

Rock the Boat

point last Sunday – River-wood Canoe Landing. We never got the bus driver’s name but appreciate her knowledge and kindness!

Despite the heavy rains Friday night through Saturday morning, the river was quite low. We often got stuck on the rocks at various points throughout the trip. Poor John got stopped more than I did – he is, after all, a man and weighs more than me.

While we did have some fun and laughs, this

experience taught us that it might be better to try the river next spring after some good rains.

I’m sure we’ll get in a couple more trips before it gets too cold this fall ... my more experienced friend Heather sent me a great list of other possibilities on central Indiana lakes that we’ll try out.

We love this new hobby. It gives us terrific exercise and gets us out in nature – two incredible mood boosters.

If you’re struggling as an empty nester, I encourage you to explore something new and be open to both the fun and the challenges. You may hit some “rocks” along the way, but you’ll learn a lot and experience so much joy.

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

from Page 1



Graphic provided

Let White River Wind Symphony take you on a global musical tour

The REPORTER
The White River Wind Symphony will present “Around the World in 80 Minutes” at 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22 at Legacy Bible Church, 13490 Howe Road, Fishers.

“Around the World in 80 Minutes” is an exhilarating concert band wind symphony performance by professional musicians that takes you on a musical journey around the globe. Featuring captivating compositions from over 10 countries, this concert showcases the rich diversity of world music. From the rhythmic beats to melodic harmonies and the vibrant tunes of the Americas, experience the universal language of music in an unforgettable 80-minute adventure.

Perfect for music lovers of all ages, this concert promises to be a delightful celebration of global culture and artistry.

Tickets for this concert are \$15 (plus \$1.88 processing fee) and children under 18 are free. Tickets can be purchased at fishersmusicworks.simpletix.com.

2024 STATE OF THE CITY

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From the desk of Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update No. 134

The Indiana Secured School Safety Board recently approved the distribution of more than \$24 million to support school safety initiatives in all 92 counties.

The Secured School Safety Grant program, a dedicated state fund that provides matching grants to schools and districts, is administered by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Hamilton Heights has been a recipient of these funds in the past and we anticipate that we will be among the 499 schools/districts to receive some of this funding again this year.

Speaking of safety, one of our top priorities is to ensure a safe school environment for learning and teaching. This is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week responsibility. We have created protocols and



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Heights Superintendent

best practices designed to protect lives and support all aspects of the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

With school back in session, I wanted to share that we have a comprehensive

and multitiered safety plan that addresses all hazards that may affect our schools. We routinely review our procedures and perform safety drills with students throughout the year and are always working to improve our training and procedures.

Our coordinated safety and support system addresses facilities, school climate, the social and emotional domain, behavioral and mental health and wellness, emergency preparedness, and crisis intervention and response. It includes collaboration with community, county, and state organizations; conducting behavioral threat assess-

ments; and the implementation of a multi-hazard approach to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency/crisis situations. We have inhouse trained safety specialists, onsite school resource officers, created individual building plans and safety committees, and strong partnerships with local law enforcement, first responders, fire departments, hospitals, and other agencies who will respond to emergencies within our schools.

While schools remain among the safest places for children, we know there is always the possibility of a crisis, act of violence, threat, or emergency. We assess and then react to determine what action is needed. We will communicate as soon as possible with information or a directive.

Of course, timing is everything – too soon and without the pertinent facts can cause a panic. Not soon enough can also

cause a rub, so I ask for your grace and confidence that when these situations arise the driving factor for the decisions we ultimately make always revolve around your child's and our staff's safety.

The very best way to keep our schools safe and prevent acts of violence from occurring is to build relationships and keep open lines of communication. Be kind. Be alert. If you see something that doesn't look or feel right, say something.

Protecting our children and each other is a shared responsibility and something in which we should all be deeply invested.

Entrusting us with teaching, protecting, and supporting your students is a privilege and a responsibility we uphold daily with great diligence and care. We appreciate your working with us, proactively, to support student safety and wellbeing every day.

#WeAreHuskies

New Carmel Fire Chief to be sworn in Monday

The REPORTER

On Monday, Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m., Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam and the Carmel Fire Department will swear-in the city's new Fire Chief, Joel Thacker.

The ceremony will take place at Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre, 3 Carter Green, which will be open to the public at 6 p.m. with a reception immediately following.

Public parking is available in The Center Garage on 3rd Avenue SW.



Thacker

Westfield H.S. Dance Marathon Club devises colorful plan to help Riley

The REPORTER

Join Westfield High School's Dance Marathon Club for a Color Run/Walk next month. All ages are welcome. You can expect to get wet and a little messy as students kick off Homecoming Week.

The event will take place from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29 at Wash-

ington Woods Elementary School, 17950 Grassy Branch Road. Come dressed in all white and be ready to get colorful along the way.

The cost is \$10 per individual or \$35 for a family of four or more. Proceeds go to support Riley Hospital for Children.

[Click here](#) to register.



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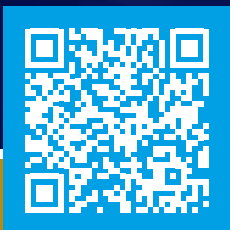
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Strawtown Koteewi Park

TAYLOR
CENTER
 of Natural History



12308 Strawtown Ave., Noblesville, IN 46060

FREE

Teter Farm to Table Dinner funds food security mission

The REPORTER

Tickets and sponsorships are available now for Teter Retreat & Organic Farm’s annual Farm to Table Dinner fundraiser to be held Friday, Sept. 27 at Delaware Township Community Center, 9090 E. 131st St., Fishers.

Proceeds will benefit the farm’s mission to increase access to healthy food for the vulnerable and provide ecological education while building relationships and community.

“The Farm to Table Dinner is one of the highlights of the farm year,” Operations Director Katy Rogers said. “We’re on track to raise and donate 45,000 servings of fresh organic produce to Hamilton County residents in need.”

Tickets are \$85 each and include appetizers, a three-course meal with a choice of chicken or vegetarian entrée, and two drinks (including beer and wine). Sponsorship packages are also available starting at just \$500.

This year’s event, supported by Mission Partners Daystar Directional Drilling along with Jackie and Dave Cox, promises a delightful culinary experience. The menu will prominently feature fresh vegetables from Teter Organic Farm. The culinary expertise will be provided by Sahm’s Hos-



Photos provided

(LEFT) The evening’s menu features Teter Organic Farm’s vegetables and other seasonal favorites including appetizers, a three-course meal with a choice of chicken or vegetarian entrée, and two drinks (including beer and wine). (RIGHT) The startup team of Pastor Aaron Hobbs and Jonah Tabb will return as guest speakers at the Farm to Table Dinner.



Rogers



Jensen

pitality Group, a renowned local family-owned culinary powerhouse, ensuring a memorable dining experience that highlights local produce and flavors while supporting a great mission.

The evening will feature a program moderated by Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen and a panel of special guests, including the leaders who created Teter Organic Farm:

Pastor Aaron Hobbs, the first Director, Jonah Tabb, Teter’s first Farm Manager, and Katy Rogers, Teter’s current Operations Director. The program will celebrate the origins of this

incredible mission while sharing the path to expanding Teter’s food security mission.

Hamilton County Community Foundation is a sponsor and community partner in Teter’s food security mission.

“We are grateful to support Teter Organic Farm as they work to increase access to healthy food for those who are food insecure throughout Hamilton County,” said Jeena Siela, Senior Community Leadership Officer for Hamilton County Community Foundation. “They are a vital partner in the Hamilton County Food Resource Coalition, led by the Hamilton County Community Foundation, in which they lend their time and talent to strengthen the emergency food systems throughout Hamilton County so that every resident has access

to healthy food. On behalf of the Foundation, we are happy to support the incredible impact that Teter Organic Farm has on our community and encourage others to attend this fundraiser to do the same. Because we also believe everyone deserves to eat healthy food.”

Teter Organic Farm supplies a significant portion of the fresh produce to the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank for distribution to local pantries and food programs that serve over 32,160 food insecure people in Hamilton County. Teter Retreat & Organic Farm is a mission outreach of Noblesville First United Methodist Church.

Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased at TeterOrganicFarm.com/FarmToTable. Ticket sales close Wednesday, Sept. 18.



‘Rock Strong’ nominations open

The REPORTER

The Rock Strong Award presented by the Westfield Education Foundation is a quarterly award, given out at each school and operations facility to recognize teachers, instructional assistants, instructional coaches, building secretaries, bus drivers, substitute teachers, food service staff, and operations staff for the great work they

do for Westfield’s children and the greater community.

Each quarter, all schools and operations will review nominations from staff, students, families and the community and select someone who represents its values and culture to receive the Rock Strong Award and a special gift.

[Click here](#) to nominate a staff member.

See you in the parks!

MyHamiltonCountyParks.com

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Christmas Decor, Household items, Baby Crib, Baby clothes, OLD tools, Garden items, Kitchen ware, Knickknacks furniture, craft supplies, books, CDs, China Christmas Dinnerware set, wood smoker, and much much more. ALL proceeds go towards Philanthropy projects in Hamilton County.

Westfield Supt. Dr. Paul Kaiser to speak at upcoming chamber luncheon

The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber invites business leaders, community members, and guests to attend the September Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19 at The Bridgewater Club.

Westfield Washington Schools Superintendent Dr. Paul Kaiser will offer an insightful presentation on the current state of the school district in addition to what is in store for the future.

As Westfield contin-

ues to grow, the Westfield Chamber supports the school system and community impact. This event typically sells out due to high interest, so register today to reserve your seat.



Kaiser

[Click here](#) to register. Please plan to attend what is sure to be an educational afternoon.

The title sponsor is Apex Benefits. Discounted Partner Tickets and Non-Partner tickets are available. Corporate reserved tables (seating for eight) are also available.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance names new payments director

The REPORTER

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance has announced that Zeryab Alam has been promoted to the role of director of payment operations. He will oversee accounts payable, receivables, and commissions.

Alam joined Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance in 2022, bringing with him more than 20 years of experience in the financial industry. A graduate of Loyola University, he earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and management. He also has earned advanced credentials in Lean Management and Banking and Advanced

Operations Management Systems.

A resident of Carmel, Alam enjoys spending time with his family, movies, and traveling.



Alam

About Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance has served Hoosiers for nearly 90 years. Organized in 1934 by Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc., the company has grown to include insurance products for auto, life, home, business, and farm. Health plan benefits, banking and other financial services and products are also available through its local offices and online at infarmbureau.com.

See Farm . . . Page 6

Cheers for Hope

Fall Festival & Boutique Fair

September 21 • Noon - 4 p.m.

outside of Northbrook Brewing on Main Street, Arcadia

Over 70 vendors • Live Music • Food and Drinks • Kid Friendly

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SEPTEMBER 21

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BARKTOBERFEST

OCTOBER 5

11 A.M. - 2 P.M. | ASA BALES PARK

TRICK OR TREATING IN THE PLAZA

OCTOBER 25

5:30 - 8 P.M. | GRAND JUNCTION PLAZA

To learn more about the exciting, upcoming events in Westfield, scan the QR code!

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CITY OF WESTFIELD - GOVERNMENT

Indiana Artisan Gallery to hold Student Art Show for upcoming Carmel International Arts Festival

The REPORTER

Rosalyn Demaree, Executive Director of Indiana Artisan Gallery, will offer an entire section in the gallery for the Carmel International Arts Festival (CIAF) Student Art Show on Sept. 28 and 29. For the third consecutive year, Indiana Artisans will sponsor two popular “People’s Choice Awards” (\$500 each). “The community is always so responsive to this event, and everyone enjoys the opportunity to vote for their favorite artwork entry,” Demaree said. “Hosting the student art show and participating in the Carmel International Arts Festival is a highlight of the year for us.”



Art Department Chairs School and Tasha Barger
Jenn Bubp at Carmel High at University High School

say they expect to submit over 100 art entries for the student scholarship competition. The original artwork will include various media forms including charcoal drawings, pencil sketches, pastels, oil paintings, watercolors, acrylics, photography, jewelry, sculptures, textiles, and more.

Both teachers agree that displaying their works in a known gallery helps students’ artistic talents to flourish and gives the local community a chance to interact.

CIAF will take place Sep. 28 and 29 in the Carmel Arts & Design District. Nearly 150 artists are expected this year, with various vendors and over 30,000 attendees. For more information, visit Carmel-ArtsFestival.org.

FARM

from Page 5

With a home office in downtown Indianapolis and local offices in all 92 counties, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance serves Hoosiers with more than 400 agents and approximately 1,200 employees living and working throughout the state. The company is a leader in auto and homeowners insurance and the largest writer of farm insurance in the state.

Thanks for reading!

Standard & Poor’s increases Noblesville Schools’ credit rating

District is now one of top four highest ranked in state

The REPORTER

Standard & Poor’s (S&P) global credit ratings agency has increased its financial rating for Noblesville Schools for the second time in two years, boosting its previous AA- rating to AA. The ratings increase establishes Noblesville Schools as one of the top four school districts in the state for financial management, with the same rating as Carmel Clay Schools, Zionsville Community Schools and Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

S&P noted that the increased rating reflected Noblesville Schools’ track record of delivering consistently strong financial operations, while simultaneously lowering the tax rate annually for the past six years.

“We take our responsibility to manage the community’s tax dollars seriously and are always looking for ways to lower costs, create efficiencies, and increase our cash reserves while best serving students,” Noblesville Schools Chief Financial Officer David Hortemiller said.



Hortemiller

“The most important outcome of this ratings increase is that it means lower borrowing costs for our residents.”

In addition to the overall AA financial rating, the district was further recognized as AA+ for its long-term debt management.

S&P is a global credit ratings agency that publishes financial research and analysis on stocks, bonds, and commodities.

Letter to the Editor

Hayden thanks Cicero community for incredible support at annual car show

Dear Editor:

Cicero Friends of the Park’s 33rd annual Red Bridge Car Show set a record year for entries (280 cars) and spectators this year.

Cicero Friends of the Park and Hamilton North Friends of the Library appreciate all of the people who made this event such a success. Both organizations set a new record for profits, and 100 percent of this money goes back into our community.

First of all, we would like to thank Rob, Christy, and Shelby Wilson for the hundreds of hours they put into this event. They have been in charge of this event for several years and are instrumental in making this event bigger and better every year. We would also like to thank our dozens of volunteers who donate their time on this holiday year after year. We would like to thank the Hamilton County Reporter for the great coverage and thank the residents of Cicero and the surrounding communities for their support, and making this year such a success.

We would also like to thank Jim Hunter, Park Superintendent, and the Parks Department.

We are already working to make improvements to public parking next year.

We would again like to thank everyone for their help and support.

Jackie Hayden
President, Cicero Friends of the Park

Letter to the Editor

Our state highway medians need immediate attention

Dear Editor:

On a recent trip to Evansville, I wondered aloud if the tall grass and weeds in the state highway medians was a local problem or was it widespread. Conversations with friends and relatives quickly confirmed the problem is not just confined to southern Indiana. To me personally as a lifelong resident of Indiana, this situation is very embarrassing.

The weeds not only obscure the views of animals and other vehicles, but they are also downright unsightly, spreading invasive seeds throughout. This dangerous scenario is uncalled for. If you let your personal property look like this, there is a good chance you will receive a letter warning you of the consequences – possibly a fine, too.

Unfortunately, the problems are not only the medians, but tree branches also block large informational signs and intersection triangles are weed-filled and littered with trash and debris.

With Indiana being “The Crossroads of America,” is this the image that we want travelers to remember when they travel through our state?

According to a press release from the Indiana State Comptroller’s Office, our state had a \$2.9 billion tax surplus in 2023. We can do better, and I urge each citizen to reach out to our state legislators to address this immediate danger.

Brian D. Pound
Sullivan, Ind.

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.

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Noblesville, Carmel & Westfield Lions assist Gleaners in September



Photo provided by Noblesville Lion Club / Jake Doll
On Tuesday, the Noblesville, Carmel, and Westfield Lions Clubs assisted Gleaners with the mobile pantry at Grand Park in Westfield. Over 150 families received food from the pantry this month. The pantry, normally on the first Tuesday of the month, will be on the second Tuesday in October (Oct. 8) at Grand Park Lot C. (From left) Westfield Lions Bill Nesbitt, Jack Waldroup, Gary Smith, Judy Waldroup, Jim Kahler, and Carrie Larrison; Carmel Lions Bill Ryan and Paul Cardinal; Noblesville Lions Duke Miller, Carol Miller, Jeff Kozicki, Jerry Baker, Lana Buckman, Linda Williamson, Ron Williamson, Gary Hipes, and Joe Connerley. *Not pictured: Noblesville Lions Josh Kozicki and Steve Shaw.*

AAA Hoosier Motor Club now offering branch weekend hours

The REPORTER

AAA Hoosier Motor Club has announced extended hours at select branch locations, with designated offices now open every other Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting Saturday, Sept. 7 (varies by location).

This initiative is designed to better accommodate members who are unable to visit their nearest branch during the workweek, ensuring more convenient access to AAA services. Branches that will be

open on Saturday will initially be on a rotating schedule. On average, each branch will be open every other Saturday, with the larger branches open a third Saturday in the months of the year with five Saturdays. The Fishers branch, lo-

cated at 8997 E. 116th St., will be open on the first, third, and fifth Saturdays of each month. The Carmel branch, located at 1438 W. Main St., Suite 104, will be open the second and fourth Saturdays. “At AAA Hoosier Motor

Club, our members are at the heart of everything we do,” President & CEO Matt Goins said. “By extending our hours to include every other Saturday, we’re making it easier for members with busy weekday schedules to access the services they rely

on. This change reflects our commitment to enhancing the member experience and being there when our members need us most.” To learn more about AAA Hoosier Motor Club and to find an office near you, visit hoosier.aaa.com.

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10

News

Hamilton County GOP legislators: applications now open for 2025 Statehouse internships

The REPORTER

Applications to intern with Indiana House Republicans for the 2025 legislative session are now open, according to area lawmakers.

House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) said the Indiana House of Representatives offers a spring semester internship at the Statehouse in Indianapolis during the legislative session, which will start in January and conclude in April. House interns earn \$900 biweekly and work full time, Monday through Friday.

“This internship paves the way for students to skill up and make professional connections,” Huston said. “Many House interns land great careers in government and the private sector or unlock other internship opportunities. No matter your major, this program can be a launching point for your future.”

State Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers) said internships are open to college students and recent graduates of all majors. Interns get free parking,



Huston



Jeter



Goodrich



Schaibley



Torr

career and professional development assistance, enrollment access to an Indiana government class, and opportunities to earn academic credits through their college or university.

“Whether you’re interested in helping constituents navigate state government, or you enjoy conducting in-depth research or working with the media, there is something for everyone in our internship program,” Jeter said. “This is a great opportunity, and interested students and recent grads in our community should apply soon.”

State Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville) said interns are also eligible to apply for a competitive \$3,000 scholarship to use toward undergraduate and graduate expenses.

“In today’s competitive workforce, having an internship on your resume will set you apart from other individuals applying for any role,” Goodrich said. “This program helps students apply what they’re learning in the classroom in a fast-paced and professional environment.”

State Rep. Donna Schaibley (R-Carmel) said the program offers opportunities for students to work in various departments related to their studies, including legislative operations, policy and communications.

“Employers value and look for the skills job candidates gain through programs like this,” Schaibley said. “A Statehouse internship is a great addition to any resume and connects young professionals with leaders in both the private and public sectors.”

“Interns will have the opportunity to work with state officials and expand their professional network, which can be beneficial for their job search,” said State Rep. Jerry Torr (R-Carmel). “I encourage young Hoosiers to apply for this unique experience to build their resume.”

Applications are available online at indianahouserepublicans.com/internship and are due by Oct. 31.

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See viral violinist Lindsey Stirling live at new Fishers Event Center Nov. 29

Submitted

Lindsey Stirling, viral premier electronic violinist, dancer, and aerialist, is tuning up her bow for the holidays. The multi-platinum-selling musician-composer is ready to embark on her North American Snow Waltz Tour 2024, a 21-date trek that brings her to the new Fishers Event Center on Friday, Nov. 29.

Tickets for The Snow Waltz Tour 2024 go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 6 at [FishersEventCenter.com](https://fisherseventcenter.com). VIP will be available at 10 a.m. at [this link](#). VIP includes great experiences including front-row seating, a meet and greet, some new merch and an invitation to a pre-show experience, “Ice Storm.” There, fans can check out a Christmas gallery featuring costumes and memorabilia curated by Stirling, a special “Sleigh Ride” photo op, and so much more.

The tour, which gets its name from Stirling’s 2022 chart-topping *Snow Waltz* album, promises to be theatrical, eclectic, high-energy, and at least a little bit whimsical. Stirling mixes dance and acrobatics into her unique interpretations of holiday staples such as “Sleigh Ride,” “Joy to the World,” and “Deck the Halls” plus a few originals. Her concert performances take their cues from the 14-track *Snow Waltz*, which isn’t your everyday Christmas album.

“I put a little bit of spookiness into it,” she said during an appearance on *The Kelly Clarkson Show*. “I’m a big fan of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* as well as *Harry Potter*, which I feel like marries a little bit of that magic and spooky.”

That is quintessential Stirling, an artist who stylishly blends sonics with visuals – from her arresting mixture of pop, classical, hip-hop and electronica, to her meticulous attention to impactful, thematic album, and video artwork. Artistically, she defies categorization. You can easily find her studio efforts at the top of *Billboard’s* Classical Albums chart, the Top Dance Electronic Album chart, and the all-genre *Billboard* 200 list. She is the rare artist, especially in the new millennium, to have amassed instrumental AC radio hits, particularly from her pair of Christmas albums – “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy” and “Carol of the Bells” from *Warmer in the Winter*. “Carol of the Bells” was the first instrumental to chart in the top 5 in radio. Additional notable songs include “Joy to the World” and “Sleigh Ride” from *Snow Waltz*.

Her latest studio release, 2024’s *Duality*, is yet another experimental opus that embraces Stirling’s indie music spirit, featuring guests such as Royal & the Serpent and Walk Off the Earth. Stirling makes brilliant use of *Duality’s* extravagant soundscape by exploring intricate questions of intuition and truth. “Eye Of The Untold Her” was used in Suni Lee’s gold & bronze medal winning floor routines during the Paris summer Olympics.

Stirling stays on the pulse of social media as well, amassing more than 14 million subscribers and nearly three billion views on YouTube, over four million followers on TikTok, and more than 3.8 million on Instagram. It’s no wonder that *Forbes* placed her at No. 4 on its 2015 World’s Top-Earning YouTube Stars list.

In a career spanning more than a decade, Stirling has sold more than one million headlining concert tickets. She also sold over 15,000 digital tickets for her live-streamed Christmas special in 2021, which was seen by more than 100,000 fans.



Photo provided

INDIANA 32 CONNECTS

From updated routes, timelines, and essential information, get connected to INDOT & Westfield’s State Road 32 Project!

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(LEFT) “Grammy’s Flowers” by John Dierdorf. (RIGHT) “Sunset Steeple” by Ruth Gommel-Williams.

Noblesville Creates announces September’s featured artists

The REPORTER

Noblesville Creates is welcoming John Dierdorf’s *My Floral Studies* exhibit, an exhibit of Artist Members, and Gal’s Guide Library’s *Things We Found in Books* exhibit in Noblesville City Hall among its other artists of the month in September.

Details on *My Floral Studies*, the *Members Only Exhibit*, and *Things We Found in Books*, as well as information on the September artist exhibit dates and receptions, are available below.

Stephenson House
John Dierdorf

Nature might be seen as a constant balancing act

between structure and disorder. Much like art, flora can be perfectly manicured or expressed in more intuitive, wild ways.

Artist John Dierdorf enjoys taking inspiration from the natural world in his home garden when working on his Abstract Expressionist paintings. His September exhibit at Noblesville Creates’ Stephenson House Gallery, *My Floral Studies*, will include multiple views of flowers from his garden, still lifes, and abstract interpretations.

Dierdorf is a retired architect, having graduated from Ball State University’s College of Architecture. He recounts that those years included design classes to study how to create buildings, functional interiors, and exterior spaces between and around buildings; how to be a curious observer of his surroundings; how light and shadow impart character; and how these environments will affect people.

Following university, he had a full-fledged career as an architect and a part-time interest in fine arts. He drew inspiration from Robert Indiana when he created large scale acrylic paintings with hard-edged images. He also photographed subjects of note, such as buildings, architectural details, flowers, and landscapes.

“My professional career replaced my time for creative painting for a number of years until 2009 when the brushes were once again in hand, working to refine my style,” Dierdorf noted. Once retired, he began deeply exploring his love for painting. Painters like Monet, Miro, Kandinsky, and Pollock all played a large influence as he discovered his artistic style.

Noblesville Creates, originally Nickel Plate Arts, was founded in the same stretch of years. Dierdorf

said he fondly remembers his early involvement in the organization as a board member. He observed and guided the group as it grew into a local resource for emerging artists.

“Engaging Noblesville, Fishers, and Hamilton County to the importance of art to enhance their communities has been wonderful to watch,” he said.

Alongside his artistic achievements, he counts helping his children grow and thrive and building relationships with clients to be his biggest accomplishments.

Dierdorf’s current style continues to be a developing exploration of “loose, spontaneous, impactful brushstrokes” that capture images of lush gardens, charming scenery, and more. He notes that some of his favorite places in Hamilton County are “the back porch at my art studio, the patio in our garden, and multiple golf courses.” Visitors can expect to walk into *My Floral Studies* and view dynamic and vibrant acrylic paintings that reflect these places and his ongoing practice in style.

The full exhibit, *My Floral Studies*, can be seen in the Stephenson House from Sept. 6 to 28, Wednesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can meet Dierdorf at his First Friday open house reception from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 21 on the Noblesville Creates on 8th campus.

Judge Stone House
Artist Members

Noblesville Creates shines a spotlight on its Artist Members in this annual exhibit, the *Members Only Exhibit*. This annual exhibit shines a spotlight on Learn, Promote, Showcase, and Lead level Artist Members.

Artist Members lift each other up, advance the communities they take part in,

and are incredibly talented. They hold offices, raise families, sing, dance, paint, sculpt, weave, weld, carve, draw, cook, photograph, film, act, and so much more. September is all about celebrating them in their artistic glory.

The *Members Only Exhibit* can be seen from Sept. 6 to 28 in the Judge Stone House gallery. The Noblesville Creates on 8th campus is open Wednesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Noblesville City Hall
Gal’s Guide Library

Have you ever lost a receipt, a note to yourself, or another piece of memorabilia? Chances are you might have forgotten them in a book. The Gal’s Guide Library is exhibiting all the quirky bits and bobs folks have left behind in their donated books in its August exhibit, *Things We Found in Books*, which is moving from the Judge Stone House on the Noblesville Creates on 8th campus to Noblesville City Hall during the month of September.

Gal’s Guide Library is open for viewing through Sept. 27. Noblesville City Hall is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Four Day Ray
Mark Rouse

The full exhibit, *The Thrill of Victory*, can be seen through Sept. 27 at Four Day Ray Brewing, 11671 Lantern Road, Fishers, Sunday and Monday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Meyer Najem
Marianne Glick

See the full exhibit, *Old, New, Borrowed, and Blue*, through Sept. 27. This exhibit is viewable at the Meyer Najem 2nd floor gallery, located at 11787 Lantern Road in Fishers, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Nancy Elizabeth (Wilson) Myers May 14, 1952 – August 29, 2024

Nancy Elizabeth (Wilson) Myers, 72, Indianapolis, passed away peacefully in her home on August 29, 2024. She was born in Red Wing, Minn., on May 14, 1952, daughter of Alfred Everett Wilson and Marianne Lois (Whalen) Wilson.

Nancy Myers was an avid gardener and birdwatcher. She was a member of the Indiana Birdwatchers Association and Master Gardeners Association.

She graduated from the IU School of Nursing and worked at Wishard Hospital. She became a realtor after leaving nursing and worked for Tucker Real Estate.

While she had worked as a nurse and realtor throughout her early life, she later found a new calling in studying the natural world. Her beautiful yard was a sanctuary for birds, possums, squirrels, chipmunks, butterflies, and all wildlife lived happily together. It was a Backyard Wildlife Habitat certified by the National Wildlife Federation.

She was married to Dr. Robert A. Munsick until his passing in 1999 and resided on the north side of Indianapolis for many decades.

Her independent spirit shined through her creative work and home life.

In addition to her parents, Nancy was preceded in death by her nephews, Greg Wilson and Paul Michael Wilson.

Survivors include brothers, Wayne A. Wilson, Gary D. Wilson, and David Wilson; nieces, Shannon Weides, Mallorie Wilson, and Christy Dye; nephews, Brandon Wilson and Ryan Wilson; great-nieces, Kelsey Simpson and Harper Wilson; and great-nephew, Cuyler Weides. Nancy also dedicated many years to the care and rescue of cats leaving behind several feline children: Coco, Mattie, and Mickey.

A special thanks to whom we are eternally grateful to Cherie Woodring and David Stancel.

Family and friends will gather at 1 p.m. Saturday, September 14, 2024, at Bussell Family Funerals, 1621 E. Greyhound Pass, Carmel, where the Funeral Service will begin at 3 p.m.

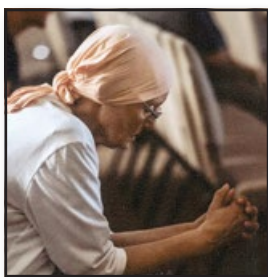
The family has requested donations in memory of Nancy be given to Indiana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 55245, Indianapolis, IN 46205.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family in arrangements.

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

Sharen Kay Ritchie

August 21, 1953 – September 2, 2024



Sharen Kay Ritchie, 71, Carmel, was called to her heavenly home on September 2, 2024. She was born on August 21, 1953, in Washington State. As a young girl she moved to California where she resided until she was an adult. Sharen was preceded in death by her mother.

Sharen loved God from the time she was a child. This love of Christ led her to move to Ohio where she could help spread the Gospel of Christ to those around her. She served in ministry in Ohio for several years before settling in Indiana. Throughout her life, Sharen worked in several service and sales industries. At the age of 12, she actually managed a hotel! After moving to Indiana, Sharen worked as head cashier at the Carmel Marsh on the night shift. This would make perfect sense as Sharen was a night owl! She retired from Marsh and began cleaning homes and churches. She took great pride in her work.

Sharen had a wonderful sense of humor and genuinely loved all the people in her life. In the Spring of 2023, Sharen became a faithful member of Faith Apostolic Church and will be greatly missed by the entire congregation.

A Worship Service and Celebration of Sharen’s life was held Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at Faith Apostolic Church, 1212 E. 116th St., Carmel.

One of the greatest joys in Sharen’s life was generously giving her offering to support the missionaries who would continue spreading the Gospel of Christ to many foreign lands. Each week she looked forward to attending church, especially on Sundays.

In lieu of flowers, and in honor and memory of Sharen, please consider donating to the same missionaries that Sharen supported. This can be done by sending a check to Faith Apostolic Church. In the memo line, include missionaries.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to care for Sharen. Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.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.

Dave M. Carrington

Sept. 30, 1972 – Aug. 30, 2024



Dave M. Carrington, 51, Sheridan, passed away suddenly in his home on Aug. 30, 2024. He was born in Stanley, Wis., on Sept. 30, 1972, to Mark R. Carrington and Yvonne M. (Ludvik) Carrington-Buss.

Dave adored his children and all who surrounded him. He was effortlessly compassionate, and everyone who knew him has a story of him showing up in their time of need. Dave was already a guardian spirit during

his years here on Earth.

Dave’s interest in design engineering began at 18 years old and his career of professional hobbyist at a young age. There was no project he couldn’t get 90% done, allowing those close to him the opportunity to learn, while helping finish the remaining 10%.

You could find Dave in his workshop, behind a dungeon master trifold, on a soccer field (coaching or playing), on the victorious side of a Magic game, on the track behind the wheel of his Camaro, rehabilitating animals, in the front row of a concert, anywhere he could cheer on the Redskins, Liverpool, or his children, providing private guitar sessions, gardening, preparing beautiful meals – the list goes on and on. Dave loved using his many talents and skills to benefit others, for which he rarely even accepted a proper “thank you.” He was the sort of guy that not only fit in anywhere but would light up any room he entered.

Dave is survived by his mother and stepfather, Yvonne M. Carrington-Buss and Mark D. Buss; his partner and her daughter, April M. and Danielle L. Deuschle; his paternal siblings, Evan D., Auriana T., and Breylen R. Carrington; his children, Dominique M., Daniel J., and Dylan M. Carrington; also, his other-species children, Tessa the Great Dane, Bella the Ori Pei, Finn the Pug, Charlie the turtle, and a couple generations of wondrous fish.

Dave was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Joseph B. Ludvik and Patricia A. Salter; his paternal grandparents, Euel D. Carrington and Colleen C. (Clifford) Carrington; his father, Mark R. Carrington; as well as his dear brother, Brian J. Carrington. His family all find great peace in knowing Dave is reunited with his brother, loved ones, and his zoo of animals.

The celebration of life for Dave Carrington will be held on Friday, Sept. 6 at Cornerstone Lutheran Church Carmel, 4850 E. Main St. The visitation will be held at 10 a.m., followed by an 11:30 service.

In lieu of flowers the family asks to consider donations to the following causes: Noblesville Youth Soccer League, Kicking the Stigma, and Hope for the Day. Condolences: randallroberts.com

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

THE PASSOVER AND THE FESTIVAL OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

“Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

Exodus 12:24-30 (NIV)

Meeting Notices

The Westfield Washington Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, in Meeting Room A of the Westfield Washington Public Library, 17400 Westfield Blvd.

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility Board of Trustees will meet in an executive session at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5.6.1(b)(2)(B) to discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation. A regular meeting will follow at 6 p.m.

The Noblesville Police Merit Commission will meet in an executive session at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, in the Council Chambers Conference Room at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(5). To receive information about and interview prospective employees. A public meeting will follow at 5 p.m. in Room A213 at City Hall.

Send Meeting Notices to: News@ReadTheReporter.com

The Carmel Fire Department Merit Board will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, in the second floor of the Carmel Fire Department, 210 Veterans Way.

The Carmel Police Department Merit Board will meet in an executive session at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, in the Training Room at Carmel Police Headquarters, 3 Civic Square. The purpose of this meeting is to receive information about and interview prospective new employees, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(5). The Board will hold a regular meeting at 4:15 p.m. or immediately after the executive session, whichever is later, in the same location.

The Noblesville Police Merit Commission meeting scheduled for 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024, has been canceled.

The Hamilton County Executive 911 Board will meet at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, in Room A213 at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

Check out ReadTheReporter.com for more news!

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REPORTER SPORTS FRIDAY

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

Volleyball

Fishers wins five-set battle with Noblesville, Royals sweep Avon for first conference win

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

NOBLESVILLE – The Noblesville and Fishers volleyball teams battled their way through five sets Thursday at The Mill, with the Tigers prevailing to stay unbeaten in Hoosier Crossroads Conference action.

Fishers edged out the Millers 21-25, 25-18, 25-20, 20-25, 15-10. It was a hard-fought match, with the Tigers going on late runs in each of three sets they won to seal the victory.

The Tigers went on an 11-1 run in the fifth set to take a 13-5 lead. Senior Ellen Roberts put down a kill to begin the run, then senior Juliana Kellogg later hit back-to-back aces. Sophomore Milana Mays hit four kills in the set.

Fishers led 14-7, setting up several match points. The Millers saved three of them, all courtesy of kills by Ashlynn Turner. But the Tigers converted their fourth match point to get the win.

"It's nice that when the backs are against the wall and it's a decisive set that we play our best," said Fishers coach Steven Peek. "We had two aces, we had a great block, we had Milana get four kills, all in the fifth set. Some of our best, most consistent serving was the fifth set."

Noblesville led 13-8 in the first set, including an ace by sophomore Piper Endris, then Turner struck again with a kill to put the Millers up 14-9. Noblesville was able to stay comfort-

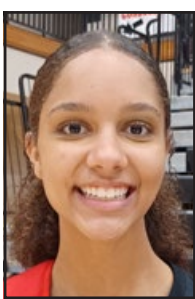


(ABOVE) Southeastern's Mia Walpole (30) makes a defensive play. Also pictured is Bella Dafforn (2). **(RIGHT)** Hamilton Southeastern's Lindsey Mangelson hit nine kills and served three aces during the Royals' win over Avon Thursday.

ably in front for the remainder of the set.

The second and third sets were both close until Fishers pulled away late in both sets. The Tigers were up 11-8 in the second set before Madison Brown's net tip and an ace by Kennedy Lutz helped tie the set at 11-11.

But with the score tied at 14-14, the Tigers went on an 8-1 spurt to lead 22-15. Isabella Bowman hit two kills during the run, and Ella Dragoo, Aubree Valcourt and Ava Gutt all put down kills as well. Gutt made the



Mays

kill on set point. In the third set, the score was again tied 14-14 before Fishers jumped ahead 16-14. A run of three straight points got the Tigers up 22-17, including a Dragoo ace. Fishers fought off some resistance from Noblesville, and Tinch dumped a pass over the net on set point to give the Tigers the third set.

The Millers turned the tables in the fourth set, when they broke out of a 15-15 tie to score four straight points. Turner hit a kill for the first point, then Lutz and Turner each hit a kill. Miranda

Bledsoe served an ace and Noblesville led 19-15. The Millers won the set when Chloe Macias served an ace.

Noblesville led 4-2 in the fifth set before Fishers made its run.

"They got on a run, and it was difficult to crawl out of that," said Noblesville coach Joe Marcum.

Roberts and Gutt each hit 11 kills for Fishers, with Mays putting down seven. Tinch dished out 23 assists, while Ava Tester handed out 16. Tinch collected 15 digs, Kellogg had 14 and Tester made 13 digs. Valcourt totaled five blocks and Kellogg served three aces.

Turner led Noblesville with 12 kills, followed by



11 for Lauren Flynn. Lutz made 16 digs, Maggie Hall collected 15 and Macias served two aces.

Fishers is 2-0 in HCC play and 9-3 overall. The Tigers will play in the Providence Invitational on Saturday. Noblesville is 0-2 in the conference and 4-2 overall; the Millers' next match is Monday at McCutcheon.

Hamilton Southeastern picked up its first HCC win of the season with a home sweep of Avon Thursday.

The Royals won 25-14, 25-21, 25-17. Madison Miles led the hitting with 18 kills, while Lindsey Mangelson put down nine kills. Maye McConnell served six

aces, with Mangelson adding another three aces.

Breana Morgan made two solo blocks. Ava Hunter dished out 22 assists, and McConnell collected 17 digs.

Southeastern is 1-1 in conference play and 7-1 overall. The Royals play at the Fort Wayne Carroll Invitational on Saturday, facing off against Belmont at 10 a.m. and the host Chargers at noon.

Hamilton Heights cruised to a Hoosier Conference victory over new league opponent Logansport on Thursday.

See Volleyball . . . Page 16

Football Previews, Part 2

Huskies, Hawks, Hounds look to rebound in Week 3 games

By **CRAIG ADKINS**
For The Reporter

Hamilton Heights (0-2) at McCutcheon (0-2)

The Huskies were evenly matched in the home opener last week against Triton Central.

The Tigers scored first, but Heights tied it 7-7 in the second on a Joey Sigler rushing touchdown. Almost halfway through the second quarter, weather suspended the game until Saturday.

Heights took the lead at 14-7 in the third on a Nick Bichey 59-yard interception return TD. Triton Central scored a rushing TD in the third. Neither scored in the fourth, forcing overtime.

TC kicked a field goal during their possession in the OT. On Heights' second play in OT, Woodruff's pass was picked off and the Huskies were on the short end of a 17-14 loss.

This week, Heights and McCutcheon meet for the first time on the football field.

The Mavericks lost their home opener last week against West Lafayette, 34-28.

Tri-Central (1-1) at Sheridan (0-2)

Sheridan lost a tough one on the road last week at North Miami, 27-17.

The Blackhawks had a 14-7 lead at halftime when play was suspended due to storms, but the Warriors outscored Sheridan 20-3 in the second half for the win.

Jaylen Arnold led the Hawks with 99 yards on 19 carries and a TD. Owen Bell had a rushing TD and also booted a field goal.

Sheridan has won 18 of the 25 meetings with Tri-Central, including three straight and seven of the last 10.

The Trojans won at home against Wes-Del, 36-6.

Carmel (1-1) at Centerville (OH) (1-1)

Last week, 6A No. 8 Carmel fell short in a tough battle at Westfield, 17-13.

Carmel had a 10-0 lead at halftime when play was suspended due to storms. The Hounds were outscored 17-3 in the second half.

Anthony Coellner was very efficient, completing 22 of 33 for 251 yards and a TD. Jacob Bellin caught nine for 108 yards and Nathan Williams five for 90, including a 43-yard score.

The Greyhounds' road trip to Centerville, Ohio (south of Dayton) this Friday to face the Elks.

Centerville won on Aug. 23 at Lakota East (31-21) and lost at Cincinnati St. Xavier on Aug. 30 (34-10).



Photo by Joshua Herd

Carmel's Andrew Pemberton makes a run for the Greyhounds during their game with Westfield last weekend.

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VOLLEYBALL

The Huskies swept the Berries 25-7, 25-12, 25-15. Emma Blanton served 11 straight points in the first set, including three aces. Sierra Bramel distributed the ball efficiently in the second set, dishing out nine assists. Macie Smith was dominant in the front row, totaling 23 kills.

Heights’ junior varsity won its match 25-3, 25-15.

The Huskies are 2-0 in conference play and 12-2 overall. Heights hosts Alexandria Monroe at noon Saturday.

Westfield picked up a big HCC win over Zionsville Thursday in a five-set thriller.

The Shamrocks edged out the Eagles 26-24, 19-25, 23-25, 25-18, 17-15. Carsyn Comer played outstanding, hitting 17 kills on a .517 hitting percentage and making eight blocks. Kendyl Strack totaled 28 digs and served two aces. Emily Blevins handed out 27 assists and Izzy Jackson dished out 20.

Westfield is 2-0 in conference play and 9-3 overall. The Shamrocks host Guerin Catholic on Tuesday.

Guerin Catholic swept Shelbyville on Wednesday, 25-15, 25-17, 25-9.

Maddie Fritch hit 15 kills for the Golden Eagles, while Juliette Fuhrer served four aces and made 10 digs. Claire Ducey handed out 17 assists.

Guerin Catholic dropped a Circle City Conference match to Roncalli on Thursday, 25-7, 25-11, 25-19.

The Golden Eagles are 0-2 in conference play and 3-7 overall, and travel to Westfield on Tuesday.

Boys Soccer

Millers bring Bulldogs to heel, Westfield beats Brebeuf Jesuit at home

The REPORTER

The Noblesville boys soccer team sailed past Brownsburg 4-1 Thursday in a Hoosier Crossroads Conference game.

The Millers scored two goals in each half. Caden Rice, Caedmon Todd, Brady Frayer and Ben Hewitt all had one goal, with Max Tucker and Ashton Hancock each making one assist. Alex Eberhart had two goal-keeper saves.

Noblesville is 2-0-1 in conference play and 5-0-3 overall. Next up for the Millers is a game at Pike on Saturday morning.

Westfield won a 2-0 home game over Brebeuf Jesuit on Thursday.

Caden Krauss scored the Shamrocks’ first goal, with Hunter Smith putting in the second goal.

Westfield is 3-0-2 and hosts Noblesville Tuesday in an HCC contest.

Hamilton Southeastern played to a 1-1 tie with Harrison Thursday.

Ameer Abu-Salih scored the Royals’ goal in the first half.

Southeastern is 5-0-2 and plays Saturday morning at Brebeuf Jesuit.



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Thur Sept 5 - Soccer & Volleyball

Volleyball

5:30 pm Fishers vs Noblesville | Girls JV Volleyball | HCTV Sports

6:30 pm Fishers vs Noblesville | Girls Varsity Volleyball | HCTV Sports

7:20 pm Avon vs Hamilton Southeastern | Girls Volleyball | Southeastern Sports Soccer

5:30 pm Western Boone vs Sheridan | Boys Soccer | Bragg Sports Media

6:00 pm Brownsburg vs Noblesville | Boys JV Gold Soccer | Noblesville High School

7:20 pm Covenant Christian vs Bishop Chatard | IHSAA Soccer | Indiana SRN

7:30 pm Brownsburg vs Noblesville | Boys Varsity Soccer | Noblesville High School

Fri Sept 6 - IHSAA High School Football

6:30 pm Noblesville vs Fishers | Football | Fishers Sports Network

6:50 pm Lafayette Harrison vs Brebeuf | Football | Indiana SRN

6:50 pm Scecina vs Covenant Christian | Football | Indiana SRN

6:50 pm Greenfield Central vs Mt Vernon | Football | Indiana SRN

7:00 pm Zionsville vs Westfield | Football | HCTV Sports

7:00 pm Tri-Central vs Sheridan | Football | Bragg Sports Media

7:20 pm Evansville Central vs Evansville Memorial | Football | Indiana SRN

Sat Sept 7 - Freshman Football & Volleyball

10:00 am Noblesville vs Fishers | Freshman Football | Fishers Sports Network

10:50 am Traders Pt vs Horizon Christian | Girls Volleyball | Indiana SRN



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By **ANDREW CHERNOFF**
WISH-TV | wistv.com

The Indianapolis Colts are gearing up for their regular season opener.

The Colts host the Houston Texans on Sunday at 1 p.m. EDT inside Lucas Oil Stadium.

The status of two Colts players though remain a question mark entering the matchup.

Wide receiver Josh Downs did not practice on Wednesday or Thursday this week. He continues to recover after suffering a **high ankle sprain** last month.

Head coach Shane Steichen said on Wednesday that “we’ll see” when it comes to Downs’ status for the game.

“He’s progressing really well though, I’ll say that,” Steichen said.

The other key player whose status remains a question mark is kicker Matt Gay. Gay confirmed on Wednesday that he recently underwent hernia surgery.

“The whole thing that went into this whole decision was timing and not wanting to let it prolong and get worse and miss more time later on,” Gay said. “Being able to get it done now and take care of it now. And then obviously, you want to be smart and work your way back so you come back healthy and fully and you don’t set yourself back.”

Like Downs, Gay did not practice on Wednesday

WISH photo
Spencer Shrader lines up for a kick at practice on Wednesday.

or Thursday.

“Obviously, you want to be out there week one,” Gay said. “I mean, it’s a big game. Yeah, I want to be out there.”

Should Gay miss the game, **Spencer Shrader** would take over kicking duties for the Colts.

The rookie was signed to the team’s practice squad on Aug. 29. He was originally signed as an undrafted free agent in May before being waived on Aug. 25.

“I just feel so blessed honestly,” Shrader said. “That’s my biggest emotion. Just feeling blessed to be here. I just got another day. Hopefully Sunday comes for me, but, for now, I have today. So I’m just focusing on maximizing that.”

Shrader saw some playing time during the **Colts’ final preseason game** against the Bengals last month. In that contest, he was 2-of-2 on his field goal attempts, and also converted his two extra point attempts. One of the field goals he made was a 56-yarder.

“It goes to show that everything you know you can do in practice, you can also execute on the biggest stage,” Shrader said. “So it helps you as a confidence booster. But it’s not like I didn’t know I wasn’t capable of that to begin with.”

Shrader is prepared should he need to step up in Gay’s absence on Sunday.

“I’m always looking at ways to refine my routine and get a little bit better,” Shrader said. “But yeah, it’s mostly stayed the same with a couple tweaks here and there.”

What makes this experience even more special for Shrader is that he is back home. The kicker grew up in Westfield, Ind. before he moved out of the state.

“It’s so cool to be back,” Shrader said. “To me, I believe that’s a God thing. The fact that I ended up back here, close to friends and family back home. It’s just been an unbelievable experience for me.”

Shrader began his collegiate career at South Florida, where he played for four seasons. He transferred to Notre Dame for the 2023 season.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 6
FOOTBALL

Carmel at Centerville (Ohio), 7 p.m.
Hamilton Heights at McCutcheon, 7 p.m.
Hamilton Southeastern at Avon, 7 p.m.
Heritage Christian at Guerin Catholic, 7 p.m.
Noblesville at Fishers, 7 p.m.
Tri-Central at Sheridan, 7 p.m.
Zionsville at Westfield, 7 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Hamilton Southeastern, Noblesville, Sheridan at Paul Logan Invitational, 5:30 p.m. at North Central
Bethesda Christian at University, 5:30 p.m.
Mishawaka Marian at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

TENNIS

Carmel at Bishop Chatard, 5 p.m.
Westfield at Barr-Reeve, 5 p.m.

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

Brian Mason, who is currently the Colts special teams coordinator, was the special teams coordinator at Notre Dame during the 2022 season.

“He (Mason) had recruited me to Notre Dame,” Shrader said. “So that is when I first made that connection and then (he) helped get me here (Indianapolis) as well.”

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wistv.com/sports/indianapolis-colts-westfield-native-ready-to-step-up-for-colts-on-sunday-if-matt-gay-cant-play.



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