

# TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

See page A5



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## THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER NEWSPAPER

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SATURDAY, FEB. 24, 2024

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### TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Snow showers end early morning, then clouds decrease. Sunny by afternoon.  
Tonight: Mostly clear.

HIGH: 36 LOW: 27



# Nick Birk nets \$110K off Tim Duncan

Every trading card collector's dream comes true right here in Hamilton County

By STU CLAMPITT  
news@readthereporter.com

On Thursday night, NBA hall of famer Tim Duncan made Nick Birk \$110,000 richer.

Twenty-five years ago, at eight years old, Nick Birk opened a random pack of basketball trading cards and found a Tim Duncan card printed on foil. It was an odd-looking thing and was labeled as a limited run numbered one of one.

Nick's father, Mike Birk, told The Reporter that Nick put it in a plastic case because it was so strange and looked like it might be too easy to damage.

The card stayed in that case for decades. It got moved from house to house a few times. There were a few moments in Duncan's career when Nick and his dad thought maybe they should figure out how much it was worth.

No one could tell them if it was

worth anything.

"We had tried to sell it," Mike told The Reporter. "The Spurs won five NBA championships. Then Tim Duncan retired. Then Tim Duncan went into the Hall of Fame. At each one of those times, Nick and I are talking, I'm saying, 'Nick, if we're going to sell this thing, we need to find out what it's worth.' And we could never find the value."

The Birks put the card on eBay on three separate occasions looking for a minimum bid of \$600.

"We couldn't get a nibble," Mike said.

"So, we're thinking this thing is a gimmick." Nick's older brother, Chris, took the card to a little shop called Indy Card Exchange, 7035 E. 96th St., Suite P, Indianapolis, and showed it to the owner, Andy Albert.

And this is where things got interesting.

See Dream Come True . . . Page 2



Photo provided

Nick (left) and Chris Birk pose with the 1998 Metal Universe Gem Masters Tim Duncan card seconds after the auction closed and someone out in the ether agreed to pay \$120,000 for it.

## How I Broke This, Episode 5: Johnny "Hiccups" Strombolini

PODCAST INTRODUCTION: Ineptitude ... Failure ... Inanity ... Stupidity ... MURDER! ... MURDER!! ... MURDER!!! This is *How I Broke This*. SFX | CARTOONISH BROKEN SPRING: Boing.

GUY: I'm Guy Raz, host of *How I Broke This*. Not to be confused with that other podcast by that other guy, Guy Raz, called *How I Built This*. Welcome to my narrative journey about business ineptitude and the failed leaders who failed to learn from their failures. Listen as my guests reveal what led to their crushed entrepreneurial spirits – and hopefully, they'll reference a murder or two to boost my podcast's dismal ratings. Voice Over: MURDER! ... MURDER!!! ... MURDER!!!

GUY: Today I talk with octogenarian hit man Johnny "Hiccups" Strombolini. Welcome, Johnny Hiccups. Finally! I have a murderer on this show! Podcast listeners love murder!

JOHNNY: Thanks, Guy. There's another reason I'm here today, too, but we'll get to that later.

GUY: Let me guess, you have a tell-all memoir about MURDER! MURDER!! MURDER!!! to promote?

JOHNNY: No, nothing to promote, Guy. Anyway, as you know, I was hesitant to be on *How I Broke This* until you agreed upfront to use that voice changer thingy to disguise my identity.

GUY: Oh crap ...

See Hiccups . . . Page 3

# STEPPING BACK IN TIME

## Nicholas Barker descendant visits Westfield cabin

By AMY ADAMS  
news@readthereporter.com

For Robert and Malinda Ferguson, a recent drive to Chicago from their home in Roanoke, La., turned out to be more than just a road trip – it was a step back into the past.

As a direct descendant of Nicholas and Fannie Barker, Ferguson said he couldn't drive to Chicago and be so close without visiting Westfield and the Barker Cabin that now stands next to City Hall.

"The Barker Cabin comes alive every time Nicholas and Fannie Barker's descendants visit the cabin," Westfield Washington Historical Society President Jeff Beals said. "This week was a meaningful experience for the family and the historical society, with history being preserved and passed on."

In 1835, Nicholas Barker moved his wife Fannie and their large family from North Carolina to Westfield, where they

See Cabin . . . Page 3



Reporter photo by Amy Adams

(From left) Malinda and Robert Ferguson, Barbara Day, Steve Osborne, Rebecca Barker Brock, and her granddaughter Gwenna Day can all trace their roots back to Fannie and Nicholas Barker, who are pictured above the cabin mantle.

# Westfield culinary teacher Nikki Heflin earns best-in-the-nation recognition



Photo provided by Westfield Washington Schools

Westfield High School culinary instructor Nikki Heflin was named National Teacher of the Year by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. This prestigious recognition is a testament to her unwavering dedication, passion, and outstanding contributions to the field of Family and Consumer Sciences. Heflin will be honored at the June national conference in Minneapolis, Minn.

### The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Geographic Information System (GIS) Office has launched a groundbreaking initiative that will help better map the county.

For the first time ever, its annual update will integrate machine learning (AI) into land cover data layers, providing county departments and local governments with more detailed information from which to do their work.

GIS Director Joan Keene emphasized the project's pioneering nature.

"This project will be transformative, enhancing data accuracy and supporting informed decision-making across the county," Keene said.

The 2024 Orthophotography, Lidar, and Basemap Update Project will:

- Offer ultra-high-resolution imagery crucial for urban planning and emergency services
  - Provide detailed elevation data essential for 3D modeling and flood risk analysis
  - Utilize advanced AI to automate mapping of land cover features
  - Introduce 3D hydrography data for enhanced water resource management
- "The use of AI will help us better map changes in both man-made infrastructure and the natural environment," Keene said. "Plus, it will provide unprecedented detail for those in emergency management and community planning while also aiding in flood risk analysis and precision agriculture."

The project, initiated in January, will start delivering maps in May. When complete, the data will also be shared with county officials, city partners, and relevant stakeholders as well as the Indiana Geographic Information Office (IGIO) and the Indiana Geographic Information Council (IGIC).

To this end, a series of informational webinars will be scheduled to educate GIS users in local government on the nuances of the new geospatial data products and ensure their effective utilization.



DREAM COME TRUE

from Page 1

“This shop owner knows what the heck it is, and he's just excited to see it,” Mike said. “And he's not excited for himself. He's excited for this story of an eight-year-old kid owning a card for 25 years. He's excited for us to know that, hey, we're going to make this kid some money.”

And that kid did indeed just make some money. When the auction ended near midnight Thursday evening, the winning bid netted Nick \$110,000.

Andy Albert has been buying, selling, and trading cards since he was 10 years old. He bought Indy Card Exchange from the previous owner 12 years ago, after being one of the original owner's best customers for a long time.

Albert says he's seen things like this happen on very rare occasions, but never with a story as good as this one.

“It's such a unicorn!” Albert told The Reporter. “To find a card like this and to see what the return value is now – compared to what it would have been – has happened maybe three times in my lifetime. But this one – the backstory is even more special.”

The idea that an eight-year-old kid had the foresight to put the card in plastic and it then survived 25 years, finally to be graded at 7 out of 10 on the Professional Sports Authenticator (PSA) scale is what impresses Albert the most.

“It literally blows me away every time I think about it,” Albert said. “It's one of the most iconic stories in the trading card industry. It's similar to somebody who's 85 years old who

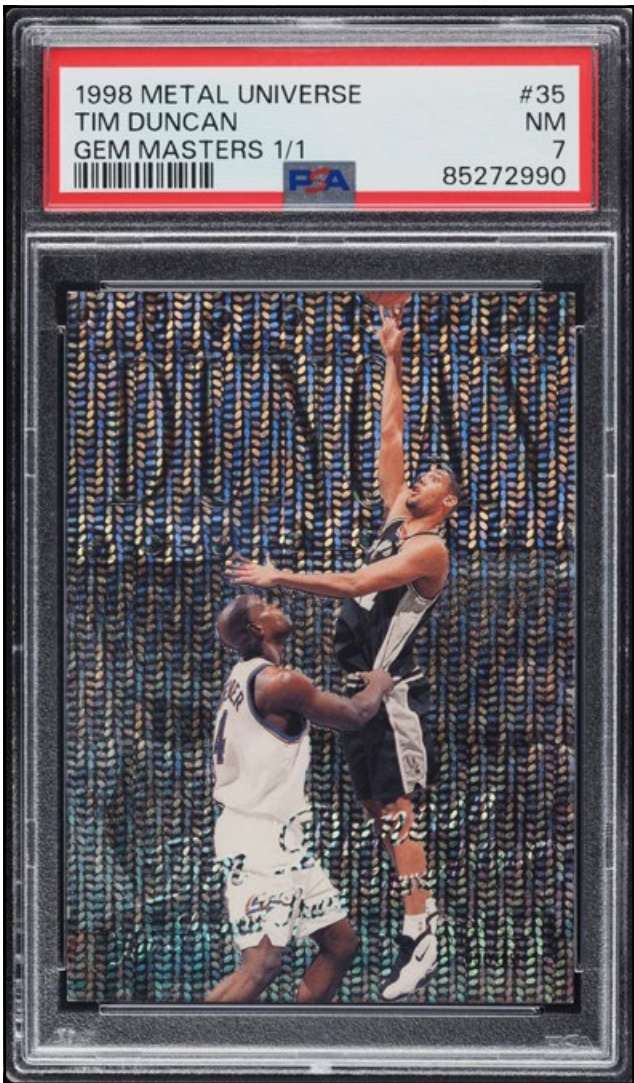
found their Mickey Mantle Tops rookie from 1952 and it's in mint condition. For something from the 90s to be worth this much and be sitting in Nick's box and sitting on a shelf and kicked around in a big screw-down case for the last 25 years to be discovered as Tim Duncan's Holy Grail card just, it's – I don't know. I don't even know how to describe it. Words don't describe it. It's unfounded, honestly.”

Mike Birk told The Reporter the story of the card is great, but the thing that he is most amazed by is how Albert handled the situation.

“Knowing that we had tried to sell it three different times for \$600, this guy could have looked at us and said, ‘Hey, you know, you've got a great card here, it's probably worth some money. I need to get it graded and authenticated and put it on an auction. I don't know what I'm going to get out of it. But hey, kid, here's five grand,’” Mike said. “And we'd have been happy. He didn't do that.”

Albert told the Birks he needed to get the card authenticated and graded. Then it would need to be entered into an auction. He did all that at his own expense, telling Nick Birk that he could pay Albert back at the end of the process after the check came in from the auction.

“This guy got excited for us, and he was excited to be part of our story,” Mike said. “He took the right steps to get the card where it needed to be to get graded and put it in the right auction. He paid to put it in the auction. I just want him to get a few props. And to



me, that's the bigger story.”

Albert told The Reporter it's about more than cards and money to him.

“I've got a strong faith and I've got a business that I've built on integrity,” Albert said. “It's built on integrity and trust, which is tough in this industry because a lot of it is just straight about money. ‘How much more can I make?’ But God's blessed us beyond what we could possibly imagine these last 12 years, and I would never want to do it any other way. And I was so, so happy to see them [the Birk family] be able to come out on top like that.”

The night of the auction was rife with excitement and doubts and hopes and more for the Birk family as they watched the clock tick down. The auction was set up with time extensions if bids came in during the last few minutes, and with bid increment changes as the price went up and the clock



Photos provided  
**(Top)** This 1998 Tim Duncan card grew up to be a \$110,000 windfall for Nick Birk earlier this week. **(Above)** Sometimes you just have to gather in the living room and watch your fortune unfold on an internet connected TV.

counted down.

“Again, this is a phenomenal once-in-a-lifetime experience that you just never think you're going to be part of,” Mike said. “And it happened because my older son first took the card in for his younger brother and found the right guy to make

it happen for us.”

If you have any collectible cards you like to sell, trade, or just find out if they might be worth somewhere between \$1 and \$100,000, stop by Indy Card Exchange, 7035 E. 96th St., Suite P, Indianapolis, and ask for Andy Albert. The shop is open

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

You can also visit the shop online at [IndyCardExchange.com](http://IndyCardExchange.com).

Who knows? Maybe you have the next unicorn sitting in a box in your own closet.

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County!

Click to play this week's video

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CABIN

from Page 1

settled on property northwest of what is now State Road 32 and Grassy Branch Road. That cabin was eventually used as a barn, then encased in a newer barn. Developers reached out to the Westfield Washington Historical Society in January of 2020 about the presence and history of the cabin. With only two weeks to act, members of the historical society worked tirelessly to salvage all they could of the cabin. Despite delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the rebuilt cabin celebrated its grand opening on June 3, 2023, in conjunction with the Hamilton County Bicentennial month for Washington Township. Though this was 62-year-old Ferguson's first visit to central Indiana, his family roots run deep in the city, and he was welcomed by distant cousins from the Barker, Carey, and Osborne families. Ferguson came fully

prepared with genealogy records, land maps, and photographs of his ancestors, all leading back from his mother Wanda Marie Low through her father, Asa Zenas Low, to her great-grandfather, Zenas Carey Barker, to his grandfather, Nicholas Barker. Ferguson's aunt, Dorothy Grimsley, 94, did much of the research, which Ferguson trusts without a doubt. "You have to be careful," Ferguson said. "Too many people start adding names, but you can't do 'pretty sure.' If you can't go back without making a guess, you gotta stop. Some things need not be found." Nicholas and Fannie Barker's gravesites are among the unfound. Cousins, on the other hand, are as plentiful and intertwined as the branches of the tulip poplar and white oak trees from which the Barker Cabin was originally built. Rebecca Barker Brock

and her husband Lonnie were at the cabin on President's Day when the Fergusons stopped by. Brock traces the line of her father, Clarence Barker, Jr., back to Nicholas Barker's brother, Simeon. Steve Osborne, who also stopped by that day, said that Fannie Low Barker was sister to his third great-grandfather, Elihu Osborne. Barbara Day, also in attendance, traces her connection to the Barkers through her grandmother, Myra Carey Overman, sister to Olive Carey who married Russell Barker. "The Fergusons are a delightful couple, and it was such a pleasure to spend a couple hours in the Barker Cabin listening to them share their ancestral connection to Westfield," Day said. Malinda Ferguson also understands the importance of family heritage, her maiden name, Broussard, being one of the most common

surnames in Louisiana. "You have to respect what our ancestors had to go through for daily life," she said. "Seeing the cabin gives us a connection to the place." Born one of 12 children to Nelson and Wanda Ferguson in Welsh, La., Ferguson said he is the only one of his line who is still employed in agriculture. He grows rice, grazes 400 head of Brahman cattle, and raises crawfish on 3,000 acres about 70 miles from the Gulf Coast. After leaving Westfield, the Fergusons planned to drive to Sugar Grove, Ky., to visit another family cabin on Robert's father's side of the family. Before they left, Beals presented Ferguson with a portion of an original log from the cabin, along with a wooden peg, so that he could take a piece of his heritage with him. "I want to come back," Ferguson said. When the Fergusons



Reporter photo by Amy Adams  
**Westfield Washington Historical Society President Jeff Beals (left) presents Robert Ferguson with a piece of log and a peg from the original cabin.**

make it back to Westfield, they hope to bring Robert's aunt Dorothy and their two grandchildren, the next generation of Barker descendants. The Barker Cabin is located at 136 Penn St. To learn more, visit [wwhs.us/barker-log-cabin](http://wwhs.us/barker-log-cabin) or follow the Westfield Washington Historical Society and Museum at [Facebook.com/WestfieldHistory](https://www.facebook.com/WestfieldHistory).

HICCUPS

from Page 1

JOHNNY: Wait. You didn't change my voice yet?  
GUY: I forgot to download the software.  
JOHNNY: Are you freaking kidding me?  
GUY: You probably shouldn't be talking. Hold on. There ... it's downloaded. Now say something—  
JOHNNY: I'm a hit man for god's sake!  
GUY: Oops! You still sound like you.  
JOHNNY: My anonymity is crucial, you titanic turd! (hiccup)  
GUY: Did you just hiccup?  
JOHNNY: (hiccup) (hiccup)  
GUY: Here, drink water.  
JOHNNY: Water (hiccup) doesn't (hiccup) work for me (hiccup).  
GUY: Hold your breath then.  
JOHNNY: Howabout I make you hold (hiccup) your breath (hiccup) if I know what

I mean (hiccup).  
GUY: Do you want me to scare you? I hear that cures hiccups.  
JOHNNY: How are you going to scare me if I tell you to scare me? (hiccup) (hiccup) (hiccup)  
GUY: I think the voice changing tool is activated now ...  
JOHNNY: I thought you were a professional podcaster!  
GUY: Your voice sounds like Darth Vader's now. Excellent. It's working! How old are you, Johnny Hiccups?  
JOHNNY: 82.  
GUY: Your peers nicknamed you Johnny Hiccups. Why?  
JOHNNY: I hiccup uncontrollably during stressful situations.  
GUY: You mean, just like when I fumbled with the voice enhancer software?  
JOHNNY: Psychoso-

matics, the shrinks call it.  
GUY: Anxiety triggers hiccups?  
JOHNNY: Not ideal for a hit man.  
GUY: Still, it makes for a cool nickname. How long have hiccups plagued you?  
JOHNNY: It started during my first contract killing. November 22, 1963. Dallas, Texas. I'll never forget where I was that day.  
GUY: Wait a minute! Do you mean—  
JOHNNY: You're thinking it, not me.  
GUY: You shot—  
JOHNNY: I was supposed to. I was standing near some guy who was filming the motorcade—  
GUY: Zapruder?  
JOHNNY: But just before I blew into my blowgun, I started to hiccup. Two guys from the Trench Coat Committee emerged from the crowd and whisked me away.

GUY: CIA?  
JOHNNY: You said it, not me. The TCC worried that my hiccups had been recorded by that guy's home movie camera. Hiccups are like audible fingerprints.  
GUY: But the Zapruder film didn't have sound.  
JOHNNY: Let's just say *it didn't have sound* after the Trench Coat Committee took care of it. It was a high-profile hit that ended up being a not-so-promising debut for me as a hit man.  
GUY: But now here you are on my podcast 60 years later revealing this bombshell of a story. How many have you whacked? Even if you bumped off only one person a year, that would make a major bump to my podcast ratings. Finally! This podcast has hit payday! So just how many people have you murdered, Johnny Hiccups?  
JOHNNY: This is so em-

barrassing, Guy—  
GUY: Hundreds?  
JOHNNY: Not exactly.  
GUY: Thousands!  
JOHNNY: Actually, Guy, zero.  
GUY: Wait ... what?  
JOHNNY: Do you know how hard it is to hit a target with a poison blow dart when you have hiccups? During Munich Oktoberfest in 1977, the beer garden was too crowded for me to pull out my blowgun, so I decided to strangle the target instead. I was hiccupping like crazy during my murderous rage but unfortunately I got confused and started giving this fat-headed German the Heimlich maneuver instead of choking him. A piece of Bratwurst launched from his mouth like a missile. I saved the life of a guy I was contracted to kill. We still share Christmas cards.  
GUY: Sixty years as a contract killer and not one

stupid murder?  
JOHNNY: What do you expect, Guy? I'm a guest on a podcast that features business failures. Would we be talking right now if I was in the Hit Man Hall of Fame?  
GUY: I guess you got me there. This talk is winding down. Earlier, you said you had another reason to visit my garage to do my podcast.  
JOHNNY: Ah, yes. That.  
GUY: Hey, what is that you're holding up to your mouth? A flute?  
JOHNNY: Blowgun, Guy. You see, the crazy thing is your ex-wife Angie saw my Half-Assin' Assassin, Inc. business card thumbtacked to the community corkboard at The Shaky Stool bar. (hiccup) (hiccup) (hiccup)  
*Contact: [scottsaa1man@gmail.com](mailto:scottsaa1man@gmail.com) Buy Scott's latest humor column collection, [Quietly Making Noise](#), on Amazon.*

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— Good news from Stony Creek Church of Christ —

# Questions I want to ask God

“God, why is there so much suffering and evil in the world?” Part II

“Why is there suffering?” Rest assured there is a day coming when suffering will CEASE and evil will be JUDGED – a day when injustices will be made right. Often people will ask: “If God has the power to eradicate evil and suffering, why doesn’t He do it?” The answer is that because He hasn’t done it yet doesn’t mean He won’t do it.

Who am I to question His timing? Criticizing God for not doing it yet is like reading half a novel and then criticizing the author for not tying up the loose ends of the plot.

In fact, the Bible says that the day will come when sickness and pain will be eradicated, and people will be held accountable for the evil they’ve committed.

So, what’s holding Him up? One answer is that some of *you are*. God is actually delaying the consummation of history in anticipation that some of you will still put your trust in Him and spend eternity in heaven. He’s delaying everything out of His love for you. 2 Peter 3:9 says: “The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” To me, that’s evidence of a loving God, that He would care that much you.

Our suffering will PALE



JOHN A. SMITH  
Think on These Things

in COMPARISON to what God has in store for His followers. I don’t want to minimize pain and suffering, yet it helps if we take a long-term perspective. Look at this verse, and remember they were written

by the apostle Paul, who suffered through beatings and stoning and shipwrecks and imprisonments and rejection and hunger and thirst and homelessness and far more pain that most of us will ever have to endure. These are his words: 2 Corinthians 4:17: “For our light and momentary troubles” — *wait a second: light and momentary troubles?* Romans 8:18: “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

Think of it this way. Let’s say that on the first day of 2005, you had a terrible day. You had a painful root canal at the dentist. You crashed your car. Your stock portfolio took a nosedive. Your spouse got sick. A friend betrayed you. From start to finish, it was like the title of that children’s book: *Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*.

But then every other day of the year was just plain terrific. A friend wins the lottery and gives you \$25 million. You get promoted at work to your dream job. *Time* maga-

zine puts your color photo on its cover as “The Person of the Year.” You have your first child and he’s healthy and strong. Your marriage is idyllic, your health is fabulous, and you have a three-month vacation in Tahiti.

Then next New Year’s Day someone asks, “So, how was your 2005?” You’d say, “It was great; it was wonderful!” They might say, “But didn’t it start out bad? Didn’t you go through a lot of trouble that first day?”

You’d think for a moment and say, “You’re right. It was a bad day, no denying it. It was difficult at the time. But when I look at the totality of the year, when I put everything in context, it’s been a great year. The 364 terrific days far outweigh the one bad day. It just sort of fades away.”

The same will be true in heaven. That’s not to deny the reality of your pain in this life. It might be terrible. It might be chronic. It might go on for all 72 of your years. But in heaven, after 54,484,545 days of pure bliss – and with an infinite more to come – if someone asked, “So, how has your existence been?” you’d instantly react by saying, “It has been wonderful! Words can’t describe the joy and the delight and the fulfillment!” And if they said, “But didn’t you have a tough time before you got here,” you’d probably think back and say, “Well, yes, it’s true that those days were painful, I can’t deny that. But when I put them into context, in light of all God’s outpouring of goodness to me, those bad days aren’t even worth comparing with the eternity of blessings and joy that I’ve experienced.”

Evil, suffering, and injus-

tice are a reality in this world. What we do with them and allow them to do to us will make all the difference. In Luke 12:6-7 Jesus affirms that God is concerned about sparrows and even more deeply concerned for you and me. Faced with the reality of human suffering, we should stay focused on spiritual and eternal things. Let’s commit to allowing such things to make us better not bitter.

We will worry less about the temporary suffering we face in this life if we have the eternal perspective that the apostle Paul possessed (2 Corinthians 4:17,18). “17 For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an incomparable eternal weight of glory. 18 So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

How can I make this hope and promise a reality in my life? Stayed tuned.

*Write or call and let us know what you think. Would you like more information or a personal study of this issue? I would love to accommodate your request. Do you have questions or disagreements? We will be happy to study God’s Word with you and help you find the “peace that passes understanding” (Philippians 4:7).*

*We hope you will accept our offer to visit and investigate. We meet at 15530 Herriman Blvd. in Noblesville. Our phone number is (317) 219-5852. We meet for Sunday morning Bible Study at 10 a.m. and have classes for all ages. Worship begins at 11 a.m. and we have a Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 p.m. A warm welcome awaits!*



## Westfield makes changes to Grand Park Solar Eclipse event

### The REPORTER

The City of Westfield has announced a shift in its Solar Eclipse event at Grand Park on Monday, April 8 to move away from being solely a tourism-focused activity to becoming a community event more fit for our residents.

“After hearing from our constituents, we want to bring the community together to celebrate this once in a lifetime opportunity here in Westfield,” Mayor Scott Willis said. “It’s going to be a truly remarkable experience and what better way to do so than at Grand Park with unobstructed views.”

The event will still take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Grand Park Sports Campus. Attendees can enjoy food and drinks from food trucks, a concert with the 1985 Band, inflatables, and total darkness from the Eclipse. Grand Universe will have viewing telescopes on site to educate attendees about the solar eclipse and its history. Special guest, Dr. Mark SubbaRao, Director of NASA’s Scientific Visualization Studio at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, will also be on site.

Tickets will be available for pre-purchase only and are now \$25 per standard-sized vehicles; eclipse viewing glasses are included in the admission price.

Overnight RV and camper parking will be available for \$100 for Sunday to Tuesday in a designated parking lot on Grand Park Sports Campus; there will be no overnight parking available for non-RVs/Campers. Please note that EV charging is not available on site.

Community members not interested in attending any eclipse-related events will be able to pick up free eclipse viewing glasses in various locations throughout Westfield beginning in early March. It is never safe to look directly at the sun, even if the sun is partly obscured.

### What is a total solar eclipse?

A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. The sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk; the sky will begin to change around 1:50 p.m. with totality at 3:06 p.m. The next total solar eclipse from the contiguous United States will be Aug. 23, 2044.

It has been 819 years since Hamilton County had a total solar eclipse.

For more details and to secure tickets, please visit [westfieldwelcome.com/solar-eclipse](http://westfieldwelcome.com/solar-eclipse). More information will be added as the event approaches.

Thanks for reading  
The Reporter!

# The Picture Has Changed

For some time, each ad has included a picture of the building where we meet. However, that is not the church -the people are. With that in mind our ad will now include a picture of “the church” – the people. We invite you to come visit with the church at Stony Creek. You will be warmly greeted, treated with respect, and highly valued. We can benefit from you, and you can benefit from us. Let’s search the Scriptures together and come to understand God’s Word more completely.

We meet at 15530 Herriman Blvd. in Noblesville. Our building is behind the doctor’s office and at the stop sign.

At the **Stony Creek Church of Christ**, we assemble on Sundays and Wednesdays to seek a better understanding of Jesus and His ways. You are encouraged and invited to join us for those studies or call for a private study.



**Stony Creek Church of Christ**  
“First Century Christianity in the Twenty First Century”  
15530 Herriman Blvd., Noblesville  
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Sunday Worship 11:00 am  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm





THE SKIES ALIGN FOR A SPECTACULAR SHOW  
IN HAMILTON COUNTY ON APRIL 8, 2024

Get ready to be mesmerized by a celestial masterpiece as the communities of Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville, Westfield and the Northern Towns become the perfect stage for the total solar eclipse, when the moon gracefully dances in front of the sun and casts its shadow across the landscape.

Witness the magic of the cosmos with friends and family at official viewing locations like Carmel Civic Square, Conner Prairie, Cool Creek Park, Grand Park Sports Campus, Ruoff Home Mortgage Music Center and Strawtown Kotweewi Park.

Grab your eclipse glasses, set up your cameras and join Hamilton County in this celestial celebration—it’s guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience!

THE SKY WILL BEGIN TO CHANGE AROUND  
1:50 P.M. WITH TOTALITY AT 3:06 P.M.

Hamilton County is in the narrow path of totality for the Total Solar Eclipse. These communities will be some of the best places to experience prime views of the epic event.

Arcadia	3m 6s	Fishers	3m 39s
Atlanta	2m 56s	Noblesville	3m 27s
Carmel	3m 29s	Sheridan	2m 51s
Cicero	3m 15s	Westfield	3m 19s

***VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Eclipse***



**JUST NORTH  
OF INDY**





# Illumination works the stage in Westfield



Photos provided by Westfield Washington Schools  
The Westfield High School show choir, Illumination, recently held the debut public performance of their competition show titled “The Working Week.” They were joined by the WHS Concert Choir and the WMS show choir, Vocal Motion. What a spectacular evening!

# Get ready for a fabulous few weeks at Feinstein’s

**The REPORTER**

From Broadway and television performers to Tennessee country singers, then back home again to Indiana rockers, there are big names and big talent coming to the stage at Feinstein’s at Hotel Carmichael in Carmel. Choose one of these fantastic shows or choose them all. You won’t want to miss the incredible performers coming to the intimate setting at Feinstein’s in the month of March. \* \* \*

On March 17 and 18, Feinstein’s will welcome

Maddie Poppe. Hand-in-hand with her *American Idol* victory, the Iowa native has captured the attention of fans with her folksy singer-songwriter style. She’s won a People’s Choice Award for her turn on the show, had *Whirlwind* hit No. 2 on the iTunes Pop Charts, and went on to become a hot guest on *The Kelly Clarkson Show*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, *LIVE with Kelly & Ryan*, and *Good Morning America*. All of this in addition to touring the country opening for Ingrid Michaelson and headlining her own tours,

including a Christmas run that has become a seasonal “must” for Maddie’s fans. \* \* \*

Bobby Clark is doing what he does best – making great music – and he’ll be bringing his sound to Feinstein’s stage March 21. Hailing from the outskirts of Evansville, he grew up in the belly of the heartland rock world and the songs live up to the lineage. Clark has lived the life often sung about in his music. The son of a preacher, a man that has made his living of hard work, someone who

has clashed with the law and society, he has a song and opinion about every topic, a believer in hard work and sweaty Midwestern bar rock, he has honed his craft of writing memorable and catchy rock songs over the years with hundreds of shows under his belt. Clark has worked with many well-known artists including John Mellencamp, Moe Z, Larry Crane, Joanna Dean, Tommy Stillwell, Mike Wanchic, Mitch Ryder, Jon E. Gee, Toby Myers, Jimmy Ryser, Dane Clark, and many more.

\* \* \*

Will Hoge is an Americana country music singer, songwriter and musician from Franklin, Tenn., just south of Nashville. Influenced by his musician father and uncles and the extensive record collection that his father kept, Hoge has been performing since 1998. He has toured with many artists including Midnight Oil, Shinedown, Needtobreathe, Marc Broussard, ZZ Top, The Cat Empire, Squeeze, Jason Isbell, Lisa Loeb, and Edwin McCain. Hoge recorded the open-

ing theme song, “You Make Me Happy,” for the CBS sitcom *Still Standing*. He will be performing at Feinstein’s on March 23. Tickets to this and all other Feinstein shows can be purchased at [feinsteins-hc.com](http://feinsteins-hc.com). Feinstein’s at Hotel Carmichael is located at 1 Carmichael Square, Carmel. Call Hotel Carmichael at (317) 688-1947. Consider having your corporate gatherings at Feinstein’s. For groups of 10 tickets or more, email [sales@hotelcarmichael.com](mailto:sales@hotelcarmichael.com).



FEINSTEIN'S  
AT HOTEL CARMICHAEL

MADDIE POPPE  
MARCH 17 & 18

Hotel Carmichael proudly welcomes the  
American Idol champion as she takes  
center stage at Feinstein's!

Visit [FeinsteinsHC.com](http://FeinsteinsHC.com) to purchase tickets.





Photo provided

Last year, The Cooper House relocated to 444 Lafayette Road, Noblesville.

# The NESST’s Whiskey & Wine event set to make The Cooper House the toast of the town

## The REPORTER

The NESST, 917 Conner St., Noblesville, will hold a fundraiser called “Whiskey & Wine” to benefit The Cooper House, a local non-profit organization dedicated to providing support and resources to families in need.

This charitable tasting event is set to take place from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12 at the NESST restaurant in the heart of Noblesville.

Attendees can look forward to a delightful evening filled with hors d’oeuvres and over 50 wines to taste,

as well as a bourbon tasting for those with a penchant for spirits. The event will also feature live music and a silent auction where guests can bid on a variety of exciting items, with all proceeds going towards supporting The Cooper House’s mission.

This event promises to be a delightful opportunity for members of the community to come together, enjoy some fantastic drinks,



and support a worthy cause.

Tickets for “Whiskey & Wine” are available for purchase

now at [thenesstofnoblesville.com](https://thenesstofnoblesville.com). Space is limited, so be sure to secure your spot early so that you don’t miss out on this great opportunity to support The Cooper House and the community.

Learn more about The Cooper House at [TheCooperHouseIndiana.com](https://TheCooperHouseIndiana.com).

# ISO to present “Music for the People: Copland & Prokofiev”

## The REPORTER

Aaron Copland’s popular *Third Symphony* embodies the American spirit; the fourth movement incorporates the theme from his *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Vadim Gluzman joins conductor Yue Bao for Prokofiev’s *Violin Concerto No. 2* with its raucous, sardonic finale.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 1 and at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2.

[Click here](#) to buy tickets.

[Click here](#) for more information regarding the policies of the Hilbert Circle Theatre.

### About Yue Bao

Conductor Yue Bao made her subscription debut with the Houston Symphony on their opening night concert of the 20-21 season, and she has led the orchestra both at Jones Hall and at their summer concert series at the Miller Theatre. She made her Chicago Symphony Orchestra debut at the Ravinia Festival in 2021.

Recently, Bao debuted in Munich with the Munich Symphony, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra with soloist Jan Vogler, and with the Orchestra of St Luke’s with soloist Hélène Grimaud. She will debut with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra as well as making her debut in Spain.

In recent seasons, Bao has conducted the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Seattle Symphony, and the Calgary Philharmonic. She also debuted with the San Francisco Symphony, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the Minnesota Orchestra.

Bao was the Bruno Walter Memorial Foundation Conducting Fellow at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music. In 2018, she

served as the David Effron Conducting Fellow at the Chautauqua Music Festival, where she returned as a guest conductor in the 2022 season. She has worked extensively in the United States and abroad. Equally at home with both symphonic and operatic repertoire, she has conducted Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin*, Bizet’s *Carmen*, Kurt Weill’s *Ma-hagony: Ein Songspiel*, and Gian Carlo Menotti’s *The Medium*.

### About Vadim Gluzman

Universally recognized among today’s top performing artists, Vadim Gluzman breathes new life and passion into the golden era of the 19th and 20th centuries’ violin tradition. Gluzman’s wide repertoire embraces new music, and his performances are heard around the world through livestreams, broadcasts and a striking catalog of award-winning recordings for the BIS label.

The Israeli violinist appears with world’s leading orchestras and conductors, including Tugan Sokhiev with the Berlin Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, and Orchestre de Paris; Neeme Järvi with Chicago Symphony and London Philharmonic; Riccardo Chailly with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Gewandhaus Orchestra, Santtu-Matias Rouvali with Gothenburg Symphony and Philharmonia Orchestra, as well as with the Cleveland Orchestra under the batons of Hannu Lintu and Michail Jurowski. He appears at Ravinia, Tanglewood, BBC Proms, Grant Park, and the North Shore Chamber Music Festival.

### About the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, at home and thriving in the heart

of Indianapolis, offers an exceptional artistic and musical experience. The orchestra is open to all and dedicated to creating an inclusive and innovative experiential environment that is inspiring, educational, and welcoming. The ISO celebrates historically beloved performances while engaging audiences by introducing new voices through programming including the IU Health Plans *Classical Series*, the Printing Partners *Pops Series*, the holiday traditions of AES Indiana *Yuletide Celebration* and the popular *Film Series* presented by Bank of America. For more information, go to [IndianapolisSymphony.org](https://IndianapolisSymphony.org).

# Westfield’s new Engine 382 online and ready to serve



Photo provided by City of Westfield

Westfield Mayor Scott Willis recently joined the Fire Department for the Engine 382 push-in ceremony at Station 82. It is a time-honored tradition for each new apparatus for the department.

Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET

# ABSOLUTE AUCTION

ONLINE at [halderman.com](https://halderman.com)

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## Sheridan’s Phi Beta Psi Sorority invites you to



Cost: \$20  
(\$5 food & \$15 game)

Menu:  
• Sloppy joes,  
mac & cheese,  
chips & dip,  
veggie tray/dip,  
desserts, and  
drinks

\$1 to pay the pig



Location:  
The Studio  
302 S. Main Street,  
Sheridan, IN

RSVP to  
317-418-5232

**EUCHRE NIGHT**

Saturday, Feb. 24  
Check-in/dinner 6:30 PM  
Game 7:00 PM



# Frustrations grow as feds launch probe of FAFSA portal

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

The mother of a high school senior on Thursday said the new federal student financial aid portal has been anything but fast and easy.

Andrea Ratcliff's son will graduate this spring. She said when she first logged into the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) portal in December, the system didn't correctly record her username and password, so she had to reset it.

Next, she accidentally submitted an application for the 2023-2024 school year rather than the 2024-2025 year. She said she was surprised the system even had that option to begin with, let alone not providing some sort of error message when she input her son's graduation date.

She said she thinks she finally got the application right, but she doesn't have an easy way to find out. That's because the system requires separate accounts for parents and students.

"I can't really see anything. I have to go in through my kid's account, which technically, you're not supposed to log in as your child. You're supposed to do it on your own," Ratcliff said. "So it just kind of leaves you with no information from

the parent side of things."

Ratcliff was just one of the many parents across the country who have complained about the new FAFSA portal. A law approved by Congress in 2020 required the U.S. Department of Education to create a new, simpler FAFSA application process. The new website was originally scheduled to go live in October, when FAFSA applications begin. It did not finally go live until January and problems continued after that.

The federal **Government Accountability Office** has now launched an investigation at the request of Republican members of Congress. GAO officials told News 8 their investigation will eventually produce two reports, one reviewing the information technology aspects of the problem and the other concerning general rollout and execution.

Congresswoman Erin Houchin (R-Ind.-09) serves on the House Higher Education Subcommittee and was among the lawmakers who requested the GAO probe. She said one of her own daughters is applying for college and had to try the portal four or five times to get the application through. Houchin said the portal's performance is unacceptable, especially given how long the department had to

work on it.

"The rollout has been disastrous," Rep. Houchin said. "First and foremost, we need answers, but before we can get answers to this, we need to make sure that they're getting things together as quickly as possible so that these students can make these very difficult decisions on what college they might like to attend and if they can afford to do so."

The **Indiana Commission for Higher Education** said federal officials have told them to expect FAFSA data in early March. Commission officials criticized the **Department of Education's** rollout in a statement: "We are disappointed in how the United States Department of Education (ED) has rolled out FAFSA simplification. They had three years to implement the changes required by Congress and there is no excuse for the delays families, schools, and states are experiencing. With that said, despite the hiccups, the FAFSA application is much easier to file, and we encourage all families to file as soon as possible."

When asked about the GAO probe, a Department of Education spokesperson said only, "The Department is in receipt of GAO's engagements and will be co-operating."

Higher education officials said the FAFSA portal problems affect not only prospective students but also current students. Steven Schuetz, the University of Indianapolis' interim vice president for enrollment management, said current students have to resubmit FAFSA applications every year in order to continue receiving financial aid throughout their college careers. He said universities likely won't be able to inform students of any financial awards before April.

"It just seems like every month, there's some change in the information, some delay in the timeline, when we do get information it's incomplete," Schuetz said, "and so it really tests our ability to prepare in a way that we would like to prepare."

Schuetz says the delays probably won't affect eligibility for financial aid. He said families should contact any college they've applied to for updates about the FAFSA situation.

Houchin says constituents facing FAFSA trouble should contact her office as well. She says people should provide her office as much information as they can, including the personal identification numbers they received when they created their profiles in the portal.

# Rep. Spartz: Europeans must step up with less talk, more action

The REPORTER

Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) spoke on Thursday at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) Winter Meeting, represented by over 50 member countries, urging faster actions and less words by the free world.

"While our European allies and President Biden have been consumed by 'tough' talks and foolish energy policies, Russia and its allies,

China and Iran, are on the offensive with hybrid warfare," Rep. Spartz said. "Criminals, dictators, and KGB successors couldn't care less about grandiose statements – only decisive actions matter. The free world better get its act together soon. As a next step, we should put serious sanctions on Russian oil and consider confiscating Russian sovereign assets in response to the killing of Alexei Navalny."

[Click here](#) to see a video of Spartz's statement.



Spartz

# AG Todd Rokita fights to uphold ban on schools teaching sex ed to K-3 kids

The REPORTER

In federal appeals court on Friday, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita's team defended the constitutionality of an Indiana law prohibiting schools from teaching human sexuality to children in kindergarten through third grade.

"Human sexuality being taught to students by their teachers is questionable at any

age," AG Rokita said. "The fact that this is taught to children who are still learning how to spell and how to do basic math is reprehensible. That simple reality should be obvious to anyone. This is a good law that represents Hoosier common sense and respects parents' roles in raising their children."



Rokita

See Rokita . . . Page 9



CONGRESSWOMAN

# VICTORIA SPARTZ

PROUDLY SERVING **INDIANA'S** 5TH DISTRICT

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- Medicare claims
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- Passport assistance
- IRS questions



### 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.

West District Office: (317) 848-0201

East District Office: (765) 639-0671

[www.spartz.house.gov](http://www.spartz.house.gov)



# Don't miss these great events at Center for the Performing Arts

## The REPORTER

Tickets are available for these upcoming arts and education events at The Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. Just go to [TheCenterPresents.org](http://TheCenterPresents.org) or call (317) 843-3800.

### Center Presents Performances

**The Irish Tenors**  
8 p.m. Friday, March 8  
The Palladium  
Tickets from \$45  
Telamon Passport Series

The Irish Tenors have been the acknowledged Celtic music kings since their first PBS television special in 1998. With enchanting traditional Irish repertoire as well as interpretations of contemporary pop hits, they have released 10 bestselling albums and performed for capacity crowds at such venues as Radio City Music Hall, Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall, and the Hollywood Bowl. Vocalists Anthony Kearns, Ronan Tynan and Declan Kelly will be backed by a live symphony orchestra. The performance is presented in partnership with United Fidelity Bank.

**An Evening with Rickie Lee Jones**  
8 p.m. Friday, March 8  
The Tarkington  
Tickets from \$55  
Katz, Sapper & Miller  
Pop/Rock Series

Rickie Lee Jones is an American musician, storyteller and two-time Grammy winner who has been inspiring pop culture for decades, beginning with her star-making self-titled debut, followed by the seminal *Pirates*. Named the "premier song-stylist and songwriter of her generation" by *The New Yorker* and "The Duchess of Coolsville" by *Time* magazine, Jones reunited with Russ Titelman, who produced her first two records, for her Grammy-nominated 2023 album *Pieces of Treasure*.

**Bruce Hornsby and yMusic present BrhyM**  
8 p.m. Saturday, March 9  
The Palladium  
Tickets from \$35  
Katz, Sapper & Miller  
Pop/Rock Series

Eclectic singer-songwriter and pianist Bruce Hornsby rose to fame with his Grammy-winning debut album *The Way It Is* and its title track, the most played song on U.S. radio in 1987. Since then, he has released more than 20 albums, toured with the Grateful Dead, and appeared on more than 100 records from artists including Bob Dylan, Don Henley, Stevie Nicks, Bonnie Raitt, Sting, Mavis Staples, and Willie Nelson. Hornsby is touring with the New York-based classical-pop sextet yMusic, known for its original compositions as well as collaborations with Ben Folds, John Legend, Paul Simon, and other artists.

**Carrie Newcomer with Pianist Gary Walters, Allie Summers and String Quartet**  
8 p.m. Saturday, March 9  
The Tarkington  
Tickets from \$60  
Katz, Sapper & Miller  
Pop/Rock Series

Award-winning Indiana-based singer-songwriter

Carrie Newcomer performs songs from her new and past albums in gorgeous string quartet presentations. Join Newcomer, arranger/pianist Gary Walters, and the Gathering of Spirits String Quartet for this unique blending of story and songs that celebrate what is sustaining and hopeful, reminding us of how even in divided times we are still connected at the center of the human heart. Described as "a prairie mystic" by the *Boston Globe*, Newcomer has released 19 albums nationally on the Philo, Rounder, Concord, and Available Light labels.

### Imagination Movers

1 & 4 p.m.  
Sunday, March 10  
The Tarkington  
Tickets from \$25  
Old Town Family Series

Known for their original songs and Emmy Award-winning Disney television show, the Imagination Movers promise a high-energy, interactive concert experience that captivates audiences of all ages. Whether singing about playing catch, brainstorming, or making music using buckets and cans, the group delivers witty lyrics and an eclectic pop sensibility that encourages creativity and movement. Come and experience the wonderment of live music for families in this interactive show.

**Croce Plays Croce: 50th Anniversary Tour**  
8 p.m. Saturday, March 30  
The Palladium  
Tickets from \$35  
Katz, Sapper & Miller  
Pop/Rock Series

Following a successful tour that featured songs from Jim Croce's 1972 breakthrough album, *You Don't Mess Around with Jim*, multi-faceted singer/songwriter A.J. Croce is on the road again to celebrate two more of his father's legendary albums. Released in 1973, shortly before the elder Croce's death in a plane crash, the albums *Life and Times* and *I Got a Name* included such hits as "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown," "I'll Have to Say I Love You in a Song" and "Workin' at the Car Wash Blues." This 50th Anniversary program will feature a stellar band and a moving multimedia presentation.

Other March events include:

**Peanut Butter & Jam: Silly Safaris – Spring Animal Babies**

10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 2

The Studio Theater  
Tickets: \$10 per child, includes two free adult admissions with each order

Animals living where there are cold seasons have their babies in the spring, when food is more abundant. Amazon John of Silly Safaris will introduce us to several of these spring animal babies as we learn how mommy animals take care of their newborns. Be sure to stick around after the show to meet the animals up close. Designed for children aged 1 to 7, Peanut Butter & Jam sessions encourage kids to become engaged in live performance.



Photo provided

See Indiana-based singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer on March 9 at The Tarkington.

**Group Vocal Coaching**  
6:15 p.m. Wednesdays,  
March 20 to April 10  
The Palladium's Shiel  
Sexton Songbook Lounge  
Cost: \$90

Instructor Todd Neal leads this course on topics including song selection, vocal technique, and interpretation. Students will gain a better understanding of performance, delivery, projection, and stage presence. The class is for anyone who enjoys singing and would like to improve their vocal delivery. No previous vocal training is required.

**JazzTalk: A Conversation with Sammy Miller**  
7 p.m. Monday, March 25  
Online  
Cost: Free

Join online on March 25 for an engaging live conversation with Sammy Miller, who is bringing his NYC-based band The Congregation to the Palladium on April 19 for a Student Matinee and an all-ages evening performance in the Drewry Simmons Vornehm Jazz Series. *JazzTalk* is a web-based interview series hosted by Todd Williams, veteran jazz musician and music professor at Indiana Wesleyan University.

**Luminaries: "Making It Up" with Brandon Wilson**  
2 p.m. Tuesday, March 26  
The Palladium's Robert Adam Room  
Tickets: \$10

For Brandon Wilson, a life/business coach and singer-songwriter, making things up is a way of life. But navigating his relationship with creativity has been quite a journey, one that kept him in trouble for most of his younger years, took him to Nashville to make a go of a career in music, landed him on a crash course with a mountain lion in Montana, and so much more. This is a journey of harnessing creativity as a positive force and turning it

into a way of life. Luminaries is the Center's weekday speaker series.

**Live at the Center: Bullet Points**  
7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 27  
Online and at the Palladium  
Livestream: Free (pay-what-you-can, no minimum)  
On site: \$10 (pay-what-you-can, \$10 minimum)

A local indie-rock supergroup comprising members of the Lemonheads, Extra Blue Kind, State, Beta Male and Coolidge, Bullet Points released its debut EP in 2016 and began touring the Midwest, appearing on WFYT's *Small Studio Sessions*. In 2020, the band delivered its first full-length project, *Paso Doble*, and reached the finalist level of the MOKB Presents Battle of the Bands. More recently, the group has been heard on WTTS-FM's *The Beat with David Lindquist* and seen on WISH-TV's *All Indiana*.

About the Center for the Performing Arts

The mission of the non-profit Center for the Performing Arts is to engage and inspire the Indiana community through enriching arts experiences. Its campus includes the 1,500-seat Palladium concert hall, the 500-seat Tarkington theater, and the black-box Studio Theater. The Center presents and hosts hundreds of events each year, including the *Center Presents* performance series, featuring the best in classical, jazz, pop, rock, country, comedy, and other genres. Educational and experiential programming includes children's concerts, summer camps, book clubs, lectures, and classes in music and dance. The Center is home to the affiliated Great American Songbook Foundation and provides space and support services for six resident arts companies. More information at [TheCenterPresents.org](http://TheCenterPresents.org).

**Thanks for reading The REPORTER!**  
For more news, visit [ReadTheReporter.com](http://ReadTheReporter.com)

## ROKITA

from Page 8

An elementary teacher from Indianapolis Public Schools has challenged the law, claiming among other things that it violates her First Amendment rights.

"Teachers in our public schools don't have a First Amendment right to teach whatever they want," Rokita said. "This type of class no longer focuses on biology – it's now based on ideology. This is why parents should be the ones

to help guide their children through this difficult stage."

Trying another tact, the teacher also claims in her lawsuit that the law uses terminology that is overly vague. The law, however, contains the same language used in other Indiana laws that have been enforced for years without challenge.

[Click here](#) to read a brief outlining the positions of AG Rokita's team.

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HAMILTON COUNTY TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE APRIL 8, 2024  
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**NICKEL PLATE EXPRESS**  
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  
Tickets at [NickelPlateExpress.com](http://NickelPlateExpress.com)



The REPORTER

Here are the latest updates for the upcoming 90-day closure of Allisonville Road.

Remember, eastbound and westbound 146th Street will not be closed nor will the intersection. Lane restrictions will be in place, which will still be needed from time to time along 146th Street.

Allisonville Road between 146th Street and Kensington Drive (north of 146th Street), and between 146th Street and Helmsley Court (south of 146th Street) are the closure limits.

The posted detour route will be 131st Street, State Road 37, and Greenfield Avenue.

**Thursday, Feb. 29 into Friday, March 1**

The contractor will complete work in preparation of the upcoming Allisonville Road closure throughout the project limits and along

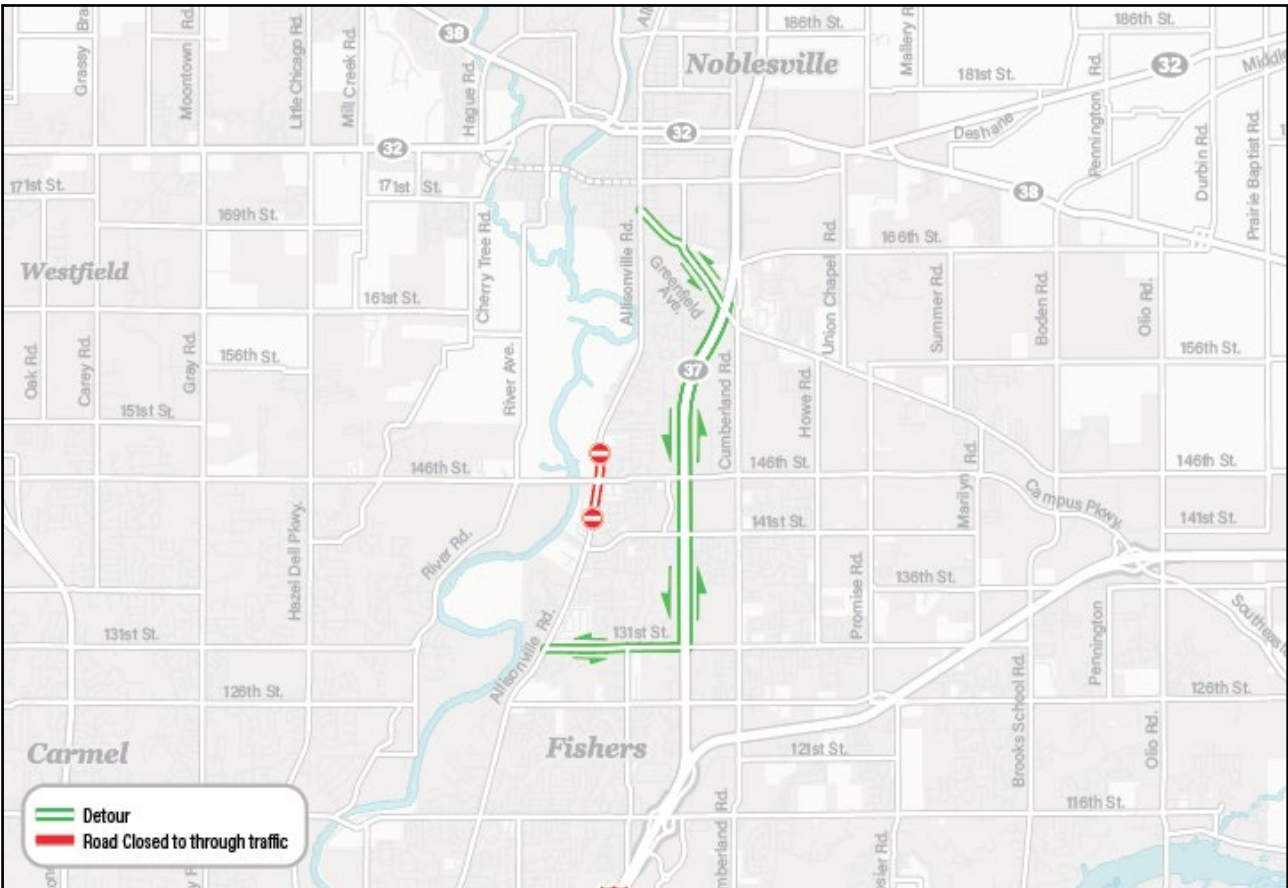
the detour route. At or after midnight, barricades will be put in place along Allisonville Road to close the road for 90 days.

Be prepared for lane restrictions or short-duration lane closures along 146th Street after the closure of Allisonville Road is in place, so that the removal of the overhead signal equipment and other work associated with the traffic switch may be completed.

**Friday, March 1 into Saturday, March 2**

Between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., 146th Street traffic should be prepared for lane restrictions or short-duration closures to complete any remaining signal equipment removal and other work associated with this traffic switch.

Use extreme caution and reduced speeds while driving through this construction zone.



Graphic provided by Hamilton County Highway Department

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## Indiana confirms first case of measles in five years

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

The Indiana Department of Health on Friday confirmed a **case of measles** in Lake County, marking the state's first measles case in five years.

IDOH says the risk to the public is low, but it continues to investigate the case along with local public health officials. No other information will be released to protect patient privacy.

"Measles is easily spread and can be serious, especially for young children. About 1 in 5 unvaccinated people in the United States who get measles is hospitalized, and 90% of unvaccinated people who are exposed to measles will become sick," State Health Commissioner Dr. Lindsay Weaver said in a release. "This case is a good reminder that you are at risk if you haven't been vaccinated."

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory virus that spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is rare in the U.S. due to the availability of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, but visitors from other countries or U.S. citizens traveling abroad can become infected.

More than 93 percent of people who receive a single dose of MMR vaccine will develop immunity to measles, IDOH says, and

more than 97 percent will be protected after receiving a second dose. Two doses of the vaccine are needed to be fully protected.

People born before 1957 are presumed to be immune to measles.

**Recognize the symptoms**

Measles begins with a fever, cough, runny nose, and red eyes usually one to two weeks after exposure to the virus, but it can occur up to 21 days. The fever increases, sometimes as high as 105 degrees. Tiny white spots may appear inside the mouth two to three days after symptoms begin.

Two to four days after symptoms begin, a rash starts on the hairline and face. It spreads down the back and trunk and extends to the arms, hands, legs, and feet. After about five days, the rash fades in the same order in which it appeared.

**What you can do**

If you are experience measles symptoms, stay home and call your health-care provider right away before going to a doctor's office. If you are ill with measles, stay home and away from others, especially unvaccinated infants, people with diseases affecting their immune systems and pregnant women.

Visit the [IDOH website](http://IDOH website) or the [CDC website](http://CDC website) for more information about measles and MMR vaccination.

## Hoosier anglers can join Midwest Walleye Challenge

The REPORTER

Indiana anglers are invited to participate in the 2024 Midwest Walleye Challenge, a virtual fishing tournament that offers the opportunity to win prizes and contribute to fisheries management while providing Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fisheries biologists with valuable data on the state's walleye, sauger, and saugeye populations.

The tournament begins March 30 and ends June 30. Only catches of walleye, sauger, and saugeye will count in the tournament.

The Midwest Walleye Challenge was piloted in Iowa during the past two years. This year it will be offered across the Midwest as part of a larger fisheries research project funded by the Association of Fish and

Wildlife Agencies.

There is both a free and a \$25 paid option to enter the tournament, with biweekly cash prizes available for paid participants and non-cash prizes available for free entrants. All participants will have a chance to win a grand prize at the end of the tournament.

Anglers will be able to submit catches and their time on the water for multiple categories, including a "Tough Luck" category for those who log fishing trips but don't catch anything, a "Most Waterbodies Fished" category for those who log trips from multiple rivers, lakes, and streams, and a standard "Longest Fish" category, in addition to random prize drawings for everyone who takes part.

Participants will use the free mobile app, MyCatch, to submit photos of their catch on a measuring device so length and species can be determined. Once the photo is reviewed, and the catch is confirmed, it will appear on a live leaderboard so anglers can see their current ranking in the tournament.

Those interested in participating can view the rules and register for the tournament by visiting [Anglers-Atlas.com/event/769](http://Anglers-Atlas.com/event/769) or by using the [MyCatch app](http://MyCatch app).

For more information, visit [on.IN.gov/walleye](http://on.IN.gov/walleye).

## Who's on my ballot for the May 7, 2024 Primary Election?

Note that \* indicates the candidate is the incumbent for that office.

To view precinct and district maps, please visit [hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps](http://hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps).

NOTE: Candidates for precinct committeement and state delegates will appear in upcoming editions of The Reporter.

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# Roy Edward "Ed" Conner

## September 16, 1938 – February 21, 2024



Roy Edward "Ed" Conner died peacefully on February 21, 2024. He was born in 1938 in his grandmother's front bedroom in Kokomo, Ind. A graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, he also attended Purdue University in Indianapolis and Metropolitan College in Kansas City, Mo.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Marilyn (Stetzel) Conner; his sons, Tim (Beanie) and Kevin; and two grandchildren, Molly and Fritz Conner. He is also survived by his brothers, Mike and Pat.

Roy was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Chrystal Conner; sister, Mary; and brothers, Stan, Greg, and Jeff.

He was employed by the Union Carbide Corporation for 33 years at the Speedway, Ind., facility. He helped to start up a new Union Carbide facility in Kansas City, Mo. After transferring back to the Speedway facility, he was assigned to the engineering department of research and development, where he began work on a project to provide heat protection to the ailerons of NASA's Space Shuttle program.

Roy had a quick wit and a tremendous sense of humor. An avid sportsman, he enjoyed hunting and fishing. As a teenager, he was a member of the Allison Transmission's rifle and pistol team. After school at the age of 13, he hunted small game and traded the game to Preston's Grocery store at 21st and Ritter for whatever kitchen supplies his mother needed.

He was active in scouting in Kansas City and Noblesville and was instrumental in starting Boy Scout Troop 106 in Noblesville. He coached little league baseball and was a reserve deputy with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department for 20 years, retiring with the rank of Captain. He served for Sheriff's Larry Cook, Bob Chandler, Dan Stevens, and Joe Cook.

Roy was a member of Our Lady of Grace Church, Gray Friends Church, and loved working in his yard.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hamilton County Community Foundation.

The visitation will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at Harley Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero. A memorial service will follow the visitation at 3 p.m.

Interment will take place at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Online condolences can be given at [hartleyfuneral-homes.com](http://hartleyfuneral-homes.com).

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

### ESAU'S DESCENDANTS

*This is the account of the family line of Esau (that is, Edom).*

*Esau took his wives from the women of Canaan: Adah daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Oholibamah daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite—also Basemath daughter of Ishmael and sister of Nebaioth.*

*Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, Basemath bore Reuel, and Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam and Korah. These were the sons of Esau, who were born to him in Canaan.*

*Esau took his wives and sons and daughters and all the members of his household, as well as his livestock and all his other animals and all the goods he had acquired in Canaan, and moved to a land some distance from his brother Jacob. Their possessions were too great for them to remain together; the land where they were staying could not support them both because of their livestock. So Esau (that is, Edom) settled in the hill country of Seir.*

Genesis 36:1-8 (NIV)

### 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](mailto:obits@ReadTheReporter.com).

Thanks for reading  
The Reporter!



### Lane restrictions on Florida Road in Fishers

There will be lane restrictions in place on Florida Road between Southeastern Avenue and 113th Street on Monday, Feb. 26 and Tuesday, Feb. 27 as crews work on road repairs.

### 146th Street & Allisonville Road Project

Beginning on or after Tuesday, Feb. 27, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. each day, the contractor will restrict the westbound right lane for concrete work.

Use extreme caution while driving through this construction zone.

### 196th Street between Victory Chapel Road & Creek Road

Beginning on or after Monday, March 4, 196th Street between Victory Chapel Road and Creek Road will be closed to all thru traffic to replace Small Structure No. 23023. The estimated project completion date is Friday, May 3.

Local traffic will continue to have access to their homes, while thru traffic is asked to use the posted detour route of Creek Road, 206th Street, and Victory Chapel Road.

Use caution when driving in this area.

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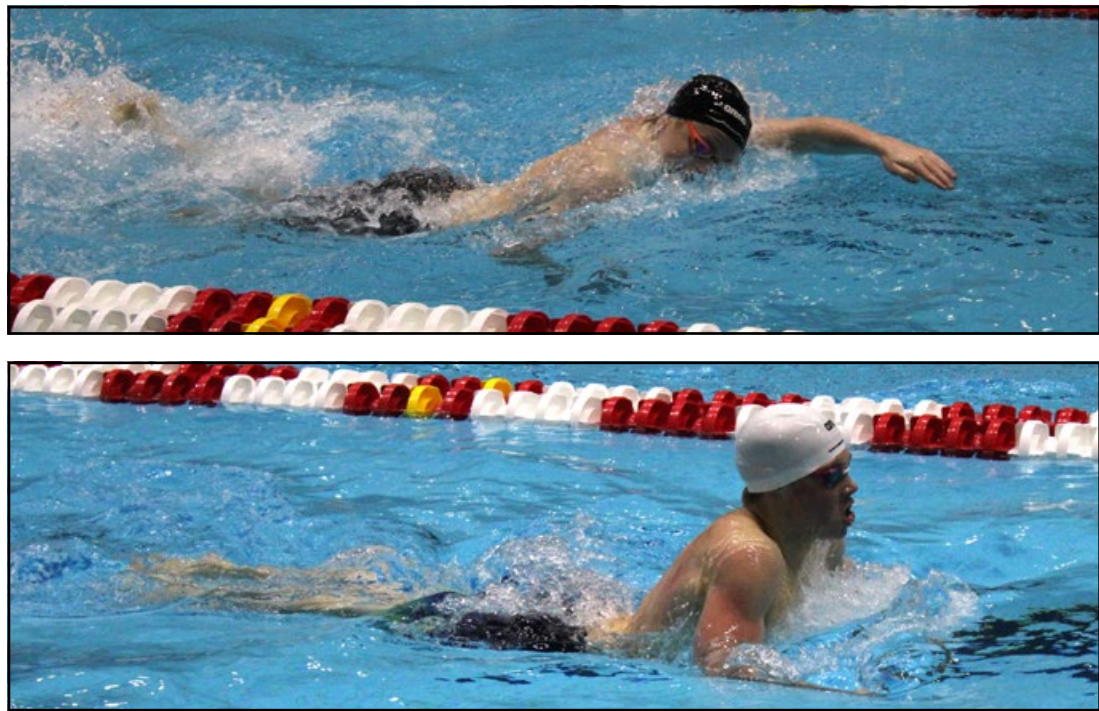


# REPORTER SPORTS WEEKEND

Sports Editor Richie Hall | [Sports@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:Sports@ReadTheReporter.com) | Twitter @Richie\_Hall

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

## Swimming



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

(ABOVE LEFT) University's Neiman Kumler (left) and coach Kyle Truitt watch results come in for the 50 free. Kumler qualified for the "A" Final in that race and the 100 free. (TOP RIGHT) Carmel's William Allen made the "A" Final of the 50 freestyle at Friday's state swim prelims and also swam on the Greyhounds' 200 freestyle relay. (ABOVE RIGHT) Anthony Adams Jr. (shown here in the individual medley) was one of three Fishers swimmers to make the "A" heat of the 500 free.

## Near-perfect Carmel goes for 10<sup>th</sup> straight team trophy; Fishers, HSE advance several to finals

*University's Kumler makes two "A" finals; Morse, Kulp advance*

By RICHIE HALL

[sports@readthereporter.com](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com)

**INDIANAPOLIS** — The Carmel boys swimming team is ready to take its state championship streak into double digits today.

The Greyhounds had an incredibly strong performance in the Friday state preliminaries, which took place at the IU Natatorium in downtown Indianapolis. Carmel advanced 26 of its 27 swims into this afternoon's finals, which begin at 1 p.m.

Twenty of the Greyhounds' swims reached the "A" Final, or championship heat. That includes four top seeds. Senior Gregg Enoch picked up first seeds in the individual medley (1 minute, 44.66 seconds) and the 500 freestyle (4:16.28).

Carmel also got the second seed in both events: Michael Gorey is second for the IM (1:46.92) and Lewis Zhang has the second seed in the 500 free (4:28.08). Zhang also made the "A" Final of the 200 free and Gorey reached the fast heat of the breaststroke.

The 'Hounds finished the medley relay in 1:30.55 and clocked in at 3:05.16 for the 400 free relay. Carmel's 200 free relay finished third in the prelims but is within a second of the top-seed time.

Other "A" qualifiers for Carmel are Ethan Zhang in the 200 free, Brian Qian in the IM, Andrew Shackell in the 50 free and butterfly, Brandon Malicki in the 50 free and breaststroke, William Allen in the 50 free, Emile Haig in the butterfly, Anderson Kopp in the 500 free and backstroke, and Carson Szotek in the backstroke.

Six more Greyhounds swims made the "B" Final, or consolation heat. That includes three in the 100 free: Allen, Carter Hadley and Ethan Zhang. The other three "B" Finals are William Lathrop in the 200 free, Qian in the butterfly and Hadley in the backstroke.

\*\*\*

Fishers had a solid meet, advancing nine swims to the finals. Eight swims are in the "A" heat, including three in the 500 free. Jonathan Hines got third in the prelims, Luis Sanchez placed sixth and Anthony Adams Jr. was eighth.

Hines also reached the "A" heat of the 200 free,

with Sanchez making the fast heat of the IM. Alex Koo qualified for the "A" Final in the 100 free, and the Tigers got both their 200 and 400 free relays in the championship final. Koo also made the "B" heat of the 50 free.

Hamilton Southeastern had seven swims qualify for Saturday: four in the "A" heat and three in the "B" heat. Jihoon Jung made the championship heat of the IM and butterfly, while Collin Huston is in the "A" heat of the breaststroke. The Royals also got their medley relay into the championship final.

Southeastern's "B" Final qualifiers are Derek Robison in the butterfly, Jack Waren in the 500 free and the 400 free relay.

"Jack Waren had a heck of a 500, really composed swim," said HSE coach Christian Hanselmann. "Derek Robinson jumped up in the 100 fly to get another swim. And Jihoon and Collin did a good job holding their spot and getting top eight swims in their events."

\*\*\*

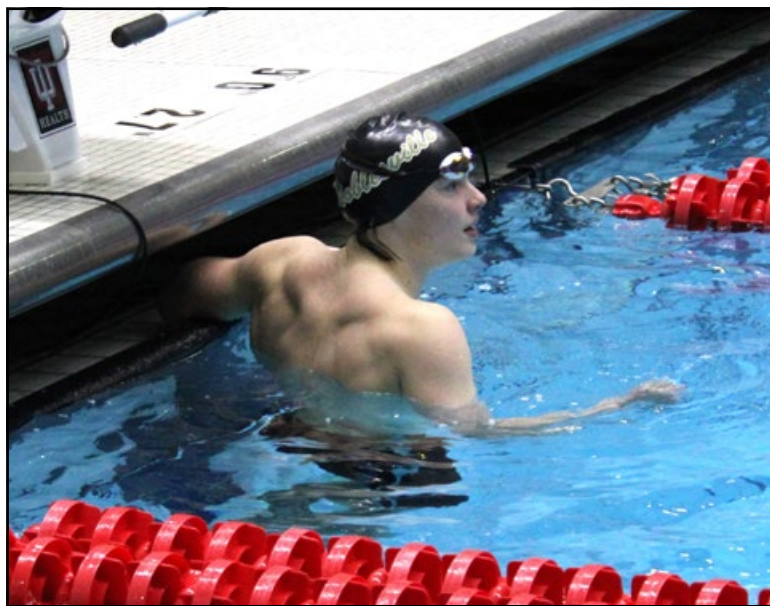
University's Neiman Kumler qualified for the "A" Final in two events. The senior took fifth in the 50 free and eighth in the 100 free.

Westfield reached the "B" Final in two events, with Bennett Morse placing 16th in the 100 free prelims and the Shamrocks' 400 free relay team also getting 16th. Noblesville's Graham Kulp placed 16th in the individual medley to make the "B" Final there.

**Positions 1-8 qualify for "A" Final (championship heat), positions 9-16 qualify for "B" Final (consolation heat), positions 17 and 18 are alternates.**

**200 medley relay:** 1. Carmel (Anderson Kopp, Brandon Malicki, Andrew Shackell, William Pugh) 1:30.55, 7. Hamilton Southeastern (Jacob Frey, Collin Huston, Jihoon Jung, Derek Robison) 1:34.34, 18. Noblesville (Graham Kulp, Anthony Mathis, Zak Armstrong, Sean Halvorsen) 1:38.44, Westfield DQ, Fishers DQ.

**200 freestyle:** 2. Jonathan Hines (F) 1:38.43, 3. Lewis Zhang (C) 1:38.85, 5. Ethan Zhang (C) 1:40.22, 14. William Lathrop (C) 1:42.99,



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

(TOP LEFT) Hamilton Southeastern's Jack Waren had "a heck of a 500 free," said Royals coach Christian Hanselmann. Waren qualified for the "B" Final in that event. (TOP RIGHT) Westfield's Bennett Morse reached the "B" Final of the 100 free, and also helped the Shamrocks' 400 free relay qualify for the "B" heat in that event. (ABOVE) Noblesville's Anthony Mathis competed in the breaststroke at state. (RIGHT) Guerin Catholic's Drew Wilhite swam in the 50 free and backstroke for the Golden Eagles.

19. Jack Waren (HSE) 1:44.64.

**200 individual medley:** 1. Gregg Enoch (C) 1:44.66, 2. Michael Gorey (C) 1:46.92, 4. Jung (HSE) 1:49.85, 5. Brian Qian (C) 1:49.91, 7. Luis Sanchez (F) 1:51.46, 16. Kulp (N) 1:54.25, 19. Anthony Adams Jr. (F) 1:55.60.

**500 freestyle:** 2. Shackell (C) 20.87, 5. Neiman Kumler (University) 20.92, T6. Malicki (C) 20.97, 8. William Allen (C) 21.15, 10. Alex Koo (F) 21.23, 28. Drew Wilhite (Guerin Catholic) 21.98.

**100 butterfly:** 3. Shackell (C) 48.30, 5. Jung (HSE) 49.71, 6. Emile Haig (C) 49.80, 12. Qian (C) 50.75, T14. Robison (HSE) 50.97.

**100 freestyle:** 7. Koo (F) 46.31, 8. Kumler (U) 46.45, T12. Allen (C) 46.76; Carter Hadley (C) 46.76, 14. E. Zhang (C) 46.80, 16. Bennett Morse (Westfield) 46.85.

**500 freestyle:** 1. Enoch (C) 4:16.28, 2. L. Zhang (C) 4:28.08, 3. Hines (F) 4:28.34, 4. Kopp (C) 4:29.24, 6. Sanchez (F) 4:35.52, 8. Adams Jr. (F) 4:36.52, 11.

3. Waren (HSE) 4:42.48, 18. Zach Welch (W) 4:46.44.

**200 freestyle relay:** 3. Carmel (Haig, Allen, E. Zhang, Enoch) 1:24.50, 4. Fishers (Koo, Hudson Lee, Victor Herbert, Hines) 1:25.53, 20. Noblesville (Caleb Mathis, Josh Naas, Lane Monger, Mason Snyder) 1:29.26.

**100 backstroke:** 3. Kopp (C) 49.25, 6. Carson Szotek (C) 50.56, 10. Hadley (C) 50.68, 22. Thomas Johanneman (F) 52.34, 25. Kulp (N) 53.11, 26. Wilhite (GC) 53.55.

**100 breaststroke:** 2. Malicki (C) 55.00, 4.

Gorey (C) 55.48, 6. Collin Huston (HSE) 56.44, 17. A. Mathis (N) 58.63, 18. Landon Holmes (C) 58.77.

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Carmel (Enoch, L. Zhang, E. Zhang, Hadley) 3:05.16, 5. Fishers (Sanchez, Lee, Johanneman, Hines) 3:08.90, 10. Southeastern (Jung, Robison, Camden Bailey, Waren) 3:10.14, 16. Westfield (Welch, Gareth Thomas, Luca Barbosa, Morse) 3:13.05, 21. Noblesville (Snyder, Halvorsen, Armstrong, Kulp) 3:15.93.

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Rental - 6  
Sales - 1  
Other - 0

## CURRENT REAL ESTATE

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JANUARY 2024

January 2024  
Average Sale Price  
**\$326,978**  
compared to this time last year

Sales Decreased  
January pending home sales  
compared to this time last year  
**4.8%**

**55**  
More Homes  
For Sale  
1/23 vs. 1/24

**6.6%**  
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HAMILTON COUNTY SPORTS

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

Basketball



(Left) Caleb Wright scored 26 points and made the game-winning 3-pointer Friday in Sheridan's 59-56 win over Waldron. (Right) Devon Hamilton scored nine points for the Blackhawks.

Huskies put a lid on regular season with solid win over Rensselaer Central

**The REPORTER**

Hamilton Heights finished its regular season with a 67-55 win at Rensselaer Central on Friday.

The Huskies got off to a great start, leading 22-12 after one quarter. Sam Dawson scored nine points in the first period, including a pair of 3-pointers, with Dreydin Serna adding six. Heights led 38-25 at half-time; Rees Knapp came off the bench to score seven points.

Dawson got going again in the third quarter, pouring in nine points and helping the Huskies to a 55-37 lead.

Dawson hit one 3 in the third quarter and drained a fourth triple in the fourth period, finishing the game with 21 points.

Tillman Etchison contributed 16 points, scoring in every quarter. Serna had 10 points.

Heights completed the regular season with a 10-13 record. The Huskies compete at Class 3A Sectional 24 at New Castle next week; they play a semifinal game next Friday (March 1) against the winner of Tuesday's first-round game between Centerville and Yorktown.

Drama ends in victory for Sheridan over Waldron

**The REPORTER**

The Sheridan boys basketball team finished the regular season with a dramatic win over Waldron, 59-56 Friday at Larry Hobbs Hall.

The Mohawks jumped out to an 11-4 lead after the first quarter, but the Blackhawks came back to tie things up at 26-26 by halftime. Waldron moved ahead 45-41 after three quarters, but Sheridan tied the game again at 56-56. Caleb Wright then hit a 3-pointer with a few seconds left in the game to clinch the victory.

Wright finished with 26 points, including three 3s. Damon Winston totaled 13 points and collected seven rebounds. Trent DeCraene dished out 11 assists. Devon Hamilton scored nine points.

The Blackhawks completed the regular season with a 13-8 record. Sheridan hosts Class 3A Sectional 43 next week and plays University in the first semifinal, at 6 p.m. next Friday, March 1.

SHERIDAN 59, WALDRON 56				
Sheridan	FG	FT	TP	PF
Trent DeCraene	2-7	1-2	6	2
Tyler Garner	1-4	2-4	4	0
Trey Page	0-8	0-0	0	0
Caleb Wright	10-13	3-3	26	2
Damon Winston	5-7	2-2	13	0
Owen Bell	0-2	1-2	1	1
Carson Wright	0-0	0-0	0	0
Devon Hamilton	4-5	1-2	9	2
Totals	22-46	10-15	59	7
Score by Quarters				
Waldron	11	15	19	11 – 56
Sheridan	4	22	15	18 – 59
Sheridan 3-point shooting (5-15) Cal. Wright 3-4, DeCraene 1-3, Winston 1-1, Page 0-6, Bell 0-1.				
Sheridan rebounds (18), Winston 7, Garner 5, DeCraene 2, Page 1, Cal. Wright 1, Car. Wright 1, Hamilton 1.				

HAMILTON HEIGHTS 67, RENSSELAER CENTRAL 55				
Heights	FG	FT	TP	PF
Tyler Champion	1	0-0	2	2
Dreydin Serna	5	0-0	10	3
Tillman Etchison	5	4-5	16	1
John Irion	3	2-4	9	0
Sam Dawson	7	3-4	21	3
Phoenix Vondersaar	0	0-0	0	3
Landen Scheiber	0	0-0	0	2
Rees Knapp	4	0-0	9	3
Carson Felger	0	0-0	0	2
Isaiah Grimsey	0	0-2	0	2
Aidan Unger	0	0-0	0	1
Chris Nobbe	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	25	9-15	67	22
Score by Quarters				
Heights	22	16	17	12 – 67
Rensselaer	12	13	12	18 – 55
Heights 3-pointers (8) Dawson 4, Etchison 2, Knapp, Irion.				

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2023-24 BOYS BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT

Sectionals

Tues Feb 27 - Sectional 8 at Noblesville H.S.

6:00 pm Zionsville vs Noblesville

Watch at: www.ihsaatv.org/?B=983657

7:30 pm Carmel vs Fishers

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# SPORTS SCHEDULE

## Saturday, Feb. 24 BOYS SWIMMING

Diving preliminaries and semifinals, 9 p.m. at IU Natatorium  
Swimming and diving finals, 1 p.m. at IU Natatorium  
**GYMNASTICS SECTIONALS**  
Guerin Catholic, Westfield at Lafayette Jefferson, 9 a.m.

## Tuesday, Feb. 27 BOYS BASKETBALL

**Sectional 8 at Noblesville**  
Zionsville vs. Noblesville, 6 p.m.  
Carmel vs. Fishers, 7:30 p.m.  
**Sectional 24 at New Castle**  
Centerville vs. Yorktown, 7 p.m.  
**Sectional 27 at Guerin Catholic**  
Guerin Catholic vs. Herron, 6 p.m.  
Shorthridge vs. Brebeuf Jesuit, 7:30 p.m.  
**Sectional 43 at Sheridan**  
Covenant Christian vs. Cascade, 7 p.m.

## Wednesday, Feb. 28 BOYS BASKETBALL

**Sectional 24 at New Castle**  
New Castle vs. Jay County, 6 p.m.  
Frankton vs. Delta, 7:30 p.m.  
**TRACK AND FIELD**  
Guerin Catholic girls at Bloomington North HSR  
Qualifier #1, 6 p.m. at Indiana University

## Friday, March 1 BOYS BASKETBALL

**Sectional 8 at Noblesville**  
Westfield vs. Zionsville-Noblesville winner, 6 p.m.  
Hamilton Southeastern vs. Carmel-Fishers winner, 7:30 p.m.  
**Sectional 24 at New Castle**  
Hamilton Heights vs. Centerville-Yorktown winner, 6 p.m.  
New Castle-Jay County winner vs.  
Frankton-Delta winner, 7:30 p.m.  
**Sectional 27 at Guerin Catholic**  
Bishop Chatard vs. Guerin Catholic-Herron winner, 6 p.m.  
Heritage Christian vs.  
Shorthridge-Brebeuf Jesuit winner, 7:30 p.m.  
**Sectional 43 at Sheridan**  
University vs. Sheridan, 6 p.m.  
Park Tudor vs. Covenant Christian-Cascade winner, 7:30 p.m.  
**TRACK AND FIELD**  
Westfield at Indiana Wesleyan HSR Qualifier, 5:30 p.m.

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

# Daytona rained down historic win for William Byron & the #24 team

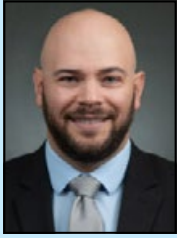
N A S C A R fans had to wait an extra day to watch the 2024 Daytona 500 as heavy rains washed out nearly the entire Daytona 500 weekend.

Both the Xfinity Series race scheduled for Saturday and the Cup Series race scheduled for Sunday were moved to Monday afternoon and evening. Even the Craftsman Truck Series race was in jeopardy of being washed out but ended up running late Friday night.

The crown jewel of stock car racing, the Daytona 500 began with a packed crowd, despite the move to Monday, and Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson gave the command to start engines. There was action early when Brad Keselowski (my Daytona pick) shoved John Hunter Nemechek into Harrison Burton, sending Burton into the tri-oval infield and back onto the track, collecting several cars in the wreck.

After the initial wreck, things calmed down and

### COLUMNIST



**ZECH YODER**  
Checkers to Wreckers

the drivers began playing the fuel strategy game, conserving fuel in hopes of spending the least amount of time refueling on pit road during green flag pitstops. The fuel strategy dominated much of the race as drivers were content riding in the draft. Speeds actually slowed by about 20 mph on the track and even the lead cars were using only 50 percent throttle. Fuel strategy has always been a part of racing at Daytona, but the NextGen car seems to amplify the problem. To the average viewer, the two-by-two pack of cars looks good on television because the cars are tightly packed but, in reality, there is little racing going on.

After the final green flag pitstop, the action intensified dramatically. With 30 laps to go, drivers started making their moves to put themselves in position for the final 10 laps and the "bump drafts" became more and more aggressive. These

are the moments that make the Daytona 500 great. The aerial camera shots showing the cars moving and sliding and bumping. You could see what was coming, but when?

Finally, with eight laps to go, a push from Alex Bowman at the front of the field got William Bryon loose and Bryon right-hooked Brad Keselowski into Joey Logano, Ryan Blaney, and nearly half the field. The race restarted with four laps to go and on as the field approach the start/finish line to take the white flag, Ross Chastain made a bold, outside-inside move and collided with Austin Cindric, causing both Chastain and Cindric to spin through the infield and bringing out the final caution. Though unclear initially, William Byron was declared the leader at the moment of caution and took his first Daytona 500 victory.

Byron is a worthy champion. While he had never finished inside the top 21 at the Daytona 500 in his first six starts, his first win came at Daytona in August of 2020,

and he is typically strong at the drafting tracks. His Daytona 500 wins comes on the heels of a series leading six victories in 2023. Over the last three years, Byron has situated himself at the top of Cup Series. He was a pre-season favorite for many to win the 2024 Cup Series Championship, and his Daytona 500 victory shows the strength of the #24 team as the 2024 season begins.

The Cup Series head to Atlanta Motor Speedway this weekend, another drafting track, though considerably smaller than Daytona. You can expect Bryon to be strong at Atlanta as he was the winner of the second Atlanta race last season.

My pick for this weekend is Georgia native Chase Elliott. Elliott went winless in 2023 but he runs well at Atlanta. Given that it is a home race, Elliott will be extra motivated, and I expect the #9 team to lock themselves into the playoffs with a victory.

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

## Noblesville's Dugan Webster commits to Hanover College



Photo courtesy Landon Denison, NHS Shadow Yearbook

Noblesville's Dugan Webster has committed to the men's soccer teams at Hanover College and Rome City Institute. (Front row, from left) Dana Webster (mother), Dugan Webster, and Todd Webster (father). (Back row, from left) Jake Hart (Noblesville Boys Soccer Assistant), Thomas Doering (Noblesville Boys Soccer Assistant), Keaton Webster (sister), and Ken Dollaske (Noblesville Boys Soccer Head Coach).

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# Basketball fans converge on Downtown Indianapolis for an All-Star Weekend

Downtown Indianapolis was the place to be for basketball fans last weekend as the city hosted the NBA All-Star Game and its related festivities. The Reporter’s own Megan Poteet took these pictures during the weekend, which included the Rising Stars game, the Skills Challenge, the Starry 3-point Contest, the Stephen vs. Sabrina 3-Point Challenge and the Slam Dunk contest. (Reporter photos by Megan Poteet)

