

SATURDAY, FEB. 3, 2024

ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN
CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Patchy morning fog,
then becoming sunny.
Tonight: Clear.
HIGH: 47 LOW: 30



Sheridan Historical Society continues to honor Veterans

By STEVE MARTIN
Sheridan Historical Society

Last year, the Sheridan Historical Society worked to honor local veterans by displaying banners along Main Street with their pictures and service information. At the end of the year, we also dedicated one of our Museum Christmas trees to the veterans by decorating it with ornaments displaying their pictures and service information.

As it turned out, the Veterans Christmas tree became one of our holiday highlights, so much so that we have decided to leave the tree up and continue the display of the veteran ornaments for the near future.

We had discussions at the Museum about how to decorate the tree in addition to the veteran ornaments. Memorial Day and Fourth of July were at the top of our list for display variations, of course, but every month has its own special flavor.

What started as a Veterans' Christmas tree in December will now become a year-round display with highlights appropriate to the season.

Currently we are working on Valentine items to augment the tree for February, something Easter-ish for March/April in addition to shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day. Anyway, you get the picture here. We will continue our Veterans Memorial Tree and have fun dressing it out to focus attention on the season as well as our veterans.

We are also continuing to offer copies of the veterans' buttons for sale for \$5 each to anyone interested. Over the past month, we have been busy making buttons for families and friends; it has proven to be a nice fundraiser for the Sheridan Historical Society. If you are interested in having buttons made of your favorite veteran, please stop by and place an order.

The Sheridan Historical Society would love to have come in and see our Veterans Memorial Tree. We are located at 315 S. Main St. in beautiful uptown Sheridan, just on the country side of Hamilton County, and serving as the northwest entryway to Indiana's most progressive and prolific county.

Our hours are Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday of each week



Photo provided
Museum docents Yvonne Pickett, a veteran herself, and Connie Mossburg stand in front of the Veterans Memorial Tree at the Sheridan Historical Society Museum. They hope you will visit the Museum to see this beautiful salute to our veterans and other Sheridan community items we have on display.

from 1 to 4 p.m. We are closed most holidays, except for Fourth of July and Halloween when we invite you to enjoy our uptown community Main Street activities.

No life for a dog

It is said "all dogs go to Heaven." In the case of Skooder, our family pet many years ago, this saying had likely been put to the test.

Those encountering him were never shy about sharing unsolicited suspicions that he originated from Heaven's polar opposite.

My dad, clearly Skooder's best buddy outside our household, never failed to demonstrate his tenderness for the dog by bringing him gas-station chicken tenders during visits. But even Dad summed Skooder up as "one mean SOB."

Based on our Skooder experiences, I would not be surprised if the devil's preferred pet is a dachshund.

When Skooder died, I couldn't help but imagine St. Peter looking at his clipboard, glancing through the dog's Earth report, and nodding the "big no" to the awaiting wiener dog that likely had his hind leg hiked over the "pearly gates."

In all fairness, Skooder was our family protector – mostly my daughter's. To a fault, perhaps. His territoriality turned him into a serious threat to visitors and passers-by. Visitors seldom returned – but at least they got away, bandaged maybe, but alive.

Early on, we knew the hot mess we had on our hands. When he was a pup, we entered him in a local wiener dog race, but not without first fitting him with a muzzle to protect the competition. This proved detrimental to winning a trophy. The muzzle broke his spirit, causing him to lower his head to the grass and become the poster pup for full-bodied paralysis. He never saw the finish line.

Feeling sorry for him while walking through the crowd with him on my shoulder, I removed the muzzle. Within seconds, he bit a boy's shoulder, drawing blood. I escaped through the maze of wiener dogs and wiener dog owners to avoid detection by the boy's parents. Later, he bit a neighbor boy's butt across the street. He tried to viciously chomp off my girlfriend's fingers one too many times – I read her mind, "I didn't sign up for this \$#!&."

See No Life . . . Page 2

State Senate approves reading proficiency bill; would retain students who fail test three times

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Parents would be able to appeal a decision to hold their child back a year under legislation the Senate approved late Thursday afternoon.

The bill is the number one priority issue for Senate Republicans after an Indiana Department of Education report last fall found one-fifth of the state's third graders can't read at grade level.

Bill author Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, said she modeled her legislation after a similar program that led to dramatic improvements in reading scores in Mississippi, which at one time had the lowest reading proficiency scores in the country. Rogers said she doesn't want her bill thought of as a retention bill, but the option needs to be available for the most severe cases.

"To send these kids on through school without the ability to read sets them up to struggle for the rest of their education and, very often, for the rest of their life," Rogers said. "Reading is the most fundamental thing schools need to teach our children."

Under the bill, students would take the IREAD test in second grade instead of third grade, as they do currently. Rogers said the IREAD test would be reworked to account for younger readers. If a student failed the test, schools would have to offer summer reading courses or an individual reading program. The student would then retake the test in third grade. Rogers said if they failed a second time, they would get more intervention the following summer and tested again. Only if a student failed the IREAD test three times would they be held back for one year. An amendment added last week would allow parents to appeal the decision.

Senate Democrats said the bill's many reading interventions are good investments, but they didn't like the idea of forcing

See Reading Bill . . . Page 2

Think prom! Fishers Tri Kappa to hold one-day pop-up prom dress shop

The REPORTER

It's never too early to get ready for prom season.

Fishers Tri Kappa is hosting a pop-up prom dress shop from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 2, at the Fall Creek Township Office, 11595 Brooks School Road, Fishers.

Area high school students – and their fashion advisors, of course – are invited to discover a stunning selection of new and gently used dresses in various colors and sizes. And the prices are definitely right: \$5 to \$40.

The ladies of Fishers Tri Kappa collect dresses for the sale throughout the year, and this year they have about 250 dresses available. Members of the social sorority transform the townships offices into a specialty boutique, complete with dressing rooms and mirrors, so girls can see how beautiful they look in their favorite dresses. Some accessories are



Photo provided
About 250 dresses are available, each costing between \$5 and \$40.

also available.

Shoppers must have a high school student ID and cash to buy dresses, and they are limited to two long dresses each. All proceeds are used to purchase new dresses for the next sale.

Club chairs Sandra Jones and Jennifer Benson encourage dress donations year-round. If you'd like to contribute to the 2024 sale, dresses can be dropped off through Feb. 25 at Fishers or Hamilton Southeastern high schools.

Dress donors also can contact Fishers Tri Kappa at [Facebook.com/FishersTriKappa](https://www.facebook.com/FishersTriKappa).

Say yes to the dress and make prom a night to remember!

Noblesville Creates invites everyone to week of Valentine's Day for All events

The REPORTER

Noblesville Creates (NC) is celebrating its annual Valentine's Day for All event, taking place over a week, with events ranging from hands-on art projects to music performances and poetry readings.

The event goes hand-in-hand with the NC Judge Stone House gallery for the month of February, *From the Heart*, which features works from local artists that will inspire you with feelings of affection and romance through painting, pottery, and poetry.

NC is also offering three different Valentine's Day for All Take-Home Craft Kits throughout the month of February, including everything needed to make a fun and unique Valentine's Day themed craft. Each craft kit ranges from \$5 to \$7 and is available for purchase at the NC campus



Photo provided
Last year's celebration brought people of all ages together for Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day for All events

Noblesville Creates, along with its partners and other local businesses, will hold various events and activities for

Valentine's Day for All. These events are open to the public.

February First Friday
Friday, Feb. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Celebrate First Friday with the opening of the *From the Heart* exhibit. Members of the Poetry Society of Indi-

ana will be on hand to write poems inspired by the works of art. You can enjoy food, drinks, and the musical stylings of jazz guitarist Mario Joven.

See For All . . . Page 2

No LIFE

Skooder did attack Delaney a few times, too, the last time leaving a facial scar.

My buddy Chappell was the victim of a memorable Skooder attack. Chappell entered my house only to be welcomed by a growling flash of ankle-high brown fur leaping high enough to attach his teeth to the crotch of his dress pants, swinging like a razor-sharp-toothed pendulum between the visitor’s legs. Only when Skooder was caged on the other side of a closed bedroom door did the pallor on my friend’s face leave. He laughed uncontrollably, stating, “I had never been so scared in my life.”

I had never been so scared in my life either, for Chappell was a lawyer.

Skooder received far too many get-out-of-jail-free cards.

It was not his temperament, but a back disorder, that did him in. Spinal issues come with the territory for elongated, short-legged dogs. There were too many leaps onto our beds, an ill-fated feat he performed, though not successfully until, to our amusement, he thumped into the mattress side three of four times. There were too many leaps from the couch – his favorite nap spot.

Too much pain. Too many medicines. We even made a trio of visits to a chiropractor.

No life for a dog.

I made the dreaded phone call to the vet after taking Delaney to school. She had finally reached the surrender point of not asking me not to do it. Animal smart, she knew the score. In one sitting, I dialed the vet’s number thrice. The first two attempts, I couldn’t get any words out.

I fed him a half pack of sliced ham, this after the popcorn chicken Delaney had dumped into his bowl earlier, something neither of us would have done before. I wondered if this had tipped him off about his fate.

In the parking lot, I hesitated to exit the car, considered one more get-out-of-jail-free card. Whimpers filled the backseat cage. Once out of the car, instead of getting Skooder, I took a short walk through a stout breeze, the day overcast, wet and cold. I heard muffled howls behind me, something he always did when sensing abandonment.

I blubbered by the vet’s roadside mailbox, gathered my composure and removed the cage. I saw the grim-faced receptionist. She knew the score, too. With one foot inside the clinic, I set the cage down despite my dog’s whiny protest – please tell me it is back pain causing these sounds, I thought – and returned outside without a final look.

I let the vet do her job without me.

My son and I wrapped him in his favorite tie-dyed

blanket with his favorite stuffed animal minus the stuffing (he had long ago taken the insides out of his stuffed dog, something he did with any stuffed toy, one of his missions in life).

“He had a good life,” my son said, his shovel hitting dirt, something he retold his sister later – and I’m sure his own self.

“It is all for the best,” I said, spade in grip.

We capped the hole with sod and topped that with the red dog bowl, four Milk Bone treats inside, one for each Skooder year. At times like this, multiplying seven “dog years” to the human years becomes most important – 28 sounds far better than four. I think that’s why humans concocted the whole seven-year equivalency formula.

The next morning, I awoke without the anticipated click of anxious toenails on my faux wood floor. Hearing that loud new-morning silence, I reminded myself, “He had a good life; it is all for the best. No life for a dog.”

In the following weeks, I prayed for the mending of an 11-year-old girl’s broken heart.

Here’s to you, Skooder – wherever you ended up.

You can purchase Scott’s latest humor collection, “[Quietly Making Noise](#),” on Amazon. Contact him if you would like a speaker at a meeting or event at scottsaalman@gmail.com.

FOR ALL

Songwriter Series
Friday, Feb. 9 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Local musicians John Gilmore, Chris Baird, and Kelli Ray Yates will perform original songs. This is an opportunity to meet the writers and hear their songs, as well as some of the stories behind the songs in a quiet listening environment.

Family Valentine’s Craft Event
Saturday, Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Families are invited to come to Noblesville Creates to create Valentine’s-themed crafts with Deanna Leonard from Caravan Classes.

Galentine Dragon Brunch with Gal’s Guide Library (21+)
Sunday, Feb. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Enjoy a dragon themed brunch with Gal’s Guide Library and Primeval Brewing to celebrate the Lunar New Year and the year of the dragon. Purchase your ticket [here](#).

Valentine’s Day Date Night Celebration
Wednesday, Feb. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Participate in art, drinks, poetry, crafts, and games. Featured activities include the game “From Mars to Venus: A Romantic Space Odyssey.” You can also create Celestial Canvases with

Caravan Classes as well as participate in live poetry reading and poetry writing activities with the Poetry Society of Indiana.

To ensure you do not miss out on any of the romantic date night activities at Noblesville Creates on Feb. 14, purchase a Date Night Big Ticket. The Big Ticket includes a \$10 craft from Caravan Classes, a felting activity with Sue Payne, a Loving-Kindness Meditation with Gal’s Guide (registration required), donation to the Poetry Society of Indiana, two drinks, and two membership mugs with cocoa. Upgrades are available for Caravan Classes’ additional crafts and to play Apelles Games’ “From Mars to Venus: A Romantic Space Odyssey.” Purchase a Date Night Big Ticket [here](#).

Sweetheart Saturday Around the Square
Saturday, Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wander Noblesville’s historic square and charming streets to find special Valentine’s Day sales and specials. Head to Noblesville Creates to make a shared hearts mixed media process painting where couples will take turns drawing/painting half of a heart, with its center being the dividing line you created. Purchase a Shared Hearts Mixed Media Process

Painting ahead of time [here](#).

Mommy & Me Party with Gal’s Guide Library (all ages)
Sunday, Feb. 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Activities, crafts, and self-care tips to empower Mommy and child. Enjoy presentations from the founder of Girls Positivity Club and the founder of Gal’s Guide Library. Purchase your ticket [here](#).

Purchase a Valentine’s Day for All Take-Home Craft Kit [here](#).

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Valentine’s Day for All event.

About Noblesville Creates

Noblesville Creates champions the arts as an essential element of the economic health and cultural vitality of Noblesville and central Indiana. As Noblesville’s local arts agency, NC catalyzes opportunities for the arts and local creatives of all skill levels to thrive and lead in central Indiana. NC is also the Region 7 Arts Partner for the Indiana Arts Commission, serving the six counties at the center of the state. NC cultivates classes, events, programs, and services for art-lovers and artists of all backgrounds and experience levels. Start your creative journey with Noblesville Creates: they’ll help you connect and flourish.

Hello, Hamilton County!

Click to play this week’s video

Correction

In the story “[Recorder encourages county residents to secure property fraud protection](#)” published Friday, the hyperlink at the end of the story was missing a forward slash and was not functional.

This is the corrected hyperlink: watch.doxpop.com/property/

said the data on Mississippi’s program doesn’t conclusively demonstrate whether holding students back benefited them. She said mandating retention takes away the discretion of parents, students, and teachers.

“We cannot punish children for the policy failures in this building and that’s what it feels like this bill is doing,” Hunley said.

A few Republicans broke with their party over the retention issue, notably Sen. Eric Bassler, R-Washington. Bassler said he was unable to read until he was

in fifth grade. He said he had to attend special education classes in order to bring his reading skills up to par.

“Whether we like it or not, there’s a stigma to that, especially for a young child,” Bassler said. “That’s the thing that gives me pause, is, does it have a stigma on young people that we could address in some other way?”

The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 36-13 and now goes to the House. Speaker Todd Huston, R-Fishers, has said he supports the bill’s concepts, though he has yet to review its specifics.

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It’s that time again: type II fun

By **ABBY WILLIAMS**
Sheridan H.S. Human Resources Teacher

Each year in early spring, on what always feels like a frigid day, Sheridan High School students and staff participate in the annual Polar Plunge at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis. This is an event created and organized by Special Olympics Indiana during which people raise money for that great cause and then jump into a freezing body of water.

This year’s high-school-specific event will take place on Friday, March 1, and Sheridan’s team is working hard to be ready. As of press time, we have 53 members on our team and have raised \$2,731 with a goal of \$5,000.

I’ve written about this event many times because it’s one of my favorite things I do as a teacher. The kids love it, we raise money for an awesome cause, it’s a very inclusive event, and we get to

be outside, and I’ve described all of that here before.

What I haven’t written about in the past is the pure, wild fun of it, what some would refer to as “type II fun.” Type II fun is the kind of fun that’s not really all that fun in the moment, but when you look back on it, it seems like it was indeed fun after all. My personal go-to’s for type II fun include marathons, strenuous workouts, very long, hot hikes, and participating in Polar Plunge.

Type II fun has a way of making you forget just how miserable the event was. In the case of Polar Plunge, we get to Eagle Creek Park in the morning, stand around in wind, cold, and snow in swim attire with coats and blankets bundled on top, shout some cheers with the other schools, and then line up to jump into a lake. After high fiving the first responders standing in the lake for our safety, we run back out of the water, grab our towels and dry clothes, and then



Photo provided
Abby Williams on the bus with Special Education teacher Michael Moore after Polar Plunge 2023.

change into said dry clothes in a crowded, wet, cold concrete locker room.

These are not “fun” things to experience in a traditional sense. Nevertheless, after we are warm and dry, we load back onto the buses and head to lunch, which truly turns into a celebration of what was accomplished, how much money and awareness we raised, and HOW MUCH FUN WE HAD.

So, here we are again, students and staff, with memories of how cold and miserable the event was last year, and yet so looking forward to another plunge on March 1. If you would like to learn more or support Sheridan High School’s team, you can visit our team page at tinyurl.com/SHSpolarplunge2024.



Photo provided
State Rep. Chuck Goodrich (left) was presented with the plaque by Les Chamblee of U.S. Term Limits.

State Reps. Goodrich & Schaibley receive plaques for signing U.S. Term Limits Pledge

The REPORTER

Indiana State Representatives Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville) and Donna Schaibley (R-Carmel) were recently recognized for supporting term limits for members of Congress by signing the U.S. Term Limits Pledge, which states that “as a member of the state legislature, I will cosponsor, vote for, and defend the resolution applying for an Article V convention for the sole purpose of enacting term limits on Congress.”

U.S. Term Limits presented both Goodrich and Schaibley with the “Champion of Term Limits” plaque, which reads, “In recognition of a steadfast commitment to restore citizen government through term limits.”

The U.S. Term Limits

Article V convention application is limited to proposing an amendment to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the U.S. House and Senate. The Article V convention application does not specify the number of terms, as that will be determined by the commissioners appointed to the convention by the state legislatures.

Many fellow legislators have pledged their support for the application, indicating that constituents want term limits on Congress. According to [the latest RMG Research poll](#), 76 percent of likely voters in Indiana support term limits for Congress, with strong support among



Schaibley

See Term . . . Page 4

The RoomPlace to close Westfield location, five others in Indianapolis area

By **GREGG MONTGOMERY**
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](https://www.wishtv.com)

The RoomPlace announced Friday night it’s closing its six Indianapolis-area stores to concentrate its business on the Chicago-land area.

Bruce Berman, chief executive officer of the furniture retailer, said in a state-

ment issued Friday night, “We are determined to become better and stronger in Chicagoland by continuing to offer consumers the largest selection of stylish brands at the market’s best prices.”

The Indianapolis-area store closings include one in Westfield, another in Plainfield, and four in Indianapolis. The RoomPlace stores in

Kenosha, Wis., and Peoria, Ill., will also be closed as part of the retailer’s restructuring plan to align costs with projected sales and “economic realities,” a news release said.

“The restructuring plan will utilize the benefits of a voluntary Chapter 11 reorganization to provide an orderly and transparent process as

affected stores wind down,” the release added.

The RoomPlace will honor orders placed through Friday. A contractor will conduct sales at the closing locations.

Eighteen stores will remain open in greater Chicago. “This is not an end; it’s a new beginning for Chicagoland,” Berman also said in the statement.

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TERM

from Page 3

Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike.

It is important to note that once an amendment is proposed by Congress or by the state legislatures at the convention, it must be ratified by three-fourths (38) of the states to be added as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

State Rep. Goodrich's

support, along with that of other members of the House, demonstrates that the push for term limits for Congress is gaining momentum in Indiana.

Click here to view Goodrich's signed pledge. Click here to view Schaibley's signed pledge.

Learn more at TermLimits.com.

Phi Beta Psi Euchre Fundraiser

Theta Alpha Upsilon Chapter

Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 4 p.m.

First Christian Church, 16377 Herriman Blvd., Noblesville



Live Music Feb. 9 - Rich Hardesty

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7-10 p.m.

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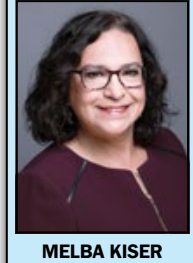
Why does NHS addition include unisex bathrooms?

In my **November column**, I wrote about the Noblesville High School academic addition. As readers may remember, that project was approved by the board and ground has already broken on the project. That column included a [link to the 11-page rendering of the addition](#). (See pages 10 & 11 in the above link.)

The public meetings and school board meetings of this addition had detailed discussions of the size, cost, staircase design, café area, and additional classroom space this addition would provide. What was never discussed was the design in its entirety which includes the proposed gender-neutral/shared restrooms instead of separate facilities by sex.

The design for the gender-neutral facilities consists of a large room, with sinks on the left and the right, and five stalls on both the left and right of the room.

COLUMNIST



MELBA KISER

The resolution of the drawing was poor enough to not allow for a detailed reading of the description of the architectural design. Thus, no questions were ever raised on the design of the restroom facilities.

The general rule for the construction of a facility, such as a school, is that there should be separate facilities by sex. To proceed with this project, a school official had to apply for a variance.

To see the variance request, go to readthereporter.com/Public_Files/VR23139.pdf. You can see the design of the "all-user restroom" on the left side of Pages 3 & 4 of the document.

Such was the case for this project. The CFO for Noblesville schools applied for a variance on behalf of Ralph Gerdes Consultants and CSO Architects. The variance specifically asks whether public safety and welfare are protected. The

request shows that the response stated, "Non-compliance with the rule will not be adverse to the public health, safety or welfare."

As stated above, the original architectural drafts were not clear enough to allow the public, or the board members, to see the design for the restroom facilities. Who, then, made the decision that our students' safety and welfare are protected?

Further in the variance request is a checked box that states that imposition of the rule, meaning separate facilities by sex, would impose an undue hardship because of "major operational problems" with the use of the building. Interestingly, what is not checked, is that imposition of the rule would result in undue hardship because of physical limitations or excessive costs.

With a building addition that has just broken ground, is slated to be approximately 70,000 square feet, and for \$37 million – can we believe that any changes to the design would impose undue hardships?

The realization of the proposed restroom facilities design has received enough attention from the board that it has been added to the agenda for the next school board work session. That meeting will take place at 1 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5 in the Educational Services Center Board Room. Representatives from CSO Architects will be present to discuss. Public comment will be allowed and registration to comment will be allowed up to five minutes before the meeting opens.

I urge everyone interested to attend this meeting and voice your opinions. You can also make your feelings known by emailing the superintendent and the school board members. Their email addresses can be found at noblesvilleschools.org/Page/846.

Melba Kiser is an outspoken advocate for financial responsibility and transparency in government at all levels. Her column appears at least once each month in The Hamilton County Reporter Newspaper.

We must protect Veterans using vouchers to end homelessness

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, on average, 17,000 new people enter homelessness every week in the United States.

Sadly, this includes far too many veterans. In fact, veterans are more likely than non-veterans to face homelessness. In Indianapolis, veterans represent only 4 percent of the population but account for 11 percent of those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Since 1993, Helping Veterans And Families (HVAF) has been serving veterans and families facing homelessness in central Indiana. We provide housing with intensive case management, access to mental health-care, employment and legal services, and assistance with basic needs through our food, clothing, and hygiene pantries. Last year, 1,349 veterans received

GUEST COLUMNIST



EMILY HILDEBRAND

life-changing, life-saving assistance at HVAF.

Since 2010, the federal government, largely through the Department of Veterans Affairs, has expanded resources to help end veteran homelessness. Through public-private partnerships with providers like HVAF around the country, resources from the federal government provide much needed transitional housing, rental assistance, and permanent housing opportunities for those who defended our freedom. These partnerships have been successful in reducing veteran homelessness by 52 percent in the last 13 years, however, last year 35,574 veterans experienced homelessness, including over 15,000 veterans living unsheltered.

One key program in the fight to end veteran homelessness is a permanent supportive housing intervention known as the HUD-VASH

program. This program pairs Housing Choice Vouchers from the Department of Housing and Urban Development with supportive services from the VA to ensure the most vulnerable veterans in our nation can obtain and maintain the stable housing they deserve. The voucher pays most of the rent, with veterans only responsible for paying up to a third of their income towards rent. There are 800 HUD-VASH vouchers allocated to veterans in Indiana, including 400 for veterans residing in Marion County.

As of 2022, 19 states, the District of Columbia, and many localities have laws in place prohibiting housing discrimination based on the source of income. Simply put, it is illegal for landlords to discriminate against those using vouchers to subsidize their housing. Unfortunately, Indiana lacks these basic protections for veterans utilizing vouchers to end their homelessness.

We are proud to work

with Representative Renee Pack and the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus this session to introduce legislation preventing this kind of discrimination against those who served in our military. **House Bill 1087** protects Indiana veterans.

Without basic protections for voucher holders, most veterans in Marion County are forced to live in unsafe areas. Ninety-eight percent of veterans, many who are senior citizens, live in areas with crime ratings of D or below. We should not tolerate placing those who sacrificed on our behalf in dangerous, high-crime areas of our city.

It will take all of us working together to end veteran homelessness. Protecting veterans from housing discrimination is the least we can do to thank them for their service.

Emily Hildebrand serves as the Chief Executive Officer of HVAF of Indiana. Learn more at HVAFofIndiana.org.

OneZone to welcome Martin Baier of The International Center as Lunch & Learn presenter

The REPORTER

OneZone Chamber announces Martin Baier, President and CEO of The International Center, as the presenter at the upcoming On the Menu: Lunch & Learn Series.

The International Center is a catalyst to inform, convene, and connect public, private, and civic global objectives in Indiana.

Baier joined the International Center in 2011. He served the organization as Vice President, Programs and Services until he assumed the

OneZone

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

INTLCTR

The International Center

position of President and CEO in 2017. He also serves as Honorary Consul of France to Indiana.

Baier currently serves as a board member of the Indiana Germany Business Council, Indiana India Business Council, Inter-



Baier

national School of Indiana, and Global Ties U.S. (based in Washington, D.C.) He is also active in the greater Indianapolis community and serves on advisory committees of several local organizations.

This event will be held

from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at Iron & Ember, located in the Brookshire Golf Club at 12120 Brookshire Pkwy. Carmel.

Registration is required by noon on Wednesday, Feb. 14. This is a member-only event, and the cost is \$30. Reservations can be made at OneZoneChamber.com or by calling (317) 436-4653.

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Sen. Mike Braun applauds Indiana House resolution to impose Congressional term limits through Convention of States

The REPORTER

U.S. Senator Mike Braun (R-Ind.) celebrated the Indiana House of Representatives approving a resolution endorsing a Convention of States to be held to add a Congressional term limits amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Sen. Braun signed the Term Limits Pledge before being elected to the Senate and introduced the bill in the Senate to limit Senators and Congressmen to two terms and three terms, respectively.

Sen. Braun has **called for a Convention of States** to pass constitutional amendments for Congressional term limits and a balanced budget. He **authored an amendment in 2022** that would direct the Archivist of the United States to collect petitions from states and send an official message to Congress to call a Convention of States when 34 states – the two-thirds required by the Constitution – had passed petitions, citing that career politicians have re-

lied on the lack of a formal system for these petitions to avoid term limits and spending accountability that would likely result from a Convention of States.

“The American people want term limits in Congress,” Braun said. “I signed the Term Limits Pledge and introduced the bill to term-limit Senators and House Reps in the U.S. Senate, and I applaud the Indiana House of Representatives for taking strong action on this solution that Hoosiers from all 92 counties tell me we need.”

Background

Article V of the Constitution lays out the two processes for amending the Constitution: through Congress, or through a Convention of States.

A Convention of States is not a “Constitutional Convention” like the one convened in 1787 to write the U.S. Constitu-



Braun

tion; amendments need to be passed by the Convention of States and then ratified by three-quarters (38) of all states.

Some commentators have incorrectly claimed that a Convention of States would become a “free-for-all” after convening. Indiana’s resolution, authored by Rep. Dave Hall, specifically calls for a Convention of States for applying term limits to Congress. Nineteen states have passed Convention of States resolutions calling for a Convention explicitly to “limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, impose fiscal restraints, and place term limits on federal officials,” with seven states having passed this resolution in one chamber but awaiting action in the other, and 16 further states considering this resolution.

A Convention of States, convened under the authority of Article V of the Constitution, passing amendments ratified by 38 out of 50 states, would be exactly how the Constitution is supposed to work.

Considering that any constitutional amendments passed by a Convention of States would also need to be ratified by 38 states, measures with overwhelming support among the public and state legislatures but limited support among ca-

reer politicians in Washington, D.C. – like term limits for Congress and a balanced budget – are the likely candidates for successful amendments.

Term limits for Congress is perhaps the most popular political idea in the United States, with support crossing all party and demographic lines: “A 2021 poll conducted for U.S. Term Limits, which advocates for congressional term limits, found that of 1,000 ‘general election voters nationwide,’ 80% said they would ‘strongly’ or ‘somewhat’ approve of a constitutional amendment limiting congressional terms.” (**Congressional Research Service**, 2023)

Holding a Convention of States for these amendments is extremely popular. In July 2022, an opinion poll by Trafalgar found that 65 percent of likely voters would support a Convention of States to propose amendments focusing on term limits for Congress, federal spending restraints, and limiting the federal government to its constitutionally mandated authority. The party breakdown on the poll meant that 81 percent of Republicans, 63 percent of independents, and 50 percent of Democrats want a Convention of States for these purposes.

In an **RMG Research poll** conducted in Indiana 76 percent of likely voters in Indiana support term limits on Congress, across political lines.

Lt. Gov. Crouch urges Hoosiers to contact their state legislators regarding FSSA cuts

The REPORTER

On Monday, Jan. 29, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch convened a special meeting of the **Indiana Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Task Force** (IDD), which she chairs.

Lt. Gov. Crouch wanted IDD Task Force members and the public to hear directly from the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) regarding its proposed cuts to the Attendant Care program, which provides funding to parents and legal guardians who care for their medically complex children.

The proposed cuts are an attempt by FSSA to address a \$1 billion shortfall in its Medicaid budget, the agency announced in December 2023.

Lt. Gov. Crouch made the following statement on Friday:

“I’m deeply disappointed with FSSA, but it is hard to be angry when your heart aches for the families and caregivers of the precious children they are attending to. It truly is heartbreaking. Since the meeting Monday, more and more families are contacting my office asking what can be done to reverse, or at least pause, these cuts. A group of families even came to the Statehouse Monday to meet with me and lobby their legislators.

I tell all of them the same thing, ‘Contact your state legislators immediately!’ I am doing all I can to bring awareness to the severity and magnitude of the situation. So, I strongly encourage all Hoosiers to contact their legislators. Tell them these cuts need to be paused until we all get more answers, and we are confident these medically complex children continue getting the care they need.”

Concerned Hoosiers can visit iga.in.gov/information/find-legislators to find their legislators and contact information.

Lt. Gov. Crouch ended the special meeting Monday of the IDD Task Force by saying, “We’re going to be judged by how we care about the most vulnerable among us. Let’s be judged in a positive way and a positive manner.”

Click here to watch a recording of the IDD task force meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor serves as President of the Indiana Senate, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, chairs the Indiana Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Task Force & Indiana Roundtable on Mental Health, and oversees four state agencies.



Crouch

Hamilton County Reporter

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US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

My office can help arrange tours throughout our nation's capital.

West District Office: (317) 848-0201

East District Office: (765) 639-0671

www.spartz.house.gov



Photos provided by Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch's Office

Three local women – two from Fishers and two from Zionsville – will have their artwork on display at the Statehouse. They are (from left) Gina Baird of Fishers, whose work will be in the Office of Indiana Health Commissioner Dr. Lindsay Weaver; Francis A. Ruiz of Fishers, whose work will be in the Office of Indiana Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch; and Andrea Worthington of Zionsville, whose work will be in the Office of Indiana Comptroller Elise Nieshalla.

Works by three local women artists on display at Statehouse

The REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, along with the [Indiana Arts Commission](#) (IAC), announced the 2024 Hoosier Women Artists awardees at a celebration in the Indiana Statehouse Thursday.

“As public officials, we are blessed to work in this stunning building every day,” said Lt. Gov. Crouch, who also serves as Indiana’s Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “But the opportunity to display the art of Indiana’s outstanding female artists makes it somehow

even more beautiful. I am very proud to have played a role in giving a platform to these talented Hoosier women the past eight years.”

Since 2008, the Hoosier Women Artists program has celebrated and further expanded the important role art plays in Indiana’s communities by showcasing the work of talented female artists throughout the state.

For the first time in program history, participants will be awarded a \$125 honorarium in recognition of their participation in the program.

“We are grateful for the chance to partner with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to uplift the talented women artists of Indiana and celebrate the work that artists do to make Indiana a place where people want to live, work, play, study and stay,” IAC Executive Director Miah Michaelsen said.

Honored artists will have their pieces displayed in the offices of Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner, Comptroller Elise Nieshalla, Chief Justice Loretta Rush, Health Commission-

er Dr. Lindsay Weaver and First Lady Janet Holcomb.

These local honorees will have their works placed at the Statehouse:

- **Gina M. Baird (Fishers)** – “Leaping: On Top of the World” will be on display in the Office of Indiana Health Commissioner Dr. Lindsay Weaver.
- **Francis A. Ruiz (Fishers)** – “Armonia (Harmony)” will be on display in the Office of Indiana Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch.
- **Andrea Worthington (Zionsville)** – “Braille Series I” will be on display in

the Office of Indiana Comptroller Elise Nieshalla.

“What a privilege to take part in today’s ceremony, showcasing the gifted work of Hoosier female artists,” State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla said. “Our office is honored to have the opportunity to display their works of art that will serve as a daily reminder of the beauty Indiana offers.”

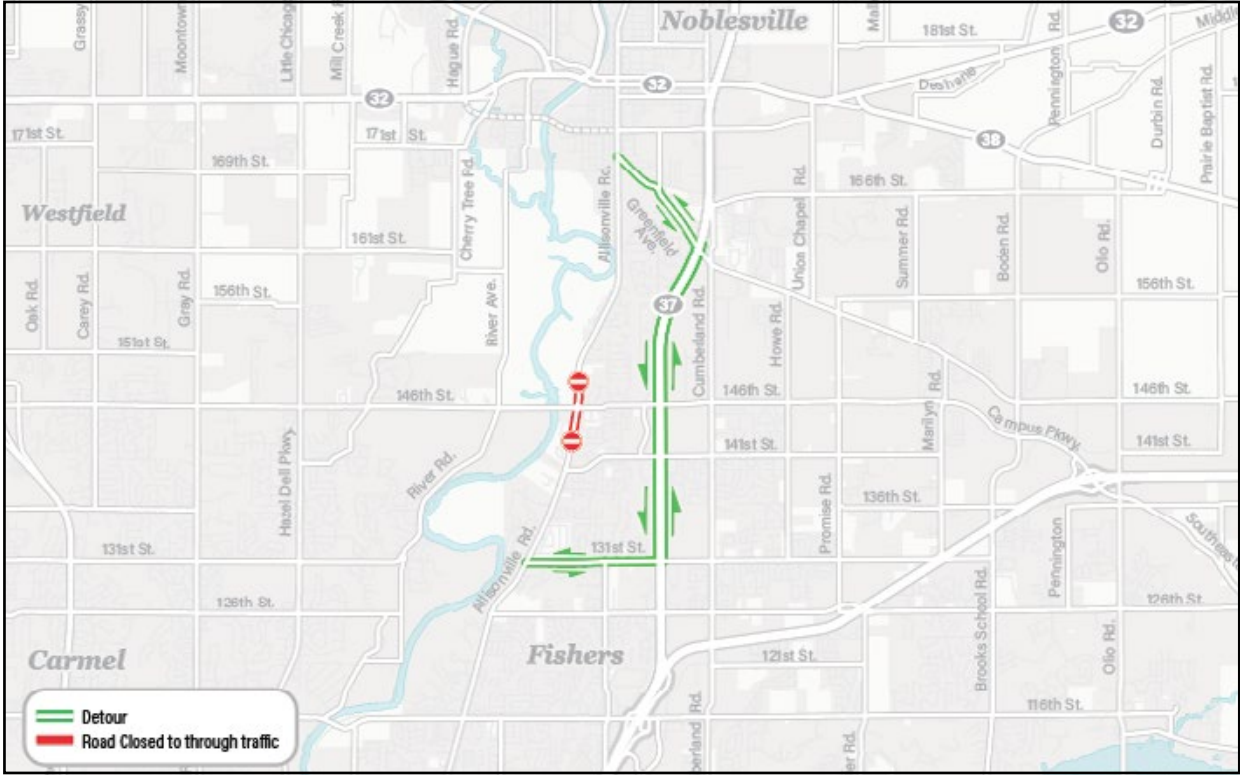
Pieces in the 2024 exhibition represent many media and art styles, including painting, photography, digital art, paper quilling, and other multimedia styles.

“I commend the Hoosier

Women Artists program for its impactful intersection of creativity and well-being,” Health Commissioner Dr. Lindsay Weaver said. “Art has the power to inspire, heal and connect us. Kudos to these remarkable Hoosier women artists for fostering a healthier more vibrant community.”

Of the 161 pieces that were submitted to the program this year, 29 were selected to be displayed in the Statehouse and at the Governor’s Residence where they will be admired by the thousands of visitors for the next year.

Major closure coming to Allisonville Road



Graphic provided by Hamilton County Highway Department

Beginning on or after Friday, March 1, the contractor will close Allisonville Road between 146th Street and Kensington Drive, and between 146th Street and Helmsley Court for 90 calendar days. Property owners within the limits of the closures will have access to their property during the closure. Both eastbound and westbound 146th Street will remain open to all through traffic throughout the closure of Allisonville Road. The contractor will place detour route markers as the closure nears. The Highway Departments asks that motorists use the posted detour route. Be sure to use extreme caution while driving through this construction zone. [Click here](#) for more project information.

United Way looking for projects & volunteers for annual day of community service

The REPORTER

United Way is now recruiting volunteers and projects for its fourth annual Go All IN Day, an organized day of community service across the region presented by United Way of Central Indiana and the Indianapolis Colts.

This year’s event will be held June 21 across United Way’s seven-county service area of Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Marion, Morgan, and Putnam counties.

A \$15,000 gift from the Colts will underwrite grants to local nonprofits hosting volunteer projects for Go All IN Day, which will fully cover the cost of materials for many participating organizations. Eligible nonprofits, grassroots organizations and community groups will be able to apply before the event for grants to fund their projects.

Organizations interested in hosting a project can sign up for more information at [goallinday.com](#).

Interested volunteers can learn more and sign up to reserve their spot at [goallinday.com](#). A variety of indoor and outdoor projects – ranging in length from hour-long to all-day activities – will be available for individual volunteers, groups, and families.

For a third year, Go All IN Day will be sponsored by media partner WRTV. This year, WRTV is teaming up with Fuller Farms and inviting volunteers to join anchor/reporter Rafael Sanchez and station staff at the location for a special service project. Sanchez and Fuller Farms founder, Travis Fuller, have recently created a community garden to benefit several local food pantries and social service groups on the southside of Indianapolis.

Last year, more than 1,400 volunteers participated in the event, helping more than 65 nonprofits and community organizations complete projects on their to-do lists.

Congratulations to these outstanding Carmel students



25 U.S. Presidential Scholars Candidates

Yash S. Bhargava	Sai Shritan Gudepate	Carolyn Jia	Matthew A. Paraboschi	Zhanqi Su
Rosalyn S. Chu	Claire H. He	Yichen Liu	Dhanya O. Pathangi	Karthik Varigonda
Lorna Ding	Kevin B. Hu	Bhargava P. Mortha	Eva Qiao	Bingrui L. Wang
Kyra I. Escobar	Bolong X. Huang	Melaina A. Munson	David Racovan	Sydney M. White
Richard Gao	Lauren K. Jai	Robert Nies	Joseph Z. Sabelhaus	Alexandra Yang



CARMEL CLAY SCHOOLS

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Braun officially files as gubernatorial candidate



U.S. Senator Mike Braun filed paperwork for his Indiana gubernatorial candidacy on Friday. “It’s official!” Braun said on X. “Today I filed to be your next Governor, and I’m humbled by the groundswell of grassroots support from Hoosiers in all 92 counties. Hoosiers are ready to make Indiana a beacon for freedom and opportunity!”

AG Rokita fires off legal opinion in support of Hoosiers’ Second Amendment rights

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is defending Hoosiers’ Second Amendment rights in a **legal opinion requested by the Indiana State Police** regarding the FBI’s misunderstanding of Indiana law.

“In Indiana, we believe expungement restores civil rights, including Hoosiers’ Second Amendment rights,” AG Rokita said. “America values justice and liberty for all, and this includes reinstating the right to vote, hold public office, serve as a juror, and purchase a firearm.”

The FBI has denied the right of Hoosiers who have successfully had specific categories of felony convictions expunged in Indiana courts

to purchase or possess firearms. Each state has its own list of criminal records that can be expunged. What is eligible for expungement depends on the state – not the FBI.

The Legislature has spoken unequivocally as to what categories of felonies are eligible for expungement consideration, and Indiana’s expungement process does **NOT** apply to the following felonies:

- A sex or violent offender
- A person convicted of official misconduct
- A person convicted of any homicide offense



Rokita

- A person convicted of any human and sex trafficking offense
 - A person convicted of any sex crime offense
 - A person convicted of two or more felony offenses that involved the unlawful use of a deadly weapon and were not committed as part of the same episode of criminal conduct
 - A person convicted of a felony that resulted in the death of another person
- These exceptions aim to keep people safe from violent felons obtaining weapons while also preserving the rights of those who have had more minor crimes

erased or expunged from their criminal record.

“Our legislators are voted in by regular, everyday Hoosiers,” AG Rokita said. “They take on issues important to the public while ensuring they follow the U.S. and Indiana constitutions. Any limitations on owning or purchasing a firearm must be very narrow and clearly justified to avoid the violation to our Second Amendment rights.”

Guy Relford, an Indiana attorney, radio host, author, Certified Firearms Instructor, and founder of **The2AProject.com** also submitted feedback in support of Attorney General Rokita’s Opinion.

See Rights . . . Page 9

Why should you see a financial advisor?

Investing for your future is important – but it can be challenging. How can you navigate the complexities of the financial markets and make the right decisions for your situation?

Fortunately, you don’t have to go it alone. A financial advisor can help you in these key areas:

Developing a personal financial strategy

Many factors go into creating a long-term financial strategy. What is your risk tolerance? When would you like to retire? What sort of retirement lifestyle have you envisioned? What are your other important goals?

A financial advisor will ask these and other questions in getting to know you, your family situation, and your hopes for the future. By taking this type of holistic approach, a financial advisor can help you create financial and investment strategies appropriate for your needs.

Avoiding mistakes

A financial advisor can help you avoid costly investment mistakes. One such mistake is attempting to “time” the market. Investors pursue market timing when they try to “buy low” and “sell high.” In theory, of course, this is a great idea – if you could consistently buy investments, stocks, in particular – when their price is down and then sell them when the price has risen significantly, you’d always make some tidy profits.

The main drawback to this technique, though, is that it’s virtually impossible to follow, especially for individual investors. Nobody, not even professional money managers, can really predict with any accuracy when stock prices have reached high or low points. Consequently, those who try to make these guesses could miss out on opportunities.

For example, investors who are determined to buy low might not want to purchase investments when the market

is up – but this practice could lead to taking a “time out” from investing just when the market is in the midst of a rally. But a financial advisor can steer clients toward a more disciplined approach, such as buying quality investments and holding them for the long term, regardless of the ups and downs of the market.

Checking progress toward your goals

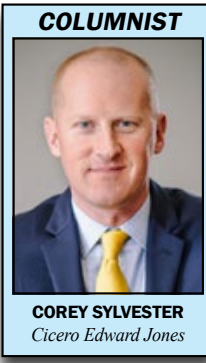
If you were to invest without any guidance, you might not be looking at your investments’ performance with the proper perspective.

For example, some investors simply compare their portfolio returns against a widely used market index, such as the S&P 500. But this comparison may not be that useful. The S&P 500 only measures the stock prices of the leading publicly traded U.S. companies by market capitalization – but your investment portfolio, if properly diversified, will include investments other than U.S. stocks, such as bonds, government securities, international stocks and more. Consequently, the performance of your portfolio won’t track that of the S&P 500 or any other single index, either.

Your financial advisor can help you employ more meaningful benchmarks, such as whether your portfolio’s progress is on track toward helping you meet your financial goals. Also, a financial advisor will review your portfolio and investment strategy regularly to determine what changes, if any, need to be made, either in response to the markets or to events in your life.

Investing for your future can be exciting and rewarding – and you can feel more confident in your decisions when you have someone helping you along the way.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor: Edward Jones, Member SIPC.



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New at Sheridan Public Library

The REPORTER

Here are some of the new items that can be found at the Sheridan Public Library:

Fiction

- 1. Before We Were Innocent – Ella Berman
- 2. Bright Spot – Jill Shalvis
- 3. Friendship Club – Robyn Carr
- 4. Heaven & Earth Grocery Store – James McBride
- 5. Holmes Marple & Poe – James Patterson
- 6. Irish Milkshake Murder – Carlene O'Connor
- 7. One in a Million – Janet Dailey
- 8. Perfect Son – Freida McFadden
- 9. Random in Death – J.D. Robb
- 10. Suicide Med – Freida McFadden
- 11. Want to Know a Secret – Freida McFadden

Non-Fiction

- 1. Noom Kitchen - Noom

Children's

- 2. Bad Guys Cut in Cut to the Chase – Aaron Blabey
- 3. Bad Kitty Makes a Movie – Nick Bruel
- 4. Firefighter Flo! – Andrea Zimmerman
- 5. I Was Born a Baby – Meg Fleming
- 6. One, Two, Grandpa Loves You – Shelly Becker
- 7. Ooo Baby Baby – Sandra Boynton
- 8. Ten Little Rabbits – Maurice Sendak

Inspirational Fiction

- 1. Double Take – Lynette Eason
- 2. Impossible Love – Samantha Price

Movies

- 1. Blind
- 2. Expend4bles
- 3. Hill
- 4. Journey to Bethlehem
- 5. Moonrise
- 6. My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3
- 7. Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie

Patty Lorene Reece November 20, 1936 – January 31, 2024



Patty Lorene Reece, 87, Sheridan, passed away Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at her home surrounded by her loving family. Patty was born November 20, 1936, in Lebanon, Ind., to the late Orval and Fairy Anna Essex Strawmyer. Patty worked as a bookkeeper for several companies. She enjoyed gardening, camping, shopping, ceramics, sprint car racing, sewing and was the best cook. She loved her family most of all and enjoyed sitting on the front porch listening and talking to family and friends. Prior to that, she and her husband owned the Pit Stop Donut Shop. She was a baker and caterer and early in her career was a telephone operator for Indiana Bell and Big Springs Telephone Company but mostly was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

Patty was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Westfield Washington Historical Society and was a member of the former Roston United Methodist Church.

Family and friends are invited to gather from 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday, February 5 at Flanner Buchanan-Hamilton Memorial Park Lakeview Chapel, where funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 6. Burial will follow at Hamilton Memorial Park Cemetery.

Patty was the widow of Emory Fred Reece, Jr. She is survived by her daughters, Diana (husband, Jim) Peyton and Karen (husband, Tom) Johnson; grandchildren, Jeffrey (wife, Allison), Michael (wife, Brooke), Brad (wife, Tanya) Peyton, and Tammy (husband, Ed) Tutwiler; great-grandchildren, Madison, Jacob "Chip," Kendall, Claire, Merrill, Kadence, and Lily Peyton, and Sam Tutwiler; brother, Gene (wife, Rene) Strawmyer; sister, Maxine (husband, Del) Burtner, and Cricket, her beloved dog. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Franklin Strawmyer, Hubert "Red" Strawmyer.

The family would like to thank the team from Asera-Care Hospice for the care they provided, especially Grace and Tavia. Special thanks got out to her caregivers, Joanna Russell, and Tammy Potter.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society for Hamilton County. Please visit flannerbuchanan.com to sign the online guest register.

The Reporter's policy on obituaries

The Hamilton County Reporter does not charge families for publishing obituary notices in our pages. Every obituary appearing in online editions Wednesday through Saturday also appears in our Monday print editions. In order to continue to offer this as a community service, we ask that obituaries not exceed 600 words. The limitations of space may not allow for longer ones to appear in print.

Families and funeral homes are asked to send obituaries to obits@ReadTheReporter.com.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

Genesis 32:22-32 (NIV)

RIGHTS

from Page 8

"Bureaucrats in Washington have repeatedly attempted to thwart the clear intention of the Indiana General Assembly to restore the right to possess a firearm of persons who have earned the opportunity to expunge their felony convictions," Relford said. "In that process, I believe that the FBI and the federal Department of Justice have intentionally mischaracterized and misinterpreted our expungement statute so as to wrongfully deny the Second Amendment rights of Hoosiers. Official Opinion 2024-1, issued

today by Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita, clarifies our expungement statute and demonstrates Indiana's continued fight to protect the Second Amendment rights of Indiana residents against the constant onslaught on those rights by the federal government."

Attorney General Rokita's Office released the **Gun Owners' Bill of Rights** in 2022 to ensure law-abiding Hoosiers fully understand their Second Amendment rights, including the right to purchase and own firearms in cases of expungement.

Meeting Notices

The Carmel Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, in the Council Chambers at Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

The Hamilton East Public Library Board of Trustees will meet to discuss the search for a new director at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, in the Noblesville meeting room at the Noblesville Library, located at 1 Library Plaza.

The Westfield Washington Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, in the Community Room of the Westfield Washington Public Library, 333 W. Hoover St., Westfield.

The Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, in the Commissioners' Courtroom / Council Chambers on the first floor of the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Hamilton County Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, in the Commissioners' Courtroom / Council Chambers on the first floor of the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

Send Meeting Notices to: News@ReadTheReporter.com



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Basketball

Royals & Millers will face off for sectional championship

By **CRAIG ADKINS**
For The Reporter

FISHERS — Friday night's first semifinal at Class 4A Sectional 8 was a rematch of a Hoosier Crossroads Conference game that was played two weeks ago. That game went back and forth before Hamilton Southeastern won by four.

This time, the host Royals were able to pull away sooner for a 61-48 win over Zionsville, sending them to tonight's championship, which tips off at 7 p.m.

"That's the ultimate goal. We took steps one and two and tomorrow night is the next step," said Hamilton Southeastern head coach Brian Satterfield.

The first quarter featured two ties and a pair of lead changes and was knotted at 16-16 after the first eight minutes.

Zionsville senior guard Emma Haan drained a three from the left wing with 44 seconds in the first to even the score.

That might have amped up the Royals, as they started the second on a 6-2 run to go up 22-18.

"That was one of those things in the first matchup. We had a little lead and then they got out and we were playing from behind the entire time. Our goal was to get out there and we were able to get a little separation and never let them get back," continued Satterfield.

The Eagles kept it honest the rest of the first half. Freshman Emily Zack knocked down a three from the left corner to cut it to

30-28 with 1:05 left in the second.

HSE was able to hold onto a 35-30 lead at halftime. That lead would gradually grow in a rather low-scoring third quarter. Southeastern put up nine to Zionsville's six and was up 44-36.

The fourth started off sloppy with no offensive production by either team until Zionsville's Allie Caldwell knocked down a jumper with 4:50 left that trimmed it to 44-38.

Turnovers became what ultimately handcuffed the Eagles. Junior Maya Makalusky was fouled on a made layup and converted the free throw with 30 seconds left to put HSE up a dozen, 57-45. Both teams traded free throws to finish the game.

"You're going to turn around tomorrow night and you're going to have another dogfight. That's one thing you love about the atmosphere. To get out there and see the quality of basketball that we have in this particular sectional is something special," added Satterfield.

Seniors Caldwell (25) and Haan (14) made up for a majority of Zionsville's points. The Eagles finished the season at 16-7.

Makalusky led all scorers with 22 points and seven rebounds, all while a perfect 10-for-10 at the foul line. Kayla Stidham had 10 points and eight boards, also making 6-of-6 free throws. Kennedy Holman had nine points, five rebounds and eight assists. Zoe Lawless (9) and Addison Van Hoesen (7) helped round out the balanced Royals scoring.



Photo by Joshua Herd



Photo by Mike Kepner

(ABOVE LEFT) Noblesville's Reagan Wilson (right) scored 16 points for the Millers during their Sectional 8 semifinal win over Fishers Friday at Hamilton Southeastern. At left is the Tigers' Jordyn Smith, who hit two 3-pointers on her way to nine points. (ABOVE RIGHT) Hamilton Southeastern's Zoe Lawless had nine points and three rebounds for the Royals in their semifinal win over Zionsville.

HSE (21-3) plays Noblesville for the sectional championship.

The second semifinal turned out to be a crowd pleaser. In its regular-season game at Noblesville in early December, Fishers found ways to get the best of Noblesville 79-65.

Friday night's battle turned into something different. The Millers were able to flip the script on the Tigers in a 56-42 victory, sending Noblesville to its third sectional

title game in four years.

Noblesville was on a mission from the opening tip. Junior Meredith Tippner took it upon herself to jumpstart the Millers and it happened on both ends of the floor.

The Millers got up quick at 6-0, forcing Fishers to call a timeout. They rattled off nine more in a row for a 15-0 advantage, leading to another Tiger timeout with still 4:11 in the quarter.

"That quarter isn't my quarter. That's an amazing

defensive effort that Coach put in place. She knew what would get us going and we executed it in every single position," said Tippner.

"Credit to them. They just came out and were just ready to go," stated Fishers head coach Lauren Votaw. "We turned it over and they made us pay for those turnovers. Their points off of turnovers were rather high."

"We got a great start, but you know Fishers is coming

back," stated Noblesville head coach Donna Buckley. "Just a lot of energy. We talked about defense and we did not play a lot of defense the first time we played them."

Nevaeh Dickman scored the Tigers' first points on an offensive rebound with 3:18 left in the first. Tippner answered with three from the left side. Another two from Tippner and the Millers were out to a 20-6 cushion through one.

See *Royals vs. Millers* . . . Page 11

Blackhawks look to make it sectional title No. 2

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

INDIANAPOLIS—The Sheridan girls basketball team will get a chance to play for its second sectional title tonight.

The Blackhawks made their way to the championship game by beating host Park Tudor 55-40 in the semifinals of Class 2A Sectional 43. A solid evening of rebounding and defense propelled Sheridan to the title game, where it will look to end a nine-year drought — the 'Hawks won their first-ever sectional in 2015.

Sheridan plays Covenant Christian at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the championship. The Warriors beat University in the second semifinal game by the score of 56-47.

The Blackhawks had to absorb a good start from the Panthers, who led 6-2 after the first two minutes of the game. Sheridan answered that with an 8-0 run, and the 'Hawks never trailed again. Nova Cross scored four

points of that run on a put-back and two free throws, with Cecilia Timme and Kenzie Garner adding baskets.

Park Tudor worked its way back to a 10-10 tie by the close of the first quarter, as promising sophomore D'Aaliyah Kemp made consecutive layins. But Sheridan got two baskets to begin the second quarter, a Garner layin and a Cross jumper, and held the lead for the remainder of the game. Timme also hit a pair of jumpers in the quarter.



Cross



C. Timme

Efficient defense

Sheridan was rebounding well, and its defense got stronger as the game went on.

"We ran some pretty efficient defense," said Blackhawks coach Jaidlin Bradshaw. "The girls did a really nice job of adjusting on a whim and making the changes that we needed to make in the middle of the game, so I'm really proud of them for that."

Garner made a put-



(Left) Sheridan's Kenzie Garner scored 21 points for the Blackhawks during their Sectional 43 win Friday over host Park Tudor. (Right) University senior Keira Bright had 15 points, including three 3-pointers, for the Trailblazers.

back and Cross hit a layin to end the first half, giving Sheridan a 24-17 lead at the break. The duo continued to play well in the third quarter, with Garner scoring eight points and Cross adding five, including a 3-pointer.

The Blackhawks led 35-23 with 40 seconds left in the third, then took further control with an 11-0 spurt that lasted well into the fourth quarter. Garner

scored the first seven points of the run, while Cross finished it up with four points.

As a result, Sheridan led 46-23 with 5:30 to go, its largest lead of the game. The Panthers continued to fight until the final buzzer, but the 'Hawks were able to safely keep their lead in double digits.

Garner scored 21 points, with Cross scoring 17 and Timme adding 13.

"It's huge to have those



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

other two step up and put the ball in the basket," said Bradshaw. "Obviously helps a lot. Really proud of them for being confident and taking open looks that they needed to take to put us in a good position."

Garner collected 15 rebounds for a double-double and also had six assists. Mac Smith collected eight rebounds, with Timme pulling six rebounds and making five steals. Sheridan improved to 18-5 with the win.

University tried to make it an all-county sectional final, and the Trailblazers seemed to be on their way when they took a 13-5 lead with 3:25 to go in the first quarter. Charlotte Conyers already had six points by then. University stayed in front all period, leading 15-11 at the end thanks to a Keira Bright layin.

But there were already rumblings. Covenant's Vivian Haffner made two 3-pointers in the first quarter and added two more in the second period. Still, the 'Blazers held off the Warriors for the entire half, leading 27-21 at the break. Anyah Turley got going in the second quarter, scoring seven points that included a three-point play with 1:14 left.

A Bright triple pushed University up 31-21 early in the third. Even after absorbing a 9-2 run by Covenant, the Trailblazers led 36-30 after Leah Norvell hit a 3.

But the Warriors went on a 7-0 spurt that finished the quarter and put them in front for the first time at 37-36. Haffner nailed her sixth triple during that run.

See *Title* . . . Page 12

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 3
BOYS BASKETBALL

Guerin Catholic at Culver Academies, 1:30 p.m.
Heritage Christian at University, 2:30 p.m.
Winchester at Hamilton Heights, 2:30 p.m.
Fishers vs. Homewood-Flosmoor (Ill.),
7:30 p.m. at O’Fallon, Ill.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sectional 8 at Hamilton Southeastern
Championship: Hamilton Southeastern vs. Noblesville, 7 p.m.
Sectional 24 at Yorktown
Championship: Jay County vs. Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.
Sectional 43 at Park Tudor
Championship: Sheridan vs. Covenant Christian, 7:30 p.m.

GYMNASTICS

Westfield at Rushville Invitational, noon
Noblesville at Lafayette Jefferson Invitational,
12:30 p.m. at Linwood School

SWIMMING SECTIONAL FINALS

Carmel, Guerin Catholic, Westfield at Noblesville, 1 p.m.
Fishers, Hamilton Heights at Hamilton Southeastern, 1 p.m.
University at Zionsville, 1 p.m.

WRESTLING REGIONALS

Carmel, Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern,
Westfield at North Montgomery, 9 a.m.
Guerin Catholic, Hamilton Heights,
Noblesville at Pendleton Heights, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 6
BOYS BASKETBALL

Eminence at University, 7:30 p.m.
Harrison at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.
Liberty Christian at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.
New Palestine at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 7
BOYS BASKETBALL

Southmont at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.

GYMNASTICS

Fishers at Franklin Central five-way meet, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8
BOYS BASKETBALL

Indianapolis Washington at Guerin Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
University at Indianapolis Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 9
BOYS BASKETBALL

Carmel at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
Carroll at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.
Cathedral at Fishers, 7:30 p.m.
Hamilton Heights at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.
Noblesville at Brownsburg, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10
BOYS BASKETBALL

Hamilton Southeastern at Southport, 2:30 p.m.
Sheridan at Cowan, 7:30 p.m.
University at Pioneer Conference playoff game, 2:30 p.m.
GYMNASTICS
Fishers at Bloomington North Invitational, 10 a.m.
Noblesville at Connersville Invitational, 10 a.m.
Westfield at Logansport, 10 a.m.

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

Smith deals most assists
in 49 years at Purdue



Photo by Joshua Herd

Braden Smith has helped the Purdue men’s basketball team soar to new heights over the past two years, and he made some history during the Boilermakers’ 105-96 overtime win over Northwestern Wednesday. Smith dished out 16 assists during the game, which is the second-most by a Purdue player in school history, and the most in the last 49 years. In addition, Smith’s 16 assists are the fourth-most by a player across the country this season. Smith is a Westfield graduate and the 2022 Indiana Mr. Basketball. Smith has 164 assists for the season and is averaging 12.1 points 5.4 rebounds per contest.

Hoosier
Weather Daddy?



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TITLE

from Page 10

Turley scored the first basket of the fourth quarter to get University ahead 38-37. Haffner answered that with her seventh 3, then Avery Reichart’s triple gave Covenant a 43-38 lead. The Warriors never trailed again. Haffner put in her eighth 3 to give Covenant a 50-40 lead – she finished the game with 30 points.

“All props to her,” said ‘Blazers coach Lisa Pryor. “There were a couple girls in particular on their team, they just refuse to lose. I respect that so much.”

Bright finished the game with 15 points, followed by 13 from Conyers and 11 from Turley. Hannah Grubbs and Mack Feeney both collected nine rebounds, with Turley pulling eight and Conyers six. Feeney also had four steals and four blocked shots.

University finished its season with a 10-13 record. They graduate Bright, which Pryor said will be “a huge hole that we’ll have to fill.” But the majority of the team are juniors and sophomores.

“The future, I’m excited about it,” said Pryor. “And at the same time, we got a lot of work to still do. But I believe that we can continue to improve and we’ll be back.”

SHERIDAN 55, PARK TUDOR 40

Sheridan	FG	FT	TP	PF
Nova Cross	7-11	2-2	17	3
Sadie Timme	0-2	0-2	0	3
Kenzie Garner	8-21	5-6	21	4
Brielle Garner	1-5	0-0	2	2
Cecilia Timme	5-16	3-3	13	3
Mac Smith	1-2	0-0	2	1
Makenzy Terry	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	22-57	10-13	55	16
Score by Quarters				
Park Tudor	10	7	6	17 – 40
Sheridan	10	14	15	16 – 55
Sheridan 3-point shooting (1-8) Cross 1-2, K. Garner 0-4, S. Timme 0-1, B. Garner 0-1.				
Sheridan rebounds (39) K. Garner 15, Smith 8, C. Timme 6, S. Timme 4, Cross 3, B. Garner 3.				

COVENANT CHRISTIAN 56, UNIVERSITY 47

University	FG	FT	TP	PF
Hannah Grubbs	1-5	3-5	5	3
Keira Bright	6-18	0-0	15	4
Anyah Turley	3-12	5-7	11	4
Charlotte Conyers	5-17	3-6	13	4
Mack Feeney	0-2	0-0	0	4
Meg Rohloff	0-2	0-0	0	0
Leah Norvell	1-4	0-0	3	0
Totals	16-60	11-18	47	19
Score by Quarters				
Covenant Christian	11	10	16	19 – 56
University	15	12	9	11 – 47
University 3-point shooting (4-16) Bright 3-9, Norvell 1-3, Conyers 0-3, Turley 0-1.				
University rebounds (39) Grubbs 9, Feeney 9, Turley 8, Conyers 6, Bright 4, Norvell 3.				

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