Croon With Me*, released by Yellow Sound Label. The recording was hailed as the “Album of The Year” by

Peter Filichia (Broadway Radio) and can be enjoyed wherever you stream music.

This past September, Mark made his highly anticipated return to New York City, his home base, and The Green Room 42. He repeatedly brought sold-out audiences to their feet with his thrilling vocals and electrifying choreography.

Curtis Wong of *Huffpost* calls him “a 21st-century song-and-dance man who harkens back to Dick Van Dyke and Frank Sinatra, while embracing a contemporary pop vibe.”

Brian Lipton of Theater Pizzazz praised Mark’s “unprecedented combination of Las Vegas razzle-dazzle and Midwestern charm and sincerity.”

Last October, he had the honor of singing “God Bless America” at Yankee Stadium, and this past Valentine’s Day, with a sold-out audience, he debuted his concert of classic romantic songs called “Mark William: Love Sings!”

Look for his Spring 2022 concert tour, which will take him from coast to coast. Again, “Mark William: Back With A Beat” will open at Feinstein’s at Hotel Carmichael on March 25 and 26. This show is directed by Preston and Richard Ridge with arrangements by Clint Edwards and musical direction by Matthew Lowy.

Tickets for “Mark William: Back With A Beat” are available at [feinsteinshe.com](https://feinsteinshe.com).

# IU Health announces local health investment; consumer advocate skeptical

By GARRETT BERGQUIST  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](https://www.wishtv.com)

An Indianapolis health care consumer advocate on Friday said Indiana University Health’s investment decisions could undercut efforts to lower prices.

On Friday, IU Health announced it would invest \$1 billion in various community health initiatives. Half of the sum will go toward health-related community development in the area around the main IU Health campus in Indianapolis. Another \$400 million will cover innovation related to its key priorities, and \$100 million will go to the IU Health Community Impact Investment Fund.

Officials did not provide further details about how they would spend the money.

Past expenses have included funding Ivy Tech Community College’s expansion of its nursing program and a health sciences education fellowship at Crispus Attucks High School.

Hoosiers for Affordable Health Care’s Al Hubbard, a former White House economic adviser, said he was disappointed by the announcement. He said IU Health’s goals are laudable, but the money would be better spent reducing prices.

“It’s not IU Health’s responsibility to take care of other things outside of the health sphere and their patients,” Hubbard said. “Their role is to provide health care and hospital care. Let the people keep their money and the people can decide where to invest that extra money.”

A 2020 RAND Corp. study found IU Health charged insurers 2.28 times the Medicare rate, on average, for inpatient services. The statewide average was 2.17. For outpatient services, IU charged even more, 3.82 times the Medicare rate. The statewide average was a still-high 3.58 times Medicare.

In January, House Speaker Todd Huston and Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray sent a letter to Indiana’s nonprofit hospitals, including IU Health, asking each of them to submit plans to reduce prices to the nationwide average by 2025. The lawmakers set a deadline of April 1.

IU Health has already implemented a price freeze as part of its efforts to reduce prices. Hubbard said he fears the initiatives announced on Friday could

undercut those efforts.

In Friday’s announcement, Dennis Murphy, IU Health president and chief executive officer, said the organization’s community investments would lead to lower costs and improved communities. He said the

state will have to address variables beyond doctors’ control to help hospitals bring prices down.

“We will also need to focus on the other drivers of health care costs — such as lower public health funding and cigarette

taxes, utilization rates of health care services, insurance costs — if we are serious about controlling healthcare costs in Indiana,” Murphy said.

IU Health turned down a request from I-Team 8 for further comment.

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## Leslie James "Jim" Hadley

March 10, 1945 – February 25, 2022

Leslie James "Jim" Hadley, 76, Boxley, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Friday, February 25, 2022. Born in Noblesville on March 10, 1945, he was the son of the late Charles Darrel and Mary Anna (Cline) Hadley.



Following his graduation from Sheridan High School with the Class of 1963, Jim honorably served his country in the United States Navy.

For many years, Jim was a truck driver for the Jolietville CO-OP terminal and would later manage the grain terminal at the Farm Bureau CO-OP in Noblesville.

Jim attended the Boxley United Methodist Church, where he was an active member of the congregation.

A true sports enthusiast, Jim took his passion a little bit further than most. He was a licensed referee and umpire for Little League and was a fixture within the Sheridan Rec. Program at Biddle Park. His dedication to the activity was a wonderful way of giving back to the community and helping foster a love and respect for the game. When he wasn't actively involved in a game, he enjoyed just sitting and watching when he had the opportunity. It was a nice change of pace, arguing at the officials on TV, instead of the other way around. He followed both NASCAR and the Indianapolis Colts. Jim was also supportive of the Sheridan High School Band program; he was an active band parent and booster for many years.

Jim was also a history buff. He loved genealogy and was fascinated with coin collecting, but the Civil War was what really piqued his interest.

Jim had many interests in his life, but his favorite, without a doubt, were his grandchildren.

Jim is survived by his former wife, Janet Sue Hadley; daughters, Jennifer Lynn Bradley (Andrew) of Noblesville, and Joanna Lee Gainey (Joe) of Sheridan; grandchildren, Charlotte Quinn Bradley, Willow Victoria Bradley, Ella Rose Gainey, and Lillian Mae Gainey; brothers, Jean Allan Hadley (Shirley) of Pittsboro, Richard D. Hadley of Bloomington, and Michael Hadley of Peru, Ind.; sisters, Diana Fitzpatrick of Naples, Fla., Teresa Perry (Dan) of Brownsburg, and Deborah Estrada (Kevin) of Goodyear, Ariz.; and many, many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Charles Hadley, Jr. of Lady Lake, Fla., and Steve Hadley of Avon; and sister, Janice Carol Folds of Tampa, Fla.

Services will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan, with visitation from 4 p.m. until the time of service. Pastor Mark Fidler will be officiating.

Jim will be laid to rest at Boxley Cemetery in Boxley, Ind., at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Condolences: [kerchevalfuneralhome.com](http://kerchevalfuneralhome.com)

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Donna Bussell

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."*

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10 (NIV)

## Clara "Jane" (Raymer) Louks

March 20, 1930 – February 27, 2022

Clara "Jane" (Raymer) Louks was born on March 20, 1930, and died on February 27, 2022, at Riverview Hospital in Noblesville. Jane was born in Cicero to Marguerite (Lugenbeal) Winders and Ernest Raymer, both deceased.



Jane collected and sold antiques throughout her entire career with a special interest in jewelry. She retired from Westfield Schools where she worked for many years.

In addition to her parents, Jane was preceded in death by her older brother, Don Raymer; sons Chris (Bonnie) Dwiggins and Scott (Becky) Bluck; her infant daughter, Lisa Gay Dwiggins; husbands William "Bud" Bluck and Gene Louks; and grandson, Brad Dwiggins.

She is survived by her two sons, Don (Susan) Dwiggins and Mike (Nancy) Dwiggins; and grandchildren, Andrea (Dwiggins) Vrobel, Wade Dwiggins, Dennis Dwiggins, Brett Dwiggins, Michael Dwiggins, Amanda (Dwiggins) Farinella, Mitchel Dwiggins, Mary Jane Bluck, and Monica Bluck; as well as many great-grandchildren.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to the medical team at Riverview Hospital for the care given to Jane.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, March 4, 2022, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Services will be held immediately following at 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Humane Society for Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, IN 46038.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

RE-ELECT

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for Hamilton County Council Dist. 3

Paid for by Elect Steve Schwartz Hamilton Co. Council, Mike Peters Treasurer

## Michael Wayne Elroy Pryor

January 5, 1969 – February 27, 2022

Michael Wayne Elroy Pryor, 53, Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, February 27, 2022. He was born on January 5, 1969, at Ellsworth Airforce Base in Rapid City, S.D.

Michael was an IT specialist, mechanic and successful hunter. He enjoyed fishing, motorcycles, and reading Tolkien books. Michael loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. He also enjoyed attending concerts with his friends, Bob, Kirsten, Jeff, Debi, Mike, Barry, Chris, and anyone else who tagged along.

Michael's favorite concerts were Rush and Chevelle. He is survived by his father, Steven Pryor; mother, Karen (Don) Payne; sister, Carolyn (Jim) Ramey; uncle, Gregory Pryor; daughters, Amber (Eric) Kaufman, Ashly (Rob) Pryor, and Dani Pryor; son, Michael (Abby) Pryor; and grandchildren, Sabena, Laurelai, and Tobias Kaufman.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Greg Pryor.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to the time of service at the funeral home.

Family asks that those attending wear camo, jeans, or concert clothing.

Memorial contributions may be made to National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, or at [donate.nra.org/donate](http://donate.nra.org/donate).

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

## Aaron E. Blackwell

November 3, 1976 – February 27, 2022

Aaron E. Blackwell, 45, Indianapolis, passed away early Sunday, February 27, 2022, at Community Hospital North. He was born on November 3, 1976, to Bobby W. and Katrina (Lowther) Blackwell.

Aaron worked at various companies during his life, including American Red Ball Transit Co., American Truck & Trailer, and Kenworth of Indianapolis.

Aaron was always willing to help with car repairs, enjoyed the History Channel, running RC cars, and starting wrapping paper fights at Christmas. He enjoyed spending time with his family more than anything.

He is survived by his wife, Toni (Rawley) Blackwell; children, DeSean, Isaiah, Brandon, Austin and Bryleigh; his mother, Katrina Blackwell of Fishers; sisters, Amanda (Gary) Gleason and Peggy (Russ) Cunningham; brothers, Robert and Gary; and several nieces and nephews.

Aaron was preceded in death by his daughter, Hailey Grace Blackwell; father, Bobby W. Blackwell; and grandparents, Sue and John Blazer, and Ruth and Clifford Blackwell.

A private visitation will be held at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers, for family only.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Riley Hospital for Children, 30 S. Meridian St., Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

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## Who's on my ballot for the May 2022 Primary Election?

Note that \* indicates the candidate is the incumbent for that office.  
To view precinct and district maps, please visit [hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps](http://hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps).

### U.S. SENATE

Haneefah Khaaliq (D)  
Valerie McCray (D)  
Thomas M. McDermott, Jr. (D)  
Danny Niederberger (R)  
\*Todd Young (R)

### U.S. HOUSE, 5<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT

Matthew L. Hall (D)  
Jeanine Lee Lake (D)  
\*Victoria Spartz (R)

### STATE SENATOR

**District 21**

\*James R. Buck (R)

**District 25**

Mike Gaskill (R)  
Aaron Higgins (D)  
Evan McMullen (R)  
Tamie Dixon-Tatum (D)

**District 29**

Alex Choi (R)

\*J.D. Ford (D)

**District 31**

Jocelyn Vare (D)

\*Kyle Walker (R)

### STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**District 24**

Joellyn (Joey) Mayer (D)

\*Donna Schaibley (R)

**District 29**

\*Chuck Goodrich (R)

**District 32**

Fred Glynn (R)

Suzie Jaworowski (R)

Paul G. Nix (R)

Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D)

**District 37**

\*Todd Huston (R)

**District 39**

\*Jerry Torr (R)

**District 88**

Donna L. Griffin (D)

Craig M Hirsty (D)

\*Chris Jeter (R)

Chrystal Sisson (R)

### JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT 2

\*Jon Brown (R)

### JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT 7

Stephanie K. Gookins (R)

Darren Murphy (R)

### PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

\*D. Lee Buckingham II (R)

Greg Garrison (R)

### CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

\*Kathy Kreag Williams (R)

### COUNTY ASSESSOR

Kevin W. Poore (R)

### COUNTY CORONER

Jeff Jellison (R)

Ned P. Masbaum (R)

### COUNTY RECORDER

Trini K. Beaver (R)

### COUNTY SHERIFF

\*Dennis Quakenbush (R)

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**District 1**

\*Christine Altman (R)

### COUNTY COUNCIL

**District 1**

John V. Accetturo (R)

Tim Griffin (R)

**District 2**

Nathan Bullock (D)

\*Amy Elizabeth Massillamany (R)

**District 3**

Mark F. Hall (R)

\*Steve Schwartz (R)

**District 4**

\*Ken Alexander (R)

### ADAMS TWP. TRUSTEE

\*Michelle Junkins (R)

### ADAMS TWP. BOARD

(Vote for 3)

\*Floyd H. Barker (R)

John (Danny) Christian (R)

\*Gail E. Godby (R)

\*Ron Stone (R)

Bryan Will (R)

### CLAY TWP. TRUSTEE

Paul D. Hensel (R)

Eric S. Morris (R)

### CLAY TWP. BOARD

(Vote for 3)

Paul K. Bolin (R)

\*Mary Eckard (R)

Dallas Shelby (D)

\*Matthew J. Snyder (R)

### DELAWARE TWP. TRUSTEE

\*Debbie R. Driskell (R)

### DELAWARE TWP. BOARD

(Vote for 3)

Rick Fain (R)

Kim Logan (R)

\*Marilyn A. Schenkel (R)

### FALL CREEK TWP. TRUSTEE

\*Doug Allman (R)

Nicole Tredup (D)

### FALL CREEK TWP. BOARD

(Vote for 3)

\*Brian Baehl (R)

Patricia Bratton (R)

\*Rachna Greulich (D)

\*Jason W. Meyer (R)

Sukriti Sachdeva (D)

Tony Scott (R)

Kimberly Passey-Strahan (D)

Joe Weingarten (D)

### JACKSON TWP. TRUSTEE

\*Robyn Cook (R)

### JACKSON TWP. BOARD

(Vote for 3)

Randy Hill (R)

\*Jeff Roberts (R)

\*Glen Schwartz (R)

### NOBLESVILLE TWP. TRUSTEE

Theresa Caldwell (R)

### NOBLESVILLE TWP. BOARD

(Vote for 3)

\*Joe Arrowood (R)

Terry L. Busby (R)

David Cox (R)

Paula Jo Gilliam (D)

Charlie McMillan Jr. (R)

\*Peggy R. Pfister (R)

Adrienne Rogers (R)

Mary Sue Rowland (R)

Perry Williams (R)

### WASHINGTON TWP. TRUSTEE

Danielle Carey Tolan (R)

### WASHINGTON TWP. BOARD

(Vote for 3)

Jim Ake (R)

Shelly Brown (D)

Charles E. Driver, Jr. (R)

\*Danyele Easterhaus (R)

Richard (Rich) J. Hardcastle, Jr. (R)

\*Erica Strahm (R)

### WAYNE TWP. TRUSTEE

Laura McNamara (R)

### WAYNE TWP. BOARD

(Vote for 3)

Robert Baker (R)

Phil Belcher (R)

Maegen Fleck (R)

Robert Dustin Hiday (R)

Joy Sisson Kiskaden (R)

Rockford V. Stites (R)

### WHITE RIVER TWP. TRUSTEE

Robbie Ping (R)

\*Jamie Rulon (R)

### WHITE RIVER TWP. BOARD

(Vote for 3)

John Dean (R)

\*Lisa Suzanne Flanders (R)

Edward Trent Gordon (R)

### ARCADIA TOWN COUNCIL

**District 2**

Amanda L. Engle (R)

**District 3**

Doug Grishaw (R)

### ATLANTA TOWN COUNCIL

**At Large**

\*Murry A. Dixon II (R)

### CICERO TOWN COUNCIL

**At Large (Vote for 2)**

Joe Cox (R)

Brett S. Foster (R)

Garry A. Harling (R)

Eric Hayden (R)

Heidi Wilcox (R)

### SHERIDAN TOWN COUNCIL

**At Large (Vote for 2)**

Daniel A. Bragg (R)

\*Steve C. Fisher (R)

Eric D. Gifford (R)

### DEMOCRATIC PRECINCT COMMITTEEMEN

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**Clay 6**

Cheryl Hubbell

Debra L. Grace-Johnson

**Clay 9**

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**Clay 12**

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**Clay 17**

Jim Blessing

**Clay 20**

Matthew Stone

**Clay 24**

Jim Zheng

**Clay 28**

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**Clay 36**

Molly Pearcy

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**Clay 42**

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Missy Eltz

**Clay 51**

Mark Taber

**Clay 57**

Jon Shapiro

**Clay 62**

Sara Hindi

**Clay 65**

Marta H. Spence

**Clay 68**

Annette Gross

**Clay 69**

Cynthia Johnson

**Clay 70**

Erin Vahrenkamp

**Delaware 6**

Janice Kavensky

**Delaware 9**

Sara Schmidt

**Delaware 18**

Kim Davison

**Delaware 19**

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**Fall Creek 5**

Julie Chambers

**Fall Creek 12**

June P. Levey

**Fall Creek 16**

Glen Kemery

**Fall Creek 19**

Gregory A. Purvis

**Fall Creek 23**

A. Brando Corsaro

**Fall Creek 35**

Natasha Retz

**Noblesville 10**

Marie (Mimi) DeMore

**Noblesville 18**

James Harter

**Noblesville 28**

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**Noblesville 29**

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**Noblesville 41**

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**Wayne 7**

Susan D. Russell

**Westfield 3**

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**Westfield 4**

Shelly Brown

**Westfield 8**

Cheryl Berry

**Westfield 10**

Ann Raymont

**Westfield 14**

Andrew Kauffman

**Westfield 16**

Neil Koglin

**Westfield 18**

Heather Hilbert

**Westfield 19**

Melissa Auciello-Brogan

**Westfield 24**

Christian Fenn

**Westfield 25**

Jeffrey D. Atteberry

**Westfield 28**

Ronnie Saunders III

**Westfield 30**

Monica Cannaley

### DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION DELEGATES

**Adams/Wayne/Jackson/**

**White River Twps. (vote for 10)**

Cymande (Mandie) Lackland



Hamilton County  
Sports



NOBLESVILLE, CARMEL, WESTFIELD, SHERIDAN, HAMILTON HEIGHTS, FISHERS, UNIVERSITY, GUERIN CATHOLIC, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN

Sports Editor **Richie Hall**  
Sports@ReadTheReporter.com  
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Boys basketball sectionals



LEFT: Westfield's Braden Smith was unstoppable during the Shamrocks' first-round Sectional 8 win over Fishers Tuesday night at Noblesville. Smith scored 28 points, including 20 in the first half, as Westfield avenged a regular-season loss to the Tigers, 62-44.

RIGHT: Bryce Williams was one of seven seniors on the Fishers team this season. He scored 12 points during Tuesday's game.

'Rocks overwhelm Tigers in first-round win

By **RICHIE HALL**  
**NOBLESVILLE** - The regular-season game between Westfield and Fishers was not that long ago - 17 days, in fact.

So it was very fresh in the minds of the Shamrocks, who lost that game by 25 points. Westfield completely reversed the result Tuesday night in a first-round game of Class 4A Sectional 8 at Noblesville, as the Shamrocks overwhelmed the Tigers, ranked No. 2 in the IBCA one-class poll and Class 4A Associated Press poll, 62-44. Westfield, ranked No. 11 in the IBCA poll, advanced to a Friday semi-final game with Hamilton Southeastern.

The star of the game for the Shamrocks was Braden Smith. He didn't play in the regular-season game due to a foot injury that had sidelined him for several games.

"I told our team all along, I thought we could become a better basketball team because we really had to learn how to play without him," said Westfield coach Shane Sumpter. "But obviously, we're a lot better when he's out there. And that's a tough kid, playing with a broken foot."

Smith scored the first basket of the game on a 3-pointer, then Nic Depasquale scored to get the Shamrocks off to a 5-0 lead. Fishers got within 9-8 late in the quarter, but Smith nailed another 3, then an Alex Romack hook shot gave Westfield a 14-10 lead at the end of the period.

Romack's basket started an 18-3 run by the 'Rocks that lasted until midway through the second period. Smith had scored 10 points during the first quarter, and he

promptly drained another 3 to start the second. He added 10 more points in the second quarter, giving him 20 first-half points. Westfield led 30-13 once the spurt was finished. Jalen Haralson made back-to-back layins for the Tigers, and Sean Millsaps scored off a steal to end the half, but Westfield still led 32-19 at the break.

The Shamrocks continued to dominate in the third quarter, using a 15-3 run to take a 47-22 lead with 2:50 left. Alex Romack had six points and Depasquale scored four during that spurt.

The third quarter ended with two baskets by Fishers' Bryce Williams, so Westfield's lead was 47-26 going into the fourth. The 'Rocks held their largest advantage early in that quarter, when a Romack lay-in and Cam Haffner triple put Westfield up 52-26.

Sumpter said it was "better that we drew them" in the first round "because we had a week to prepare, because Fishers can cause you a lot of problems." While Smith was absent for that game, Sumpter wouldn't use that as an excuse. He also mentioned Westfield's improved defense as one of the reasons for the different result.

"I thought we were really good," said Sumpter. "Kept them out of the lane. The first game that we played them, they made 13 3s."

The coach said he thought his team solved that issue, among others.

"We had to solve the turnover issue," said Sumpter. "Last time we played them, they were able to create a lot of offense

through their defense because we were turning the ball over. That couldn't happen again. We solved those things."

Fishers made things interesting during the fourth quarter by making a 12-0 spurt to get within 55-42. Haralson poured in nine points in that run, with Jeffrey Simmons making a 3. But Westfield used a 7-0 run to stop any comeback attempt. Haffner made a layin, Smith was good on a three-point play and Romack scored as well.

Smith finished the game with 28 points, including five 3-pointers. Three more Shamrocks reached double figures: Haffner and Romack scored 12 points each and Depasquale added 10 points. The Shamrocks are 19-6 for the season.

Haralson, a freshman, led the Tigers with 19 points. Williams scored 12 and Simmons, playing his final game for Fishers after outstanding basketball and football careers, added 10 points. There were seven seniors on the Tigers team this season, including Williams and Simmons. The other seniors were Sean Millsaps, Josh Forbes, Charles Smith, Matt Brewer and Payton Weemer.

"What I just told them is, the first level of making an impact is information, give someone information," said Fishers coach Garrett Winegar, whose team finished the season 21-3 and won a Hoosier Crossroads Conference championship. "The second level is imitation. And those guys have left a mark that anybody who comes through Fishers should want to imitate."

WESTFIELD 62, FISHERS 44				
Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Braden Smith	11	1-2	28	2
Cam Haffner	4	3-4	12	2
Trey Dorton	0	0-0	0	3
Nic Depasquale	5	0-0	10	0
Alex Romack	6	0-0	12	2
Trey Buchanan	0	0-0	0	0
Kai Butterworth	0	0-0	0	0
Sam Bishop	0	0-0	0	0
Jonah Spinner	0	0-0	0	0
Alex Wolf	0	0-2	0	0
Armani Middlebrooks	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	26	4-8	62	9
Westfield 3-pointers (6) Smith 5, Haffner 1.				
Fishers	FG	FT	TP	PF
Myles Stringer	0	0-0	0	2
Jalen Haralson	8	2-3	19	3
Bryce Williams	4	4-4	12	2
Charles Smith	0	1-2	1	4
Jeffrey Simmons	4	1-3	10	1
Aiden Zimmer	0	0-0	0	0
Payton Weemer	0	0-0	0	1
Sean Millsaps	1	0-0	2	1
Matt Brewer	0	0-0	0	0
Josh Forbes	0	0-0	0	0
JonAnthony Hall	0	0-0	0	0
Miles McCartney	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	17	8-12	44	14
Fishers 3-pointers (2) Haralson 1, Simmons 1.				
Score by Quarters				
Westfield	14	18	15	15 - 62
Fishers	10	9	7	18 - 44

BIG WIN FOR MILLERS

Noblesville cruised to victory in its first-round sectional game. Read about it on Page 11.

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# Millers take care of Eagles, head to semis



**Noblesville's E.J. Smith scored 14 points for the Millers, one of three players in double figures during their 67-53 sectional win over Zionsville Tuesday.**

Reporter photo by Kent Graham

By **RICHIE HALL**  
**NOBLESVILLE** - Noblesville ended a long drought with style on Tuesday as the Millers began hosting Class 4A Sectional 8 at The Mill.

In the opening game of the sectional, Noblesville took care of Zionsville 67-53. It's an upset on paper, as the Eagles are ranked No. 16 in the IBCA one-class poll. But the Millers had beaten Zionsville in the regular season, and took care of business in the post-season, scoring its first sectional game win since 2017.

The Millers led 14-6 after the first quarter. E.J. Smith and Luke Almodovar both scored five points, with Smith hitting a 3-pointer. Cooper Bean added four points as well, including the final basket of the period.

"I thought the boys did a really, really nice job defensively, set the tone early," said Noblesville coach Scott McClelland.

Smith then opened the second quarter with a three-point play, and Noblesville had its first double-digit lead at 17-6. The Eagles came back a little after that, cutting the Millers' lead to five points on multiple occasions, and were within 25-20 at halftime.

Zionsville was still within 29-25 early in the third quarter, but the Millers went on a 7-0 run. More precisely, Preston Roberts went on a 7-0 run. He already had scored a layin before the spurt, but then scored on a short jumper, a putback that led to an and-1, and another layin. That increased Noblesville's lead to 36-25.

Logan Imes scored to stop the run, but Almodovar's layin and a huge dunk by Roberts gave the Millers a 40-27 lead at the end of the third. Noblesville's lead stayed in double digits for the entire fourth quarter; a Smith triple helped out along the way. The Millers finished the game from the free-throw line, with Aaron Fine going 7 of 8 and Smith making 3 of 4.

Almodovar scored 16 points, while Roberts poured in 15, all in the second half. Smith added 14 points, including a pair of 3-pointers. McClelland was happy with the team's balance, pointing out that Fine had nine points and Bean scored seven.

"I thought we had contributions from different guys at different moments," said McClelland. "That really says a lot about our team. Most importantly, we get a chance to play again, and that's what you want to do this time of year."

"I thought Hunter Walston gave us some great minutes defensively, got a couple loose balls. "Almo got downhill in the second half, Preston's third quarter. I thought E.J.'s defense all night was really good." The coach said keeping Imes in check - "which is not an easy task" - was one of the big keys to the game. Imes finished with nine points.

McClelland also credited Bean with hitting a big 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, and also said that Cameron Karns "gave us a great lift off the bench," getting a couple rebounds.

Noblesville is 13-10 and plays Carmel (No. 3 in the 4A Associated Press poll and No. 4 in the IBCA poll) in the first semi-final, which tips off at 6 p.m. Friday.

NOBLESVILLE 67, ZIONSVILLE 53				
Noblesville	FG	FT	TP	PF
E.J. Smith	4	4-5	14	2
Luke Almodovar	7	2-2	16	4
Aaron Fine	1	7-10	9	0
Preston Roberts	7	1-3	15	2
Hunter Walston	2	2-2	4	1
Cooper Bean	3	0-0	7	1
Cameron Karns	1	0-0	2	3
Luke Wilson	0	0-0	0	0
Luke Etchison	0	0-0	0	0
Aidan Brewer	0	0-0	0	0
Evan Wright	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	25	16-22	67	13
Score by Quarters				
Zionsville	6	14	7	26 - 53
Noblesville	14	11	15	27 - 67
Noblesville 3-pointers (3) Smith 2, Bean 1.				

After dominating play at the 4A girls state championship game . . .

## Shade named IBCA District 2 Player of the Week

As one door closes, another one opens. The IHSAA crowned Noblesville, South Bend Washington, Forest Park, and Tecumseh girls' State Champions on Saturday, putting the final touches on the 2021-2022 girls' basketball season. Meanwhile, the boys finished their regular season, and now they turn to sectional play this evening at 64 different locations. Due to their play last week, the IBCA has chosen four young women and three young men as Week 17 IBCA/Franciscan Health Players of the Week.

Noblesville junior Ashlynn Shade, South Bend Washington freshman Kira Reynolds, Forest Park junior Amber Tretter, Tecumseh sophomore Jenna Donohoo, LaCrosse senior Ben Garwood, Tri-Central senior Jake Chapman, and South Decatur senior Hunter Johnson have been selected as recipients for Feb. 21-Feb. 26 in the recognition program coordinated by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association. Reynolds is the girls' winner, while Garwood is the boys' winner in District 1. Shade and Chapman are the girls' and boys' recipients, respectively, for District 2. Tretter and Donohoo share girls' honors, while Johnson picks up boys' honors for District 3.

The Noblesville Millers participated in their first State Finals appearance since 1990 on Saturday, winning just their second

title ever, winning their first in 1987. They had to take on a tough Franklin Community team but held them at bay most of the evening, pulling away in the fourth quarter to win convincingly, 76-52. Junior guard Ashlynn Shade tied a Class 4A record, scoring 31 points in the contest. She was a solid 13 of 22 from the floor and 5 of 5 from the free throw line. The 5-10 guard added seven rebounds, five assists, and three steals in the championship win. Shade has already verbally committed to attend the University of Connecticut.

Noblesville junior Dani Mendez and sophomore Reagan Wilson were also nominated for Player of the Week from District 2.

In a rematch of the 2021 Class 3A State Finals, South Bend Washington once again faced off against Silver Creek, however the outcome was much different, as the Lady Panthers were dominant from beginning to end, winning 93-35. While the Lady Panthers had a number of strong performances, Freshman Kira Reynolds really stood out, posting a massive double-double with her 17 points and 24 rebounds (11 offensive). The 6-3 front-liner was 7 of 12 from the field, plus she knocked down a trio of free throws in the championship win. She also blocked four shots on the evening. This marked the second girls basketball state championship for South Bend Washington (2007).

While most boys' teams were tuning up for the Sectional with a game or two, LaCrosse managed to squeeze in four contests last week, winning all four to post a 12-9 regular season record...their first winning season since 2003-2004. Senior Ben Garwood was steady all week, helping them to the four victories. Monday against Attica was his lowest scoring output, yet he managed 16 points, knocked down 2 of 3 from deep, and buried all six free throw attempts. He added eight rebounds and a pair of steals in limited minutes, during the comfortable win.

The next night, Garwood and LaCrosse took on South Bend Career Academy, earning a 70-56 victory this time out. The senior wing scored 25 points, her made three shots from long range, and he was a nice 8 of 10 from the charity stripe. He posted a double-double with his 11 rebounds, plus he added four assists, a pair of steals, and four blocked shots.

Wednesday marked the third consecutive day the Tigers took to the hardwood, this time heading to the Hammond Academy for Science & Technology. They summoned enough energy to leave with a solid 82-62 win. The 6-4 Garwood scored 20 points and was again a perfect 6 of 6 on free tosses. He posted a double-double once more, collecting 11 caroms, and he dished out five assists.

LaCrosse finished its week Friday evening with a big Porter County Conference clash against nearby Kouts, winning their toughest game of the week, 59-56. Garwood was as efficient as he was all week, knocking down 8 of 12 shots from the field, making 5 of 6 from 3-point range, and hitting 3 of 4 from the free throw line. He grabbed eight more rebounds and picked off three more steals to cap their 4-0 week.

Tri-Central concluded its regular season with a pair of wins last week. Senior Jake Chapman was instrumental in each win, and he continued his strong Senior season with two dynamic performances. First, in a Wednesday matchup with the Indiana School for the Deaf, Chapman poured in a

career high of 46 points, helping the Trojans to a 79-53 triumph. He was an efficient 20 of 30 from the field, 3 of 7 from deep, and he made 3 of 4 from the free throw line. Chapman also contributed seven rebounds and three steals.

Two nights later, the Trojans traveled to Northfield, pulling out a 64-49 victory. The 6-4 Chapman was once again dialed in, as he was responsible for more than half of Tri-Central's scoring, tallying 32 points himself and handing out a pair of assists. The senior wing used the charity stripe to his advantage, as he made 15 of 17 shots from 15 feet. Chapman also posted a double-double, adding ten rebounds in success. Additionally, he collected six steals in the regular season finale.

In District 3, the IBCA chose two winners on the girls' side, as each young lady put together a huge performance on the biggest stage of the season. In the Class 2A game, Forest Park went back and forth with Frankton, eventually pulling out the 52-44 title win. Junior forward Amber Tretter was a big part of what the Lady Rangers did all season, but she was especially good in this game, as she scored 22 points and grabbed 17 rebounds (8 offensive). Of her 17 rebounds, she pulled down 12 of them in the second half. The 6-1 front-liner also managed three assists, two steals, and six blocked shots, as Forest Park picked up their first ever girls' basketball State Championship.

The other District 3 female recipient is Tecumseh Sophomore Jenna Donohoo. Tecumseh managed to handle Lafayette Central Catholic's speed and pressure all morning, and when the dust settled, the Lady Braves were 60-53 victors in the Class 1A title game. Donohoo, a 5-9 forward, scored 29 points in the victory, with 19 coming in the second half, 11 falling in the decisive fourth quarter. The Sophomore also picked up 13 caroms in the contest, posting a double-double for her efforts. Add to that a pair of assists, a pair of steals, and a pair of

See Shade . . . Page 12

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# NBA standings

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic	W	L	PCT.	GB
Philadelphia	37	23	.617	-
Boston	37	27	.578	2.0
Toronto	34	27	.557	3.5
Brooklyn	32	31	.508	6.5
New York	25	36	.410	12.5
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Chicago	39	23	.629	-
Milwaukee	37	25	.597	2.0
Cleveland	36	25	.590	2.5
Indiana	21	42	.333	18.5
Detroit	15	47	.242	24.0
Southeast	W	L	PCT.	GB
Miami	41	21	.661	-
Charlotte	30	33	.476	11.5
Atlanta	29	32	.475	11.5
Washington	28	33	.459	12.5
Orlando	15	47	.242	26.0

Tuesday's games				
Washington 116, Detroit 113		L.A. Clippers 113, Houston 100		
Boston 107, Atlanta 98		Minnesota 129, Golden State 114		
Toronto 109, Brooklyn 108		Dallas 109, L.A. Lakers 104		

Western Conference				
Northwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Utah	38	22	.633	-
Denver	36	25	.590	2.5
Minnesota	34	29	.540	5.5
Portland	25	36	.410	13.5
Oklahoma City	19	42	.311	19.5
Pacific	W	L	PCT.	GB
Phoenix	49	12	.803	-
Golden State	43	19	.694	6.5
L.A. Clippers	33	31	.516	17.5
L.A. Lakers	27	34	.443	22.0
Sacramento	23	40	.365	27.0
Southwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Memphis	43	20	.683	-
Dallas	37	25	.597	5.5
New Orleans	25	36	.410	17.0
San Antonio	24	38	.387	18.5
Houston	15	46	.246	27.0

## IBCA boys basketball poll for week of Feb. 28 (Season final)

Rank	School	Points	Record	FPV
1	Chesterton	400	23-0	20
2	Fishers	380	21-2	
3	Homestead	352	19-5	
4	Carmel	340	17-5	
5	Ben Davis	317	18-6	
6	Indianapolis Cathedral	302	19-6	
7	Mt. Vernon (Fortville)	263	19-2	
8	Valparaiso	249	19-4	
9	Penn	241	20-2	
10	Lawrence North	207	15-6	
11	Westfield	173	18-6	
12	North Central (Indianapolis)	162	16-7	
13	Floyd Central	161	17-4	
14	Mishawaka Marian	125	19-3	
15	Anderson	111	19-4	
16	Zionsville	91	14-7	
17	Bloomington North	90	19-3	
18	Monroe Central	59	21-0	
19	Indianapolis Tech	36	17-7	
20	Pike	20	14-8	

**Other schools receiving votes (listed alphabetically):**  
Brebeuf Jesuit (15-7), Brownsburg (15-8), Brownstown Central (20-3), Central Noble (22-2), Columbus North (16-7), Eastside (Butler) (23-1), Fort Wayne Blackhawk Christian (19-4), Glenn (22-1), Indianapolis Attucks (13-10), Jennings County (14-8), Lafayette Jefferson (19-4), Leo (16-5), North Daviess (20-3), North-Wood (22-2), Sullivan (21-2), Warren Central (15-7), 21st Century Charter School – Gary (18-4).

## SHADE

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blocked shots, and she played a well-rounded game in Tecumseh’s first State Finals appearance and first ever State Championship. South Decatur’s Hunter Johnson has been explosive all Winter, and last week he capped off the regular season with a bang in two games. On Tuesday evening, the Cougars traveled to Oldenburg Academy, escaping with a hard-fought, 64-55 win. Johnson, a senior, scored 29 points, as he was a perfect 9 of 9 from the free throw line. His ten rebounds helped him post a double-double, plus he handed out two assists and collected three steals in victory. Friday evening, South Decatur hosted Knightstown, extending their win streak to three games with a 77-55 outcome. The 6-2 Johnson was a real problem for the Panthers, scoring 39 points, burying four shots

from long range, and knocking down 7 of 8 from the free throw stripe. He again posted a double-double, his 11th of the season, grabbing 19 rebounds on the evening (11 offensive). To top things off, the senior also picked off four passes in the success. This is the 14th season for the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association Player of the Week program, but just the second season it is being presented by Franciscan Health, a corporate sponsor of the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association. Player of the Week winners are chosen each week from each of the IHSAA’s three districts. This is the last week girls’ winners will be chosen, with the IHSAA Girls State Finals having concluded. Boys’ winners will be chosen through the Monday following the IHSAA Boys State Finals.

## Phil Rison to become NIAAA Executive Director

Phil Rison, CMAA will be elevated to executive director of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), effective January 2023. He is currently in his sixth year as associate executive director of the NIAAA after a 30-year administrator, teaching, and coaching career. Rison was chosen by the NIAAA Board of Directors to succeed Dr. Mike Blackburn, CMAA – who will be retiring January 2023 after directing the NIAAA since 2016. Rison retired from Montgomery County Schools (Kentucky) in 2015 after 20 years serving various roles in the athletic department – including athletic administrator, assistant principal, director of operations, and assistant superintendent/director of student services. The first 10 years of Rison’s career were spent teaching and coaching basketball and baseball. He was honored to be selected as Teacher of the Year at Montgomery County High School in 1990. He attended Eastern Kentucky University and holds both a Master’s and Bachelor’s degree in education. “It has been an honor serving the NIAAA under the leadership of Dr. Mike Blackburn, an excellent professional model, mentor, and friend. I am thankful for our continued time together in this year of transition. I am humbled by this appointment and embrace the challenge of continual growth that will directly benefit the NIAAA membership.” Rison said. “The cornerstone of the NIAAA has been and will continue to be the volunteerism of our members in reaching out and going beyond to grow and share by advancing their development professionally in challenging us all to be better. While lifting and assisting others we display excellent value to our coaches, communities, and student athletes. Rison’s association with the NIAAA has included the full span of his athletic administration career. He became a Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) in 1998 and earned Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA) status in 2005. He served as National Faculty Chair for Leadership Training Course (LTC) 508 and with the leadership of attorney Lee Green, formulated the faculty for all three legal courses. He was appointed to the NIAAA Board of Directors representing Section 2 in 2009 and in 2013 Rison was selected as the 34th President of the NIAAA Board of Directors. As president, he appointed a Professional Development Task Force, which led to the first unified meeting of state coordinators for certification and Leadership Training

Institute (LTI). Teaming alongside Blackburn, NIAAA staff, and leadership over the past six years, Rison contributed to several expansive areas. The NIAAA worked with Cognia accreditation in 2020 to renew accredited principles that keep the association data driven and continuously improving. The association’s Leadership Training Institute curriculum has expanded by 15 courses to 53 overall. In addition, two levels of international certification were added to the certification program. Rison, working along with NIAAA staff, implemented all core courses in the NIAAA classroom platform in an online format. This has assisted members in earning their NIAAA certification. “The NIAAA is a phenomenal ever-expanding association and without question Phil Rison is the right leader to continue to enhance and grow its programs and services,” said current executive director Mike Blackburn. “His communication abilities and leadership experiences will serve him well in his role as executive director. Phil possesses strong qualities including integrity, industriousness, compassion, foresight, and each of these qualities will serve him well. It has been a joy to lead with him, and a privilege to serve the NIAAA and its members. I am blessed, grateful, and cherish the NIAAA family.” Rison was very involved in the Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Association (KHSADA) and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA). He was executive director of the KHSADA for one year and a member of the KHSADA Board of Directors from 1997 to 2008, including a term as president in 2006. He served the KHSAA as 10th/11th Region Policy for 16 years, serving as chair for 10 years. Rison also served as President of the Kentucky High School Coaches Association (KHSCA) in 1995. Rison has received the NIAAA Award of Merit, NIAAA Distinguished Service Award, NIAAA Commendation, and the NIAAA State Award of Merit. He was the KHSADA Athletic Director of the Year in 2003, the Jim Watkins Award of Excellence recipient in 2019, the Bob Miller Outstanding Achievement/Service awarded by the KHSCA in 2017 and selected as 2015 District Level Administrator of the year by the Kentucky School Resources Officers. He was inducted into the 10th Region Coaches Hall of Fame in 2006. Rison and his wife, Paula, have two adult children and two grandchildren.



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