

THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER JANUARY 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: SIMONE BAKER (1ST PLACE)  
 SPONSORED BY: TOM WOOD VOLKSWAGEN NOBLESVILLE • GAYLOR ELECTRIC (CEO CHUCK GOODRICH) • ADLER ATTORNEYS

FRIDAY, JAN. 12, 2024

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**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
 Today: Rainy and breezy. Rain will be heavy at times, with an inch or two total. Wind gusts to 40 mph, possibly 50 mph by late afternoon.  
 Tonight: Rain quickly changes to snow. An inch or two of snow. Wind gusting to 50 mph.  
 HIGH: 44 LOW: 24



## Sister Cities come together, right now, over art contests

## Some Joy to Your Workplace Q&A in 2024

### The REPORTER

The Carmel Cortona Sister City Organization has announced the winners of two exceptional contests that not only have showcased the remarkable talent of the community but also have forged cultural and artistic connections between Carmel and Sister City Cortona, Italy.

These contests, one on an international stage and the other a response to a request from Cortona, have enriched the artistic landscape of both cities.

Sister Cities International sponsors Young Artist and Author's Showcase (YAAS) winners. The YAAS contest theme this year was "Piece by Peace: Food Security in My Community."

All local winners submitted their works for the international competition. The Carmel Cortona Sister City Organization said that the International Sister City Organization selected one of these entries, a poignant poem authored by Sara Standish titled "A Rumbling



(LEFT) Sara Standish was selected as a Grand Prize Winner for her poem called "A Rumbling Stomach." (RIGHT) The winners of the Luca Signorelli Art Contest: (from left) Ismail Kheiri, Ella Lipnik, and Megan Xia.

Stomach," as the Grand Prize Winner in her category. Her words not only resonated with the judges but also shed light on a pressing global issue, emphasizing the power of art and literature to raise awareness.

To view all the winning entries, including Standish's

poem, visit [yaas2024.org/2023-yaas-winners](http://yaas2024.org/2023-yaas-winners).

### Luca Signorelli Art Contest

This year, the City of Cortona honored its local Italian Renaissance artist, Luca Signorelli, on the 500th anniversary of his death. One aspect of this

celebration was a contest in which Cortona students were requested to submit artwork in the style and technique of Senor Signorelli. The city of Cortona requested that Carmel teens also submit their artwork.

See Art . . . Page 2

Before we kick off the "Bringing Joy to Your Workplace" Series, I thought it would be good to address some potential real-life "what the heck?" questions readers may have.

**Q: I'm just a peon, how can I make a difference in my company?**

**A:** Oh, cool – I've been a peon at work lots of times! I was once a lowly customer service representative at biotechnology company, but that didn't stop me from doing little things here and there to brighten peoples' days. And when I say little, I mean it – maybe five minutes here and there, which added up to a lot – and helped me win Employee of the Month many times. Stick with me, and you won't be a peon for long.

**Q: Yeah, but I'm about to retire ... or I'm just a part-time worker. Why should I bother with this stuff?**

**A:** Let's say you're about to retire and have done things the same way your whole life – and done them well. Good for you! But why not teach those you'll be leaving behind how to be even better at their jobs? Why not leave a legacy for everyone to remember in the years to come?

Can't you just hear the conversation now around the water cooler: "Wow, that Joe Schmoe was great before, but he really knocked our socks off right before he left. I sure miss him."

And part-time workers? Trust me, if you start using even half of the tips in this series, you'll be seen as an incredibly valuable team member. You won't be part-time for long – unless you want to stay that way.

**Q: But I work from home. How can I do anything to spread joy to my workplace? I'm not there most of the time.**

**A:** I've worked from home a time or two as well. In fact, I work from home for my day job right now! But I still see team members and clients at various events or for team meetings. And most of the time if you're working from home, you're still interacting with these people virtually or on the phone.

Many ideas in this series can be done without ever seeing someone in person. You'll become so awesome that people will look forward to your next email, phone call, FaceTime session, etc.

**Q: My job is okay, and it pays the bills. Why should I bother to do this stuff?**

**A:** If you really think about it, wouldn't it make more sense to spend half of your waking hours going beyond "okay"? This is your life, people. You only get one. Even if you believe in reincarnation, isn't it better to have a bunch of kick-butt, "what a ride that



AMY SHANKLAND  
 Perfectly Imperfect

See Joy Q&A . . . Page 2

## Who said you can't go back?



Photos provided by Westfield Washington Schools

Maple Glen Elementary School in Westfield celebrated National Fourth Graders Day on Monday by dressing up like fourth graders. In honor of this crazy cool group of kids, Maple Glen shared some crazy cool stats about the fourth-grade class: 133 students at Maple Glen; nine languages are spoken; with all schools combined, the WWS fourth-grade class is the largest grade in the district; and, if they graduated today, the Class of 2032 would total 828 students.

## Still time to experience winter in Carmel at The Ice at Carter Green

## Join Kiwanis Club of Sheridan for scholarship dinner

### The REPORTER

The Christkindlmarkt may have concluded its season, but the winter fun continues at The Ice at Carter Green, sponsored by Allied Solutions.

Beginning today and through Feb. 29, the hours are as follows:

- Monday to Wednesday: Closed but available for private rentals
- Thursdays: 4 to 8 p.m.
- Fridays: 3:30 to 9 p.m.
- Saturdays and Sundays: 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Jan. 15: Open for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Feb. 19: Open for Presidents' Day, 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- Skating Session Costs**
- Youth / Adult Admission & Skate Rental (Ages 11+) \$15
  - Youth / Adult Admission No Skate Rental (Ages 11+) \$11
  - Children Admission & Skate Rental (Ages 10 & under) \$13
  - Children Admission No

Skate Rental (Ages 10 & under) \$9

Skating sessions are 90 minutes long unless otherwise noted on the skate session calendar.

**Special Events**  
 The Festival of Ice will take place Jan. 19 to 21, featuring professional ice-carving demonstrations, a carving competition, speed carving and the annual Carmel Fire Department chili cook-off.

Complimentary hot chocolate courtesy of 1832 Brew Espresso Bar and Metronet: 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19 on Main Street, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20 at Carter Green.

Extended hours and activities: Saturday, Jan. 20 at Carter Green activities, food and drink vendors and a DJ will be on site to celebrate the launch of the latest Palladiscopes show, "Frost."

The Carmel Winter Games are set for Feb. 9 and 10. The Games take center stage on the



Photo provided by City of Carmel

ice with non-skating competitions featuring human hungry hippo, human curling, and ice trike relays.

- Friday, Feb. 9: Cheer on the Hometown Heroes competition between various City of Carmel departments.
- Saturday, Feb. 10: Teams from the community consisting of family, friends and co-workers will square off for a day of competitive winter fun.

\*\*\*  
 Enjoy **Sensory Skate Days** on Jan. 23 and Feb. 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. These sensory-friendly events are especially designed for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Sensory Processing Disorder, or any type of special need. These sessions are free. This event is brought to you by the Carmel Advisory Committee on Disability.

### The REPORTER

On Friday, Jan. 19, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Sheridan will hold a fundraising dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Sheridan High School cafeteria, 24185 Hinesley Road.

The dinner will consist of pulled pork, baked beans, coleslaw, macaroni & cheese, dessert, and a drink.

The charge for dinner is \$10 at the door. The dinner will be served before the basketball game with Delphi.

The goal of the fundraiser is to raise money for the scholarship the Kiwanis Club will be giving to Sheridan High School seniors this spring.

Presale tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at The Farmer's Bank in Sheridan, Chef Karyn, and the Sheridan Historical Society.

"This is a great opportunity to support the Blackhawks and the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund," said Brian Bragg, President of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Sheridan.





THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER JANUARY 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: CARA WATTS (2ND PLACE)  
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### Joy Q&A

from Page 1

was!" lives instead of "yeah, that was okay" ones?

If you're still not buying this, prove me wrong. Do a couple of things differently thanks to this series in the future. See how they elevate your workplace from "okay" to "awesome." Do a comparison of the "before" and "after." I think

you'll like the latter and be glad you took a little time to make a difference.

Amy Shankland is a writer and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John, two sons, two dogs and a cat. You can reach her via email at [amys@greenavenue.info](mailto:amys@greenavenue.info).

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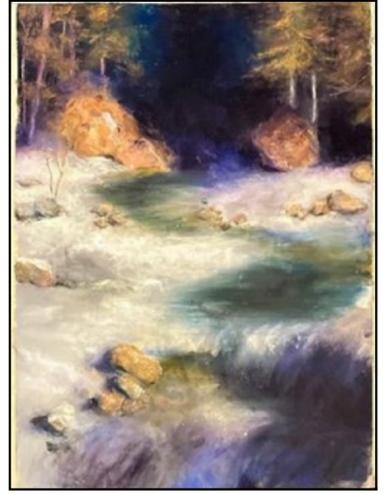
**Phi Beta Psi Euchre Party**  
**Theta Alpha Upsilon Chapter**  
**Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 4 p.m.**  
 First Christian Church, 16377 Herriman Blvd., Noblesville

**\$15.00 to play**

## Thanks for reading!

### ART

from Page 1



(From left) *Arienne's Silken Glare* by Ella Lipnik, *Tradition* by Megan Xia, *Watertide in Tuscany* by Ismail Kheiri. Art provided

Consequently, the Carmel-Cortona organization held a contest sponsored by Joe's Butcher Shop and the City of Carmel and invited all teens to submit artwork, using the same parameters. Independent judges were asked to select the winning artwork.

- The winners are:
- Ella Lipnik – First Place: *Arienne's Silken Glare*
  - Megan Xia – Second Place: *Tradition*
  - Ismail Kheiri – Third

Place: *Watertide in Tuscany*

The creators of these stunning works of art were presented with cash prizes during Carmel's International Arts Festival. The community to join in celebrating the artistic achievements of these talented individuals. The Carmel Clay Public Library currently has two of the originals and one rendering on display in the children's section of the library. These three art pieces were also exhibited in the Museo dell'Accademia

Etrusca (MAEC) in Cortona, Italy, along with works from Cortona students and Signorelli's original works of art. The exhibition in Cortona included more than 40 pieces by Signorelli that were on loan from prestigious international museums and private collections. In response to the artwork submitted by Carmel, the Cortona students created a touching video that explains the significance of Signorelli and his work to the City of Cortona. In their vid-

eo, they included the Carmel students' artwork. [Click here](#) to watch the video on YouTube.

The Carmel Cortona Sister City Organization continues to foster cultural exchange and artistic collaboration between the two cities, strengthening the bond of friendship and understanding.

For more information about the contests, winners, or upcoming events, please email [cortonacarmel@gmail.com](mailto:cortonacarmel@gmail.com).

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THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER JANUARY 2024 YOUNG ARTIST OF THE MONTH: MYLAH SEVIER (3RD PLACE)  
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# From the desk of Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood

# Raising a teen? You can gain insight from experts

Update No. 120

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you had a great break. We are happy to see our students and staff back on campus and look forward to supporting their success for the remainder of the year.



**DR. DEREK ARROWOOD**  
 Heights Superintendent

ual board spotlights on each of these five everyday citizens doing extraordinary work in one of the toughest volunteer roles in any school district. Thank you, Dr. Kevin Cavanaugh, Arnie Cooper, Julie Davis, Ben Lehman, and Gretchen Pennington, for your advocacy, vision, and voice in helping to shape a better tomorrow at Hamilton Heights every single day!

\*\*\*

Senior Tquan Spencer has been named a 2024 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar. He is one of only five students representing Hamilton County schools to earn this award which provides a full-ride scholarship to continue his education at the collegiate level at any public or private school in Indiana! Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, character, and leadership. Congratulations!

\*\*\*

I want to give a shout out to Chad Ballenger, Hamilton Heights Boys Basketball Head Coach, who reached his 300th career win last month! Congratulations!

\*\*\*

Ten Hamilton Heights High School freshmen were among the 30 graduates of the Hamilton County A Chance to Serve (ACTS) Class of 2023. This leadership program, created and sponsored by the Purdue Extension/Hamilton County, offers freshman the opportunity to participate in five, day-long training sessions their first semester of high school. Graduates then get to apply those skills coupled with real-time learning experiences by serving as a member of a local board for one year.

Lori Watson, our freshman guidance counselor, serves as the School Coordinator for the program. This month Corbin Carlson, Jolie Garcia, Hattison Graham, Ayla Madara, Taylor Morrison, Lily Schuler, Malloy Williams, Aiden Serna, Harley Stetnish, and Caleb Sullivan begin their year of board service for the following organizations: Family

Youth Alliance, Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation, Our Town Cicero, and Relay for Life. A win-win for our community!

Congratulations to these aspiring leaders of tomorrow who are getting a jump start today. Learn more about this exciting youth leadership program [here](#).

\*\*\*

The fifth annual Hickory Classic is set for Jan. 24 at the Hoosier Gym in Knightstown. Our eighth-grade boys and girls will bring their best game against the Tipton Blue Devils for a fun evening of Hoosier Hysteria. Tickets are available online only [here](#).

\*\*\*

As a reminder Monday, Jan. 15 is a Flex Day and school will not be in session unless there is a weather event that causes a school cancellation before then.

I look forward to all the new semester holds for our school community. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making Hamilton Heights a great place to learn, teach, and grow!

#WeAreHuskies

## The REPORTER

The Chris Center will offer its Parent Education Series beginning on Jan. 24. This free series of public events will feature several behavioral health experts and will help parents and caregivers gain insight into raising adolescents.

If you're navigating how best to raise, support, and talk with your teen, you can learn tips, tools and ways to create patterns of healthy communication with your child.

The Parent Education Series consists of four specific talks on the following dates:

• **Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m.:**

The Impact of Screen Time and Social Media on Mental Health, featuring Dr. Sarah Henning, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist.

• **Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m.:**

Managing Childhood Anxiety – a Family Process, featuring Dr. Kelly McManus, M.D., Board-Certified Pediatrician.

• **April 24 at 6:30 p.m.:**

Neurodiversity: Exactly What This World Needs, featuring Dr. Sarah Henning, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist.

• **May 1 at 6:30 p.m.:**

Positive Communication with Your Teen, featuring Leslie Oleck, a Mental Health NP and Family Therapist and Elizabeth Bonham, Ph.D. Child and Adolescent Therapist.

All talks will take place at the Carmel Clay Public Library, 425 E. Main St., Carmel.

Although each talk is free, registration is required. Please go to [ChrisCenterPaws.com/ParentEducationSeries](https://ChrisCenterPaws.com/ParentEducationSeries) to register, learn more about each event, and read more about each speaker.

### About The Chris Center

The Chris Center's mission is to promote the mental and emotional wellbeing of teenagers in central Indiana by connecting them with nature and the healing power of human-animal interaction. The Chris Center's vision includes bringing the first care farm for teen wellness to central Indiana. The idea behind a care farm is that mental and emotional wellbeing can be improved by connecting to nature, interacting with animals and participating in farm activities.

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# Hear 'hidden gems' of bad Broadway shows at Feinstein's

**The REPORTER**

Come hear the best songs from the worst shows on Broadway during an evening to benefit Civic Theatre.

On Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 6 and 8:30 p.m., Ghost Light Cabaret will present *Hidden Gems* at Feinstein's at Hotel Carmichael in Carmel.

Enjoy a celebratory

glass of bubbly, along with a gourmet charcuterie board at your table, and, of course, an exciting cabaret performance of musical theatre hidden gems, performed by some of Civic's familiar faces. The bar at Feinstein's will be open to purchase additional libations. There will also be a Wine Pull, including wine valued at a minimum of

\$25 per bottle.

Want to join in on the fun? Bid for an opportunity to sing with the cast of Ghost Light Cabaret (and Brent Marty) for Marty-oke at the end of the show.

Featured shows will include *Chess*, *Bring It On*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Mack & Mabel*, *Seesaw*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *The Bak-*

*er's Wife*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, and more. The 13 shows featured in this cabaret had a combined total of 2,081 performance on Broadway. In comparison, *The Phantom of the Opera* had 13,981 performances before closing in 2023.

The final day to purchase tickets is Friday, Jan. 19. **So get them now** before you run out of time.

# Noblesville sees decrease in home prices to end 2023, average county home prices keep climbing

**Submitted by F.C. Tucker**

December's residential real estate market saw inventory continue to decrease and prices increasing slightly across the 16-county central Indiana area as the year came to a close.

According to F.C. Tucker Company, part of the Howard Hanna family of companies:

- Available housing inventory decreased 2.4 percent compared to December 2022.

- Compared to December 2022, the average home sale price for the 16-county central Indiana region increased 1.1 percent to \$323,309. The year-to-date home sale price also increased slightly, up 5.4 percent to \$334,280.

- Pended home sales decreased, down 6.1 percent compared to this time last year.

**Noblesville and Hamilton County's** residential real estate markets were quieter to end 2023.

In **Hamilton County** in December:

- Pended home sales decreased 12.9 percent compared to December 2022.

- Available housing inventory decreased slightly, down 5 percent compared to this time last year.

- The average sale price increased 3.7 percent to \$339,575.

In **Noblesville** in December:

- Closed home sales decreased, down 32.2 percent compared to December 2022.

- The average home sale price also decreased, down 0.6 percent to \$412,008.

- Noblesville homes spent 5.9 percent more time on the market than this time last year, selling in 36 days on average.

In December 2023, 1,882 central Indiana homes were purchased, down 6.1 percent from the 2,004 sold in December 2022.

- Boone County had the greatest increase in pended home sales in December 2023, up 13.8 percent compared to this time last year.

- Jennings County and Putnam County pended sales had the greatest decrease with both counties seeing a 33.3 percent decrease in homes sold compared to December 2022.

Central Indiana year-to-date home sale prices increased, up 5.4 percent overall:

- Putnam County recorded the highest average year-to-date home sale price increase at 32 percent.

- **Hamilton County** had the highest average year-to-date home sale price in the region at \$515,220.

- Homes sold in 30 days on average, remaining on the market 10 days, or 50 percent, longer than in 2022.

Decatur County homes sold 8.3 percent faster than this time last year, and Jennings County homes sold 3.4 percent faster. Homes in all other central Indiana counties remained on the market longer compared to this time last year.

Central Indiana experienced a 2.4 percent decrease in overall available home inventory in December 2023, compared to December 2022, with 97 fewer homes available for sale.

- Jennings County had the largest inventory increase – up 52.4 percent

compared to December 2022.

- Hancock County experienced the largest decrease in inventory – down 34.8 percent compared to this time last year.

“As expected, the central Indiana residential real estate market slowed during the December holiday season,” F.C. Tucker Company President Jim Litten said. “However, in 2024, it's likely we'll see a decrease in interest rates and continued low unemployment which could result in an uptick in central Indiana's real estate market and more homes available for sale at various price points.”

Of the pended home sales in the region last month, four were priced \$2,000,000 or higher; 25 were priced \$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999; 198 were priced \$500,000 to \$999,999; 588 were priced \$300,000 to \$499,999; 577 were priced \$200,000 to \$299,999; 401 were priced \$100,000 to \$199,999; and 89 were priced at \$99,999 or less.

**Live Music Jan. 12 - Tyler Robling Duo**  
**Open Mic Tuesdays 7-10 p.m.**  
**Trivia Wednesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m.**  
**Keyboardist Dave Lowe every Thursday 6-9 p.m.**  
**17419 Suite C, Carey Rd., Westfield 317.867.0397**



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## Don't miss Westfield Winter Market Saturday at West Fork Whiskey

**The REPORTER**

The Winter Market will run from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, Jan. 6 at West Fork Whiskey, 10 E. 191st St. The Market runs weekly through Saturday, March 9 with no Market on Feb. 3.

Stop by for baked treats, fresh produce, meat, cheese, dog treats, honey, fresh flowers, handcrafted items and so much more. The market is free and open to the public.

The presenting sponsor is The Farmers Bank, and the host sponsor is West Fork Whiskey.

**Jan. 13 Vendors**

The following is a list of vendors that have confirmed their participation for this Saturday. This list is subject to change without notice.

- Alcomy LLC
- Angelo's Italian Market
- Baked, A Cookie Company, LLC
- Becky the Baker
- BricksMadeBetter
- Coconut Rose Designs
- Creolicious Bakery

- Darling Impressions
- Dragonwood LLC
- Eagle Creek Apiary
- Emberline Designs
- Emma Mourfield Pottery
- Fungi Meadows
- GlauX Co.
- Gluten Free Creations, Inc.
- H&S Knife Sharpening
- Happy Mutt Pet Bakery
- HER kitchen
- Heritage Homestead Farms, LLC
- Jay's Shea
- Kell Squires Pastures
- Kim's Key Lime Cookies, Inc.
- Lazy Labs Bakery
- LINKxLOU
- Nash and Company
- Old Major
- Park Wagyu Cattle
- PipKing Creations with Soule
- Poppin' Sweet Confections
- Revolt CBD LLC
- Shop Gina Celeste
- Simply Chunky Creations
- Sub Zero Treats, LLC
- The Food Florist
- The Goodie Basket
- The Kafe (Kafeteria LLC)
- Travelin Tom's Coffee
- Wander Free Design Co
- Wild Loaf, LLC
- Wrightway Crafts

**Thanks for reading The Reporter!**

# Supporting the Arts

For one week each month this year, The Hamilton County Reporter is giving young artists at local schools the chance to design the banner at the top of the first three pages in Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper.

# This Week

**Sheridan Elementary School winning art is on Pages 1, 2 & 3**

Next month, winning artists from another Hamilton County school will be featured in the pages of The Hamilton County Reporter.

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**Young Artist Award**  
 The Hamilton County Reporter  
 www.ReadTheReporter.com



## Big Mac getting bigger & saucier for limited time

By **DAJA STOWE**  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

You know what's better than a Big Mac – a Double Big Mac!

Yes, you read that correctly! The Big Mac is about to get bigger and saucier, but only for a limited time.

McDonald's announced Tuesday the company will offer a spin on the legendary Big Mac by adding double the portions of a fan favorite with four 100 percent all-beef patties and more Big Mac sauce. It's topped with pickles, crisp shredded lettuce, finely chopped on-



Photo provided by McDonald's

ions, and a slice of American cheese sandwiched between a sesame seed bun.

The Double Big Mac will be making its way to participating McDonald's restaurants nationwide, starting Jan. 24.

# Fentanyl overdose death count starting to flatline

By **DANIELLE ZULKOSKY**  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

The number of drug overdoses due to fentanyl is flatlining in Hamilton County.

County Coroner Jeff Jellison said the numbers have stopped increasing dramatically over the last two to three years, but it will take a lot of compassion and work to get that number to zero.

Jellison said the last three years have seen drug overdose numbers in the mid to high 30s.

Last year saw 36 confirmed fentanyl overdose deaths, but officials are still processing four pending toxicology reports, so last year will likely be around that range but could end around 40.

"For the overdose deaths, you are beginning to see those (numbers) flatline, but, looking at hospital admission for those overdoses, I am not so sure that flatline exists," Jellison said.

Jellison credits the low death count, compared to other Indiana counties, to the many resources in Hamilton County.

"In most places in this county, you're only a five-minute ambulance ride away from a hospital, which is a good thing because the sooner we can get an overdose victim into an



Jellison

emergency room the better," Jellison said.

The coroner notes the rural areas in Indiana do not have the same luxuries.

"So what I'm hearing from my peers is 'It's there and it's hurting us,'" Jellison said. "And there are people in our community that are unfortunately dying because of fentanyl no matter the efforts of our first responders."

This decrease is in line with national numbers. Dr. Rahul Gupta, the director of National Drug Control Policy, said the nation is finally seeing a flatline after overdose deaths suddenly increased from 2019 to 2021.

The doctor said, "2024 is the year the president feels we need to double and triple down on our efforts to make sure we are saving every American life that we can."

Gupta and Jellison said working to decrease overdose deaths is important to save more American lives.

Gupta said, "When we went to medical school we didn't know what causes addiction. Today we know addiction is a disease. (A disease) we can treat and we can address and help somebody. It is not somebody's moral failing."

Jellison said, "Let's be a little bit more compassionate in our thinking that these are people."

Gupta says the Biden administration is addressing the global supply of fentanyl by securing a commitment from China for accountability for bad actors all while securing the southern border with technology and staff.

Generally, both experts agree that much of this decrease in overdose deaths comes from the increase in the availability of naloxone nationwide.

## Celebrate National Popcorn Day at Emagine Noblesville

Submitted by **Emagine Theatres**

For one day only, Friday, Jan. 19, guests can get their fill of popcorn at discounted prices at Emagine. Enjoy Hollywood's favorite snack while you watch a movie at Emagine Noblesville, located in the Hamilton Town Center at 13825 Norell Road.

No matter the size, all freshly popped classic mov-

ie-style popcorn buckets are 50 percent off on Jan. 19. (Fifty percent discount does not qualify for refillable bucket fill-ups.) Guests can choose to upgrade their popcorn to Emagine's gourmet caramel, cheddar, or OlivEpop flavors for an additional fee. (Fifty percent discount does not qualify for upgrade fees.)

Emagine will also offer

its 2024 Refillable Popcorn Buckets at a 20 percent discount on Jan. 19. These buckets give Emagine guests the ability to pay only \$3 for Emagine Loyalty Members and \$2 for Emagine Extras Members to fill up their bucket with classic popcorn anytime they visit Emagine in 2024. Additional fees will apply for gourmet popcorn upgrades.

## Parlor Doughnuts bringing its famous layered treats to Fishers

The **REPORTER**

Parlor Doughnuts will soon hold the grand opening of a new location in Fishers in early February, located at 13588 Bent Grass Lane, Unit 107. That's near the intersection of State Road 37 and 135th Street. This marks the ninth Parlor Doughnuts location in Indiana.

Parlor Doughnuts is a popular doughnut and coffee shop founded in Evansville in 2019. The company got its start after founder Darrick Hayden spent years traveling the country with his son's band, where finding the best doughnuts and coffee became the cure for late nights on the road. Today, Parlor proudly serves customers across the country at 35 shops in 12 states.

The new Fishers location will feature 24 flavors of the Famous Layered Doughnut. Vegan, keto-friendly and gluten-friendly options are available. In addition, the kitchen will serve artisanal breakfast items, including bacon, egg, and cheese sandwiches, breakfast tacos, and acai bowls. Patrons can also enjoy milkshakes crafted with any doughnut flavor and a full coffee bar with house-made brews and cold brews, specialty lattes and teas.

The location is proudly veteran-owned and operated by Marissa and Wesley Barnes, a husband-and-wife



Photo provided by Parlor Doughnuts

duo who own two additional Parlor Doughnuts locations in Indiana. Their Valparaiso location opened in 2022, and the Munster location opened in 2023.

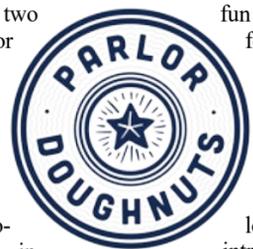
"We're thrilled to bring Parlor Doughnuts' products, brand, and mission to Fishers, an area we believe appreciates delicious food, tasty coffee, and top-notch customer service," Marissa Barnes said. "We believe Fishers is a perfect community for a Parlor Doughnuts location, where friends and families can come together, eat delicious doughnuts, drink high-quality coffee and make great memories."

Regarding the new location, Wesley Barnes said, "We've witnessed how Parlor Doughnuts can create a

fun gathering space for tight-knit communities where relationships are made and connections are built. We look forward to introducing Parlor Doughnuts to the Fishers and Northern Indianapolis community."

Parlor Doughnuts plans to hire 20 new team members and up to three salaried manager positions, which includes benefits, upon opening the new location. Anyone interested in applying can [click here](http://parlordoughnutsfishers@gmail.com) or contact Marissa Barnes at [parlordoughnutsfishers@gmail.com](mailto:parlordoughnutsfishers@gmail.com).

Starting Friday, Feb. 9, Parlor Doughnuts Fishers will be open Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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# Fallacies of the school district consolidation debate in Indiana

By **CHRIS LAGONI & TERRY SPRADLIN**  
Guest Columnists

Consolidation of Indiana school districts has resurfaced as a topic in policy discussions because of the release of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's Indiana Prosperity 2035 Plan.

Not all agree with this proposal. The Indiana School Boards Association and the Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association believe that local control should prevail. From our perspective, there is nothing wrong with school consolidation or re-organization if it is initiated by the people in the communities affected.

Previous reviews of the topic have failed to consider key aspects of Indiana's school funding and policy landscape. These fallacies continue in the current policy debate.

We have been repeatedly told that Indiana is a state that funds students, not schools. Indiana funds students to attend a variety of schools, including small private schools, small charter schools, and small public schools. For certain, Indiana's policy of student-based funding has fueled the creation of more charter schools and private schools, both with student enrollments smaller than even our smallest school corporations.

Today, there are approximately 105 charter schools in the state with an average student enrollment of 436 students. Conversely, there are only five school corporations in the state with enrollment below 500 students. Indiana's approach is to have the state carry more and more varied and individual expenses for education, not to consolidate them.

Indiana's small and rural school corporations currently operate 32 early college high schools that enable students to complete the Indiana College Core (30 college credit hours transferable to any Indiana public college or university) or an associate degree while still in high school. Many Indiana small and rural high schools are leaders in Career

and Technical Education programming, including on-line course offerings, even though they do not have access to large vocational high schools. It is not perfect, but Indiana's small and rural schools strive to deliver a robust curriculum with Dual Credit, Advanced Placement, and career education opportunities.

Nearly every year, schools in rural areas close because of declining population. But Indiana's school choice policies have allowed many of these schools to immediately re-open as charter schools, negating the savings for taxpayers.

Parents wanted the convenience of the school that was closest to their home and did not want their local schools to close. That is clear. Any conversation about school consolidation that does not also attempt to reconcile Indiana's school choice policies only considers half the issue.

If the impetus for change is to create larger high schools with more robust curricular offerings, the proposed solution to consolidate just the district offices misses the mark. Eliminating a superintendent position or a few positions in a central office does not make a bigger high school with more robust offerings. While central office staff reductions may result in savings, they may very well be offset by the new larger school corporation adding central office positions to help manage more schools and educational programs for more students.

Perhaps the idea of consolidation is simply flawed altogether. Central to any effective economic development initiative is a goal to attract employers and jobs that are high-wage and high demand. Schools are the largest employer in many small towns and rural communities, and the elimination of the good-paying, essential jobs that small schools provide could cripple the local economy. Parents choose small schools for their children because they value safety, smaller class sizes, and low taxes. Or they identify with the

school community as the anchor institution of their community. These are close-knit communities where parents and staff know one another personally. If their school district is eliminated, and school closures ensue, these communities suffer.

Let us offer alternatives the Indiana General Assembly could implement to help communities.

First, provide state grants for planning or feasibility studies for school districts and communities wanting to examine consolidation. The last time Indiana provided planning grants from the Indiana Department of Education, there was a consolidation of two school districts (Turkey Run and Rockville into Parke Heritage).

Secondly, one of the significant reasons these discussions have fallen apart in the past has been the effect the consolidation will have on local tax rates. Consolidation of districts may impose a higher tax rate on some residents of the new district. In addition, closing a building, expanding another, adding miles of bus routes, and/or planning for a future building could also impact tax rates.

About 10 years ago, the Indiana General Assembly forgave \$92 million in charter school debt for closed schools. A similar approach could be taken to help communities wanting to consolidate. School districts carry debt, and another community may not want to inherit the duty of paying for debt obligations previously incurred. Elimination of debt obligations would help facilitate additional consolidations.

Our belief is that consolidations should remain a local decision. Any state mandate forcing consolidation would be contrary to all other school choice policies because it pushes less school choice for rural communities. This is why any conversation about school consolidation must also be part of the school choice policy conversation if one is needed at all.

*Chris Lagoni serves as the Executive Director of the Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association, and Terry Spradlin serves as the Executive Director of the Indiana School Boards Association.*

## Improving Indiana's K-12 literacy skills

*Lilly Endowment Inc. takes first step, it's on Hoosiers everywhere to take the baton*

Education for all children is an inalienable right. Further, a quality education is foundational to an individual's ability to thrive.

While our Indiana K-12 educators accomplish a great deal with limited resources, few would debate that the lack of necessary resources dedicated to foundational reading skills is one of the most critical obstacles Indiana's K-12 learners face every day.

Last week, Lilly Endowment Inc. acknowledged that by awarding more than \$20 million in grants to 28 colleges and universities across Indiana through its initiative, Advancing the Science of Reading in Indiana (ASRI). The grants will support the next generation of teachers in significantly improving the reading abilities of Indiana's K-12 students. The grants are a part of a **\$111 million investment** by Lilly Endowment Inc. and the state of Indiana aimed at supporting early literacy for students. This is unequivocally a step in the right direction, yet it is the responsibility of Hoosiers everywhere to contribute to solving the issue of literacy among K-12 students in Indiana.

Reading is the foundation of success for our students in and beyond the classroom, most notably in our communities and in the workforce. In fact, poor

GUEST COLUMNIST



ALISON BELL

reading is associated with increased school dropout, depression, low self-esteem and incarceration, among other negative outcomes. Evidence shows that third grade is the

**most pivotal year** for literacy development in K-12. Third grade students' results from the Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination, or IREAD-3, ultimately measure and predict a child's ability to learn through reading moving forward. **IREAD pass rates** in Indiana peaked in the 2012-13 school year, with 91.4 percent of third graders passing the assessment. In 2021-2022, the rate was 81.6 percent – a nearly 10 percent drop in 10 years.

The decline is indicative of data that shows that 18.4 percent, or **one in five**, of Indiana's third grade students are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

In response to that data, Indiana Secretary of Education, Dr. Katie Jenner, announced the state's goal to have 95 percent of third graders pass IREAD-3 by 2027. A pledge that aligns with the mission of the Lilly Endowment Inc.'s investment in colleges and universities, such as Ball State, Indiana, and Purdue Universities, and WGU Indiana. The ASRI grants awarded to 28 colleges and

See Literacy . . . Page 8

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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Request for Proposal documents for E-Rate eligible vendors to bid on FCC FORM 470 - 240010298  
**NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES**  
 for the Hamilton Southeastern School Corporation are available on the district website (https://www.hseschools.org/community/public-notices). Hamilton Southeastern School Corporation is not responsible for documents distributed through any other means.  
**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:** prior to 2:00 pm local time (EST) February 7th, 2024  
**RECORDING OF PROPOSERS:** 2:00 pm local time (EST) February 7th, 2024  
**LOCATION:** HSE Administration Building - 13485 Cumberland Rd. Fishers, IN 46038  
 Vendors shall submit bids according to the Instructions, Provisions and Specifications stated in the solicitation documents. Questions should be addressed via email to HSE's Director of Infrastructure Technologies, Tom Kouns (tkouns@hse.k12.in.us)  
 R3626 1/5/24, 1/8/24, 1/12/24, 1/15/24

**— COUNTY —**

**BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
 IN THE MATTER OF  
 Loma Industrial Park Drain  
 NOTICE**

To Whom It May Concern and: Ossip Family Real Estate LLC  
 Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Loma Industrial Park Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana, and which construction and maintenance reports of the Surveyor and the Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been filed and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.  
 Hamilton County Drainage Board  
 Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh  
 R3646 1/12/24, 1/15/24

**BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
 IN THE MATTER OF  
 George Beam Drain  
 NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the George Beam Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to increase the amount of the maximum unencumbered amount of the maintenance fund for the George Beam Drain to be increased from four (4) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance of the drain to eight (8) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance. The Board will not consider an increase in annual maintenance assessments at the meeting. The previously established Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been previously approved and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.  
 Hamilton County Drainage Board  
 Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh  
 R3647 1/12/24, 1/15/24

**BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
 IN THE MATTER OF  
 Woodhaven Drain  
 NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Woodhaven Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to increase the amount of the maximum unencumbered amount of the maintenance fund for the Woodhaven Drain to be increased from four (4) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance of the drain to eight (8) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance. The Board will not consider an increase in annual maintenance assessments at the meeting. The previously established Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been previously approved and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.  
 Hamilton County Drainage Board  
 Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh  
 R3648 1/12/24, 1/15/24

**BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
 IN THE MATTER OF  
 Ream Creek Drain  
 NOTICE**

To Whom It May Concern and: Conner, Jeffrey C. & Christin C Cottingham, Benjamin S  
 Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Ream Creek Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to increase the amount of the maximum unencumbered amount of the maintenance fund for the Ream Creek Drain to be increased from four (4) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance of the drain to eight (8) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance. The Board will not consider an increase in annual maintenance assessments at the meeting. The previously established Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been previously approved and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.  
 Hamilton County Drainage Board  
 Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh  
 R3649 1/12/24, 1/15/24

**BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
 IN THE MATTER OF  
 Mud Creek/Sand Creek Drainage Area, George Burk Arm  
 Abbott Commons Section 1 Reconstruction  
 NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board concerning the reconstruction of the Mud Creek/Sand Creek Drainage Area, George Burk Arm, Abbott Commons Section 1 Reconstruction on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. Construction and maintenance reports of the Surveyor and the Schedule of Assessments proposed by the Drainage Board have been filed and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.  
 Hamilton County Drainage Board  
 Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh  
 R3650 1/12/24, 1/15/24

**BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
 IN THE MATTER OF  
 Morrow-Follett Drain, R. J. Follett Arm  
 Monon Square Vacation  
 Station 0+00 to Station 6+00  
 NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition to vacate has been received by the Hamilton County Surveyor for the Morrow-Follett Drain, R. J. Follett Arm, Monon Square Vacation across Parcel 16-09-25-00-00-014.004 owned by Village Housing Corporation and Parcels 16-09-25-00-00-014.000 and 16-09-25-00-00-014.002 owned by Carmel Midtown Community Development Corporation (Station 0+00 to Station 6+00) and that a hearing is scheduled for January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. on that request.  
 Objections to the VACATION of the drain must be filed in writing not less than five (5) days before the date of the hearing.  
 The Board will consider whether the drain performs the function for which it was designed and constructed; whether the expense of maintenance outweighs the benefits to be derived therefrom, and whether the abandonment thereof will not be detrimental to the public welfare.  
 Hamilton County Drainage Board  
 Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh  
 R3651 1/12/24, 1/15/24

**BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
 IN THE MATTER OF  
 Beaver & Brooks Drain  
 106th & Hoosier Road Roundabout Partial Vacation  
 Station 0+00 to Station 0+70  
 NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition to vacate has been received by the Hamilton County Surveyor for the Beaver & Brooks Drain, 106th & Hoosier Road Roundabout Partial Vacation across Road Right-of-Way owned by the City of Fishers (Station 0+00 to Station 0+70) and that a hearing is scheduled for January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. on that request.  
 Objections to the VACATION of the drain must be filed in writing not less than five (5) days before the date of the hearing.  
 The Board will consider whether the drain performs the function for which it was designed and constructed; whether the expense of maintenance outweighs the benefits to be derived therefrom, and whether the abandonment thereof will not be detrimental to the public welfare.  
 Hamilton County Drainage Board  
 Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh  
 R3652 1/12/24, 1/15/24

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED. THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD WILL MEET ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER COMMISSIONER'S COURT ROOM.  
 HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD.  
 ATTEST: LYNETTE MOSBAUGH  
 R3653 1/12/24, 1/15/24

**BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
 IN THE MATTER OF  
 Thomas Pierce Drain, Revised Report  
 NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Thomas Pierce Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to increase the amount of the maximum unencumbered amount of the maintenance fund for the Thomas Pierce Drain to be increased from four (4) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance of the drain to eight (8) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance. The Board will not consider an increase in annual maintenance assessments at the meeting. The previously established Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been previously approved and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.  
 Hamilton County Drainage Board  
 Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh  
 R3654 1/12/24, 1/15/24

**BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
 IN THE MATTER OF  
 Moffitt & Williamson Drain  
 NOTICE**

To Whom It May Concern and: Crowley, Kendall Luck, Dennis H & Constance A Chrisp, Madolin Y Toomey, Christopher Mazzoni, Sara  
 Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Moffitt & Williamson Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to increase the amount of the maximum unencumbered amount of the maintenance fund for the Moffitt & Williamson Drain to be increased from four (4) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance of the drain to eight (8) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance. The Board will not consider an increase in annual maintenance assessments at the meeting. The previously established Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been previously approved and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.  
 Hamilton County Drainage Board  
 Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh  
 R3655 1/12/24, 1/15/24

# State Rep. Garcia Wilburn announces 2024 "Economic Freedom Agenda"

**The REPORTER**

State Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn recently announced her Economic Freedom Agenda, a suite of policies that seeks to help individuals and families balance their budgets more easily.

"It's an honor to hear your challenges and concerns as the state representative for House District 32," Garcia Wilburn said. "It's my goal to be responsive to your needs, and right now, the cost of living is making it hard for residents of House District 32 to thrive. That's

why my Economic Freedom Agenda will help Hoosiers with housing expenses and childcare concerns – these are serious problems that require serious solutions."

Highlights from the Economic Freedom Agenda include:

- 1. Building power for working people**
  - Raise minimum wage to \$15/hour
  - Reform last year's HEA 1002 into a bill that sets



**Garcia Wilburn**

up young people with good-paying jobs

- Protect project labor agreements (PLAs)
- Make union dues tax-deductible
- Crack down on worker misclassification. (Misclassification allows employers to pay full-time employees as casual labor or to pay them in cash. The workers still get a 1099 on which they must pay taxes, but the employer doesn't pay their part of the taxes. It also cuts into the unemployment benefits available for workers and lowers the employer's unemployment insurance costs.)

**2. Cutting homeowners and renters a better deal**

- \$250 property tax credit for all homeowners
- Over 65 deduction for seniors
- Increase renter's deduction
- Stop utilities from making customers bear the cost of doing business and keep utility bills for Hoosiers down
- Fair housing protections (fair appraisals and mortgages and curbing predatory investors hurting neighborhoods)

**3. Setting up Hoosier families for success through childcare and early learning**

- Child and dependent care income tax credit
- Establish a statewide pre-K program
- Increase before and after school care funding

**4. Making good on promises to retirees and keeping Hoosiers insured**

- Guarantee a 13th

check and cost-of-living adjustment for PRF and TRF retirees

- Protect Medicaid and increase reimbursement rates for healthcare professionals

"Whether you're relying on childcare for a Mother's Day Out or because you work full-time, it is simply too expensive," Garcia Wilburn said. "Increasing the affordability and accessibility of high-quality childcare is a top priority for me. Childcare is an engine that keeps our economy running – but right now, that engine is struggling to keep up with demand. Creating a child and dependent care income tax credit and increasing before- and after-school care funding will help bring down the cost for parents."

Garcia Wilburn continued, "Additionally, a top concern for our community is rising property taxes. I support sending homeowners a \$250 property tax credit that is paid for by the state surplus – not local government or schools. It's important to me that we get real relief to homeowners while not hurting the public school systems that deliver such great results for our kids, and paying for the relief with state dollars is the best way to do that."

Garcia Wilburn is not offering any of these policies as filed legislation due to House rules, and instead will look to opportunities throughout the legislative session to cast votes in favor of them. Garcia Wilburn will soon announce her filed legislation for the 2024 legislative session.

## LITERACY

from Page 7

universities across the state will disrupt and create a model curriculum for how each prepares educators in literacy instruction using Science of Reading (SoR) strategies, which focus on phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The grants also provide stipends for professional development for instructional faculty and academic leaders to train with new materials, learn from national experts and observe SoR practices in schools.

The Science of Reading is revolutionary, and it is clear to me that equipping Indiana's educators with these methods is the most effective way to increase literacy development in the classroom. But it shouldn't be and can't be the only measure taken towards eliminating the devastating impact of illiteracy has on our children, communities, and the workforce.

As a mother of three children and lifelong Hoosier, I'm calling on fellow parents and all of Indiana to join the Lilly Endowment Inc. and our state leaders in contributing to helping our K-12 learners excel in reading.

Volunteer to tutor at school or your local literacy program. Parents and care-

givers, make time to read with your kids for 20 minutes every evening, and challenge them to read signs and labels at the grocery store or around your community. Encourage children to help their fellow classmates who are struggling with reading in the classroom. In our communities, advocate to create opportunities for out-of-classroom development, such as after-school reading workshops or elementary-age book clubs.

Join Lilly Endowment Inc. and state leaders and invest your time and energy in this mission to improve foundational reading skills of Indiana children. Together, we can build on the foundation created by these grants and initiatives and watch as our K-12 learners across the state become successful Hoosiers in our communities and workforce.

Alison Bell has more than 20 years of higher education leadership experience and is the Regional Vice President of Western Governors University, overseeing Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Kentucky. WGU currently has more than 168,000 students and more than 349,000 alumni nationwide.



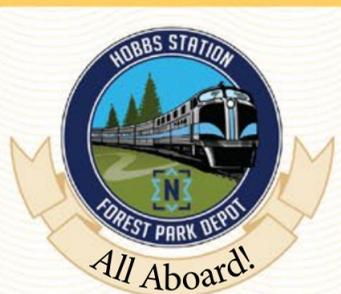
### ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY OF RAIL TRAVEL!

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The Nickel Plate Express operates on 12.5 miles of the former Nickel Plate Road between Noblesville and Atlanta.

Excursions board out of Noblesville at 825 Forest Park Drive.

[NickelPlateExpress.com](http://NickelPlateExpress.com)



### Pirates & Princesses

Prepare to set sail on an enchanting journey as the historic Nickel Plate Express presents the Pirate and Princess Train Ride. This thrilling 75-minute adventure promises an unforgettable experience filled with encounters with swashbuckling pirates and elegant princesses. Dust off your finest costumes and join us for a truly magical experience.

January 27

[NickelPlateExpress.com](http://NickelPlateExpress.com)

### Bourbon and Chocolate

All aboard the Nickel Plate Express for a bourbon and chocolate pairing! Take an hour and 30-minute ride through Hamilton County while sampling 3 bourbons and 3 unique and local chocolate desserts. A cash bar is available to purchase wine, beer and bourbon.

February 10

[NickelPlateExpress.com](http://NickelPlateExpress.com)

### Lonely Hearts Club Express

Join us for a 75-minute train ride filled with laughter, connections, and a vibrant atmosphere. You'll be greeted with a warm welcome and a chance to mingle with other amazing individuals who are also embracing their single status. Enjoy a cocktail or two as you make new friends while chugging along the rails.

February 14

[NickelPlateExpress.com](http://NickelPlateExpress.com)

### Easter Express

A farmer has misplaced some eggs and is pretty sure they are somewhere on the Nickel Plate Express! Come share in a little rail adventure as you roll through Hamilton County's northern countryside to see the trees in bloom while enjoying a snack and a springtime story.

March 23, 24 and 30

[NickelPlateExpress.com](http://NickelPlateExpress.com)

## Hoosier Weather Daddy?



[PaulPoteet.com](http://PaulPoteet.com)  
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# Bloch announces bid for Hamilton Circuit Court

**Submitted**

Andrew "Drew" Bloch has announced his campaign for Hamilton Circuit Court in the May 2024 Republican primary. A vacancy has existed since Judge Paul Felix was appointed to the Indiana Court of Appeals last summer.

With over four years of judicial experience in Hamilton County, Bloch currently serves as a senior magistrate in the Hamilton Circuit and Superior Courts, where he hears domestic, civil, and criminal cases. He was honored by the Indiana State Bar Association in 2023 for his work in domestic relations in the Indiana judiciary.

"Hamilton County is a wonderful place to live and

work, to raise a family, and it is a wonderful place to serve others," Bloch said. "My experience as a Magistrate Judge has prepared me for this next step. I look forward to continuing my service to our community as the next Hamilton Circuit Court Judge."

Before being appointed magistrate in 2019, Bloch worked in private practice for 15 years, focusing on domestic relations and litigation throughout central Indiana.

Bloch received an undergraduate degree from Xavier University and a law degree from Indiana University McKinney School of Law. He resides in Westfield with his wife, Nicole, and their basset, Bernard.



# Sen. Braun & colleagues introduce bipartisan bill to reveal health care prices for Americans

**The REPORTER**

U.S. Senator Mike Braun (R-Ind.) and Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) with Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Senator Tina Smith (D-Minn.), and Senator John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) have introduced a major bill to reveal health care prices for Americans: the Health Care PRICE Transparency Act 2.0.

When Americans go to the hospital, they often don't know what services will cost before they pay them. This forces patients to rely on their insurance to pay as much as possible and negotiate rates with providers and robs patients of the ability to shop around for a better deal.

There's also a lack of transparency in agreements between insurance and providers. There are many examples of employer-sponsored insurance plans reviewing the claims data for their employees and discovering egregious payment disparities and wasteful practices.

Now, Congress is pulling back the curtain.

The Health Care PRICE Transparency Act 2.0 will finally introduce true transparency into health care pricing by requiring all negotiated rates and cash prices between plans and providers to be accessible. The bill requires actual prices for 300 shoppable services be published, with all services by 2025.

To enforce these new transparency measures, the bill will increase maximum annual penalties to \$10,000,000.

"It's wrong that the same procedure can be 20 times more expensive in one hospital than in another, and there's no other industry

where consumers are in the dark on the price of what they're buying," Sen. Braun said. "Knowing what health

care services cost will lower health care prices because Americans can shop around and get the best deal rather than relying on insurers to negotiate with providers which drives the price up for everything. The Health Care PRICE Transparency Act 2.0 will pull the curtain back and put the power back in the hands of the American people, introducing real market competition into the health care industry and bringing down prices."

The PRICE Transparency Act will do the following:

- Impose data sharing standards.
- Require machine-readable files of all negotiated rates and cash prices between plans and providers, not estimates.
- Expand price transparency requirements to clinical diagnostic labs, imaging centers, and ambulatory surgical centers.
- Require pricing data standards including all billing codes for services.
- Require actual prices for 300 shoppable services with all services by 2025.
- Require attestation by executives that all prices are accurate and complete.
- Increase maximum annual penalties to \$10,000,000 (includes specific minimum and maximum penalties according to number of hospital beds in the facility).
- Prevent pre-emption of state price transparency laws, except for ERISA group health plans.
- Codify the Transparency in Coverage (TIC) rule.
- Provide group health plans the right to access, audit, and review claims encounter data.



**Braun**

# Gutrich running to represent Indiana House District 24

**Submitted**

Republican Bill Gutrich has filed to run for Indiana State Representative in District 24. He is a corporate executive leader and small business owner with a profound commitment to his community.

Gutrich is driven by a vision to serve the 24th District as a representative who brings a business-focused, results-driven approach to public office. His extensive experience in corporate leadership equips him with the skills necessary to navigate complex legislative issues, drive economic growth, and promote a business-friendly environment in the district.

"As your state representative, I will first and foremost serve," Gutrich said. "I have been fortunate to gain broad experiences and perspectives through my upbringing, career, and raising a family in Hamilton County, and I will work hard to accurately represent the true voice of Indiana's fastest growing area. I will work to assure that we continue to be one of the best places in the country to live, raise a family, start a business, or build a career."

Gutrich will focus his

campaign on the themes of: Fiscal Responsibility and Lower Taxes, Excellence in Education and Parent Empowerment, Smart Development, and Public Safety.

"I believe in a limited, fiscally responsible, and citizen responsive state government, applying smart budgeting principles to keep taxation low," he said. "The legislature should be truly empowered only by the people and working only for the people of Indiana."

Gutrich said his overarching goal is to be the voice of the people, not just a legislator making decisions on their behalf. He recognizes the importance of understanding the district's needs. His vision aligns with the district's values, emphasizing affordability, strong schools, and the preservation of great Midwest values.

"I believe deeply with humility, as Indiana House Representative for the 24th District, I will be entrusted to cast 'your' vote, not 'my' vote," Gutrich said. "We have much to reflect proudly on in our communities that comprise the 24th District, yet so much more to do. I believe our future is incredibly bright. I will work with



all my ability to assure Indiana's 24th District remains the very best for future generations to come."

With a strong business background in leading major partnerships for industry giants like Coca-Cola and Samsung, and extensive experience in agriculture, having served with Indiana-based industry leader Elanco, Gutrich is well-prepared to represent the 24th District.

Gutrich and his wife, Janet, moved to Hamilton County in 1996 to pursue

their careers and raise their three children, Eric, Emily, and Alexander. He also plays an active role in his community as HOA President for the Woodshire Neighborhood in Westfield, and as a former board member of the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana.

Indiana State Representative District 24 includes Westfield, Sheridan, and portions of west Carmel and eastern Boone County.

Learn more about the candidate at [GutrichForIndiana.com](http://GutrichForIndiana.com).

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**US Flag Requests**  
Obtain commemorative flags flown over the US Capitol from my office.



**Military Academy Nominations**  
High school students in our district may contact my office to request a nomination to attend one of our nation's service academies.



**US Capitol and White House Tour Requests**  
My office can help arrange tours throughout our nation's capital.

**TODAY'S BIBLE READING**

**JACOB FLEES FROM LABAN**

*So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah to come out to the fields where his flocks were. He said to them, "I see that your father's attitude toward me is not what it was before, but the God of my father has been with me. You know that I've worked for your father with all my strength, yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times. However, God has not allowed him to harm me. If he said, 'The speckled ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks gave birth to speckled young; and if he said, 'The streaked ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked young. So God has taken away your father's livestock and has given them to me.*

*Genesis 31:4-9 (NIV)*

**Kevin D. Bonnet**

February 3, 1960 – January 5, 2024

Kevin D. Bonnet, 63, Pendleton, Ind., passed away peacefully at his residency on January 5, 2024. He was born on February 3, 1960, in Indianapolis to Donald and Sylvia (Mythen) Bonnet.

Kevin was the sole proprietor of Dalton Construction for over 25 years and part owner of Big Squeeze Distillery.

Kevin is survived by his mother, Sylvia Mythen of Corydon, Ind.; his brothers, Gary (Rhonda) Bonnet of Borden, Ind., Eric (Susan) Bonnet of Lanesville, Ind., and Brian (Sherry) Bonnet of Lanesville, Ind.; his close friends, Richard and Cathy Cunningham of Noblesville; his girlfriend, Laura Henney of Pendleton; his ex-wife, Pamela Bonnet of Indianapolis; five grandchildren; and six nieces and two nephews. He is preceded in death by his father, Donald Bonnet.

At Kevin's request, a cremation will take place and a Celebration of Kevin's Life will be held at a later date. Cremation Services have been entrusted to Seals Funeral Home.



# Duke Energy offers tips to save energy & money as temperatures plunge

**The REPORTER**

The new year is bringing in a blast of cold weather, and Duke Energy is offering tips to stay warm while managing energy use.

**Money-saving tips to combat the cold**

- Heating can account for the biggest part of a home's energy bill, so managing your home's thermostat is one of the best ways to control energy usage and cost. Set your thermostat to the lowest setting that is comfortable for you.

- One of the easiest things customers can do for heating efficiency is to change air filters regularly. A dirty air filter makes a heating system work harder, which uses more energy and can increase costs. Also, have heating systems checked regularly by a qualified heating and air conditioning contractor to maintain efficiency and peak performance.

- Leave drapes or blinds open during sunny winter days to allow the sun's rays to warm the house but close

them at night to help insulate your home.

- One of the best energy-saving habits you can do each year is to check windows, doors, and vents for air leaks. Caulking, sealing and weatherstripping leaks can save 10 to 20 percent in heating costs.

- Replace standard bulbs with light emitting diodes (LED). LEDs are more efficient than regular bulbs, while giving off the same amount of light. Replacing just six of your most frequently used bulbs with LEDs can save up to \$480 over the lifetime of the bulbs.

- Operate ceiling fans in a clockwise direction in the winter, which pushes warm air back down into the room. (Most fans have a switch that allows you to reverse the motor.) While fans move air and make people more comfortable, they do not provide heat, so remember to turn the fan off when you leave the room.

- Manage water heat-

ing. Set your water heater to 120 degrees or less. Water heating is typically the second biggest user of energy in your home.

**Ways to manage winter heating bills**

Duke Energy offers free programs and tools to help customers better manage and understand their monthly energy expenses:

- **Budget Billing** gives customers better control over their energy spending by establishing predictable monthly payments.

- **Pick your Due Date** allows customers to adjust the date their bill is due.

- **Interest-free Installation Payment Plans** are available for customers who need flexibility with paying a bill.

- **Usage Alerts** notify customers how much energy they are using and how much it costs in time to adjust before the end of a billing cycle.

For customers who qualify, Duke Energy's partnerships with community and state agencies can

help them access state and federal assistance, including:

- **Low-income Energy Assistance Programs (LIHEAP):** Provides a one-time payment to help eligible Indiana households pay their energy bills during winter months.

- **Weatherization Program:** Helps income-qualified customers save energy and reduce expenses through conservation measures like weatherstripping and HVAC repairs or replacements.

- In addition, Duke Energy's **Share the Light Fund** assists qualifying customers struggling to pay their energy bills. The program is funded through contributions from Duke Energy shareholders, customers, and employees.

With the colder than normal temperatures, it also a good time to check on friends, neighbors and family members who may be elderly to ensure they have what they need to stay warm.

**Meeting Notices**

The Hamilton East Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, in the Wayne Meeting Room at the Noblesville Library, 1 Library Plaza, Noblesville.

The Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024, in the Commissioners' Courtroom on the first floor of the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

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<p><b>16698 Birdbrook Rd. Noblesville • \$589,900</b></p> <p><b>SOLD!</b></p> <p>Stunning 5BR, 4.5BA in Essex of Noblesville, custom designed with in-laws quarters on main level, kitchen with quartz, butler's pantry, premium lot w/pond view, walk-out basement, 3-car garage plus storage, a must-see to appreciate all this home has to offer. <b>BLC#21949379</b></p>	<p><b>11256 Winding Wood Ct. Indianapolis • \$239,900</b></p> <p><b>SOLD!</b></p> <p>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. <b>BLC#21945183</b></p>
<p><b>18865 Wimbley Way Noblesville • \$289,900</b></p> <p><b>SOLD!</b></p> <p>This 3BR, 2BA ranch is located in family friendly Fairfield Farms, huge great room w/doors leading to covered patio &amp; fenced backyard, kitchen w/pantry, dining area &amp; all appliances stay, new windows, water softener &amp; HVAC in 2020, Fence, roof &amp; gutters 2021. <b>BLC#21949582</b></p>	<p><b>10717 Upland Way Noblesville • \$349,900</b></p> <p><b>SOLD!</b></p> <p>Welcome to this lovely 4BR, 2.5BA home, kitchen with center island and newer SS appliances, spacious family room with gas fireplace, park-like backyard with maintenance-free deck, auto-retractable awning, paver patio, basketball court and cute she shed. <b>BLC#21949680</b></p>

*The New Year is the Perfect Time for a New Home.*

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### Swimming

# Team spirit carries Shamrocks to victory on Senior Night

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

**WESTFIELD** – Thursday was Senior Night for the Westfield swim teams, so it was time for a little fun – at least for the seniors.

Shamrocks coach Darick Thomas explained that the team allows the seniors to put together the meet lineup, “so it’s an unusual lineup in a lot of ways,” said the coach.

The unusual lineup didn’t affect the team, though, as Westfield still swept the meet against Guerin Catholic. The Shamrocks girls won 132-50, while the boys were 133-50 winners.

“Team spirit was outstanding, so it’s always good to have a great atmosphere to send our upperclassmen, our seniors out on,” said Thomas.

Westfield’s girls won 10 of the 12 events, including a double victory for Gracie Alley in the individual medley and the 100 freestyle. Other winners were Macy Brown in the 200 free, Nora Sperry in the 50 free, Kate Cassidy in the butterfly, Ellie Hill in the 500 free and Maggie Alley in the backstroke. The ‘Rocks swept all three relays as well.

Guerin Catholic got wins from Anna Ososki in diving and Katie Scott in the breaststroke.

In the boys meet, Westfield placed first in 11 events. Eight different Shamrocks won individual races: Garreth Thomas (IM), Ben Morse (50 free), Noah Flynn (diving), Luca Barbosa (butterfly), Zach Welch (100 free), Will Chambley (500 free), Henry Pham (backstroke) and Griffin Barents Froman (breaststroke). Westfield also swept all three relays.

Sam Holl won the 200 free for Guerin Catholic.

“I thought my kids did great tonight,” said Golden Eagles coach Abby Maroney. “They’ve been battling a

lot of illness. They’ve been working pretty hard. We just came off Christmas break training. We had a lot of big drops tonight and I’m extremely proud of how they performed.”

#### GIRLS MEET

**Team score:** Westfield 132, Guerin Catholic 50.

**200 medley relay:** 1. Westfield “A” (Maggie Alley, Nora Sperry, Gracie Alley, Alex Irvin) 1:58.13, 2. Westfield “B” (Ellie Hill, Marie Rocca, Macy Brown, Kate Cassidy) 2:02.32, 3. Guerin Catholic “A” (Ellie Gove, Katie Scott, Molly Deppen, Ella Capofani) 2:17.20.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Macy Brown (W) 2:07.99, 2. Bella McNally (W) 2:11.80, 3. Greta Smith (W) 2:11.82, 4. Bridget Keller (GC) 2:15.08, 5. Maggie Naas (W) 2:26.11.

**200 individual medley:** 1. G. Alley (W) 2:19.24, 2. Kara Van Woerkom (GC) 2:29.51, 3. Anna McKeown (W) 2:41.87, 4. Ava DeCraene (W) 2:44.36, 5. Izzy McCulloch (W) 2:52.60.

**50 freestyle:** 1. Sperry (W) 26.38, 2. Irvin (W) 26.88, 3. Deppen (GC) 30.16, 4. Scott (GC) 33.60.

**One-meter diving:** 1. Anna Ososki (GC) 169.90, 2. Alexis Ball (W) 166.60, 3. Gabriele Lippert (W) 126.75.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Cassidy (W) 1:05.60, 2. Van Woerkom (GC) 1:10.78, 3. Charlotte Willhite (W) 1:19.08, 4. Brianna Howard (W) 1:22.59, 5. Gove (GC) 1:27.30.

**100 freestyle:** 1. G. Alley (W) 59.33, 2. Irvin (W) 1:00.03, 3. Hill (W) 1:02.27, 4. Keller (GC) 1:04.54, 5. Willhite (W) 1:08.05.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Hill (W) 5:56.96, 2. Alina Reuter (W) 6:06.98, 3. Maggie Schlick (GC) 6:12.10, 4. Eliana Colin (W) 6:43.97, 5. Deppen (GC) 6:50.46.

**200 freestyle relay:** 1. Westfield “B” (G. Alley, Sperry, Smith, M. Alley) 1:47.65, 2. Westfield “A” (Reuter, Rocca, Natalie Khazal, Irvin) 1:53.94, 3. Guerin Catholic “A” (Gove, Schlick, Keller, Van Woerkom) 2:00.07.

**100 backstroke:** 1. M. Alley (W) 1:06.57, 2. Schlick (GC) 1:13.79, 3. Khazal (W) 1:17.03, 4. DeCraene (W) 1:17.35, 5. Gove (GC) 1:22.00.

**100 breaststroke:** 1. Scott (GC) 1:17.16, 2. Naas (W) 1:25.01, 3. McKeeown (W) 1:27.44, 4. Kalen Moe (GC) 1:29.47, 5. Dani Montgomery (W) 1:29.84.

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Westfield “B” (Sperry, Smith, McNally, Cassidy) 3:59.73, 2. Westfield “D” (M. Alley, Rocca, McKeown, Brown) 4:06.59, 3. Guerin Catholic “A” (Schlick, Moe, Keller, Van Woerkom) 4:23.37.



(Above) Westfield’s Luca Barbosa was one of eight individual winners for the Shamrocks boys during their Senior Night meet with Guerin Catholic on Thursday. Barbosa was first in the butterfly. (Below) Guerin Catholic’s Katie Scott won the breaststroke event in the girls meet.

#### BOYS MEET

**Team score:** Westfield 133, Guerin Catholic 50.

**200 medley relay:** 1. Westfield “A” (Griffin Barents Froman, Ethan Braasch, Owen Hudson, Luca Barbosa) 1:49.26, 2. Westfield “C” (Sagan Blansette, Jackson Burgess, Will Chambley, Aiden Willig) 1:57.23, 3. Westfield “B” (Harrison Barents Froman, John Obusek, Bryce Pittman, Locke Taylor) 1:59.26.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Sam Holl (GC) 1:59.54, 2. Taylor (W) 2:06.31, 3. H. Barents Froman (W) 2:06.94, 4. Obusek (W) 2:17.29, 5. Adam Jurewicz (GC) 2:34.70.

**200 individual medley:** 1. Garreth Thomas (W) 2:01.22, 2. Drew Wilhite (GC) 2:05.90, 3. Silas Hendrix (W) 2:18.29, 4. Taylor (W) 2:22.52, 5. Lucas Morse (GC) 2:37.55.

**50 freestyle:** 1. Ben Morse (W) 22.54, 2. Will Ladine (GC) 23.51, 3. Braasch (W) 25.89, 4. Ethan Nimri (GC) 26.30, 5. Hudson (W) 26.78.

**One-meter diving:** 1. Noah Flynn (W) 203.20, 2. Aiden Sullivan (W) 136.05, 3. Eli Ponds (W) 87.40.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Barbosa (W) 56.75, 2. Holl (GC) 59.74, 3. Hen-



drix (W) 1:03.61, 4. Jude Hubner (GC) 1:07.96, 5. Joey Kunkel (GC) 1:08.44.

**100 freestyle:** 1. Zach Welch (W) 50.48, 2. Thomas (W) 51.33, 3. Ladine (GC) 51.34, 4. Will Chambley (W) 54.55, 5. A. Jurewicz (GC) 59.17.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Chambley (W) 5:02.63, 2. Wilhite (GC) 5:10.00, 3. Blansette (W) 5:16.61, 4. Burgess (W) 5:47.29, 5. Charlie Jurewicz (GC) 5:57.41.

**200 freestyle relay:** 1. Westfield “B” (Thomas, Hendrix, B. Morse, Welch) 1:36.04, 2. Guerin Catholic “A” (A. Jurewicz, Holl, Ladine, Wilhite) 1:41.92, 3. Westfield “A” (Obusek, Blansette, Henry Pham, Pittman) 1:45.77.

**100 backstroke:** 1. Pham (W) 1:07.16, 2. Blansette (W) 1:08.08, 3. Esteban Roussel (W) 1:11.29, 4. L. Morse (GC) 1:12.58, 5. Kunkel (GC) 1:13.66.

**100 breaststroke:** 1. G. Barents Froman (W) 1:04.57, 2. Welch (W) 1:05.96, 3. Braasch (GC) 1:07.24, 4. Isaiah Gaskill (GC) 1:24.18, 5. Jacob Gaskill (GC) 1:40.07.

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Westfield “B” (Thomas, G. Barents Froman, Welch, Chambley) 3:32.89, 2. Guerin Catholic “A” (C. Jurewicz, Holl, Ladine, Wilhite) 3:33.05, 3. Westfield “A” (Barbosa, Hudson, Braasch, B. Morse) 3:34.23.

**50 freestyle:** 1. Zach Pettee 24.09, 2. Alex Bergsma 24.36, 3. Porterfield 24.39, 4. Fletchall 24.81, 5. A. Jent 25.95.

**One-meter diving:** 1. Zachary Larson 166.20.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Lowe 58.38, 2. Shrey Aggarwal 59.22, 3. Pettee 1:00.87, 5. Logan Jent 1:03.38.

**100 freestyle:** 1. Porterfield 52.36, 2. Bearden 52.54, 4. Street 55.44, 5. Sebastian Rizik 58.35.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Sweeney 5:05.41, 2. Bergsma 5:11.06.

**200 freestyle relay:** 2. Carmel “A” (Bearden, Bergsma, Fletchall, Sho Shirayanagi) 1:35.14, 3. Carmel “B” (Street, Zhao, Sweeney, A. Jent) 1:36.38.

**100 backstroke:** 2. Lowe 1:00.80, 3. Alex Harrell 1:01.75, 4. Alex Cheng 1:02.07, 5. Fletchall 1:04.28.

**100 breaststroke:** 1. Street 1:08.63, 2. Kong 1:09.47, 3. Zhao 1:10.29, 4. Sadek 1:10.68.

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Carmel “B” (Sweeney, A. Jent, Kong, Shirayanagi) 3:29.13, 3. Carmel “A” (Porterfield, Bergsma, Bearden, Lowe) 3:31.41.

## Zionsville sweeps Millers in dual meet

#### The REPORTER

Noblesville was swept by Zionsville Thursday in a swimming dual meet.

The Millers dropped the girls meet 142-44. Eryn McMahon won the diving event.

In the boys meet, Noblesville lost 119-66 but won three events. Liam Hayward was first in the 50 freestyle, Aiden Kless won diving and Graham Kulp was first in the 500 free.

Here are results for Noblesville’s top five in the individual events and top three in the relays.

#### GIRLS MEET

**Team score:** Zionsville 142, Noblesville 44.

**200 freestyle:** 3. Maya McDonald 2:05.84, 5. Kyra Blackwell 2:12.13.

**200 individual medley:** 4. Olivia Motz 2:27.45.

**50 freestyle:** 4. Katie Sutton 28.17.

**One-meter diving:** 1. Eryn McMahon 224.55, 5. Gracie Obremski 127.85.

**100 butterfly:** 4. Motz 1:07.96, 5. Mallory Mehring 1:09.35.

**100 freestyle:** 4. Anna Miller 1:02.43, 5. Alli Knott 1:02.81.

**500 freestyle:** 2. Haddie Vohs 5:26.35, 5. Ellie Hayward 5:47.84.

**200 freestyle relay:** 2. Noblesville “A” (McDonald, Vohs, Emily Knott, Hayward) 1:42.87, 3. Noblesville “B”

(Julia Santerre, Exley Tricker, Blackwell, Mia Field) 1:47.38.

**100 backstroke:** 4. Tricker 1:05.64, 5. A. Knott 1:07.05.

**100 breaststroke:** 4. Santerre 1:22.28, 5. Kirsten McCormick 1:24.39.

**400 freestyle relay:** 3. Noblesville “A” (Vohs, Sutton, Blackwell, Miller) 3:59.14.

#### BOYS MEET

**Team score:** Zionsville 119, Noblesville 66.

**200 medley relay:** 3. Noblesville “A” (Zak Armstrong, Lane Monger, Josh Naas, Shepard Huff) 1:48.61.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Armstrong 1:53.34, 4. Drew Setmeyer 1:58.41.

**200 individual medley:** 3. Naas 2:06.41, 4. Mason Snyder 2:07.37.

**50 freestyle:** 1. Liam Hayward 23.54, 5. Monger 23.93.

**One-meter diving:** 1. Aiden Kless 233.35, 2. Colton Suhan 193.00, 4. K.J. Gordon 88.20.

**100 butterfly:** 3. Sean Halvorsen 57.45, 5. Mark Berger 1:05.59.

**100 freestyle:** 3. Oliver Mark 52.57, 5. Caleb Mathis 55.83.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Graham Kulp 4:59.27, 3. Anthony Mathis 5:20.09.

**200 freestyle relay:** 2. Noblesville “A” (Hayward, Halvorsen, Armstrong, Kulp) 1:32.31.

**100 backstroke:** 2. Naas 58.69, 3. A. Mathis 1:00.08, 4. Connor Pearson 1:01.90.

**100 breaststroke:** 4. Mark 1:13.08, 5. Darian Teitsma 1:13.28.

**400 freestyle relay:** 2. Noblesville “A” (Kulp, Berger, A. Mathis, Snyder) 3:24.92.

#### The REPORTER

The Carmel swim teams swept a dual meet Thursday at Pike.

The Greyhounds girls team won every event in their 138-44 victory over the Red Devils. Hannah McNally placed first in the 200 free and breaststroke, while Lily Clark was the winner in the 50 and 100 freestyles.

Carmel’s boys beat Pike 127-54, taking 10 of the 12 events. Reilly Sweeney finished first in the 200 and 500 freestyles.

Here are results for Carmel’s top five in the individual events and top three in the relays.

#### GIRLS MEET

**Team score:** Carmel 138, Pike 44.

**200 medley relay:** 1. Carmel “A” (Lily Clark, Payton Clark, Samantha Powers, Whitney Fung)

1:54.19, 3. Carmel “B” (Avery Aiello, Laura Russo, Julianna Ng, Tiffany Neff) 2:06.59.

**100 freestyle:** 1. Hannah McNally 2:00.76, 3. Madison Conley 2:07.79, 4. Neff 2:11.97, 5. Kennedy Baldwin 2:19.53.

**200 individual medley:** 1. Savannah Irizarry 2:09.53, 2. P. Clark 2:23.49, 3. Ng 2:30.29, 4. Sydney Ladine 2:36.69, 5. Christine Hu 2:37.58.

**50 freestyle:** 1. L. Clark 25.56, 2. Powers 26.60, 3. Ava Justin 28.55, 5. Kelsey Baldauf 29.73.

**One-meter diving:** 1. Helena Gibson 229.25, 2. Melania Munson 228.00, 3. Eva Lissa Gibson 195.40.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Irizarry 59.83, 2. Powers 1:01.68, 3. Fung 1:03.15, 4. Cadence Fernandez 1:10.57, 5. Russo 1:11.19.

**100 freestyle:** 1. L. Clark 56.82, 2. Aiello 59.78, 3. Gracie Benning 1:00.54, 4. Sophia Pei 1:00.75, 5. Ng 1:02.52.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Conley 5:31.78, 4. Addy Lehman 5:57.66.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Carmel “A”

(L. Clark, P. Clark, McNally, Irizarry) 1:43.96, 3. Carmel “B” (Conley, Aiello, Benning, Lehman) 1:51.75.

**100 backstroke:** 1. McNally 1:03.49, 2. Fung 1:05.20, 3. Aiello 1:08.53, 4. Baldwin 1:10.34, 5. Olivia Pangemanan 1:10.57.

**100 breaststroke:** 1. P. Clark 1:11.24, 3. Hilary Ma 1:19.05, 4. Hu 1:25.14, 5. Alex Hopwood 1:30.02.

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Carmel “A” (Fung, McNally, Irizarry, Powers) 3:46.54, 3. Carmel “B” (Conley, Benning, Neff, Pangemanan) 4:02.34.

**BOYS MEET**

**Team score:** Carmel 127, Pike 54.

**200 medley relay:** 1. Carmel “A” (Bryce Lowe, Jack Street, Conner Fletchall, James Porterfield) 1:49.01, 3. Carmel “B” (Larry Kong, Donald Zhao, Kasper Sadek, Aiden Jent) 1:50.07.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Reilly Sweeney 1:52.07, 2. Jude Bearden 1:54.78, 3. Alex Herron 2:06.45.

**200 individual medley:** 1. Kong 2:12.16, 2. Zhao 2:16.76, 4. Shayan Amin 2:25.56.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Zach Pettee 24.09, 2. Alex Bergsma 24.36, 3. Porterfield 24.39, 4. Fletchall 24.81, 5. A. Jent 25.95.

**One-meter diving:** 1. Zachary Larson 166.20.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Lowe 58.38, 2. Shrey Aggarwal 59.22, 3. Pettee 1:00.87, 5. Logan Jent 1:03.38.

**100 freestyle:** 1. Porterfield 52.36, 2. Bearden 52.54, 4. Street 55.44, 5. Sebastian Rizik 58.35.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Sweeney 5:05.41, 2. Bergsma 5:11.06.

**200 freestyle relay:** 2. Carmel “A” (Bearden, Bergsma, Fletchall, Sho Shirayanagi) 1:35.14, 3. Carmel “B” (Street, Zhao, Sweeney, A. Jent) 1:36.38.

**100 backstroke:** 2. Lowe 1:00.80, 3. Alex Harrell 1:01.75, 4. Alex Cheng 1:02.07, 5. Fletchall 1:04.28.

**100 breaststroke:** 1. Street 1:08.63, 2. Kong 1:09.47, 3. Zhao 1:10.29, 4. Sadek 1:10.68.

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Carmel “B” (Sweeney, A. Jent, Kong, Shirayanagi) 3:29.13, 3. Carmel “A” (Porterfield, Bergsma, Bearden, Lowe) 3:31.41.

# Carmel takes down Pike

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Basketball

# Sheridan shocks Speedway 61-42

**The REPORTER**

Sheridan traveled to Speedway on Tuesday and came home with a solid win, as the Class 2A Blackhawks drove past the 3A Spark-plugs 61-42.

Sheridan got out to a good start, leading 16-7 after the first quarter. The 'Hawks cruised their way to halftime with a 29-15 lead, then went up 45-25 after three quarters.

Kenzie Garner had another outstanding game, earning a double-double of 25 points and 15 rebounds. Garner also had five assists, four steals and two blocked shots. Cecilia Timme contributed 14 points and dished out eight assists. Sadie Timme pulled nine rebounds.

The Blackhawks are then 14-3 and host Guerin Catholic Tuesday.

**SHERIDAN 61, SPEEDWAY 42**

Sheridan	FG	FT	TP	PF
Nova Cross	3-7	1-1	8	2
Sadie Timme	2-7	0-2	4	1
Mac Smith	1-2	0-0	2	1
Kenzie Garner	9-22	2-2	25	0
Cecilia Timme	7-14	0-2	14	3
Brielle Garner	3-5	0-0	6	0
Makenzy Terry	1-3	0-0	2	1
Kennedy Zachary	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	26-60	3-7	61	8

**Score by Quarters**

Sheridan	16	13	16	16	61
Speedway	7	8	10	17	42

Sheridan 3-pointers (6-11) K. Garner 5-9, Cross 1-1, B. Garner 0-1. Sheridan rebounds (38) K. Garner 15, S. Timme 9, B. Garner 4, C. Timme 4, Terry 3, Cross 2, Smith 1.

Gymnastics

# Westfield gymnastics keeps making history

**The REPORTER**

When Westfield started a gymnastics team last season, it made history right out of the gate.

The Shamrocks team qualified for the regional tournament during its inaugural year, an outstanding result. Westfield is back for its second year of gymnastics and is once again making history right away.

The 'Rocks competed in a dual meet with Columbus East last Saturday to being their season. Westfield won 101.60-93.50; the Shamrocks' score is a new school record.

"We learned from last year what will help us score better," said Lynn Moskovitz, who returns as head coach for the Shamrocks. Moskovitz said Westfield is "not only learning new skills, but also learning skills that would score better in high school gymnastics."

The 'Rocks have several returners from last season. Senior Elianna Reynolds is back; she had the highest all-around score at Columbus East with a 34.60 and won two events: the floor exercise with an 8.95 and the uneven bars with a 7.95. Reynolds has committed to Trine University, where she will be part of the acrobatics and tumbling program.

Westfield has two more seniors on its roster: Heidi Burke, who is back for another year and Sara Borek, a new member of the team. Juniors Isa Galan and Layla Ryan are both returning gymnasts, with another junior, Blair Watts, joining the team. Sophomore Madelyn Doran is another returner, with freshman Avery Mason a newcomer.

"We've grown our coaching staff, so we have two assistant coaches now," said Moskovitz.

The Shamrocks' best event in their meet last week

was the floor, where they totaled 26.35 points. After Reynolds' first-place finish, Galan was second with 8.85, followed by Mason with an 8.55.

Westfield also had a strong vault performance with a 26.25. Doran was the runner-up with an 8.80, Reynolds third with an 8.75, and Mason and Galan tied for fourth with 8.7s. Reynolds also scored an 8.95 on the balance beam.

"We start our standards every day of doing our best and we'll just see where that leads," said Moskovitz. The coach said doing that reinforces to the gymnasts that "they are capable of doing good things," and they apply that to each and every practice.

Westfield's next meet is Tuesday against New Palestine at the Gymnastics Company, which is located on the south side of Indianapolis. The Shamrocks travel to Huntington North for a three-team meet with HN and Logansport on Monday, Jan. 22, then travel to Noblesville on Thursday, Jan. 25. Moskovitz said it will be nice to compete at Noblesville so the Shamrocks can have their fans come to the meet.

Results from the meet with Columbus East now follow.

**Team score:** Westfield 101.60, Columbus East 93.50.

**All-around scores:** 2. Elianna Reynolds 34.60, 3. Isa Galan 34.00, 5. Avery Mason 31.15, 6. Madelyn Doran 30.45, 7. Sara Borek 29.30.

**Vault:** 2. Doran 8.80, 3. Reynolds 8.75, T4. Mason 8.70; Galan 8.70, 6. Heidi Burke 8.50, 8. Borek 7.80.

**Uneven bars:** 1. Reynolds 7.95, T3. Galan 7.65; Mason 7.65, 6. Doran 6.55, 7. Borek 6.45.

**Balance beam:** 2. Reynolds



Photo provided

The Westfield gymnastics team opened its season at Columbus East, winning a dual meet over the Olympians. The Shamrocks finished with a team score of 101.60, setting a new school record.

8.95, 3. Galan 8.80, 4. Borek 8.00, 6. Burke 6.80, 7. Doran 6.70, 8. Mason 6.25.

**Floor exercise:** 1. Reynolds 8.95, 2. Galan 8.85, 3. Mason 8.55, 4. Doran 8.40, 5. Burke 8.25, 8. Borek 7.05.

**Floor exercise reserve:** 1. Blair Watts 7.80.

\*\*\*

The Noblesville gymnastics team also began its season last Saturday, participating in the Logansport Pairs.

The team of Valorey Bittles and Emmy Leckrone finished eighth overall with a score of 30.65. Both gymnasts competed in two rotations - Leckrone scored an 8.45 in the vault and a 7.55 on the bars, while Bittles scored a 7.85 on the floor and a 6.80 on beam.

Ethan Rivers and Kylie Lotridge placed ninth with a 29.60; Lotridge scored 8.40 on floor and 8.20 on bars, with Rivers scoring 7.95 on vault and 5.05 on beam. Lydia Blackwell scored a 7.85 on vault; she and Lilly Martin teamed for an 18.10 score.

The Millers have nine gymnasts on their roster. Alayna Lotridge is a senior, Rivers is a junior and Kylie Lotridge is a sophomore. The others are all freshmen: Bittles, Blackwell, Chloe Harris, Leckrone, Martin and Alina Skryabnev.

Noblesville is back in action Saturday at the Franklin Central Invitational. Fishers will open its season at that tournament as well.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

**Friday, Jan. 12**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL**

- Brownsburg at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.
- Covenant Christian at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
- Hamilton Southeastern at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.
- Lapel at Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.
- Muncie Burriss at University, 7:30 p.m.
- Noblesville at Zionsville, 7:30 p.m.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

- Brownsburg at Fishers, 6 p.m.
- Hamilton Southeastern at Westfield, 6 p.m.
- Noblesville at Zionsville, 6 p.m.

**GIRLS WRESTLING**

- State finals at Kokomo, 11 a.m.

Please email schedule changes or corrections to [sports@readthereporter.com](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).

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**Thu Jan 11 - Boys Basketball** **Upcoming Broadcasts**

7:15 pm Pleasant View vs Horizon Christian | IndianaSRN

**Fri Jan 12 - Girls Basketball**

6:00 pm Brownsburg vs Fishers | Fishers Sports Network

7:20 pm City Alliance Championship | Indiana SRN

**Fri Jan 12 - Boys Basketball**

6:00 pm Evansville Harrison Warrior Classic | Indiana SRN

7:20 pm Covenant Christian vs Guerin | Indiana SRN

**Sat Jan 13 - Boys Basketball**

10:00 am Evansville Harrison Warrior Classic | Indiana SRN

6:00 pm Connersville vs Noblesville | Junior Varsity | HCTV Sports

7:30 pm North Montgomery vs Sheridan | Bragg Sports Media

7:30 pm Connersville vs Noblesville | Varsity Boys | HCTV Sports

**Tues Jan 16 - Girls Basketball**

5:55 pm Carmel vs Fishers | Junior Varsity | Fishers Sports Network

6:00 pm Harrison vs Noblesville | Junior Varsity | HCTV Sports

7:30 pm Carmel vs Fishers | Varsity | Fishers Sports Network

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Basketball

# 'Blazers bounce back to beat Shortridge on Senior Night

**The REPORTER**

University's girls celebrated Senior Night with a come from behind 49-40 victory over Shortridge.

The Trailblazers trailed 19-18 at halftime after being behind by as many as eight points in the second quarter. University took their first lead at 20-19 in the third quarter when Mack Feeney beat the defense down the floor on an inbound play and scored off a long pass from senior Keira Bright.

After the Blue Devils tied the contest at 22, Anyah Turley scored to put University ahead for good at 24-22. The Blazers eventually pushed their lead to 34-26 on a Charlotte Conyers steal and basket. University led 36-32 after the third with Feeney scoring six points and Conyers five in the period.

Fourth quarter baskets by Feeney and Conyers gave the Blazers a 41-33

**UNIVERSITY 49, SHORTRIDGE 40**

University	FG	FT	TP	PF
Meg Rohloff	0-3	0-0	0	2
Keira Bright	0-12	2-2	2	2
Anyah Turley	4-7	1-2	10	5
Leah Norvell	2-10	0-2	6	1
Mack Feeney	4-10	3-6	11	3
Charlotte Conyers	7-22	2-4	18	1
Anyah Hicks	0-0	0-0	0	0
Jiyou Lee	1-1	0-0	2	1
Totals	18-65	8-16	49	15

University 3-point shooting (5-18) Conyers 2-8, Norvell 2-4, Turley 1-1, Bright 0-5. University rebounds (43) Norvell 10, Feeney 10, Bright 7, Conyers 7, Rohloff 5, Turley 3, Lee 1.

advantage. After a Shortridge three pointer, Conyers made a field goal and Turley scored five straight points for a 47-36 lead. Senior Jiyou Lee scored her first career basket to cap the University scoring.

Conyers had 18 points off the bench. Feeney posted a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds while Turley added 10 points. Bright handed out

eight assists. University improves to 9-7 on the season. Shortridge is 10-7.

The Trailblazers are back in action Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. when they host Bethesda Christian in the Pioneer Academic Athletic Conference championship game. The Blazers will be going for their third consecutive PAAC title and fifth in the past six years.

# Thanks for reading!

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