

Last week, the Noblesville Leo Club sold coffee and baked goods before school as a fundraiser. They made \$625. The club is guided by sponsor Lion John Smith, an NHS teacher. (From left) Leos Izzy Nealy, Diya Nair, Cristina Andrews, Hannah Dugan, Ella Miller, Ella Rinker, and Alanna Puckett.

CEREMONY

from Page 1

For the past several years, the board has been working to transfer all the cemetery records into a database. With the cemetery dating back to the 1880s and some even older graves having been moved when the railroad was built, that meant that most of the cemetery records had been written in a book. The process of going through the records has allowed the board to increase the number of known veterans.

Out of around 1,500 graves, Weiss said they have identified around 280 veteran graves, six of which were just discovered last week in preparation for Saturday's event.

"We're just looking to try to build upon what's happened in the past and continue to build it for the future," Weiss said.

The BSA Scouts Troops say they are glad to take on the responsibility of leading the annual time of remembrance for the second year.

"It's right and fitting that we come out and honor those who have served our country," said Barry Simpson, committee chair for BSA Scouts Girls Troop 1070.



(ABOVE LEFT) Second Class Scout Ben Wilken plays Taps on the trombone. (ABOVE RIGHT) Westfield Mayor Scott Willis attended the Memorial Day ceremony at Summit Lawn Cemetery on Saturday to lend his support.

Reporter photos by Amy Adams

Life Scout Jackson Eyerler opened and closed the commemoration in prayer. Eagle Scout Johnny Miles, Star Scout Lucy Miles, and First Class Scout Joey Miles performed the flag ceremony, and Second Class Scout Ben Wilken played Taps on the trombone. Fourth-grade Webelos from Cub Scout Pack 107, Colin Blair, Liam Lynch, and Preston Vega

laid flowers at the base of the flag pole.

BSA Scouts Boys Troop 107 Assistant Scoutmaster Roy Adams, also a retired Army lieutenant colonel, spoke about duty, honor, and country as the reasons veterans serve in the military. He encouraged those present to ask themselves how they can better serve their community and improve the hu-

man condition.

As they do every year, an honor guard of members from VFW Post 10003 and American Legion Post 155, both of Carmel, fired three volleys, commonly referred to as a "21-gun salute." The combined honor guard serves at five to 10 ceremonies each Memorial Day weekend.

Despite the City of

Westfield having held a Memorial Day ceremony Thursday evening, May 23, at the Fallen Hoosier Heroes Memorial on Union Street, Mayor Scott Willis attended the ceremony on Saturday in a non-official capacity, thanking the Scouts for all they do.

As part of the ceremony, Simpson read from the original "Memorial Day Order"

issued May 5, 1868: "Let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor."

Following the ceremony, that's precisely what the Scouts did, placing flags at the graves of veterans and offering a salute. Scouts will return Tuesday to remove the flags for safekeeping by the cemetery board and place coins on the markers.

BOOKS

from Page 1

The primary goal of the Cicero Kiwanis *Books For a Bright Future* program is to raise funds to purchase and distribute age-appropriate books to every elementary school within the Hamilton Heights School District. The club aims to ensure that every child has the opportunity to build their own personal library at home, encouraging them to read, explore and expand their knowledge.

"I was truly amazed at the excitement, joy and smiles we saw simply by providing these students with a book of their own," Clevenger said. "But it went

further than that. Teachers and administrators have reached out expressing their gratitude and appreciation for what the Cicero Kiwanis Club is doing. Here is just one example:

"Good afternoon! I am a kindergarten teacher at Hamilton Heights. I wanted to say THANK YOU for the books Kiwanis provided to my students at the spring book fair. Usually there are tears as some students don't get books and this year that didn't happen. My students were so excited to show me the books they picked and got to keep forever. I appreciate all you have done!"

In addition to the annual book fair, Cicero Kiwanis is also working to help stock the summer bookmobile that travels throughout the district during the summer months to keep kids engaged in reading throughout summer break. The annual fundraising goal for this program is \$10,000 and the Cicero Kiwanis welcome both individual donations and corporate sponsorships.

To contribute to the *Books For a Bright Future* program, please visit [Cicero Kiwanis.org](https://CiceroKiwanis.org) and make a secure online donation.



Photo provided

Thanks in part to a grant awarded by the Kiwanis Children's Fund, the Cicero club provided over 800 books for free to Heights elementary students.

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TROOP 222

from Page 1

Troop 222 is chartered by Bethel Lutheran Church, 20650 Cumberland Road, Noblesville. Girls aged 11 to 17 are invited to join the troop at any time.

For more information about Troop 222, contact Scoutmaster Jenny Sherrill at jennyrsherrill@gmail.com or see the troop website at NoblesvilleTroop222.org or on [Facebook](#).



Photos provided

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It's time to Pack the Cruiser

The REPORTER

There are over 7,120 children in Hamilton County who are food insecure.

That's one out of every 13 local children.

Summer is a vulnerable time. Summer Lunch programs across the county make up the meal gap by providing nutritious meals throughout the summer months.

You can help by donating to the Pack the Cruiser Food Drive on Saturday, June 1. This is the seventh year for this partnership between Kroger, the local police and Sheriff's depart-



HAMILTON COUNTY HARVEST FOOD BANK

ments, Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank, and all the Summer Lunch programs across Hamilton County.

Support local programs at these local Kroger grocery stores:

- Kroger Carmel stores (two) – Carmel Summer Meals

- Kroger Fishers stores (three) – Fishers Youth Assistance

- Kroger on Carey Road in Westfield – Sheridan Lunch Club & Sheridan Youth Assistance

- Kroger on Spring Mill Road in Westfield – Open Doors Westfield

- Kroger on Logan

Street in Noblesville – Hamilton Heights Lunches & Angels' Attic

- Kroger at Noble Crossing in Noblesville – Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank

You can donate to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank anytime at hchfood-bank.org/online-giving.

Sheridan to break ground on final Monon Trail segment

The REPORTER

At 10 a.m. this Friday, May 31, the Sheridan Town Council will hold a groundbreaking ceremony to construct the final segment of the Monon Trail in Hamilton County. Once completed, trail users will have trail connectivity from northwest Hamilton County to downtown Indianapolis.

"The first segment of the trail opened in 1993 in Carmel, Indiana, and we are pleased to be finishing what others started," Town Council President Silas DeVaney III said.

The final segment of the trail, extending north of State Road 47 to the Hamilton-Boone county line, is a testament to the community's dedication and vision. "Funded in large part by

a \$2 million grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Next Level Grant Program, this project is a collaborative effort that will bring the Monon into our downtown, where trail users will find our richly unique Main Street lined with storefronts that are seeing new life," DeVaney said. "We are confident the completed trail will add to

the quality of life for our residents as well as invite people to Sheridan that might not otherwise have a reason to visit our small town."

The groundbreaking will occur on the north side of State Road 47 and the current terminus of the Monon Trail. The approximate address is 405 E. Tenth St., Sheridan.

Westfield Farmers Market opens this Thursday

The REPORTER

The Westfield Farmers Market, presented by Duke Energy, gears up for its highly awaited opening day on Thursday, May 30. The market runs from 5 to 8 p.m. at Grand Junction Plaza, 225 S. Union St.

More than 40 vendors will showcase fresh produce, artisanal goods, flowers, pet treats, and boutique-style shopping. Seven food trucks will also participate on opening day, including Taco Loco, DonutNV Hamilton County, School-ey's Hots and Brats, and Ben's Soft Pretzels. Danielle Carey Tolan, Westfield's Chief of Staff, will ring the opening bell for the 2024

market season.

Popular vendors returning include Old Major Meats, Eagle Creek Apiary, and Happy Mutt Pet Bakery. Seasonal vendors, such as My Dad's Sweet Corn, will join the vendor lineup as products become available. The market will welcome many new vendors, including Preservation Jams (jams/jellies), Kora's Kitchen (pet treats), Without Borders (boutique offerings and permanent jewelry), and J & J A Taste of Home food truck (homemade egg rolls).

A kid's activity area sponsored by Centier Bank is new to the market. It will include a kid's activity book-

let, sticker sheets, and kid-sized canvas bags to decorate with custom stamps.

The Westfield Farmers Market thanks additional sponsors, including Renewal by Andersen, Leaf Home LLC, and Market District.

Public parking is available in the lot at the southwest corner of Poplar and Park streets, and a courtesy shuttle will run throughout the market. There are also designated on-street spots along Union and Mill streets. Please note that Jersey Street will be closed each market day at 2:30 p.m.

For more information and weekly vendor updates, visit facebook.com/westfieldinmarkets.

Hear from Don Farrell on this week's episode of The Omnibus Show podcast

The REPORTER

On Monday, *The Omnibus Show* welcomed Don Farrell, Founder, President & CEO of Crossroads Entertainment, LLC, a concert, theatrical, and production company located in Carmel.

The Omnibus Show is Carmel's No. 1 podcast, hosted by Dave Gibbs and produced for people who love interviews of interesting and accomplished people and who are life learners themselves.

Farrell discussed what Crossroads Entertainment does and how it has maintained a proven track record of over three decades of professional experience in the performing arts.

Most recently, Farrell, along with The Terry Woods Orchestra, performed tributes to some of the musical greats from this generation at Feinstein's in The Hotel Carmichael. Shows include All the Way: A Frank Sinatra Tribute, Because of You – A Tribute to Tony Bennett, Sweet Caroline: The Life and Music of Neil Diamond, and One Voice: The Music of Manilow.

Coming up in June, Farrell adds ABBA Party Night and Bubbles Up, celebrating Jimmy Buffet, to his repertoire.

A graduate of the University of Cincinnati Col-

lege-Conservatory of Music, Farrell is an award-winning actor, director, producer, and soloist in the professional performing arts. His credits include five world premieres and over 100 production credits including Off-Broadway, International and National Tours, Las Vegas, Regional productions, and guest soloist concerts with major national symphonies.

His active career as a featured guest soloist includes multiple concerts with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Disney's Premiere Symphony Orchestra, Carmel Symphony Orchestra, and many more.

Learn more about Crossroads Entertainment at crossroads-ent.com.

Next week's guest on *The Omnibus Show* will be Dubbie Buckler, a servant leader whose accomplished



Farrell



Buckler

executive career spans 40 years in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors leading state and international nonprofit corporations in the fields of breast cancer, elder care, and veterans.

Buckler was the first woman elected as Indianapolis/Marion County Treasurer, held chief publishing roles for two large-circulation award-winning magazines, and has served on more than 40 civic and charitable boards and commissions.

About The Omnibus Show
The Omnibus Show is Carmel's No. 1 podcast, hosted by Dave Gibbs and produced for people who love interviews of interesting and accomplished people and who are life learners themselves.

Visit TheOmnibus-Show.com for the audio podcasts and YouTube channel for more information and to sign up for the newsletter.



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\$6 Advance \$7 At the Door \$5 Kids



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Photos provided by City of Carmel

(ABOVE LEFT) Former Mayor Jim Brainard, former Mayor Jane Reiman, and Mayor Sue Finkam. (BELOW) The plaque placed in Mayor Jane's Courtyard at Mélange.

Carmel establishes Mayor Jane's Courtyard

Community honors the city's first woman & first two-term mayor

The REPORTER

Last Friday, Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam, Former Mayor Jim Brainard, SVP of Acquisitions and Development of Onyx + East David Leazenby, and Carmel Redevelopment Commission Director Henry Mestetsky celebrated former Mayor Jane Reimen by dedicating the courtyard at the Mélange located on Veterans Way and Monon Green Boulevard.

Mayor Jane's Courtyard, centered among luxury townhomes and flats, can be accessed off the Monon Greenway through double

archways adorned with iron chandeliers.

A plaque placed in the courtyard reads:

Jane Applegath Reiman served as Carmel's mayor for two four-year terms beginning in 1980. After leading a campaign to defeat a proposed horse racing track that would have changed the character of the City of Carmel, she decided to run for office and became the first woman to be elected Mayor of Carmel. Among her many accomplishments was converting U.S. 31 into a "corporate corridor" designed

to attract major employers and preserve State Road 431's (now Keystone Parkway) residential character on the east side of Carmel. After leaving office, Mayor Jane continued to serve the City of Carmel as an advisor and friend to mayors, councilors and citizens of her beloved home.

Mélange is a \$30 million residential project that includes for-sale luxury townhomes and flats along the Monon Greenway. The project transformed underutilized parking lots into a vibrant urban neighbor-

hood and a public courtyard. Mélange's prime location along the Monon Greenway is just south of City Center providing residents with all of the conveniences of urban living while complimenting the success of City Center.

Future commercial taxes from the project (TIF) will be used to finance utility relocations, roadway improvements and general infrastructure. This project broke ground in the spring of 2021. The Carmel Redevelopment Commission partnered with Onyx + East on the development of this project.



The Farmers Bank appoints Matt Jackson to Board of Directors

The REPORTER

The Farmers Bank recently announced the election of Matt Jackson to its Board of Directors, effective Tuesday, May 21.

"We are very fortunate to have Mr. Jackson as the newest member of our Board of Directors," President & CEO Chris Cook said. "His knowledge of commercial real estate is a significant added value for the bank. Also, his community involvement in Boone

County aligns with our company's community focus. I look forward to the insights and direction he will bring our Board of Directors and The Farmers Bank."

Jackson expressed his gratitude for being selected to serve on the board.

"I am honored to serve in this role as Board Member for The Farmers Bank, Jackson said. "I am passionate about The Farmers Bank's community focus and the direction of the organization. I

am grateful for the trust that The Farmers Bank Board of Directors has placed in my abilities to help guide the strategic direction of the financial institution."

Jackson is the president and founder of Jackson Investment Group and boasts more than 18 years of experience in commercial real estate, with a

concentrated focus in the medical, industrial, office, and health-care fields. He has facilitated hundreds of transactions, with values exceeding \$800 million.

A native Hoosier and graduate of Western Boone High School and Indiana University, he is also involved with numerous organizations in Boone

and Marion counties. He has been active in organizations such as Boone County PTABOA, Lebanon Youth Baseball, Western Boone Youth Baseball, Western Boone Youth Football, Dynamic Minds Institute Board of Directors, and Boone County EDC. He is also involved with Western Boone High School, specifically Baseball and Football Boosters.

Jackson and his wife, Kelly, have five children.

About The Farmers Bank

The Farmers Bank is a \$950 million asset organization chartered in 1876 with headquarters in Frankfort, Ind. The Farmers Bank is locally owned and operated with 11 banking offices located in central Indiana providing retail, business, trust and asset management, investment, mortgage, and electronic banking services. Learn more at TheFarmers-Bank.com Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender.



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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.

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East District Office: (765) 639-0671

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HCAA offers weekly model painting classes



Simona Buna is a member of the Hamilton County Artists' Association (HCAA) and organizes the weekly live model painting class. She picks a different person to come sit for three hours and let participating artists paint their renditions. From the mayor of Noblesville to the common person on the street, to children who can sit still long enough, Buna strives to get people with different character each week to model. With the Peony Festival, her latest class was all about peonies. If you ever wanted to try your hand at painting a live model, HCAA is the place. There is a \$10 fee that goes to the model. Weekly classes are offered from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays.

Photos provided by Walt Thacker

Letter to the Editor — Shaffer takes issue with report on Carmel Christkindlmarkt

Dear Editor:

Carmel's Christkindlmarkt chief executive officer provided a half-report on the 2023 yuletide circus. Prefacing her remarks by noting the market is a non-profit, she reported a 59 percent increase in sales – \$8.8 million compared to 2022's \$5.4 million. Omitted was the fact that \$7.1 million of the \$8.8 million went into the pockets of the vendors. The market's own annual report disclosed actual revenue of \$3.1 million up 55 percent from 2022's \$2 million and \$946,000 in expenses up 190 percent from 2022's \$326,000. The alleged "non-profit" showed a two-year profit of \$3.8 million (revenues \$5.1 million; expenses \$1.3 million).

Nor did the CEO tally taxpayer subsidies:

- Initial purchase of the plastic booths.
- Cost of labor of city workers who set up, take down and store the circus each year.
- Cost of the warehouses built to house the circus parts.
- Cost of police and utilities provided free to the markt.
- Debt service payments on money the city borrowed to pay for the circus.

For a city council recently elected on platforms promising transparency, the market presentation demonstrated a genuine lack of seriousness.

Bill Shaffer
Carmel

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to News@ReadTheReporter.com. Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.

Have a Bank of America card? You can visit two area museums for free this weekend

The REPORTER Bank of America, Merrill, and Bank of America Private Bank cardholders have new ways to get out and learn about the world around them with free general admission to local cultural attractions with Museums on Us. The program provides bank credit and debit cardholders free general admission to some of America's favorite museums and cultural institutions. As part of Museums on Us, more than 225 of the country's most prominent cultural institutions welcome bank cardholders in for free on the first full weekend of each month. This weekend – Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2 – three area museums will participate in the Museums on Us program:

- Conner Prairie Museum, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers
- Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis

For more information about Museums on Us, including access to a full list and locations of participating museums while on-the-go, please [click here](#). Register for email notifications about Bank of America's Arts & Culture programs [here](#).

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.



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 is an effort of CrossRoads Church to meet, know, enjoy, and serve our local neighbors. This event is provided for you, our neighbors, because we love you!

For more information scan this:

Celebrate Summer Solstice with Carmel Symphony Orchestra at Coxhall Gardens

The REPORTER

The Summer Solstice is the longest day of the year and a day of celebration for many communities.

Get ready to spend an evening under the stars with friends in Carmel as you watch community dance performances from 5 to 7:30 in the Coxhall Amphitheatre. Stay to hear the Carmel Symphony Orchestra perform solar-related favorites as the sun goes down from 8:30 to 9:45 pm. End the evening enjoying the light of the full strawberry moon against the dark evening sky at the beautiful Coxhall Gardens Amphitheatre.

Join conductor Joel Smirnoff and soloists Asako Tamura and former CSO Concerto Competition Winner Cooper Olsen as they perform works by Puccini, Barber, Gershwin, Vivaldi, Carmichael and more, ending with special guest Blair Clark closing out the evening with “You Are the

CARMEL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sunshine of My Life” by Steve Wonder.

Performances by community partners start at 5 p.m. and will feature Central Indiana Academy of Dance, Dhol Indian drumming, Gregory Hancock Dance Company, Indiana Ballet Conservatory, and Kathak Dance Academy.

Enjoy historic cars on display at the Gardens sponsored by Artomobilia. Bring your dinner or visit food trucks and drink vendors, including sponsors Bier Brewery and Sugar Creek Winery.

VIP table purchases provide guests with front-row seats and help underwrite

the costs of Carmel Symphony Orchestra education programs. Tables of eight are available for \$1,000 and include a surprise bonus gift from the CSO to you. You can also purchase VIP or terrace seating for comfortable seats (with backs) and the best view of the concert.

Lawn seating and youth pricing are available to meet everyone’s budget.

VIP patrons will have access to catering and drinks inside the Coxhall Manor with an open bar until 7 p.m. and a cash bar throughout the rest of the evening.

[Click here](#) to buy your tickets now.

Anderson Arts League donates \$5K for AMOA Carnegie Library preservation

The REPORTER

The Anderson Museum of Art (AMO) has announced a generous \$5,000 donation from the Anderson Arts League to Phase One of AMOA’s Under One Roof campaign. Phase One is dedicated to preserving the cherished historic Carnegie Library building.

The remarkable contribution was formally presented during the Anderson Arts League’s final meeting of the year on May 22, which also included installing officers.

“We extend our deepest gratitude to the Anderson Arts League for their steadfast support,” AMOA Executive Director Mandee Spano said. “Their commitment to our cause further propels us toward our goal of preserving this iconic landmark for future generations.”

Photo provided

This significant donation, made possible by the generosity of the Sock Hop sponsors, notably Title Sponsor Community Hospital Anderson, brings AMOA closer to its first-phase target of \$100,000. The success of the recent fundraising event, buoyed by the community’s active involvement and ticket purchases, has been instrumental in this achievement.

With just under \$12,000 remaining to reach the Under One Roof Phase One goal, every contribution is instrumental as AMOA endeavors to safeguard and

enhance the Downtown Anderson landmark. These funds will facilitate critical repairs, ensuring the longevity and splendor of this historic building.

Join the campaign and champion the arts through conservation, reinvention, and sustainability. Together, you can help secure a vibrant future for the arts in the Anderson community.

To support the campaign, visit andersonart.org/under-one-roof.

For more information about AMOA and upcoming events, please visit andersonart.org.

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Watch free livestream of New Works premiere performances

Submitted
New Works is sold out, but you can still catch the premiere by registering for the free livestream. Don't miss this evening of engaging works from local artists.
The event take place at 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 1. [Click here](#) register for the livestream.



Eickmeier

Now in its third season, New Works: An Arts Commission Project is an initiative by the Center for the Performing Arts to promote and sustain central Indiana's working artists and arts communities in an inclusive way by supporting the creation of new works across all performing arts disciplines. These winning proposals selected by the judging panel will be presented on stage at the Tarkington, with a talkback discussion following the performances.

The Wind Makes the Sea Dance
Valerie Eickmeier

The first visual arts prize awarded from the New Works project, Eickmeier's triptych of oil paintings titled *The Wind Makes the Sea Dance* will be unveiled in conjunction with the New Works Premiere Performances. Afterward, the

works will hang for one year in a prominent place in the South Lobby of the Palladium concert hall.

The Wind Makes the Sea Dance is inspired by the three movements of Claude Debussy's 1905 Impressionist composition *La mer*. A St. Louis native, Eickmeier received her MFA from Washington University and moved to central Indiana in 1982 to teach at Herron, where she served as dean from 1998 to 2018. Her own career as an artist has included many visiting artist lectures, private and corporate commissions, and more than 60 gallery and museum exhibitions across the nation. She has lived in Carmel since 2001.

All of Us: An Anti-Asian-Hate Opera
Hippocrates Chang

Cheng is a composer, music theorist and ethnomusicologist from Hong Kong. He completed his music composition doctorate and is pursuing a music theory doctorate at Indiana University in Bloomington.

All of Us is an opera inspired by true stories from people of Asian-American and Pacific Islander heritage, shedding light on issues of Asian hate and emphasizing



Photo illustration provided

Winners of the 2024 New Works performing arts commissions at the Center for the Performing Arts are (from left) Jared Thompson, Iris Rosa Santiago, and Hippocrates Cheng.

unity and empathy in our diverse society. The music, incorporating Asian traditional and Western classical elements, will be performed by an ensemble of singers and instrumentalists. The presentation will include staging, lighting, and multimedia components.

Pathways/Caminos
Iris Rosa Santiago

Santiago is a Puerto Rican-born choreographer, professor emerita at Indiana University, and founder of Iris Rosa Dance Studio and Seda Negra/Black Silk Dance Company in Indianapolis.

Pathways/Caminos is a work for 10 to 15 Seda Negra dancers, inspired by spiritual traditions of the African Diaspora in Caribbean and Latin American countries. The presentation will feature spoken word by Santiago and recorded music from the Indianapolis Pan-African

Drum and Dance Ensemble directed by Andre Rosa-Artis, as well as costuming and visual projections designed by Filipino-American artist Kelvin Burzon.

Classical Scratch
Jared Thompson

Thompson is a saxophonist, composer, arranger, and leader of the Indianapolis-based modern jazz quintet Premium Blend, which has been featured in two national award-winning documentaries and has released five studio albums.

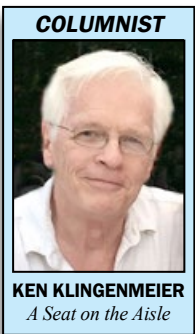
Classical Scratch is a three-part composition for tenor saxophone, piano (twin brother Joshua Thompson), emcee and DJ that integrates classical, jazz, and hip-hop music to celebrate the contributions of black artists over the past 300-plus years. The presentation will include lighting effects and projected images of influential artists.

If ever a wonderful show there was this Beef & Boards show is one because...

There aren't very many stories more familiar to my generation than *The Wizard of Oz*. The 1939 film version starring Judy Garland was traditional Thanksgiving Day television fare throughout our childhoods. (It ran annually between 1956 and 1974.) It has been claimed that with this yearly exposure, *The Wizard of Oz* has been seen by more viewers than any other film in history!

Beef and Boards' delightful offering of the stage version – directed by Elizabeth Payne and choreographed by Sally Scharbrough and James Patton, with musical direction by Brandon Vos – is this year's B&B family show. This 1987 musical adaptation is a direct companion piece to the movie, featuring original music by Harold Arlen and original lyrics by E.Y. Harburg with a book by John Kane.

Director Payne has chosen many mimics of the film production's characteristics, though a few roles are fashioned with new emphases – such as the rather sultrier Wicked Witch of the West. Portrayed by Bessie D. Smith, she loses none of her evil skills. Dorothy is deftly offered by Grace Atherholt. Her beautiful bell-like singing voice provides a lovely



KEN KLINGENMEIER
A Seat on the Aisle

“Over the Rainbow” and she brings a worthy Garlandesque feel to her characterization.

The trio of Dorothy's travel companions – Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion – are terrifically rendered by Joey Boos, Jaden Kindle, and Brett Mutter, respectively. Boos is a floppy, droppy rag doll, full of energy and patter. Kindle is appropriately stiff in his shiny costume, still able to sing and dance with style. Mutter takes the memorable comic role that Bert Lahr perfected and makes his version just as successful.

Ty Stover brings his expertise to his set of roles – playing Professor Marvel and the Wizard of Oz, and Jameelah Leandra sweetly plays Glinda the Good Witch. Christine Zavakos and Allen Sledge round out the main cast as Aunt Em and Uncle Henry – also handling various other roles along the way.

A talented ensemble of players of various ages takes on the many other working parts of the show – Munchkins, Crows, Trees, Ozians, Guards, etc. And the all-important role of Toto is arrayed to three dogs, with Bilbo doing the honors on Media Night.

Choreography by the Scharbrough / Patton team



Photo by Rob Slaven / [IndyGhostLight.com](#)

(From left) The Scarecrow (Joey Boos), Dorothy (Grace Atherholt), the Cowardly Lion (Brett Mutter), and the Tin Man (Jaden Kindle).

matches the film's work well and is kept crisp and visually appealing. One innovative number, “The Jitterbug,” is well-crafted and a stand-out.

I wondered how some of the technical aspects of the production would be done. After all, it's not often that a tornado needs to be portrayed on stage – and the B&B crew and cast has designed and accomplished a stunning combination of sounds, lights, and various projected visuals for the task – and definitely do it justice.

The set designed by Michael Layton covers all the different locations well, Ryan Koharchik's lighting design is more extensive than usual, while costumes by Kathy Henry, makeup by Daniel Klingler, and wigs by Andrew Elliott add much to the

storytelling.

Bottom line: This engaging production kept the youngsters in the audience spell-bound for two hours plus. Lively and exceptionally fun performances are offered by all – giving a magical telling to this familiar and/or new story.

This is a very popular ticket! If you haven't reserved seats for the spring/summer treat, please do so ASAP! *The Wizard of Oz* continues through July 7. Show times and reservation availability can be viewed at [BeefAndBoards.com](#) or call the box office at (317) 872-9664. And don't forget – *Legally Blonde The Musical* opens July 11.

Read more great play reviews from *A Seat on the Aisle* at [asota.wordpress.com](#).

Meyer Najem becomes employee-owned, fostering growth & empowering their people

The REPORTER

Meyer Najem, one of central Indiana's most trusted construction companies, has transitioned to an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), marking a significant milestone in the company's history.

“An ESOP approach allows even more incentive for our employees to stay and grow here,” Founder and CEO Anthony Najem said. “This transition supports our plans for strategic growth, ensuring we remain competitive and resilient in a rapidly changing market.”

The decision was made to further empower employees, foster a culture of shared

responsibility and collective success, and position the company for even more stability and growth.

“Starting as a Project Manager and Estimator in 1988, then on to becoming President and Partner, and now seeing our transition to an ESOP has been an incredible journey,” President Tim Russell said.

Meyer Najem was founded in 1987 by Anthony Najem and Karl Meyer. Since then, the organization has grown by taking care of



its employees, focusing on culture, safety, and making a positive impact in the communities the business serves. Meyer Najem's dedication to these core values has been the driving force behind its success and will continue to guide the future.

The company's first project was Ellenberger Park Ice Rink Enclosure in Indianapolis. Since then, Meyer Najem has expanded into several markets, project types and delivery models in central Indiana and the southeastern

United States. Some notable partnerships include the Veterans Health Administration and countless municipalities, school corporations, and healthcare systems.

Coming in at number five, Meyer Najem was recently recognized as one of the IBJ's Fastest Growing Companies and as a Top Workplace in Indiana and Florida by USA Today, accomplishments that underscore the company's commitment to excellence.

“Our commitment to our employees, our clients, and our community remains stronger than ever,” Founder and Chairman of the Board Karl Meyer said.



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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

JOSEPH AND THE FAMINE

So Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh. The Egyptians, one and all, sold their fields, because the famine was too severe for them. The land became Pharaoh's, and Joseph reduced the people to servitude, from one end of Egypt to the other. However, he did not buy the land of the priests, because they received a regular allotment from Pharaoh and had food enough from the allotment Pharaoh gave them. That is why they did not sell their land.

Joseph said to the people, "Now that I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh, here is seed for you so you can plant the ground. But when the crop comes in, give a fifth of it to Pharaoh. The other four-fifths you may keep as seed for the fields and as food for yourselves and your households and your children."

"You have saved our lives," they said. "May we find favor in the eyes of our lord; we will be in bondage to Pharaoh."

So Joseph established it as a law concerning land in Egypt—still in force today—that a fifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh. It was only the land of the priests that did not become Pharaoh's.

Genesis 47:20-26 (NIV)

—WESTFIELD—

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Westfield-Washington Township Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana, or in a virtual format viewable at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofWestfieldIN>, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and reviewing and acting on the following petitions for the purpose of reviewing and acting on the following petitions:

- 2406-VS-17; 20101 Grassy Branch Road; North Circle Church requests a Variance of Development Standard to permit a temporary gravel parking lot extension without surfacing or curbing on 9.15 +/- acres in the AG-SF1: Agriculture/Single-Family Rural District (Article 6.14(G)(7)(a) and 6.14(G)(7)(b));
- 2406-VS-18; 16708 Southpark Drive, Roundtripper Sports Academy by Keeler-Webb Associates requests a Variance of Development Standard to encroach twenty (20) feet into the forty (40) foot Minimum Front Yard Setback to accommodate a building addition on 10.54 acres +/- in the EI: Enclosed Industrial District (Article 4.24); and
- 2406-VS-19; 3942 Madeline Lane, Nadia Khoury requests Variance of Development Standard to permit a fence with a height in excess of 6 feet on 0.28 +/- acres in the SF3: Single-family Medium Density District (Article 6.5(C)(2)).

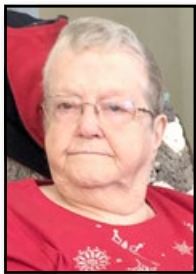
Specific details regarding the cases may be obtained from the Westfield Community Development Department, 2728 East 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074 or by calling (317) 804-3170.

Westfield-Washington Township Board of Zoning Appeals
Westfield Community Development Department
2728 East 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana 46074
www.westfield.in.gov
R4414

5/29/24, 6/3/24

Marilyn Sue Ulsh-Eiler

April 6, 1935 – May 26, 2024



Marilyn Sue Ulsh-Eiler, 89, Indianapolis, passed away on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at Franciscan St. Francis Health in Indianapolis.

Marilyn was born in Martinsville, Ind., on April 6, 1935, to the late Walter and Vivian (Knight) Sink. In November 1994, she married James “Jim” William Eiler and they shared 29 years of marriage.

Marilyn attended Martinsville High School and later attended The University of Indianapolis. She was a bookkeeper for USA Student Aid and the City of Noblesville. She was a longtime member of Arcadia Brethren Church and served in many different capacities at the Church, including as a Sunday School teacher, a Greeter, and as the President of the Woman’s fellowship. In her spare time, Marilyn enjoyed sewing and cross-stitching, doing crosswords and word searches, and reading. She also loved to watch sports, especially when IU was playing. In her younger years, she enjoyed gardening and tending to her roses.

Marilyn is survived by her husband, James “Jim” William Eiler of Indianapolis; sons, William “Bill” D. (Jean Ann) Ulsh of Locust, N.C., Alan Ulsh of Indianapolis, and Neil R. (Wanda) Ulsh of Crawfordsville, Ind.; grandchildren, Amy (Jason) Sheets of Statesville, N.C., Jessica (Mac) West of Indianapolis, and Billie (Mike) Swanson of Indianapolis; four great-grandchildren; son-in-law, Ben West of Greenwood, Ind.; and several nieces and nephews.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, Walter & Vivian Sink; daughter, Denise R. West; grandson, Adam Ulsh; and brother, Malcolm Sink.

The funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 30, 2024, at Arcadia Brethren Church, 8989 E. 266th St., Arcadia, with Ben Poole officiating. Burial will follow in Arcadia Brethren Cemetery.


Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, May 30, 2024, at Arcadia Brethren Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Arcadia Church of the Brethren.

Online condolences can be given at hartleyfuneral-homes.com.

Carol June Clark

November 4, 1942 – May 26, 2024



Carol June Clark, 81, Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at Harbours Manor Care Center in Noblesville.

Carol was born in Noblesville on November 4, 1942, to the late Robert and Thelma (Penwell) McDonald.

Carol’s legacy is carried on by her daughter, Leann (Daniel Stone) Clark of Cicero; sons, Kenneth (Karol) Clark of Noblesville and Mike (Elaine) Clark of Maryville, Tenn.; grandchildren, Colton Clark of Noblesville, Zachary (Ashley) Clark of Maryville, Tenn., and Jordan Clark of Maryville, Tenn.; great-grandchildren, Myer Clark of Noblesville and Lyla Clark of Maryville, Tenn.; brothers, Mike (Pat) McDonald of Bonita Springs, Fla., and Bob (Judy) McDonald of Clearwater, Fla.; along with several nieces and nephews.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents.

Carol attended Jackson Central High School and was a part of the graduating class of 1961. Carol was comfortable being a homemaker and caring for her family. She was the “Road Mom” to many as she kept up with the many activities of her children and grandchildren throughout the years. When Carol joined the workforce, she spent most of her career with Curtis Dyna Products. Carol was also a member of Victory Chapel Community Church. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, fishing, reading, and talking to the neighbors in her free time. Those who knew Carol know that she was a social butterfly. Her grace and conversations will be missed by many.

The funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Friday, May 31, 2024, at Hartley Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero, with Andrew Marshall officiating. Burial will follow in Cicero Cemetery.

A time for visitation will precede the funeral service from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, May 31, 2024, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Victory Chapel Community Church.

Online condolences can be given at hartleyfuneral-homes.com.

Meeting Notice

The Carmel Plan Commission will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square.

Send Meeting Notices to:

News@ReadTheReporter.com

Submit Public Notices to:

PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com

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.



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Baseball

Shamrocks shock Tigers, win Sectional 8

By **RICHARD TORRES**
For The Reporter

NOBLESVILLE – Westfield senior ace Ty Anderson needed one more put-out, one more strikeout, just one more ball to stay inside the spacious confines of The Dunk on Memorial Day to complete his no-hit gem.

Sophomore Nick Fero understood the assignment.

With two outs in the top of the seventh during the Class 4A Sectional 8 title game, the left fielder not only rose to the occasion; he came up clutch, tracking down and robbing a probable game-tying home run by Fishers above the outfield wall to lock down both Anderson’s no-no and Westfield’s 1-0 victory.

“I saw it go up, and at first I didn’t think it was going to end up leaving because the wind is blowing to my right, and it’s been killing the ball today, but it just kept going,” Fero explained. “I was so focused on the ball. I went up, and I felt like I was just flying. My only focus was just to get this ball.”

It was “unreal,” Anderson emphasized after the Shamrocks (20-10) swarmed Fero in left field and dogpiled on top of him to celebrate Westfield’s first sectional title since 2011.

“Honestly, I was really nervous. That was the deepest ball they’ve hit all day, and I kind of got nervous there for a second, and Fero went up there and made that amazing catch. Probably the best catch I’ve ever seen in person. That was absolutely crazy. He’s amazing,” Anderson said.

Fero was quick to say the same of Anderson, who was near perfect en route to pitching his first-career no-hitter.

Through 22 at-bats, the right-hander sat down six Tigers via strikeout, didn’t walk a single batter and beyond a fielding error that allowed senior Evan Doran to reach base in the top of the fifth, the Eastern Illinois commit was literally unhittable.

“It took a lot, but my team had confidence in me, and I had a lot of confidence in them. I just went out there and felt in control the entire time,” Anderson said. “You’d think it’d be stressful because you really have to be great to keep the other team from scoring, but at the same time it gives you a ton of motivation because you know you have to stay in this for your team.”

Anderson set the tone quickly, retiring the first 13 batters he faced before Westfield’s fielding miscue awarded Doran first base with one out. Doran stole second base, but a strikeout and a line drive to center fielder Caden Lindsey left him stranded.

Anderson induced six more putouts, including Fero’s heroics on the final play.

“(Ty has) been great all season. This just solidified it. He’s one of the greatest pitchers I’ve played behind, and he makes it easy on me,” Fero said. “Every pitch matters in games like this. You have to make every play. When the ball is in play, you have to go 100 percent, especially in a sectional game. That’s what it took to win it.”

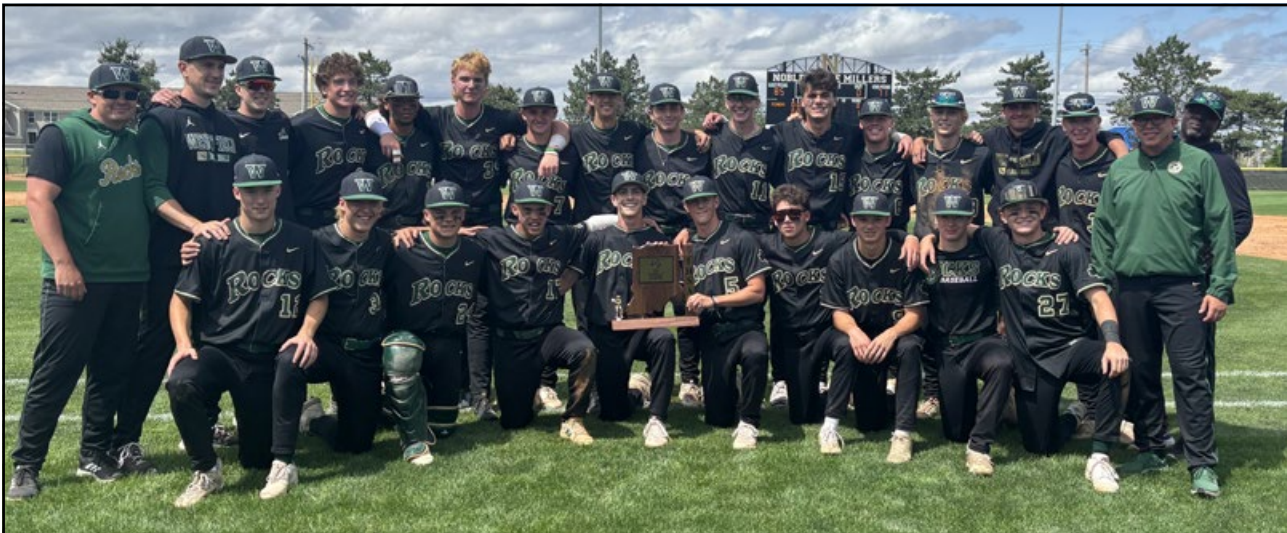


Photo provided
The Westfield baseball team won its first sectional title since 2011 by stunning Fishers 1-0 on Monday. Ty Anderson pitched a no-hitter, while Nick Fero’s left field catch of a certain home run sealed the victory.

Perseverance is what propelled the Shamrocks to the sectional title game against 4A No. 8 Fishers (22-9) following a taxing season filled with setbacks, injuries and three one-run losses.

Westfield jumped out to 5-0 record to start the season, but a stretch of seven losses in eight games dropped the Shamrocks out of the IHS-BCA top-10 poll before they turned things around to win their past eight straight.

Fishers swept the rival teams’ two-game Hoosier Crossroads Conference series this past April, 6-3 and 5-3.

However, after Westfield knocked off No. 6 Zionsville, 6-4, in the sectional quarterfinals and Carmel, 9-8, in the semifinals, Tigers head coach Matt Cherry knew nothing would be easy on championship Monday.

“Ty Anderson was awesome. We knew that he had that in him. He was really good once he settled in on

Wednesday against Zionsville, and he was really good today,” Cherry said. “We couldn’t find barrel. I think (Jase) Ruggles squared him up in the fifth but hit it right at a defender. (Jack Brown) had his in the seventh, and (Benjamin) Hammond had his, but Fero made an unbelievable catch. Stinks, but it’s kind of this sectional.”

The fourth different team to win Sectional 8 since 2021, Westfield plated its decisive run in the bottom of the fifth off a two-out RBI single by junior Drew Law, which erased Fishers’ Gavin Kuzniewski’s shutout bid.

Kuzniewski carried a no-hitter over the first three innings and finished with three hits allowed, six strikeouts, a walk and two hit batters.

The Shamrocks spoiled the Ohio State recruit’s perfect-game attempt in the bottom of the first when Law reached base after getting hit on an 0-2 count. A Brayden Hibler leadoff single in the

Westfield will play McCutcheon Saturday for the Class 4A Regional 4 championship. The Shamrocks and the Mavericks will face off at 3 p.m. at Loeb Stadium in Lafayette. Their game follows a Class 2A regional game between Benton Central and Rochester, which starts at 11 a.m.

bottom of the fourth broke up Kuzniewski’s no-hitter.

Westfield had seven base runners – one off an error in the third – and left six stranded with five in scoring position.

Law, Hibler and Akron recruit Matt Drozlek each logged singles, while Lindsey’s two-out walk in the bottom of the fifth opened the door for Law’s run-scoring base knock.

“We haven’t won since 2011, so it’s been a long time,” Law said. “It’s really special. Our coach has been coaching for 22 years, so it’s a big moment for him. It means a lot. My heartrate was through the roof with all that adrenaline, but it was a special moment.”

For Westfield coach Ryan Bunnell, the sectional title marks his fourth (2008, ’09, ’11) in his tenure and arguably the most memorable.

“The catch in left to save the no-hitter and win the game will forever go down for me. Who knows what would have happened in extras? Just unreal,” Bunnell said.

“Initially off the bat, I didn’t think it had enough, but it just kept carrying. Obviously, it benefited us because it gave him a chance to get back. We were in no-doubles, so he was deep to begin with, which gives him a chance, and he’s a plus defender. He obviously showed it there.”

Girls Golf

Shamrock Samantha Brown earns spot at U.S. Women’s Open

The REPORTER

Westfield’s Samantha Brown is getting ready to play in the U.S. Women’s Open.

The Shamrocks’ state champion golfer and Purdue commit earned a spot in the Open – one of the major championships in women’s golf – by finishing first in the

qualifying event at Sunset Country Club in St. Louis on May 8. Brown carded a 71-81=152 to earn her place at the Open.

The tournament begins on May 30. Brown will tee off for her first round at 12:30 p.m. and play with fellow Americans Sydnee Michaels and Savannah Vilaubi.

Girls Lacrosse



(ABOVE LEFT) Guerin Catholic’s Caroline Ford (34) scored four goals for the Golden Eagles during their state semifinal win over Noblesville on Tuesday. Pictured at right is Alex Soucie (13), who scored three goals. (ABOVE RIGHT) Noblesville’s Lydia Dumas led the Millers with three goals.



Photos by Mike Navarro

Golden Eagles win state semifinal

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

NOBLESVILLE – The Guerin Catholic girls lacrosse team is heading back to the state championship

game.

The Golden Eagles reached the final of the Class 2A title game by beating Noblesville 18-7 at the Millers’ Beaver Materials Field on Tuesday. Guerin

Catholic will go for its third consecutive state championship Saturday, with the championship game also taking place at Beaver Field.

The Millers scored the game’s first goal, with Lydia Dumas scoring off a Chloe Barnett assist. But the Golden Eagles took over after that, pouring in five goals over a five-minute span to lead 5-1 at the end of the

first quarter.

Guerin Catholic then put in eight goals in the second period for a 13-3 halftime lead. Caroline Ford scored three of those goals; she also added a first-quarter score for four goals overall.

“I was impressed with our girls today,” said Golden Eagles coach Joe Bellflower.

See Lacrosse . . . Page 13

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Boys Golf

Royals come out on top at four-team match

The REPORTER

Hamilton Southeastern won a four-team 18-hole match at Purgatory Golf Club on Tuesday.

The Royals scored 287, with Zionsville second by totaling 295. Fishers was third with 317 and Heritage Christian was fourth with 330.

Southeastern’s Mattingly Upchurch was the meet

medalist, carding a four under par 67. Kai Warner followed with 72, while Nate Benson scored 73. Other HSE scores were Dane Starnes 75, Jordan Huxford 78 and Aiden Huffer 83.

Tommy Klinker led the Tigers with 76. Sam Keithley and Will Major both scored 80s, followed by Lucas Brown 81, Ethan Poto 81 and Carson Peters 83.

Green flag waves on Month of May ticket renewals for 2025

Deadline to renew is June 17; logo unveiled for 2025 Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge

Submitted by IMS

Fans weathered a four-hour delay to witness the checkered flag wave for the 108th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge and will never forget witnessing the first back-to-back winner in more than a two decades as Josef Newgarden took home his second win at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Race fans should race to renew their tickets for the Month of May in 2025 – before the deadline of Monday, June 17 – to ensure they’ll be there to witness more unforgettable action at the Racing Capital of the World. Fans can renew or upgrade their Indy 500 tickets at ims.com/renew, by calling (317) 492-6700 or by visiting the IMS Ticket Office. The renewal window will continue through Monday evening, June 17, approximately 500 hours following the checkered flag of the 108th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge. These are the best prices of the year for renewals and upgrades. Prices will increase when tickets go on

sale this fall, and again in 2025 before each event. “The waving of the green flag is one of the most powerful and exciting moments in all of sports as it signals the start of the Indianapolis 500 in front of more than 330,000,” IMS President J. Douglas Boles said. “This year the green flag represents another important race as our fans race to renew or request seat upgrades by the June 17 deadline.” The 2025 Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge logo is inspired by the green flag, which signifies the start of “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing” each year. The green flag was first used to start the field for the Indianapolis 500 in 1930 and has been a recognized symbol of the speed and exhilaration of 33 cars crossing the Yard of Bricks on their way to history ever since. The logo is the latest iteration of a series that began in 2019 with Gainbridge’s inaugural sponsorship. Surrounded by the identifiable gold of the Wing & Wheel, the inside of the logo boasts a rich emerald green for the



Graphic provided by IMS

first time. The words “Indy 500” are presented in the iconic slanted font. The Icon Series logos celebrate the iconography of the 500-Mile Race. Since 2019, the logo has featured the bricks, the checkered flag, the Pagoda, the winner’s wreath, the famed oval and Victory Podium. Fans renewing their tickets to the Indianapolis 500 and/or Sonsoi Grand Prix Race Day also can order additional Month of May products at the lowest prices available during the renewal period. Those products include: • Month of May practice and qualification day tickets • Bronze Badges • Indianapolis 500 Victory Celebration presented by Gainbridge tickets • Miller Lite Carb Day tickets and concert upgrades • Coors Lite Snake Pit wristbands • Parking (including ADA parking) and camping passes Those who take advantage of the renewal period also will have priority for ticket upgrades and are eligible for presale offers for IMS and partner events. All renewal customers can visit ims.com/renew for more information. Fans who didn’t attend IMS during this Month of May but are planning to attend in May 2025 can apply for tickets now at the lowest prices of the year. Visit ims.com/apply for more information.



Photo provided

Hamilton Heights senior Sam Dawson has signed a letter of intent to play basketball for the University of Saint Francis Cougars in Fort Wayne. Dawson (seated) is pictured with Sam Haymaker, Mary Ann Haymaker, and Jim Dawson.

Heights’ Dawson signs to play basketball with University of Saint Francis

Submitted

Sam Dawson, Hamilton Heights senior, has signed a letter of intent to play basketball for the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne this fall. The University of Saint Francis is a member of the Crossroads League and a NAIA athletic institution. He is the son of Mary Ann and Sam Haymaker and Jim Dawson. “I liked the small school environment,” said Sam Dawson, after his visit to the University of Saint Francis campus. “I really like the university’s values and focus on faith. After meeting with the coaches and team, I knew that this is where I wanted to be.” Dawson plans to study business administration and finance and pursue an MBA to seek a career as a surgical sales representative. Dawson has been passionate about basketball since the time he first picked up a basketball around the age of five. He played year-round as a member of the Hamilton Heights Huskies basketball team and AAU. He said lots of hard work, practice, and playing on both teams was a great experience that helped prepare him for the opportunity to play college basketball. Dawson, the recipient of the John & Deliah Lewis Award and Hugh O’Byrne Leadership Presidential Award, also participated in Unified Football and Unified Track. He is as strong in the classroom as he is on the court. He is an officer with the National Honor Society, is a HOBY Youth Leadership Ambassador, serves on the Hamilton Heights Athletic

Council, a Peer Mentor for sixth-grade students, Cadet Teacher, and member of the Cicero Christian Church. He credits his parents for their support and influence in his development as a student athlete. “They have taken me all over for lessons, games, camps, etc.,” he added. “They have always supported me and my dream to play basketball. I also appreciate for all the help from Coach Ballenger as well as my trainers and teammates over the years.” “I am really excited for Sam to get the opportunity to continue his basketball career,” said Chad Ballenger, Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, Hamilton Heights High School. “He has worked as hard as any player in our program over the years to give him an opportunity to play at the next level. His senior year he faced some adversity early in the season with a broken wrist. He rehabbed hard and was able to come back, but it definitely had an impact on how he played. But he stayed committed to his team and teammates to finish the year. I am looking forward to watching him grow and flourish as a player at the next level.” “We are very excited for Sam and the opportunity he has to continue his basketball career at the next level,” added Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Director. “He has been a model student/athlete at Hamilton Heights and a pleasure to watch the past four years. We wish him the best at the University of Saint Francis.” “I am thankful for the opportunity to play at the next level,” noted Dawson.

Indianapolis 500 purse soars to new heights

Back-to-back winner Newgarden receives largest payout in ‘500’ history

Submitted by IMS

The Indianapolis 500 purse record was shattered for the third year in a row after a weather-delayed 108th Running of the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge, with two-time race winner Josef Newgarden of Team Penske earning \$4.288 million from a total purse of \$18,456,000. After record-breaking payouts in 2022 and 2023, this is the largest purse and largest winner’s payout in the century-plus history of “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing.” The year’s average payout for NTT INDYCAR SERIES drivers was \$543,000, which also exceeds last year’s average of \$500,600. In 2023, the Indianapolis 500 purse was \$17,021,500, and the year’s winner payout was \$3.666 million. In 2022, the Indianapolis 500 purse was \$16,000,200, and

the winner earned \$3.1 million. Prior to 2022, the largest Indianapolis 500 purse was \$14.4 million for the 2008 Indianapolis 500. Second-place finisher Pato O’Ward of Arrow McLaren took home \$1,050,500, exceeding the take-home prize for last year’s second-place finisher. “The Indianapolis 500 is the greatest race in the world, and this record-breaking purse is reflective of just how monumental competing in and winning at Indy is for these drivers,” Penske Entertainment President and CEO Mark Miles said. “Despite weather challenges, the Month of May featured packed grandstands and intense on-track action. Presenting this purse is the ideal end cap to an epic month.” NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Larson earned Indianapolis 500



Photo by Joshua Herd

Josef Newgarden received the largest payout for an Indianapolis 500 winner Monday night at the race’s Victory Banquet. Newgarden earned \$4.288 million, including a \$440,000 rollover bonus for his back-to-back wins. Rookie of the Year honors for his performance during the Month of May. Larson, driving for Arrow McLaren/Rick Hendrick, made his first attempt to complete “The Double,” by racing both the 108th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge and the NASCAR Cup Series Coca-Cola 600. Larson earned a \$50,000 bonus for being named Rookie of the Year, adding to a total take-home prize of \$178,000. The Indianapolis 500 purse consists of Indianapolis Motor Speedway and NTT INDYCAR SERIES awards, plus other designated and special awards. Purse awards are presented annually at the Victory Celebration, held this year at the JW Marriott in downtown Indianapolis Monday night. Newgarden’s purse included a \$440,000 rollover bonus from BorgWarner for earning back-to-back wins in the “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing.” The jackpot increases by \$20,000 each year but has only been awarded one other time since its inception when Helio Castroneves won the Indy 500 in both 2001 and 2002. The next NTT INDYCAR SERIES race is the Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix presented by Lear on Sunday, June 2 on the streets of Downtown Detroit. The race will be broadcast live on USA Network, Peacock and the INDYCAR Radio Network starting at noon.

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 29 SOFTBALL Regional 4 Logansport at Hamilton Southeastern, 6 p.m. (resumption of postponed game)
Thursday, May 30 GOLF Noblesville vs. Fishers and Hamilton Southeastern, 4 p.m. at Harbour Trees Hamilton Heights vs. Plainfield and Speedway, TBD at Brickyard Crossing
Friday, May 31 GIRLS TRACK State finals at Indiana University, 3 p.m. TENNIS STATE QUARTERFINALS At Carmel, noon Floyd Central vs. Harrison Jasper vs. South Bend St. Joseph At Center Grove, noon Franklin Community vs. Fort Wayne Carroll Westfield vs. Fishers
Please email schedule changes or corrections to sports@readthereporter.com .

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