


Carmel High School Wrestling launches heartwarming Holiday Sheets-raiser for pediatric cancer patients

Submitted
In a remarkable display of compassion and unity, Carmel High School (CHS) Wrestling proudly unveils its Holiday Sheets-raiser. The charitable initiative was born from the remarkable journey of Tamir Haveli, a courageous member of the wrestling team who battled and conquered Stage 4 cancer through countless rounds of chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and a life-saving transplant.

Inspired by Tamir's resilience and determination, the wrestling team is rallying together to support Sheets From Home, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing comfort and joy to children facing pediatric cancer. Sheets From Home, renowned for its mission of transforming the hospital experiences of young cancer patients, provides them with brand-new, vibrant bed sheets to brighten


their hospital rooms. These sheets symbolize warmth and a slice of home during their arduous journeys, offered to the children free of charge throughout their hospital stays. The connection between the grueling wrestling matches on the mat and the indomitable spirit displayed by these young patients lies at the core of this initiative. CHS wrestlers intimately comprehend the significance of resilience and solidarity. The Sheets-raiser embodies these values by extending a helping hand to these brave young warriors. The objective is to gather new, fun, and colorful sheet sets (twin or crib-sized) to have

a genuine impact and bring hope and comfort to children battling cancer. "We are deeply honored to stand together as a community in the name of this heartwarming cause," CHS Wrestling Head Coach Ed Pendski said. "By supporting the Sheets-raiser, you're not merely donating sheets; you're providing hope, comfort, and radiant smiles to children in the midst of their cancer battle. Our mission is to collect 40

sets of sheets — sufficient to blanket an entire pediatric oncology unit. Let's unite to make this Holiday Season truly extraordinary for those who need it the most." Donations of new, colorful sheet sets can be delivered to the Carmel High School Wrestling room from now until Dec. 22. For additional information about Sheets From Home, please visit sheetsfromhome.org.



Bien Mexicana
150 S Peru St, Cicero

Thanks for reading!

Merry Christmas, Hamilton County!



FRONT TEETH

My “teeth shoes” were so big that classmates called me Bugs Bunny. I feared giant magnets and rogue lightning.

I have recounted this metallic memory to people in the dental profession only to face looks of perplexity and disbelief. Apparently, my dentist took our “teeth shoes” secret to his grave.

To compound my embarrassment, each “shoe” had a very visible serial number on front. The only logical reason: the numbers enabled authorities to be more expedient in the whole “dental records” step to identifying a corpse; however, the serial numbers were unnecessary since *I was the only kid in the world wearing teeth shoes!!!* Of course, that silver-toothed corpse was me!

No childhood pictures of me sporting my “teeth shoes” exist. I’m the only kid in history whose mother wrote a note excusing her child from class picture day. The reflection of the photographer’s flash from my two teeth would likely have blinded him.

Is it my imagination or did dad make me stand near the TV and order me to turn my head “north ... now slightly to the west ... just a bit more ... now cock your head 20 degrees

...” just to pick up a TV station not originating from Evansville? I became Dad’s personal mid-1970s cable converter box ... “now, look down ... up a bit ... lean in ... hold steady ... look at me ... now look away!”

You know that god-awful Christmas song that goes, “All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth”? Well, all I wanted for Christmas was to not have my front teeth. The “shoes” signified the end any sort of social life for me. And here my dad thought he was the one with legitimate worries? As an adult, anytime I asked my parents about my “teeth shoes,” they just started giggling and couldn’t get any words out.

The more keys a man has, the more worries.

I wanted to say, “Don’t tell me about worries, Dad, until you get your own pair of teeth shoes.”

Perhaps what Dad actually meant was: “Don’t set

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your life up for too many keys, son.”

Apparently, I took his advice. I don’t own a key-chain anymore, just a fob for the car.

I’m rattle-free.

I am fond of the lack of locks I must unlock, thankful for my lack of worry over lost keys and the collective responsibilities they represent. I am a man unfettered.

I’m also quite fond of my teeth. Eventually, the “teeth shoes” were replaced by traditional orthodontics, my braces bringing me to an equal standing with my metal-mouthed peers. We all smiled full-mouthed silver back then.

Currently, my teeth remain passably straight, though I’m still not sure the “teeth shoes” played a significant role in anything other than providing better TV reception for Dad.

Email Scott at scottsaa1-man@gmail.com.

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Keep your expectations realistic & you'll enjoy a less stressful holiday season

“Honey, what’s wrong, you seem out of sorts ...” he said.

“Nothing is wrong, dear, it’s just that it’s Christmas,” she replied.

Although I usually include a quote of a famous person to introduce my topic, this time I have decided to include the above anonymously – and I venture to say that these words are being spoken in more households than my own ... uh oh, gave myself away!

Although I have introduced this topic in a light-hearted manner, it does seem that women incur



SHARON McMAHON
Be Well

most of the stress that happens around this most joyous time of year. Decorating? Check. Baking? Check. Shopping? Check. Gift wrapping? Check. Social calendar? Check. Christmas card list? Check.

I think you know where I am going with this! (Men, I don’t mean to neglect you here, but...)

Seriously, I do enjoy this time of year, added duties and all. However, it is true that we often put ourselves through some unrealistic expectations which can bring on holiday stress. My most recent columns have ad-

ressed holiday indulgences of food and drink with some alternative suggestions to make more reasonable decisions and modifications. A diet which is higher in sugar, fat, caffeine, and alcohol can rob us of the energy, flexibility, and strength we need to get through this hectic time. Focus on whole grains, fruits such as figs and apples; substitute that third cup of coffee with green tea, and include good protein sources such as fish and nuts.

As we prepare our homes to celebrate the Christmas season, we find ourselves on ladders climbing up and down to retrieve holiday decorations; on hands and knees searching for boxes and containers in back of

closets; reaching up to the nether regions of our pantries for items needed to cook and bake our goodies; shopping and wrapping gifts.

The results of those activities, if we are not properly stretched and flexed, can be debilitating at a time when we need our energy resources. Make sure you go for that daily walk, that you stretch when you awaken, that you get those hand weights out and put them to good use, or put your fitness facility membership to work for you ... your body and your stress level will thank you! Additionally, it is well-known that the release of endorphins by virtue of physical activity will benefit your emotional health. Definitely a win-win!

In particular, I suggest you focus on your stretching and flexibility. As mentioned in a previous column, one thing that all athletes have in common regarding their training regimens: they all begin with stretching and flexibility work. So begin your day, no matter your schedule or other activities, with a stretching routine. This will allow you to warm your muscles and prepare your muscle groups for lifting, reaching, and moving. While stretching, use that time to focus on being positive, peaceful, and calm.

On a completely different topic but one near and dear to my heart – if you are considering a new pet please adopt a rescue; a special friend may be waiting for you right now.

May you and yours experience a healthy, happy, and peaceful Christmas season.

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

The murder of Kurt Cobain

This column is brought to readers by Sheridan High School dual-credit program students and Human Services teacher Abby Williams.

Kurt Donald Cobain was born in Aberdeen, Wash., on February 20, 1967, to parents Wendy and Donald Cobain.

In 1987, Cobain started a band by the name of Nirvana as the lead singer and guitarist with Chad Channing as the drummer and Krist Novoselic as the bassist. Their first album, *Bleach*, was released in 1989, but Nirvana’s claim to fame did not come until 1991 with the release of their breakthrough album titled *Nevermind*. The hit single “Smells like Teen Spirit,” became an anthem for many young people in the 90s and was largely responsible for the grunge movement.

Fame came very quickly for the members of Nirvana, now including Dave Grohl, their new drummer. Many stars turn to substance abuse to cope with the stress of fame, which was the case for Cobain. On April 5, 1994, Cobain was found dead in his Washington home with a shotgun nearby. Kurt Cobain’s death was officially ruled as a suicide, but I believe he was murdered.

Like many, I believe Courtney Love, Kurt Cobain’s wife, was the one who set up his murder.

In early 1994, rumors started circulating about Cobain wanting to divorce Love. In most cases, this wouldn’t have been a big deal – celebrities get married and divorced every day. The only problem for Love, though, was that she had signed a prenuptial agreement with Cobain when they got married. This means she wouldn’t receive as much money from the divorce. It shows Love’s potential motive for facilitating Cobain’s murder.



BELLA PAPPAS
Sheridan High School Student

der: money. Even though Love was famous in her own right, I think she was possessive and money-hungry.

According to *Love and Death*, a book written by Max Wallace and Ian Halperin, Cobain was in rehab for a period of time before his death, but he escaped by climbing over a wall. Once he got out, he disappeared for a few days.

Meanwhile, Love was concerned about Cobain’s whereabouts and decided to hire private investigator Tom Grant to spy on him. Even before getting in touch with Grant, though, Love decided to cancel all of Cobain’s access to money, including debit and credit cards. She then called the credit card company to get ahold of his purchase records within the last couple of days, which included two airline tickets. Love was not able to see where Cobain was trying to go, just how much money he had spent on the tickets.

This is where Grant comes in: Love tried to persuade him to hack into the airline system and see where her husband was flying to. Grant refused and told Love he wouldn’t do anything illegal.

I think this behavior is a little excessive, and it shows how possessive Love really was of Cobain and his money. If you’re trying to find your husband, I think the first thing you should do is call the police, not cancel all his access to money.

In 2014, it was also revealed that a note was found in Cobain’s wallet, separate from his formal suicide note. This note mocked Cobain and Love’s marriage, saying Love just wanted to buy drugs. I think this insight into Cobain’s mind proves that Love didn’t necessarily have good intentions when marrying him.

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And he shall be their peace.
(Micah 5:5)

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Thursday Services 7:00 p.m.
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Sunday Service on Dec. 24th 9:00 a.m.
Dec. 24th The Service of Lessons and Carols 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 24th Candlelight 11:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Celebration 10:00 am

Glory to the Newborn King!

Bells jingle for 5 kilometers thanks to Running Acorns



Photo provided by Westfield Washington Schools

On Dec. 9, third- and fourth-grade girls at Oak Trace Elementary School in Westfield completed the Jingle Bell Run 5K. These girls are part of a running club called Running Acorns. They work on building confidence, self-esteem, and healthy bodies.

Pickleball players invited to next month's Midwest Open in Westfield

The REPORTER

The Association of Pickleball Players (APP) invites pickleball players to kick off the 2024 season at the inaugural APP Midwest Open, featuring the best amateur pickleball tournament experience Jan. 3 to 7 at the Grand Park Sports Campus in Westfield.

Registration for amateurs of all ages and skill levels will be open until Dec. 23 at [PickleballBrackets.com](#).

The event includes singles, doubles, and mixed doubles competitions through Championship Sunday on Jan. 7. For the first time, the APP will break out a new tournament format for its amateur pickleball players, ensuring all play-

ers have maximum time on court and minimum time between games. The Midwest Open will be in a round robin format – pool play – with playoffs, guaranteeing players more matches and a designated court for a longer period of time so friends and fans may watch.

The APP Midwest Open also coincides with the inaugural APP U.S. Collegiate Championships, featuring pickleball teams and players from top schools across the country – like Duke, Indiana, Ole Miss, UCLA, UConn and more – competing for \$50,000 in total prize purse on the line. Full schedules for both tournaments are available on [Pickleball-Brackets.com](#).

Community members as well as friends and family members of pickleball competitors are encouraged to join the APP for a must-catch week of pickleball action, which begins at 8 a.m. local time each day of the tournament. Tickets for the APP Midwest Open and U.S. Collegiate Championships are available via [SITickets.com](#) for \$15 each. Kids aged 12 and under can enter for free with a parent or guardian.

Tickets will also be sold on site at the Grand Park Sports Campus, which will transform its 377,000 square-foot facility into a pickleball mecca featuring 28 pickleball courts and a Championship Court plus various player and specta-

tor accommodations from locker rooms to a large bar and restaurant overlooking play. The 400-acre venue is home to the Pacers Athletic Center, serves as the training camp home for the NFL's Indianapolis Colts and boasts 57 outdoor fields for various sports.

The APP is scheduled to return to the Midwest several times throughout 2024, including stops in Cincinnati and St. Louis before coming home to Chicago for both the APP U.S. Indoor Championships June 12 to 16 and the APP Tour Aug. 28 to Sept. 1.

The full 2024 schedule, recent news, and additional information about the APP are available at [theapp.global](#).

Hamilton County home prices keep rising

The REPORTER

Increases in available inventory and year-to-date price increases were seen across the central Indiana residential real estate market in November. However, when compared to November 2022, the average central Indiana home sale price decreased 6.7 percent. According to F.C. Tucker Company, part of the Howard Hanna family of companies:

- Available housing inventory increased 2.1 percent compared to November 2022.
- Compared to November 2022, the average home sale price for the 16-county central Indiana region decreased – down 6.7 percent to \$290,020. The year-to-date home sale price increased slightly, up 5.7 percent.
- Pended home sales decreased, down 11.5 percent compared to this time last

year. *Specifically, in Hamilton County:*

- The year-to-date home sale price increased 8.1 percent to \$514,355 compared to November 2022 – and the highest average home sale price in the 16-county central Indiana area.
- Available housing inventory increased 5.2 percent compared to this time last year.
- Pended housing sales were down 14 percent compared to November 2022.
- In November 2023, 2,107 central Indiana homes were purchased, down 11.5 percent from the 2,381 sold in November 2022.
- Jennings County had the greatest increase in pended home sales in November 2023, up 66.7 percent compared to this time last year.
- Jackson County pended sales had the greatest decrease with 45 percent fewer

homes sold in November 2023 compared to November 2022.

Central Indiana year-to-date home sale prices increased, up 5.7 percent overall:

- Brown County recorded the highest average year-to-date home sale price increase at 21.4 percent.
- **Hamilton County had the highest average year-to-date home sale price in the region at \$514,355.**
- Homes sold in 26 days on average, remaining on the market seven days, or 36.8 percent, longer than in 2022. Jennings County homes sold 3.6 percent faster, and Decatur County homes sold in the same amount of time as last year. Homes in all other central Indiana counties remained on the market longer than this time last year.
- Central Indiana experienced a 2.1 percent increase in overall available home in-

ventory in November 2023, compared to November 2022, with 97 more homes available for sale.

- Jennings County had the largest inventory increase – up 30.8 percent compared to November 2022.
- Putnam County experienced the largest decrease in inventory – down 37.9 percent compared to this time last year.
- “The average home sale price has actually decreased since this time last year, and mortgage interest rates are down slightly, creating a steady market,” F.C. Tucker Company President Jim Litten said. “While some may be hesitant to purchase a home during the holiday season, the majority of central Indiana counties saw increases in available housing inventory in November, providing a greater selection of homes for buyers to choose from.”

Westfield Chamber Calendar of Events

JANUARY

Westfield Lantern Awards

6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 25

Location: Prairie Waters Event Center

[Click here](#) to see a full list of events by the Westfield Chamber of Commerce and its partners.

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Round Room completes historic year of giving with over \$3.1M total donations

Continued focus on giving back to local communities led Round Room to surpass donation expectations this year

The REPORTER

Round Room, one of the nation’s largest Verizon Authorized Retailers, is completing a record-setting year of giving nationwide.

As Culture of Good, Inc. companies, Round Room, along with subsidiaries TCC and Wireless Zone, make ongoing investments in the local communities across all 43 states in which they operate through various initiatives, including quarterly events and an employee profit sharing program.

“Since 2014, Round Room’s nonprofit organizations, including Round Room Gives, TCC Gives and Wireless Zone Gives, have collectively donated more than \$22 million to communities across the nation,” Round Room CEO Scott Moorehead said. “We are so proud of the impact we are making and our continued growth year after year. I am fortunate to be surrounded by a team that supports our deep commitment to giving back.”

Key philanthropic initiatives in 2023 included:

Donating to local communities

• In February, TCC provided local teachers catered meals, gift cards, school

supplies and more through the 10th annual **Teachers Rock initiative**. The company also gave away 10 \$1,000 Amazon gift cards for teachers to enhance their classrooms and student experiences through TCC’s Big Impact donation.

• In May, TCC and Wireless Zone hosted in-store supply drives and adoption events to benefit local animal rescues across the nation through their second **Rescues Rock initiative**.

• In July, TCC and Wireless Zone donated 120,000 backpacks full of school supplies to children nationwide through the 11th annual **School Rocks Backpack Giveaway**, marking 1.3 million backpacks donated since the program began in 2013.

• In August, as part of the company-wide TCC Sales Rally, Round Room Gives donated \$1.7 million to local Indianapolis nonprofits in the form of a “**Mega Grant**” donation. Round Room Core Groups, or Employee Resource Groups, each selected one finalist based on local employee nominations and nonprofit presentations. Round Room Gives Board of Directors awarded grants to all seven of the nonprofit finalists, with

DREAM Alive winning the grand prize of \$580,000, as well as a transportation allowance of \$60,000 and a \$100,000 check. The other six finalists also each received a \$60,000 transportation allowance and a \$100,000 check.

• In October, on behalf of the Round Room Family, Moorehead and his wife, Julie, donated \$500,000 to **Friends of Indy Animals** as part of their \$6.7 million Journey Home capital campaign to build, equip, and furnish a new home for Indianapolis Animal Care Services (ACS).

• In October, **More Than a Phone**, a central Indiana-based nonprofit that partners with domestic violence programs across the U.S. to provide smartphones and data service plans to the survivors they serve, held its sixth annual **More Than a Tailgate** fundraising event, raising over \$200,000 for survivors across the country. More Than a Phone was founded by Round Room employees.

• In November, TCC and Wireless Zone collected canned food and non-perishable items for local pantries and volunteered at over 24 different food banks nationwide through their first-ever **Rock the Pantry initiative**.

Supporting employees

• This fall, Round Room gave a percentage of the company’s fiscal year profits to each of Round Room’s more than 2,400 employees through the Employee Profit Sharing Program to use for items that mattered most to them, including home improvements, fertility treatments, therapy dogs and more. This year on average, employees received at least \$4,000 from the program.

Giving back to customers

• TCC donated \$20,000 each quarter to a different TCC customer across all 496 stores through their **#Get10Give10 initiative**, totaling \$80,000. TCC customers kept \$10,000 for personal needs and gave the other \$10,000 to a nonprofit organization of their choice.

Round Room operates 1,225 TCC and Wireless Zone wireless retail stores across 43 states. The companies share a deep commitment to improving the communities they serve nationwide. Round Room plans to continue the extraordinary impact it is making with another year of philanthropic initiatives in 2024.

For more information on Round Room and its impact, visit RoundRoom.com.

Sen. Mike Braun calls for SSA compliance with e-signature executive order

The REPORTER

U.S. Senators Mike Braun (R-Ind.) and Bob Casey (D-Pa.) sent a letter to the Social Security Administration (SSA) on its lack of compliance with congressional and executive direction to allow electronic signatures for the completion of transactions when possible.



Braun

Not only does a wet signature requirement add avoidable burden to SSA employees, but also it burdens anyone filling out forms.

Below are excerpts from their letter:

“We write regarding reports of the Social Security Administration (SSA) departing from congressional and executive direction to federal agencies on the use of electronic signatures (e-signatures) for the completion of vital transactions when possible. We are especially concerned that outdated SSA wet signature requirements for some forms are burdensome for SSA employees, and are contributing to ongoing backlogs and delays in access to benefits for recipients and potential recipients with disabilities.

“There are four recent

congressional and executive branch authorizations providing federal agencies with flexibility to allow and facilitate the use of e-signatures.

One such action is President Biden’s December 16, 2021, executive order directing SSA, to the extent practicable, to remove and revise regulations requiring physical signatures. Yet there have been reports of SSA offices still requiring completion of many forms with a wet signature of blue or black ink and requiring submission by mail rather than electronically.

“SSA employees are currently struggling to meet service demands because of a range of factors. Outdated technology may be one contributory factor, making it even more necessary that SSA provide e-signature and digital options to recipients who choose to utilize that technology. This is not without precedent; SSA effectively enacted adoption of e-signatures during the pandemic with reported success. We urge SSA to provide greater flexibility, consistent with congressional and executive policy and provide the option of e-signatures on all documents possible.”

Noblesville’s Prairie Lakes Apartments now under new ownership

Submitted by Birge & Held

Birge & Held, a national development, property management, and investment firm based in Indianapolis, has announce the acquisition of its newest property, **Prairie Lakes Apartments** in Noblesville. Leisure and luxury meet in this 402-unit property, which has been a significant part of the Noblesville landscape since 2009.

“We’re excited for all the great things that come with having new ownership,” Prairie Lakes Community Manager Vandy Bauer.

“Birge & Held is bringing not only new management but also some very exciting upgrades to the community and each apartment home that are anticipated to be completed in March 2024. Current and future residents can expect beautiful white quartz countertops, tile backsplash in the kitchen, luxury vinyl plank flooring, and custom kitchen sinks with spray nozzles as some of the unit upgrades.”

Located near Hamilton Town Center at the corner of 146th Street and Prairie Lakes Boulevard, Prairie Lakes Apartments is a

gorgeous community that makes it possible to live beyond renters’ expectations with impressive finishes and resort-quality amenities. These include a saltwater infinity pool, a poolside grilling cabana with pergolas, and a clubhouse featuring a game lounge. There is an on-site 24-hour fitness center that comes complete with a studio space and virtual fitness classes. The community is pet-friendly with no weight restrictions and even has private balconies or patios that feature a puppy porch for furry residents.

The apartment units fea-

ture stainless steel kitchen appliances, a built-in kitchen work desk, a wine refrigerator, and a full-size washer and dryer. Prairie Lakes is in close proximity to large employers in the area including Gaylor Electric, King Systems Corp, Navient Corp, Roche Diagnostics Corp, and many more.

Prairie Lakes is dedicated to supporting central Indiana residents, giving back to the community this holiday season by collecting items such as coats, hats, gloves, socks, blankets, hygiene bags, and other items to help displaced individuals

during the winter months. This year, the community is collecting items for two recovery homes – a women’s home in Greenfield and a men’s home in downtown Indianapolis. A group of volunteers will sort the items and then deliver them on Christmas morning.

“Birge & Held strives to enhance the lives of our residents by transforming communities, which is something we feel the team at Prairie Lakes exemplifies,” Birge & Held Regional Property Manager Ashley Grindel said. “Residents deserve a place to call

home and a feeling of community. Across all our properties, we aim to provide a higher standard of living and continue to develop efficient solutions that can help us surpass their expectations. We’re excited to integrate more within this community and further contribute to the greater Hamilton County area.”

Prairie Lakes Apartments have 162 one-bedroom units, 208 two-bedroom units, and 32 three-bedroom units. Find your place to call home at liveatprairielakes.com, or [take a virtual tour today](#).

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Michael Feinstein & Carnegie Hall Big Band plan tribute to Tony Bennett

The REPORTER

One of the most beloved singers in the history of American popular music will be the focus of Michael Feinstein's annual spring performance at the Center for the Performing Arts.

Because of You: A Tribute to the Legendary Tony Bennett is set for 8 p.m. Friday, May 17, at the Palladium, 1 Carter Green, Carmel.

Supported by the Carnegie Hall Big Band, Feinstein will bring Bennett's iconic songs to life in a symphony of sound. The performance will feature hits such as "Because of You," "Rags to Riches," "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," "The Best is Yet to Come," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "Stranger in Paradise" and many more.

Bennett, who died July 21 at age 96, performed three times at the Palladium,

most recently in May 2019, when the Great American Songbook Foundation inducted him into its Songbook Hall of Fame. Feinstein's personal friendship with Bennett will add depth to the performance.

"Tony Bennett is one of the most enduring icons of the 20th century," said Feinstein, the performer and preservationist who founded the Songbook Foundation and serves as artistic director for the Center for the Performing Arts. "He has created a body of work surpassed by none."

Tickets starting at \$45 are on sale now at TheCenterPresents.org, by phone at (317) 843-3800, or in person at the Palladium's Fifth Third Bank Box Office.

The performance is part of the Hoosier Village & The Barrington of Carmel Songbook Series and the



Photo provided

The friendship between Tony Bennett and Michael Feinstein is sure to add depth to Feinstein's tribute concert set for May 17, 2024, at the Palladium.

2023-2024 Center Presents Season, presented in partnership with Allied Solutions.



NPR's Tiny Desk Contest returns

Submitted

The Tiny Desk Contest is returning for the 10th year. The competition is open to all musical artists without a current recording contract. The winner will play a Tiny Desk concert at NPR in Washington, D.C., be featured on NPR's *All Things Considered*, and headline NPR Music's Tiny Desk Contest On The Road tour.

Competitors are encouraged to create a video showcasing a song that they have written. The video will show the singer performing a Tiny

Desk concert.

A panel of judges, including members of NPR Music, DJs from NPR Member stations, industry experts and Tiny Desk alumni will choose the winner. They will be looking for someone at least 18 years old and living in the United States, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

The contest will be open for entries from 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23 through 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Fishers brothers sentenced to more than 35 years combined for manufacturing & distributing machine guns intended for ISIS

The REPORTER

Moyad Dannon, 25, Fishers, has been sentenced to 200 months in federal prison, followed by a lifetime of supervised release, after pleading guilty to Attempting to Provide Material Support or Resources, namely, firearms, to a Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization. His brother, Mahde Dannon was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison in October 2021, after pleading guilty to the same charges.

According to court documents, in June of 2018, the Dannon brothers devised a scheme to deliver stolen firearms to a convicted felon who was cooperating with the FBI.

Between July 2018 and December 2018, the Dannon brothers sold a number of illegally obtained firearms to the cooperating individual. Around the same time period, the Dannon brothers also began to manufacture untraceable "ghost guns" by purchasing firearms parts online and assembling those parts into fully-functioning, .223 caliber semi-automatic rifles, which they sold to the FBI undercover agent.

In late 2018, the Dannon brothers began manufacturing untraceable, fully automatic, .223 caliber rifles, using much the same process they used to manufacture the semi-automatic rifles, and selling those to the undercover agent and confidential informant (CI).

Shortly thereafter, Moyad Dannon accompanied the undercover agent to a location near the U.S. southwest border in an effort to market that rifle, and additional fully-automatic rifles, to a potential buyer who was also cooperating with the FBI. During that trip, Moyad Dannon learned that the potential buyer sought to ship the weapons to a location in the Middle East, where they would be used by ISIS.

ISIS is a designated foreign terrorist organization pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Despite learning of the ultimate destination of the weapons, the Dannon brothers agreed to manufacture and sell at least 55 additional fully automatic "ghost guns" to the buyer from the



American southwest border, believing those weapons would be shipped to the Middle East, to ISIS and its members.

On May 15, 2019, the Dannon brothers manufactured five untraceable, fully automatic, .223 caliber rifles from parts they had purchased online. At that time, the Dannon brothers were fully aware that the plan was to send the five automatic rifles overseas to ISIS. After building the fully automatic rifles, the Dannon brothers sold all five weapons to undercover FBI agents posing as employees of the buyer from near the southwest border. The Dannon brothers were arrested immediately thereafter by the FBI.

Between February and May of 2019, Moyad Dannon had numerous and extensive conversations with an undercover agent who he believed was a member of ISIS then fighting in Syria. During those conversations, Moyad expressed his desire to travel from Indiana to ISIS-controlled areas of Syria, where he sought to utilize his knowledge of firearms and other skills to provide direct military assistance to ISIS in its fight against the United States and Syrian government.

In a search following his arrest, FBI agents located a flash drive on Moyad's keychain containing approximately 16 gigabytes of ISIS propaganda, including graphically violent videos depicting ISIS fighters beheading civilians and hostages, and ISIS snipers killing U.S. military personnel. Identical ISIS propaganda videos were discovered on a laptop computer.

"Violent extremists inspired by events abroad continue to pose a threat to our local communities and to our national security. Indiana is not immune from the

poison of radicalization, fueled by terrorist propaganda available online," said Zachary A. Myers, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. "For nearly a year, these defendants worked persistently to arm murderous terrorists with deadly, illegal weapons. Cases like this demonstrate the need for law enforcement agencies to use all available lawful means to identify, disrupt, and prosecute national security threats here at home. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Fishers Police Department, these dangerous men have been held accountable for their actions and our communities will be safe from them for many years."

"The defendants in this case fused together two grave threats to Americans' security by attempting to support a brutal terrorist organization through the illicit manufacture of ghost guns," said Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco. "Just as we've done in the fight against terrorism, the Justice Department is committed to prevention – stopping gun violence before it happens by cracking down on the illegal production and trafficking of ghost guns."

The FBI's Indianapolis Field Office's Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Fishers, Indiana, Police Department investigated this case. The sentences were imposed by U.S. District Court Judge Richard L. Young.

U.S. Attorney Myers thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys for the Southern District of Indiana Matthew Rinka, Kate Olivier, Kelly Rota, and Department of Justice Trial Attorney Paul Casey, of the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section, who prosecuted this case.

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State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn attends White House legislative convening on gun violence prevention

Submitted

On Wednesday, State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn (D-Fishers) joined the largest convening of state lawmakers from across the nation at the White House seeking solutions to the gun violence crisis. The convening included the announcement of \$334 million in grant funding for law enforcement agencies to expand crime gun intelligence.

Garcia Wilburn's visit to Washington coincides with the **Indiana Crime Guns Task Force's Dec. 12 press conference** in which they shared that youth violence is on the rise in central Indiana and that more teenagers are accessing guns.

"I want to commend Fishers Police Chief Ed Gebhart, IMPD Assistant Chief Chris Bailey and their team for their critical work on the Indiana Crime Guns Task Force," Garcia Wilburn said. "By working with the task force and its integration of city, state and federal agencies, Fishers Police have helped confiscated 406 illegal guns in Fishers alone. This is the leadership that needs to happen to keep our kids, families, and community safe."

In 2023, Garcia Wilburn passed her first authored law, **House Enrolled Act 1321**, which aims to improve the mental health of Indiana's heroic first responders. Her law requires annual in-ser-

vice virtual training for first responders, including law enforcement, full-time professional firefighters, and EMS. Additionally, Garcia Wilburn co-authored **House Enrolled Act 1365 (2023)**, which bans machine gun conversion devices. Rep. Mitch Gore (D-Indianapolis) authored HEA 1365.

"I am thankful I was able to pass several meaningful gun violence prevention measures into law this year and take that experience with me to Washington, D.C. this week," Garcia Wilburn said. "Strong partnerships with law enforcement are key to decreasing gun violence in Indiana. My proudest moment thus far as a lawmaker was when Gov. Holcomb signed my bill into law to make sure that law enforcement and other first responders have suicide prevention and mental health training. Law enforcement can't tackle gun violence when they're struggling with their mental health, and my hope is that my law will address that in addition to helping our law enforcement agencies be fully staffed. Second to that was learning that local law enforcement has been able to use HEA 1365, which I co-authored, to charge people with machine gun conversion devices in their possession."

As she returns from Washington and prepares



Photo provided

State Rep. Garcia Wilburn intends to bring some policy ideas from Washington back to Indiana.

for the 2024 legislative session, Garcia Wilburn intends to bring back several policy ideas to decrease gun violence and deal with its traumatic impacts:

- **Improve lethal means safety for people at risk of suicide.** Indiana made a historic investment in mental health in 2023 by expanding the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, but more remains to be done. Cable locks, gun safes, off-site storage sites and extreme risk protection orders have been proven to save lives, and Indiana should take a proactive public health approach to making these widely available in Hoosier communities. The **Indiana Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families** is working to keep service-members and veterans safe.
- **Fund law enforcement initiatives to hold**

shooters and gun traffickers accountable. This includes improving clearance rates for homicides and shootings by funding investigatory units, crime gun tracing, identifying gun trafficking efforts and bolstering intelligence efforts like the Indiana Crime Guns Task Force.

"It's heartening to me that Indiana has already made progress on improving lethal means safety for people at risk of suicide, like our military and veterans, and holding gun traffickers accountable," Garcia Wilburn said. "The Indiana Crime Guns Task Force is turning its attention toward figuring out how straw buyers are getting guns into the hands of teens, and I'm grateful to them for that. Together, there is more to be done, and I intend to do all I can the next legislative session and in years to come."

Sen. Mike Braun introduces abandoned well remediation bill to protect local resources

The REPORTER

This week, U.S. Senators Mike Braun (R-Ind.) and Bob Casey (D-Pa.) introduced the Orphan Well Grant Flexibility Act, a piece of legislation designed to empower states to maximize their operational flexibility within the Energy Policy Act of 2005 dedicated to plugging abandoned oil wells.

These orphaned oil wells, often abandoned and unchecked for years, can pose serious environmental hazards by leeching toxic chemicals into soil and contaminate essential water resources. Senators Braun and Casey are joined by Senators Cruz, Lee, Risch, Marshall, Mullin, Moran, Crapo, Schmitt, Lankford, Fetterman, and Brown in this effort.

In Indiana, there have been **1,459 reports** of abandoned wells in need of remediation.

"Abandoned oil wells

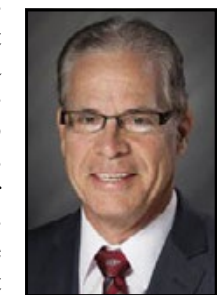
pose an overlooked yet serious threat to local communities' ground and water resources," Sen. Braun said.

"I'm proud to co-sponsor this bill that cuts the red tape and allows states to fast-track remediation of these orphaned wells which will ultimately protect the residents that live by them."

Background

Orphan, or abandoned wells, are oil or gas wells that have been abandoned by fossil fuel companies and have no legal owners. These old wells, either unplugged or improperly plugged, let contaminants into surrounding lands and waters, can leak methane and other harmful air pollutants, and can reduce property values by 12 percent. Today, 14 million people are living within half a mile of an orphaned well, and 100 thousand new orphan wells are discovered each year.

Click here to read the full text of the bill.



Braun

Meeting Notices

The Hamilton Heights School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, at the Hamilton Heights Student Activity Center, 420 W. North St., Arcadia.

The Carmel Redevelopment Commission will meet in an executive session at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023.

A regular meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square, Carmel.

The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees will meet for a work session at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, in the Board Room at the Noblesville Schools Educational Services Center, 18025 River Road, Noblesville.

The Noblesville Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

The Cicero Town Council will meet to approve year-end claims at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, at Cicero Town Hall, 70 N. Byron St., Cicero.

The Noblesville Common Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

The Noblesville Redevelopment Authority will meet at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

JACOB ARRIVES IN PADDAN ARAM

Then Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples. There he saw a well in the open country, with three flocks of sheep lying near it because the flocks were watered from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large. When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone away from the well's mouth and water the sheep. Then they would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well.

Genesis 29:1-3 (NIV)

Jeffery Allen Davidson

March 21, 1975 – December 12, 2023



Jeffery Allen Davidson, 48, Fishers, passed away on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. He was born on March 21, 1975, to Terry and Stephanie (Poole) Davidson in Indianapolis.

Jeff worked as a chef had a love for life; he was always happy and funny. Jeff enjoyed being outdoors fishing, camping, and traveling. He loved playing pool and attending music festivals, especially Phish, the Grateful Dead, and local band, Hryder. Most of all,

Jeff loved spending time with his son and his close friends. He is survived by his parents, Terry and Stephanie Davidson; son and daughter-in-law, Noah and Whitney Davidson; brother and sister-in-law, Jamie and Tamara Davidson Jr.; nieces, Abigail and Katherine Davidson; nephew, Finnegan Davidson; and his former wife, Suzanne Davis.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 p.m., with services at 4 p.m., on Saturday, December 16, 2023, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ronald McDonald House of Indiana, 435 Limestone St., Indianapolis, IN 46202 (rmhccin.org); or Salvation Army, 6060 Castleway West Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46250 (centralusa.salvationarmy.org/indiana).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Marcy Ellen Walls

March 25, 1946 – December 12, 2023

Marcy Ellen Walls, 77, Westfield, passed away on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. She was born on March 25, 1946, in Noblesville, to the late Leslie S. and Virginia Rose (Seever) Wheeler.

As a lifelong resident of Hamilton County, Marcy attended Westfield School her entire 12 years beginning first grade through high school graduation in 1964. Following graduation, Marcy received her Bachelor of Science and Business degree with Distinction from Indiana University.

Marcy enjoyed her employment as a legal secretary with the law firm of Campbell Kyle Proffitt in Carmel. On October 25, 1986, Marcy and Dan Walls were married.

Marcy and Dan were former members of the Indianapolis Northside Harley Davidson-Hog Chapter. She and Dan experienced some great adventures riding on their Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Also, taking trips in their Corvette was a favorite pastime. Marcy and Dan are current members of Crossroads Corvettes Club, which meet the first Thursday of each month at the MCL Cafeteria in Indianapolis.

Bird watching and working in her flower-vegetable gardens brought Marcy much pleasure. She loved her Westie dog; however, her greatest joy was spending time with family.

In addition to her parents, Marcy was preceded in death by her brother, Joe Wheeler.

Survivors include her husband of 37 years, Lowell "Dan" Walls; sons, Matt (Trish) Biljanic, Chad (Jennifer) Walls, Ryan (Maddie) Walls, Chris (Yslea) Rasmussen, and Mike (Kristin) Rasmussen; seven grandchildren; siblings, Andy (Marcia) Wheeler, Martha Wheeler Gayle, and Charlie (Tracey) Wheeler; several nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Family and friends will gather at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 23, 2023, at Trinity Baptist Church, 1415 E. 191st St., Westfield, where the Celebration of Life Service will begin at 1 p.m.

In memory of Marcy, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Indiana Chapter. Envelopes will be available at the service.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family with arrangements. Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com



New four-way stop west of Hortonville

Effective Monday, Dec. 18, stop signs will be installed on 206th Street at Six Points Road. That's just west of Hortonville in rural Hamilton County.

This will make the intersection an all-way stop. Advanced "NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN AHEAD" warning signs will also be installed east and west of the intersection.

Fishers road construction updates, week of Dec. 18

The REPORTER 106th Street & Hoosier Road

The intersection of 106th Street and Hoosier Road is currently closed for the construction of a roundabout. Access into and out of the Windermere subdivision will be on Geist Road via Governors Lane. For additional project information, view the Capital Project Dashboard here.

I-465 & I-69

In the coming weeks, drivers on westbound In-

terstate 465 can expect to see traffic being shifted onto new pavement between I-69 and Allisonville Road. Traffic will also be shifted onto new pavement for southbound I-69 onto westbound and southbound I-465.

The ramp from I-69 North to 82nd Street is now open; the ramp from 82nd Street to I-69 North is currently closed through mid-2024. For detour routes and additional project information, visit ClearPath465.com.

**Thanks for reading
The Reporter!**

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PENDING

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This open concept condo is move-in ready, 2 BR, 2 BA family room with gas fireplace, eat-in kitchen with granite counters, breakfast bar, tile floor, pantry, appliances stay, main BR ensuite with walk-in tile shower, large 2-car garage, patio with retractable awning. **BLC#21945183**

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

Boys Basketball

Tigers now sport three muddy socks

Faithful crowd packs bleachers to see classic rivalry play out at Hamilton Southeastern

By **RICHIE HALL**
sports@readthereporter.com

FISHERS – No matter who is ranked what coming into a Mudsock game, it’s going to be close. Fishers is the No. 1-ranked boys basketball in Class 4A and was unbeaten coming into Friday’s contest, which took place this year at Hamilton Southeastern in front of a sold-out crowd. The Royals gave the Tigers a battle for the full 32 minutes before Fishers prevailed 64-57, claiming the Mudsock trophy and staying perfect for the season at 6-0.

It was a true team victory, with all nine players that took to the floor for the Tigers scoring at least two points. “HSE did a great job and had a good game plan,” said Fishers coach Garrett Winegar. “We struggled, obviously. But for them to find a way to win, for nine guys to give minutes and make plays, that’s what it’s all about.” Southeastern scored the game’s first four points, with Braeden Totten making a layin and Kam Anthony putting down a dunk. The Tigers ran off nine consecutive points: Keenan Garner got Fishers’ first basket at the 4:12 mark of the game, then scored again. Justin Kirby hit a 3-pointer and Cooper Zachary scored off a steal. The Royals led 14-13 in the final seconds of the

quarter, but the Tigers’ Millen McCartney sent a throw from just beyond the half-court line that went in. Fishers thus led 16-14 going into the second period. JonAnthony Hall scored for the Tigers to begin the second quarter. Southeastern quickly got back in front when Michael Griffith made an and-1, then Jack Jacobs came off the bench to hit a 3. Fishers later used a 6-0 run to get ahead 26-22, with baskets from Garner, Jason Gardner Jr. and Hall. That was the story of the game, as both teams used little spurts throughout to either move ahead or erase their opponent’s lead. The Tigers led 40-35 at halftime, but the Royals got back to 42-42 when Jacobs made a three-point play. Layins from Parker Perdue and Garner got Fishers up 49-44 after three quarters. Nate Orr’s layin got HSE within 49-47, but the Tigers went on an 8-0 run to get ahead by 57-47, the largest lead of the game, with 3:01 left. Taden Metzger sandwiched two 3s between Garner’s layin. Fishers was able to stay at least a few points in front for those remaining three minutes. Orr’s two free throws got the Royals within 61-57 with 27.9 seconds left, but Metzger made a pair of foul shots seconds later to clinch the game. “A lot of these guys got playing time last year, so they’ve been in these



The Fishers boys basketball team won the Mudsock game on Friday, beating out Hamilton Southeastern 64-57 at a sold-out Royals gym. It’s the third year in a row Fishers has won the Mudsock.

moments,” said Winegar. “They’ve been in tough games. They’ve been in games that came down to the wire.” Winegar said that last season, nine of Fishers’ 12 losses were one-possession games in the last three minutes and “we couldn’t find a way to win those games. This year, we’re finding ways to win those games.” Garner scored 14 points, while Metzger made three 3s on his way to 12 points. Garner collected eight rebounds and made two blocked shots, with Hall getting seven rebounds and Kirby pulling five. Zachary had four assists. Orr had 18 points for Southeastern and Griffith scored 11. Griffith led the rebounds with seven, followed by Donovan Hamilton with six and Orr with five. Hamilton and Orr both made four assists, and Hamilton had two blocks. “I was happy with our effort,” said Royals coach John Ashworth. “I thought we set the tone early, but obviously some mistakes here and there add up over the course of the game. You can’t make mistakes against good basketball teams.” The game was also a Hoosier Crossroads Conference game, and Fishers is now 2-0 in the conference. The Tigers are back in action next Friday at Center Grove. Southeastern is 0-2 in HCC play and 2-3 overall, and hosts Christel House Academy next Friday.



Fishers’ Jason Gardner Jr. had nine points for the Tigers; the team had all nine players score. Pictured at left is Southeastern’s Deion Miles.



Hamilton Southeastern’s Nate Orr scored 18 points.

FISHERS 64, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 57				
Fishers	FG	FT	TP	PF
Taden Metzger	3-5	3-4	12	4
Millen McCartney	1-2	0-0	3	3
Cooper Zachary	2-3	0-0	5	3
JonAnthony Hall	3-6	0-0	6	1
Keenan Garner	7-16	0-4	14	1
Justin Kirby	2-5	2-4	7	2
Nathan Baker	1-1	0-0	2	1
Jason Gardner Jr.	3-7	3-4	9	0
Parker Perdue	3-3	0-0	6	2
Totals	25-48	8-16	64	17
Fishers 3-point shooting (6-13) Metzger 3-5, McCartney 1-2, Zachary 1-2, Kirby 1-2, Hall 0-1, Garner 0-1.				
Fishers rebounds (28) Garner 8, Hall 7, Kirby 5, Zachary 2, Gardner 2, Baker 1, team 3.				
Southeastern	FG	FT	TP	PF
Donovan Hamilton	3-10	1-4	8	3
Nate Orr	7-13	4-5	18	2
Braeden Totten	1-7	2-3	4	4
Michael Griffith	4-7	3-4	11	2
Kam Anthony	2-4	0-0	4	2
Jack Jacobs	2-3	1-1	6	0
Deion Miles	0-0	0-0	0	1
Maverick Young	2-2	0-0	6	3
Totals	21-46	11-17	57	17
Southeastern 3-point shooting (4-15) Young 2-2, Hamilton 1-4, Jacobs 1-2, Orr 0-3, Totten 0-3, Griffith 0-1.				
Southeastern rebounds (27) Griffith 7, Hamilton 6, Orr 5, Anthony 4, Totten 3, team 2.				
Score by Quarters				
Fishers	16	24	9	15 – 64
Southeastern	14	21	9	13 – 57

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Thank you, Hamilton County!

Girls Basketball



Photo by Dwight Casler
Sheridan's Brielle Garner gets ready on defense during the Blackhawks' game at Eastern on Friday. Sheridan won 54-20, getting its ninth straight victory.

Blackhawks blast past Eastern Comets

The REPORTER
The Sheridan girls basketball team put together a fantastic defensive effort at Eastern on Friday, rolling past the Comets 54-20 in a Hoosier Heartland Conference game.
The Blackhawks began their ninth straight victory with a 14-3 first quarter. Cecilia Timme scored six of those points. Sheridan led 29-9 at halftime, with Kenzie Garner adding six points. Garner poured in another seven points in the

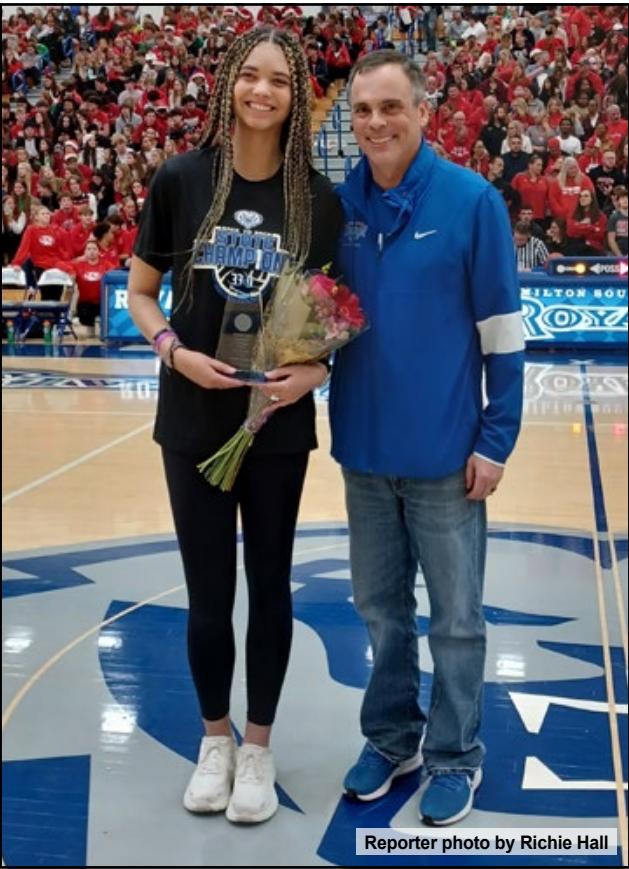
third period, which finished with the 'Hawks ahead 45-15. Sheridan never allowed Eastern more than six points in a quarter.
Garner finished with 19 points, while Timme scored 11. Garner also had nine rebounds and six assists, with Timme making five steals. Mac Smith pulled five rebounds and Nova Cross had five steals and four assists.
Sheridan is 3-1 in conference play and 9-2 overall. The Blackhawks travel to Lebanon Tuesday.

SHERIDAN 54, EASTERN 20				
Sheridan	FG	FT	TP	PF
Cecilia Timme	5-14	1-2	11	2
Kenzie Garner	8-18	3-6	19	1
Shelby Eaton	2-2	0-0	4	3
Nova Cross	1-3	0-0	2	2
Brielle Garner	1-4	0-0	2	2
Sadie Timme	1-3	0-0	2	0
Mac Smith	3-6	1-1	7	1
Makenzy Terry	2-2	1-1	5	1
Makaley Terry	1-4	0-0	2	0
Kennedy Zachary	0-0	0-0	0	1
Totals	24-56	6-10	54	13
Score by Quarters				
Sheridan	14	15	16	9-54
Eastern	3	6	6	5-20
Sheridan 3-point shooting (0-6) K. Garner 0-3, Makaley Terry 0-1, Cross 0-1, B. Garner 0-1. Sheridan rebounds (26) K. Garner 9, Smith 5, C. Timme 3, Cross 2, S. Timme 2, Eaton 2, B. Garner 2, Makaley Terry 1.				

Carmel drops game to North Central

The REPORTER
Carmel's girls basketball team dropped a 44-34 game at North Central on Friday.
The Greyhounds led 13-6 after one quarter, which included three-pointers by Keaton Gatlin, Mackenzie Woods and Lauren Perry. The Panthers stormed back in the second quarter to lead 24-20 at halftime. Carmel made its own comeback in the third quarter to tie the game at 34-34, with Taryn Fisher scoring seven points. But North Central held the 'Hounds scoreless in the fourth.
Fisher led Carmel with eight points.
The Greyhounds are 5-7 and host Heritage Christian on Tuesday.

NORTH CENTRAL 44, CARMEL 34				
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF
Keaton Gatlin	3-7	0-0	7	2
Izzy Shepherd	2-9	2-2	7	3
Mackenzie Woods	3-6	0-1	7	1
Lauren Perry	1-5	0-0	3	0
Taryn Fisher	3-11	1-2	8	5
Jamie Elliott	1-4	0-0	2	1
Megan Hamm	0-3	0-0	0	2
Sydney Bonds	0-2	0-0	0	1
Totals	13-47	3-5	34	15
Score by Quarters				
Carmel	13	7	14	0-34
North Central	6	18	10	10-44
Carmel 3-point shooting (5-21) Shepherd 1-6, Perry 1-5, Gatlin 1-4, Fisher 1-3, Woods 1-2, Elliott 0-1.				



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Hamilton County All-County Volleyball Teams		
FIRST TEAM		
Name	School	Grade
Madison Brown	Noblesville	Sophomore
Kennedy Cherry	Hamilton Heights	Junior
Breonna Goss	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Lauren Harden	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Macy Hinshaw	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Lucy Kay	Fishers	Senior
Sophie Ledbetter	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Lindsey Mangelson	Hamilton Southeastern	Junior
Macie Smith	Hamilton Heights	Sophomore
Tiffany Snook	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Aubrey Stichter	Noblesville	Senior
Kennedy Tinch	Fishers	Junior
SECOND TEAM		
Name	School	Grade
Nova Cross	Sheridan	Junior
Anna Elkin	Noblesville	Senior
Lauren Evans	Carmel	Senior
Kenzie Garner	Sheridan	Junior
Jurnee Hall	Fishers	Junior
Ava Hunter	Hamilton Southeastern	Junior
Lauren Lewis	Hamilton Heights	Senior
Quinlan Litke	University	Sophomore
Paige Mascari	Guerin Catholic	Senior
Ellie Miller	Hamilton Heights	Junior
Trinity Parkin	Sheridan	Junior
Lilly Stanton	Westfield	Senior

Harden named Reporter's Volleyball Player of the Year

The REPORTER
The Hamilton County Reporter has named Hamilton Southeastern senior Lauren Harden as its Volleyball Player of the Year.
Harden's leadership and hitting ability stood out even on a Royals team filled with Division I players, a team that powered to an undefeated 33-0 season and second consecutive Class 4A state championship. Harden hit 371 kills and served 21 aces, and was just as adept on defense with 161 digs and 38 blocks. Harden is shown here during halftime of Friday's Hamilton Southeastern-Fishers boys basketball game after receiving her MaxPreps National Player of the Year award; she is pictured with Royals coach Jason Young. Harden has committed to play volleyball at the University of Florida.

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Millers continue university commitments



Photos courtesy Landon Denison, NHS Shadow Yearbook

(ABOVE LEFT) Noblesville's Reagan Wilson has committed to play basketball at Iowa State University. (Front row, from left) Angie Wilson (mother), Reagan Wilson, and Dean Wilson (father). (Back row) Noblesville Girls Basketball Coaching Staff: Brad Bastin, Katelyn O'Reilly, Erin Trimpe, Jenn Anderson, Kelsey Hoffman, Donna Buckley (Head Coach), and Nate Smith. (ABOVE RIGHT) Noblesville's Riley Resmer has committed to play volleyball at Harvard University. (Front row, from left) Devyn Resmer (father), Riley Resmer, and Lindsay Resmer (mother). (Back row, from left) Joe Marcum (Noblesville Volleyball Assistant Coach), Annie Poulson (Noblesville Volleyball Head Coach), Vicki Fisher (grandmother), and Reese Resmer (sister).

Boys Basketball

North Central outlasts Carmel in battle of former MIC foes

The REPORTER

On Friday night at the Eric Clark Activity Center, Carmel and North Central battled it out in boys basketball for the 46th time in the storied history between these two programs. Prior to this matchup, the Panthers held a 23-22 edge in the all-time series.

After a five-point lead at halftime, the Panthers were able to outlast the host 'Hounds 53-50.

Carmel opened up with a 16-13 lead through one quarter and was able to keep its home court momentum going in the second, outscoring North Central 14-12, grabbing a 30-25 half-time lead,

North Central stormed out in the third, holding Carmel under 10 points with a 16-9, giving the Panthers a two-point 41-39 advantage.

The Greyhounds stuck with their former MIC rival, but the Panthers were able to outlast Carmel by a 53-50 score.

Sophomore Evan Harrell led all scorers with a game-high 20 points on 9-of-11 shooting. Junior Alex Couto had 12 points, knocking down 4-for-8 from three-point range and senior Ryan Clevenger added 10 while making 2-of-5 from downtown.

Carmel (2-4) has now lost three in a row for the first time since the 2001-02

NORTH CENTRAL 53, CARMEL 50				
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF
Alex Couto	4-8	0-0	12	1
Ryan Clevenger	3-8	2-3	10	1
Evan Harrell	9-11	2-3	20	1
Quinn Murphy	2-2	2-2	6	3
Mitchell Mulloy	0-2	2-2	2	4
Aiden Dickerson	0-0	0-0	0	3
Julian Vogt	0-2	0-0	0	0
Max Winders	0-0	0-0	0	2
Totals	18-33	8-10	50	15
Score by Quarters				
North Central	13	12	16	12 – 53
Carmel	16	14	9	11 – 50
Carmel 3-point shooting (6-14) Couto 4-8, Clevenger 2-5, Vogt 0-1.				
Carmel rebounds (15) Harrell 5, Murphy 4, Dickerson 2, Mulloy 2, Couto 1, Clevenger 1.				

season. The 'Hounds keep the weekend going at home tonight when they host the Class 4A No. 8 Kokomo

Wildkats (5-2) and highly-touted Kansas-signee and Mr. Basketball candidate Flory Bidunga.



Photo by Dwight Casler

Sheridan's Tyler Garner had five rebounds during the Blackhawks' Friday game at Eastern.

Eastern overcomes Sheridan's early lead

The REPORTER

Sheridan's boys dropped a 64-57 Hoosier Heartland Conference game at Eastern on Friday.

The Blackhawks led 21-14 after one quarter, with Caleb Wright scoring 10 points (including two 3-pointers). Trey Page also hit two 3s. The Comets came back in the second quarter, cutting Sheridan's lead to 29-28 by halftime. Eastern jumped ahead in the third quarter, leading 43-40

going into the fourth.

Wright scored 19 points, followed by Trent DeCraene with 13 and Damon Winston, who hit two 3s on his way to 10 points. DeCraene handed out eight assists. Caleb Wright pulled six rebounds, followed by five each from Winston and Tyler Garner, with Winston also making five blocked shots.

The Blackhawks are 1-2 in conference play and 3-2 overall. Sheridan travels to Frankfort tonight.

EASTERN 64, SHERIDAN 57				
Sheridan	FG	FT	TP	PF
Trent DeCraene	4-10	4-4	13	3
Tyler Garner	4-11	1-2	9	3
Trey Page	2-8	0-0	6	1
Caleb Wright	7-16	2-3	19	3
Carson Wright	0-1	0-0	0	0
Owen Bell	0-3	0-0	0	1
Damon Winston	4-7	0-0	10	1
Totals	21-56	7-9	57	12
Score by Quarters				
Sheridan	21	8	11	17 – 57
Eastern	14	14	15	21 – 64
Sheridan 3-point shooting (8-23) Cal. Wright 3-9, Page 2-7, Winston 2-3, DeCraene 1-3, Bell 0-1.				
Sheridan rebounds (25) Cal. Wright 6, Garner 5, Winston 5, Car. Wright 4, Bell 3, DeCraene 2.				

Huskies get overtime win at Western to open Hoosier Conference play

The REPORTER

Last night was a crucial game for Hamilton Heights in two different ways. First, it was the Hoosier Conference opener and second, the Huskies were looking to snap a three-game losing streak.

Fortunately, the visiting Huskies were able to leave Russiaville on Friday night by checking both of those off its list for the night. They escaped with an overtime win over the Western Panthers, 57-52, snapping an early season three-game losing skid.

Heights found itself down 21-16 after one quarter and things didn't get any easier during the rest of the first half.

The Huskies fought back in the second, scoring 13 to Western's 10, but still trailed

by two at halftime, 31-29.

Western came out in the third and was able to limit Heights' scoring. The Panthers' 12-7 quarter gave them a seven-point margin 43-36 heading to the fourth.

Hamilton Heights showed grit and was able to flip the script on the hosts in the fourth, putting 12 on the board to Western's five, knotting the game 48-48, sending it to an extra frame.

A 9-4 advantage in the extra period, along with great defense helped propel Heights to a five-point overtime win, 57-52.

Junior Tyler Champion led a quartet of Huskies in double-figures with 17, making 4-of-5 from outside and 5-for-11 overall. Seniors Tillman Etchison and John Irion each had 13 with junior

HAMILTON HEIGHTS 57, WESTERN 52 (overtime)				
Heights	FG	FT	TP	PF
Tyler Champion	5-11	3-4	17	4
Dreydin Serna	4-6	1-2	10	4
Tillman Etchison	4-12	4-4	13	4
John Irion	3-9	5-6	13	1
Carson Felger	0-1	0-0	0	2
Sam Dawson	0-4	0-0	0	1
Rees Knapp	1-4	0-0	2	1
Isaiah Grimsey	1-1	0-0	2	0
Phoenix Vondersaar	0-1	0-0	0	2
Totals	18-49	13-16	57	19
Score by Quarters				
Western	21	10	12	5 – 52
Hamilton Heights	16	13	7	12 – 57
Heights 3-point shooting (8-23) Champion 4-5, Irion 2-6, Serna 1-2, Etchison 1-2, Dawson 0-4, Knapp 0-2, Vondersaar 0-1, Felger 0-1.				
Heights rebounds (24) Serna 5, Champion 4, Felger 4, Irion 4, Etchison 3, Knapp 2, Grimsey 2.				

Dreydin Serna adding 10.

Hamilton Heights (2-4, 1-0 HC) closes the weekend in Hoosier Conference action at home against West

Lafayette (4-3, 0-1 HC) in an East-West battle. The Red Devils lost their conference opener at Benton Central last night, 80-69.

Tight first quarter dissipates as Brebeuf Jesuit beats University

The REPORTER

The University boys fell to 3-3 on the season, dropping an 86-57 contest at Brebeuf Jesuit Friday night.

The Trailblazers hung close with the Braves for the first 11 minutes of the contest before Brebeuf took control in the second quarter and broke the game open in the third quarter.

Robert Russell led University with 15 points on 7 for 13 shooting. Bryce Gray had 12 points and Zien

Bland 11 for the Blazers.

Brebeuf scored 10 seconds into the game and led throughout, however the Braves could not shake University in the first quarter. Bryce Gray's second three pointer of the quarter pulled the Blazers within 10-9 with 2:26 left and Bland scored at the rim off a Gray assist to cut the lead to 12-11 with 1:03 left. Another Bland basket with two seconds remaining left Brebeuf up 16-13 after one.

After the Braves opened the second quarter scoring, University scored two straight baskets off great passes by Bland to pull within 19-17 with 5:47 left in the half. Bland found both Max McCabe and Cooper Cammack on cuts to the hoops.

Brebeuf's Evan Haywood, a Butler signee, took over from there, scoring eight consecutive points in 32 seconds to quickly push the Brebeuf advantage to 27-17. The Braves lead eventually reached 16 before Russell scored just ahead of the buzzer to send the teams to the locker rooms with Brebeuf ahead 35-21.

Brebeuf continued to pull away in the second half, scoring 51 points after the break. The lead was as high as 33 points in the fourth quarter.

The Blazers are right back in action Saturday night, hosting Mooresville at The U Center. Junior varsity tips at 6 p.m.

BREBEUF JESUIT 86, UNIVERSITY 57				
University	FG	FT	TP	PF
Bryce Gray	3-9	3-4	12	2
Max McComb	4-8	0-0	8	3
Robert Russell	7-13	1-2	15	3
Cooper Cammack	2-4	0-0	4	3
Jackson Bledsoe	1-4	0-0	2	1
David Walz	0-0	0-0	0	0
Zien Bland	4-9	3-4	11	0
Joe Rozembajgier	0-0	0-0	0	0
Faisal Mohamud	1-2	0-0	3	1
Jalen Scott	1-1	0-0	2	0
Hayden Hyde	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	23-50	7-10	57	13
Score by Quarters				
University	13	8	15	21 – 57
Brebeuf	16	19	22	29 – 86
University 3-point shooting (4-11) Gray 3-5, Mohamud 1-1, McComb 0-2, Russell, 0-2, Bland 0-1.				
University rebounds (15) Cammack 6, Gray 3, Bland 2, McComb 2, Bledsoe 1, Russell 1.				

Local News. Local Sports. Local Views. Local Events.
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Notable changes for the 2024 NASCAR Cup Series

The 2024 NASCAR season begins in just over two months with the Daytona 500. Here are some notable changes within the NASCAR.

COLUMNIST



ZECH YODER
Checkers to Wreckers

1. Schedule Changes

Despite hopes of a race in Canada, only one new race has been added (Iowa Speedway on June 16) and the beloved Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif., is now gone.

The NASCAR calendar has significant re-arranging.

The Spring Atlanta race will follow the Daytona 500, meaning back-to-back drafting style tracks. Bristol Dirt has been replaced with the traditional pavement race and will be moved from Easter Sunday. Indianapolis Motor Speedway will return the conventional oval. Finally, The Summer Daytona race will no longer be the regular season cut-off. Instead, Darlington Raceway becomes the cut-off race. This change may be due to the two-week break for the 2024 Summer Olympics. Hopefully the cut-off race will go back to Daytona in 2025.

2. Cars

Two of the three car manufactures make changes to 2024 Cup cars.

Ford and Toyota will each sport new noses, which they hope will increase aerodynamic efficiency. This is especially true for Ford. Despite its driver, Ryan Blaney, winning the championship, it struggled against the Chevys and the Toyotas for much of the year.

Toyota speed was good throughout 2023 but they are hoping an aerodynamic upgrade will push their speed even further.

Chevy, who was the class of the field for 2023, is the only manufacturer to not make changes to its car design. It will be interesting to see how the changes (or

lack of changes) affect performance, especially in the first handful of races.

The other big car news for 2024 is Legacy Motor Club leaving Chevrolet for Toyota. It was not secret that Legacy received very little manufacturer support from Chevrolet, likely contributing to its 2023 struggles. The additional manufacturer support at Toyota should push Legacy toward the front.

3. Drivers

Driver changes are always the most exciting news of a new season and 2024 is no exception.

Kevin Harvick leaves the Cup garage to join the TV booth at Fox. He will be replaced by Josh Berry, who was the “super-sub” last year, replacing both Chase Elliott and Alex Bowman while they were injured.

Berry will be joined at Stewart Haas Racing by his Xfinity teammate at JR Motorsports, Noah Gragson, who coming off his season ending 2023 suspension, will replace Aric Almirola in the No. 10 car.

Xfinity Series Champion, Daniel Hemric, will replace Justin Haley in the No. 31 Kaulig Racing entry, and Haley moves to Rick Ware Racing to drive the No. 51 machine.

John Hunter Nemecheck will get his second opportunity in the Cup Series as he is slated to drive the No. 42 Legacy Motor Club entry.

Finally, Carson Hocevar will take over Ty Dillon's ride in the No. 77 Spire Motorsports car. The only unknown at this point is who will drive the No. 16 Kaulig Racing after A.J. Allmendinger returns to the Xfinity Series.

Zech Yoder is a local resident, an attorney at Adler Attorneys in Noblesville, and a lifelong race fan.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 16

BOYS BASKETBALL

Kokomo at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

Mooresville at University, 7:30 p.m.

Sheridan at Frankfort, 7:30 p.m.

West Lafayette at Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING

Hamilton Heights at McKee Memorial Invitational, 8:45 a.m. at Rochester

Guerin Catholic at East-Central 8-Way, 9 a.m.

Carmel, Hamilton Southeastern at Kyle Osborne Memorial Invitational, 9:30 a.m. at McCutcheon

Fishers at Jeffersonville Invitational, 9:30 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hamilton Heights at Clinton Prairie, 12:30 p.m.

Noblesville at Westfield, 1:30 p.m.

Hamilton Southeastern at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING/DIVING

Hamilton Southeastern Forum CU Holiday Splash, 9 a.m.

Noblesville at Westfield, 10 a.m.

University at Zionsville Eagle Swim Invitational, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

BOYS BASKETBALL

Noblesville at Marion, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING

Guerin Catholic at Hamilton Heights, 6 p.m.

Sheridan at Clinton Prairie, 6 p.m.

Fishers at Hamilton Southeastern, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sheridan at Lebanon, 7 p.m.

Hamilton Heights at Lapel, 7:30 p.m.

Hamilton Southeastern at Cathedral, 7:30 p.m.

Heritage Christian at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

Westfield at Franklin Central, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING/DIVING

Guerin Catholic and Liberty Christian at Hamilton Heights, 5:30 p.m.

Please email schedule changes or corrections to sports@readthereporter.com.

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THE REPORTER

Boys Basketball

Golden Eagles triumph in conference opener



Photo by Mike Navarro

The Guerin Catholic boys basketball team won its Circle City Conference opener Friday, beating Heritage Christian 63-40 at the Eagles Nest. Pictured is Dylan Murans making a dunk. The Golden Eagles are 6-2 and continue conference play next Friday with a home game against Roncalli.

Indy 500 Winner Newgarden unveils image on Borg-Warner Trophy

Submitted by IMS

2023 Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge winner Josef Newgarden unveiled his likeness on the Borg-Warner Trophy on Dec. 15 in Indianapolis, one of the most significant honors since he won his first Indy 500 on May 28 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Newgarden, a native of Nashville, Tenn., earned his first victory in “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing” in the No. 2 Shell Powering Progress Team Penske Chevrolet. This was the 19th Indy 500 victory for Team Penske.

The unveiling ceremony took place at the Stutz Museum. Located in downtown Indianapolis, the Stutz Museum is a boutique car museum showcasing rare classic cars alongside Indianapolis automotive history.

The bas-relief, sterling silver image of Newgarden is the 110th face to be affixed to the iconic trophy, awarded annually to the winner of the Indianapolis 500 since 1936.

“It’s a tremendous honor to even compete in the Indy 500,” Newgarden said. “Having my face added to the Borg-Warner Trophy is one of the coolest parts about winning the race. I already had a lot of respect for the trophy, but learning about the process and how detailed it is, it’s incredible what (sculptor) Will Behrends does each year.

“Finally seeing the finished product is very special. I thought I knew what it would be like to win the ‘500,’ but there’s a deeper appreciation than you can imagine.”

Renowned sculptor Behrends created Newgarden’s image, as he has for every winner since 1990.

Behrends begins his creative process by studying a series of 360-degree photos of the winner to get a baseline for sculpting. Newgarden then visited Behrends’ studio in Tryon, N.C., for an in-person session where Behrends constructs a full-scale clay model of the driver’s face.

This life-size clay version is used as reference



Photo courtesy IMS

for Behrends to construct the smaller model, a piece created out of a mixture of oil-based clay. The smaller clay model is turned into a mold and cast in wax before being sent to a jeweler to be transformed into sterling silver. Behrends completes his process by polishing and buffing the sculpture before adhering it to the trophy.

“It is my absolute honor, on behalf of BorgWarner, to unveil Josef’s image on the iconic Borg-Warner Trophy today,” said Michelle Col-

lins, global director of marketing and public relations, BorgWarner. “This solidifies Josef’s place in history as one of the few who have conquered the tremendous feat of winning the Indianapolis 500. We extend our congratulations to Josef and Team Penske and also our thanks to our sculptor Will Behrends, who makes this all a reality.”

Originally designed in 1935, the sterling silver trophy measures over 5 feet, 4-3/4 inches tall and weighs

more than 110 pounds as it carries the sculpted face of every victor since 1911.

Early next year, Newgarden will receive his BorgWarner Championships Driver’s Trophy, also known as the “Baby Borg,” a miniature replica of the large-scale Borg-Warner Trophy.

Tickets for the 108th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge and all Month of May events at Indianapolis Motor Speedway are on sale at [IMS.com](https://www.ims.com).



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Sat Dec 16 -	Too Many Husbands “1940” 11:00 am Starring Jean Arthur, Fred MacMurray,
Sun Dec 17 -	Meet John Doe “1941” 1:00 pm Starring Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck
Mon Dec 18 -	Love Affair “ 1939” 11:00 am Starring Irene Dunne, Charles Boyer
Tue Dec 19 -	The Shop around the Corner “ 1940” 11:00 am Starring Margaret Sullavan, James Stewart
Wed Dec 20 -	Scrooge “ 1935” 11:00 am Starring Seymour Hicks, Donald Calthrop
Thur Dec 21 -	The Great Rupert “ 1950” 11:00 am Starring Jimmy Durante, Terry Moore
Fri Dec 22 -	Christmas Holiday “ 1944” 11:00 am Starring Deanna Durbin, Gene Kelly
Sat Dec 23 -	Christmas in Connecticut “ 1945” 11:00 am Starring Barbara Stanwyck, Dennis Morgan
Sun Dec 24 -	Bells of St. Mary “ 1945” 1:00 pm Starring Bing Crosby, Ingrid Bergman

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