

# Oak Hill Times



## Indiana's youth mental health crisis

By Cameron Williams,  
Youth First, Inc.

Indiana has a youth mental health crisis. To set the stage, let's address a few facts.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most current Youth Risk Behavior Survey data (1991-2021) has found that 46.9 percent of Indiana high school students have "felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row." The same survey found that over 22 percent of Indiana's high school students seriously considered suicide, with 17 percent of them making a plan and 10.2 percent of Indiana high school students actually attempting suicide.

As indicated by the data, our youth are having a mental health crisis that has worsened every year since the Covid-19 pandemic. An American Federation of Teachers survey conducted in 2020 found that 95 percent of educators agreed that "social and emotional support for students has never been more important than it is now."

Unfortunately, in 2022 the Indiana Youth Institute reported that the state of Indiana has the worst counselor to student ratio in the United States, at 628 students per one counselor. The ratios for other mental health professionals are significantly worse, with only one psychologist for every

2,698 students and only one social worker for every 2,788 students.

I'm not presenting these statistics to create fear or make the situation seem hopeless. Rather, I hope to clarify just how serious the state of Indiana's youth mental health crisis truly is, with the hope that it will inspire some change. Thankfully, there are actions that can improve the current situation.

Parents and community members can ask their local schools how many counselors, social workers, or psychologists are available for students to see. They can advocate for mental health training and/or specifically trauma-informed-care training for the teachers and school staff. Parents and community members can also present the statistics found in this article to their local school board, politicians, and governing bodies. If these statistics are presented with information about what services and mental health professionals are available at the school system in their community, a compelling case can be made to improve or increase the services available to the students and youth of that community.

Youth First, Inc. has done an outstanding job of providing services and improving the lives of students at Indiana schools, but there are still many areas

in the state of Indiana that currently do not have access to social workers or other mental health professionals in schools. Sharing the relevant data and information that accurately portrays the state's youth mental health crisis and advocating for change can make a difference for Indiana's youth. If change is enacted now to save our youth, Indiana can foundationally alter its future course and build the road to a better, brighter future.

Cameron Williams is a Youth First Social Services Designee at Throop Elementary School and Paoli Jr./Sr. High School in Orange County. Youth First, Inc. is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening youth and families. Youth First provides 90 highly trained mental health professionals (primarily master's level social workers), prevention programs, parent engagement coordinators, and bilingual support personnel to 125 schools across 14 Indiana counties. Over 50,000 youth and families per year are served by Youth First's school-based social work and community programs that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and maximize student success. To learn more about Youth First, visit [youthfirstinc.org](http://youthfirstinc.org) or call 812-421-8336.

## Goss-Reaves: New law will improve treatment help for pregnant women charged with drug crimes

STATEHOUSE – Gov. Eric Holcomb recently signed legislation authored by State Rep. Lori Goss-Reaves (R-Marion) into law that ensures pregnant women, who are charged with drug crimes, a pathway into treatment earlier.

According to a report from the National Library of Medicine, national estimates indicate that 40% of pregnant women entering jails and prisons have a drug use disorder. Goss-Reaves said these findings emphasize the need for legislation to confront substance abuse among pregnant women.

"This new law takes the focus off incarceration and puts the priority on treatment for addicted moms who have been charged with drug-related crimes," Goss-Reaves said. "If we can intervene sooner, we can address the underlying substance abuse issues, and give mom and baby a better path forward."

The new law will allow pregnant women facing drug-related criminal charges to be referred to drug courts, which Goss-Reaves said will help them connect with addiction and mental health resources



sooner. Drug courts address cases involving nonviolent drug offenders through rehabilitation programs rather than traditional sentencing.

Florida and Kentucky are among other states that offer problem-court referrals to pregnant women struggling with substance abuse.

According to the Indiana Department of Health, in 2020 substance use disorder was the most common contributing factor to 43 percent of all pregnancy-related deaths in Indiana.

To learn more about House Enrolled Act 1418 and follow other legislation signed into law by the governor, visit [in.gov/gov/newsroom/2024-bill-watch](http://in.gov/gov/newsroom/2024-bill-watch).



"YOU ARE BRAVER THAN YOU BELIEVE, STRONGER THAN YOU SEEM AND SMARTER THAN YOU THINK."

A.A MILNE



# Control your thoughts or they will control you

Dr. Billy Holland

We all know the feeling of having something on our minds that we have a difficult time letting go of. Similar to an image or a catchy song that gets stuck in our head, commonly called an earworm, negative thoughts can be very difficult to remove and the more we replay them the more familiar they become. Rumination is a psychological term for rehashing thoughts over and over. While it can simply mean being stuck in a mental cycle, that may not always be necessarily bad, the psychological term leans toward pessimistic thinking and feelings of what could have been. Some might worry incessantly about a conversation that embarrassed them, or having regret about a decision, and then live in misery over all the things they should have said or done.

The past is not the only area where rumination can try to distract us and cause depression. We can also worry excessively about what could happen in the future. To say the least, such thinking is not only very unpleasant and a joy thief, but it can generally become self-destructive if we do not learn how to control it. One psychologist described it as a turntable where the stylus runs in the groove of the record. Psychological rumination causes these memory grooves to get deeper and deeper, so it becomes more difficult to escape from the rut. What's more, if we submit to the temptation of ruminating, we may become more upset than we were originally because the issue now becomes magnified or even exaggerated in our minds. We've all heard the common saying, "It's all in your head" which helps identify that much of our worries are from our inability to control our thoughts.

We know that anxiety, fear, and sadness can haunt the mind and influence how we live and who we are. In the realm of good and evil, the Bible talks about an evil spiritual enemy whose mission is to deceive and persuade us to listen to his voice. He realizes the mind is the battlefield where he can attack those who are mentally and emotionally vulnerable to external influences. It's no secret that if he is given access to our secret place of thoughts, he will prepare his ambush and release an assault of spiritual oppression upon us to distract and manipulate us into a destructive pattern of condemnation and pity. This is why we must build a fortress to guard our hearts and minds from his lies.

Of course, we all have memories we wish we could have a second chance to make better, along with perceptions and fears that desire to paralyze us with dread. But if we spend too much time dwelling on spilled milk that we cannot change, our most significant regret will be that we could have used this energy to empower and enhance our future. Can you see what the enemy is trying to do? So, how can we develop a strategy to battle against these negative deceptions that are trying to steal, kill, and destroy? We can research and learn the reality of spiritual warfare and this will reveal what we are facing and help us develop an awareness of not only the tactics of the dark side but the glories of God's presence. If we can grow stronger in spiritual discernment and comprehend where these dark thoughts are coming from, we can rebuke Satan in the Name of Jesus and pray and ask God for His help.

Revelation chapter 12 gives us insight into this dangerous entity called the accuser of the brethren, as the buttons of our vulnerable emotional areas will continually be his target until we learn how to resist him. Ignoring our accountability to control our thoughts and feelings will allow them to dictate our every idea and decision. We must decide if we are tired of being controlled. Emotions were never meant to lead us, we are created to be led by the voice of God, and it encourages us to know that we can overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of our testimony. It's also very critical to forgive ourselves. We can ask others to forgive us for our failures, but God does not condemn us and wants to heal and restore our souls. Today we have a wonderful opportunity to take all we have learned and become more determined to enjoy the abundant life Jesus Christ has provided as we accomplish God's will.

Read more about the victorious Christian life at [billyhollandministries.com](http://billyhollandministries.com)

# VICTORIOUS *Living* in a troubled world

## How Samson are we?

Teresa LeNeave  
Leneave2@comcast.net

Preachers usually talk about Samson in the context of immorality, emphasizing his love for women and all the problems that followed because of his weakness. I think there is much more to Samson than his weakness for women.

Reading about the life of Samson in Judges 14-16, one thing that is immediately apparent is that he is full of himself. Though he was set apart from birth as a Nazarite, he seems to not much care for the title and he is found constantly breaking the Nazarite rules. He's a rebel with a cause but he does some foolish and strange things along the way.

There were some hard-fast rules for a Nazarite: No alcohol or even eating a grape; no cutting his hair and no touching anything that was dead or unclean. (Numbers 6). You don't hear much preaching about his anger, but I think Samson had some anger issues. For sure, he was the kind of person who held grudges and was determined to "pay back" anyone who harmed him. Even in



death, that was his last request of God. He said, "Let me get revenge for my two eyes."

We're not given much detail on his early life but his first recorded action tells us a whole lot about the young man, Samson. He went to the town of Timnah where he saw a woman he wanted for his wife. He comes home and DEMANDS that his parents get her for him against their better judgement. He would not relent until his parents did just as he asked.

On his way to meet the woman, he kills a lion (remember he is not allowed to touch a dead body)? Sometime later, he walks the same road and turns away to check

out the lion's carcass. He sees a swarm of bees and digs out the honey to eat. Oops, there he is touching something dead again.

He has the same problem a lot of us have. Throughout his story I see him as an impatient man with an entitlement attitude. Pride causes him to do some crazy things. He finds joy in taunting people just to agitate them. It doesn't bother him to go against God's rules. He enjoys holding grudges and "paying people back". He's clever and always has a plan but its usually detrimental to his own life. Samson thought he needed no one. He was a one-man army killing as many as 1,000 men by

himself using just the jawbone of a donkey. (Here he is touching something dead again).

He isn't allowed to touch anything unclean but he repeatedly breaks the rules. In fact, he breaks a lot of rules. He consistently picks the wrong women. He always thinks he can out smart his adversaries and does not learn from his mistakes. In spite of his outrageous pranks and revengeful acts, he fares pretty good until Delilah gets the best of him and convinces him to tell her the secret of his great strength. Three times she tricks him. Three times, he plays the game with her. When he finally relents and tells the truth, immediately, they cut his hair, gouge his eyes out, bind him in shackles and put him to forced labor.

If you haven't read the story of Samson, please do so. It is so interesting. He's always planning a way to get even, but it never serves him well. In the end, blind, with just a little strength as his hair begins to grow back, we find him still holding a grudge, determined to pay back his enemies. My question is: how Samson are we?

## Chicken Noodle Fundraiser Dinner to be held April 28th

Epworth Church at 105 W 8th St. in Matthews, Indiana will have their annual Chicken Noodle Fundraiser Dinner on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

Epworth is known for their noodles served at Cumberland Covered Bridge Festival and this is an opportunity to enjoy a delicious homemade chicken and noodle dinner prepared in the same tradition.

Serving will be from 11:45 am - 1:30 pm, and the community is invited to dine-

in or carry out. We welcome other church congregations to join us following their

services. Dinners include chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green

beans, rolls, beverage, and dessert. Free will donations for the meal will be gratefully accepted for the Epworth Concert Outreach Ministry Fund. This outreach provides an opportunity to experience Christ through the power of music by accomplished, nationally known gospel artists.

For more information about their ministry and upcoming concerts visit [epworthworship.com](http://epworthworship.com).





## AREA DEATHS April 3, 2024 - April 9, 2024

### *Penny Cantrell*

MARION - Penny Cantrell, age 43 of Marion, passed away Sunday, April 7, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital, Ft. Wayne.

Visitation for family and friends will be Friday, April 12, 2024, from Noon to 1:00 PM at Raven Choate Robinson Funeral Home, 1202 W. Kem Rd., Marion. Funeral Services will start immediately following visitation. Pastor Tom Mansbarger will officiate.

Online condolence may be shared at [www.ravenchoate.com](http://www.ravenchoate.com)

### *Billy Ray Pitman*

JONESBORO - Billy Ray Pitman, 78, of Jonesboro, passed away in his home at 6:02 am on Monday, April 8, 2024.

At Billy's request, there will be no public visitation or funeral service.

Arrangements are entrusted to Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St., Gas City, IN.

Memories may be shared online at [www.nswcares.com](http://www.nswcares.com).

### *Peggy Ann Rigney*

MARION - Peggy Ann Rigney, 81, Marion, passed away at 6:11 am on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, in her home.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN with Rev. Dr. Tom Mansbarger officiating. Burial at Gardens of Memory in Marion.

Memories may be shared online at [www.nswcares.com](http://www.nswcares.com)

### *Shirley A. Morrison*

MARION - Shirley A. Morrison, 92, of Marion, passed away in her home at 3:14 pm on Friday, April 5, 2024.

There will be a celebration of Shirley's life at a later date.

Arrangements are entrusted to Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN.

Memories may be shared online at [www.nswcares.com](http://www.nswcares.com)

### *Marsha Walker Baugh*

GAS CITY - Marsha Walker Baugh, 81, of Gas City, passed away at her home on Thursday, April 4, 2024.

Services are pending with Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St., Gas City, IN.

Memories may be shared online at [www.nswcares.com](http://www.nswcares.com)

### *James R. Thomas*

CHESTER TWP - James R. Thomas, 84, of Chester Twp., Wells Co. passed away at 7:24 PM on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at Markle Health & Rehab in Markle, IN.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W. Windsor St. Montpelier, IN. on Sunday, April 14, 2024 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

A service to celebrate his life will follow at 3:00 PM with Pastor Zach Ruble officiating. Interment will follow in the Miller Cemetery in Poneto.

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at [www.glancyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.glancyfuneralhomes.com)

### *Robert J. Williams*

WARREN - Robert J. Williams, 67 of Warren, Indiana, passed away at Lutheran Hospital on Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

Robert was a United States Navy veteran.

Friends and family gathered to share and remember Rob on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home located at 203 N. Matilda St. Warren, IN 46792.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home in Warren, Indiana.

### *Frances DeLois "Lois" (Parvin) Bowlby*

RUSSEVILLE - Frances DeLois "Lois" (Parvin) Bowlby, 73, of Russiaville, passed away unexpectedly Saturday April 6, 2024, at her home.

Friends are invited to visit with the family from 4 to 8 pm Friday April 12, 2024, at Stout & Son Funeral Home - Russiaville Chapel, 200 East Main Street, Russiaville, IN 46979. Funeral service will be held at 1:30 pm Saturday April 13, 2024, at the funeral home with Pastor Jim Stevenson officiating. Burial will follow in Russiaville Cemetery. Contributions may be made in Lois' honor to Honeycreek Missionary Baptist Church.

### *Lindan Jerome "L.J." Hill*

Lindan Jerome "L.J." Hill, 47, died unexpectedly at his home in Bremen, Alabama.

Visitation will be from 9:00 am to 11:00 am Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Hasler & Stout Funeral Home, 112 East Main Street, Greentown, Indiana, followed immediately by a brief service. Burial will follow in Greenlawn Cemetery, Greentown, Indiana.

Messages of condolence may be left at [www.hasler-stout.com](http://www.hasler-stout.com)

### *Wanda Ruth (Brown) Marcus*

KOKOMO - Wanda Ruth (Brown) Marcus, 94, of Kokomo, went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at 6:26 am Saturday April 6, 2024.

Private family services will be held and officiated by Pastor John Dreyer. Burial will take place in Russiaville Cemetery.

Stout & Son Funeral Home - Russiaville Chapel has been entrusted with arrangements.

Messages of condolence may be left online at [www.stoutandson.com](http://www.stoutandson.com)

### *Miriam Jane "Mimi" Slate*

KOKOMO - Miriam Jane "Mimi" Slate, 77, Kokomo, passed away Friday morning, April 5, 2024, at Ascension St. Vincent, Kokomo.

Friends are invited to visit with the family from 4-7pm on Friday, April 12, 2024, at Shirley & Stout Funeral Home, 1315 W. Lincoln Road. Kokomo. A funeral service celebrating Mimi's life will be held at 11:00 am Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the funeral home, with Pastor Jon Tice officiating. Burial will follow in Kokomo Memorial Park Cemetery.

Messages of condolence may be left online at [www.shirleyandstout.com](http://www.shirleyandstout.com)

### *Madeline Roe*

KOKOMO - Madeline Roe, 92, Kokomo, the Matriarch of the family, went to be with her Lord & Savior, Jesus, on Friday, April 5, 2024, at 7 pm, surrounded by her loving family.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at Shirley & Stout Funeral Home, 1315 W. Lincoln Rd., Kokomo, with Pastor Talon Paul officiating. Burial in Albright Cemetery.

Messages of condolence may be left online at [www.shirleyandstout.com](http://www.shirleyandstout.com)

### *Conrad T. Heslin*

SWAYZEE - Conrad T. Heslin, 89, of Swayzee, passed away with his daughter by his side in his home on April 6, 2024.

Gunny was a United States Marine veteran. Visitation will be held from 10:30am-12:30pm, Thursday, April 11, 2024 in Owen-Weilert-Duncan Funeral Home, Gas City Chapel, 200 North 7th Street, Gas City.

The funeral will begin at 12:30pm in the funeral home. Burial with military honors will follow at 2pm in Marion National Cemetery, Marion, Indiana.

### *Ruth Ann Boys*

MARION - Ann Boys, 73, of Marion passed away April 3, 2024 at Marion Health after a brief illness.

The memorial service will be held at 11am, Friday, April 12, 2024 at Ephesus Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 2424 South Nebraska, Marion with Pastor Kent Nichols and Pastor Jose Torres officiating. Interment will take place in LaFontaine Cemetery, LaFontaine, Indiana at a later date.

Owen-Weilert-Duncan Funeral Home, Marion Chapel, 2722 South Washington Street, Marion was entrusted with the arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at [www.owenweilertduncan.com](http://www.owenweilertduncan.com)

### *Rhonda M. Blakley*

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Rhonda M. Blakley Reed, aged 67, on Thursday, April 4, 2024.

Funeral arrangements for Rhonda have been entrusted to the Fairmount Chapel of Armes-Hunt Life Celebration Funeral Home and Cremation Services, located at 415 South Main Street, Fairmount, Indiana 46928.

A cremation service will be carried out following Rhonda's wishes, with a memorial service at a later date. In lieu of floral offerings, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the funeral home to assist with the expenses during this difficult time.

### *Carolyn Sue Clouser*

Carolyn Sue Clouser, 90, passed away on Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

A funeral service will be held at 10 am Friday, April 12, 2024, at Hasler & Stout Funeral Home, 112 E Main St, Greentown, with Pastor John Mansur officiating. Burial will follow in New Hope Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 4-7 pm, Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the funeral home, with an Order of the Eastern Star service following at 7 pm.

Messages of condolence may be made online at [www.hasler-stout.com](http://www.hasler-stout.com) Peggy Ann Scheibelhut, 71, Kokomo, passed away April 3, 2024, at her home.

### *Peggy Ann Scheibelhut*

KOKOMO - Peggy Ann Scheibelhut, 71, Kokomo, passed away April 3, 2024, at her home.

Funeral service will be held at Noon Friday April 12, 2024, at Shirley & Stout Funeral Home & Crematory, 1315 W. Lincoln Road, Kokomo, with Pastor Michael Fuqua officiating. Burial will follow in Albright Cemetery.

Friends are invited to visit with the family from 10 am until time of service Friday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made in Peggy's memory to the Kokomo Humane Society.

***The sorrow that you feel  
The heartache that you hear  
Though we cannot comprehend  
Still we deeply care...***

***May it comfort you to know  
We lift your name in prayer  
May you lean upon the Father  
For He is always there.***



# SPORTS

## Line judge procedure modified in high school volleyball

By Steve LeMaster  
Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Line judges will be required to change sides of the court between sets when teams remain on the same bench. The change in officiating procedure highlights the 2024-25 high school volleyball rules changes.

In all, four rules changes were recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Volleyball Rules Committee at its annual meeting January 7-9. All rules changes were reviewed and approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

Rule 5-9-2b, which outlines line judge responsibilities, includes the new note requiring that they switch sides of the court when, by state association

adoption, teams remain on the same bench throughout the match. The corresponding item on the state association adoption chart was also amended to add the requirement, which was added to promote fair officiating.

“Since the pandemic many state associations have adopted the rule to require teams to remain on the same bench throughout the match,” said Lindsey Atkinson, NFHS Director of Sports and liaison to the Volleyball Rules Committee. “The unintended consequence of this adoption is that the same line judge officiates the same lines for the same teams throughout the match. This change allows teams to see both line judges and promote equity in officiating.

In other rules changes, Rule 11-4-1b now allows

teams to substitute for a replacement player during a referee’s timeout when the libero is injured or ill, allowing the team to avoid playing the replacement out of position.

Two rules dealing with uniforms and rosters were amended to address when a uniform is damaged or has blood on it. Rule 4-2-3 Note was added to allow a player to change uniforms and for the roster to be adjusted accordingly with no penalty when a uniform is bloodied or damaged. Rule 7-1-1 Note was also changed to specify that blood on or damage to the uniform are acceptable reasons to change uniforms.

The first referee’s responsibilities were modified in Rule 5-4-3c(1) to direct players to the end lines prior to the first set and then direct starting

players onto the court for play. Previously, only starting players were directed to the end lines for prematch announcements.

The rule now allows but does not require teams to include more team members in the prematch ceremony.

A complete listing of the volleyball rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). Click on “Activities & Sports” at the top of the home page and select “Volleyball.”

According to the most recent NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, volleyball is the second-most popular sport for girls (trailing track and field) with 470,488 participants in 16,610 schools nationwide. In addition, there are 77,287 boys participating in the sport at 3,376 schools.

## HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL Golden Eagles edge Woodlan 2-1

By Steve LeMaster  
Sports Writer

CONVERSE — Oak Hill edged Woodlan 2-1 on Saturday, April 6.

Woodlan scored first, pushing across one run in the top half of the first inning.

Following back-to-back scoreless at-bats. Oak Hill plated two runs in the bottom half of the third inning to move ahead.

Emmett Dorothy started on the mound for Oak Hill and earned the win. Dorothy recorded nine strikeouts over five innings. The Oak Hill

starting pitcher held Woodlan to one run on three hits.

Noah Thompson pitched in relief for Oak Hill and claimed the save. Thompson limited Woodlan to one hit while logging one strikeout over two innings.

Oak Hill scored two runs on four hits. Thompson, Ryan Lawson, Jackson Lamb and Cam Aguilar each delivered one hit for the Golden Eagles. Both Lawson and Lamb doubled. Productive at the plate, Lawson drove in both of Oak Hill’s runs.

## GIRLS’ HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL Marion shuts out Shenandoah in season opener

By Steve LeMaster  
Sports Writer

MARION — Marion shut out Shenandoah 5-0 in its season opener on Saturday, April 6.

Starting strong, Marion thrived throughout its season opener. Several Marion girls’ tennis players excelled.

Marion’s results from the season opener versus

Shenandoah follow. Number 1 Singles: Shaeli Castaneda won 6-0, 6-0.

Number 2 Singles: Graciella Solis won 6-0, 6-0.

Number 3 Singles: Ava Marroni won 6-0, 6-1.

Number 1 Doubles: Abby Ndong and Nyla Hubbard won 6-0, 6-0.

Number 2 Doubles: Lillia Fisher and Ravleen Rai won 6-3, 7-5.

## Risk minimization, skill development focus of 2024-25 high school spirit rules changes

By Steve LeMaster  
Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Continued efforts to promote skill development and minimize risk led the way for 15 rules changes recommended by the NFHS Spirit Rules Committee at its February 13-14 meeting in Orlando, Florida. All recommended changes were approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

One major rule change for the 2024-25 high school spirit season involves the separation of braced vs. non-braced transitions. Rule 3-5-6 is a new section that defines a non-braced transition and the conditions that need to be met to achieve one. This change separates out

releases in pyramid and standalone releases to make it easier to find for coaches and officials.

A change in Rule 3-7-2 removes the requirement of the secondary spotter in single-based dismounts to the performing surface that include a skill. In many cases, the secondary spotter created more of a risk by getting in the way of the main spotter. If the main catcher for some reason is unable to catch, the secondary spotter will be unable to assist in a meaningful way.

“As the bases were moving, the spotter was getting in the way. It’s about risk minimization. Bases are free to move the way they move,” said James Weaver, NFHS director of performing

arts and sports and liaison to the NFHS Spirit Rules Committee.

In Rule 1-Definitions, the Spirit Rules Committee approved a definition of jewelry as “any personal adornment worn on the body.” The committee felt that there needed to be a definition for jewelry to have a line between the adornments that are allowed and not allowed.

Much of Rule 4 pertaining to Dance was changed to help reduce redundancies and for ease of reference. Rules 4-4-8, 4-4-10 and 4-4-11 were removed because the skills stated in each section are already permitted in dance. In some cases, the skills were also already restricted due to Rule 4-4-2.

New language in Rule

3-8-2 allows all soft props to be in the non-support hand, further following dance language. During Game Day activities, many teams have soft props such as crumpled flags, bandanas etc. These props are now allowed because they do not increase risk during tumbling.

In Rule 3-10 on Props, teams are not allowed to throw a prop from one person to another, and several situations were approved as rules including the change that hands-free poms are now allowed in both cheer and dance.

“Having a section specific to props that outlines restrictions as rules instead of

see *RISK*, page 5



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## SPORTS

**RISK, from page 4**

interpretations will help coaches and officials," Weaver said.

Other rules changes include:

Rule 3-3-5 c&d now allows the bracers in a braced flip to descend into a load as the braced flip is coming down and going to cradle. It still requires braces to be in the preps at the beginning of the flip.

Rule 3-3-6c3 adds language that disallows the top person to go directly from an upright vertical position at prep level to an inverted position.

Rule 3-4-2 was changed to Rule 3-2-10 as it fits better in that section.

Rule 3-6-5 adds language regarding a vertical seated/ pike position.

When starting form a vertical seated/pike position at prep level or above, the top person may not perform any twist to a vertical seated/pike position.

Rule 4-1-3b2 adds language that permits kip ups and headsprings to no longer require footwear that covers the whole foot. The impact of kip ups and headsprings do not pose a significant risk because they are only airborne in approach.

Rule 4-5-3 added language regarding the restriction of non-braced release stunts. Dance participants are already not allowed to do braced releases, and doing a release while braced is used as a lead-up skill.

A complete listing of the spirit rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). Click on "Activities & Sports" at the top of the home page and select "Spirit."

According to the 2022-23 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, competitive spirit ranks eighth in participation for girls with 149,694 participants in 7,216 schools.

**ALL-STARS, from page 4**

are Michael Cooper of Jeffersonville, Julius Gizzi of New Palestine, JonAnthony Hall of Fishers, Cedric Horton of Richmond, Tre Singleton of Jeffersonville and Shane Sims of Evansville Harrison.

The Blue Group players are Chase Barnes of Fort Wayne Wayne, Damien King of Anderson, Chase Konieczny of South Bend Saint Joseph, Dominique Murphy of East Chicago Central, Kellen Pickett of Fort Wayne Blackhawk Christian and Jack Smiley of Valparaiso.

Matt Luce of Wapahani, a Class 2A State Finalist this season, will be the head coach of the 2024 Indiana boys' Junior All-Stars. He will be assisted by Tom Wells of Michigan City.

Luce has a 309-96 record in 17 seasons at Wapahani, including a 26-2 mark heading into the '24 State Finals. In 22 seasons as a head coach, he has a 359-156 ledger with previous stops at Southwestern

(Hanover), Crawfordsville and Benton Central. Over the years, Luce's teams have won six sectional titles, two regional crowns and the 2024 semi-state. Wells has a 76-46 record in five seasons at Michigan City. Overall, Wells is 402-376 in 35 seasons with earlier tenures at Prairie Heights, Griffith, Portage and LaPorte.

The Junior All-Stars will play one game against the Kentucky Junior All-Stars on Sunday, June 2 at Scottsburg's Charles E. Meyer Gymnasium. The Junior All-Stars also will play one game against the Indiana All-Star senior boys on Wednesday, June 5 at Kokomo High School. Both games will be doubleheaders with the 2024 Indiana girls' Junior All-Stars, whose roster was announced on March 4.

The players listed as Core Group players each will play in two games. The players listed in the Red and Blue groups each will play in one game, the Red Group on June 2 against the Kentucky

Juniors and the Blue Group on June 5 against the Indiana Seniors.

The Indiana senior All-Stars will play the Kentucky senior All-Stars on Friday, June 7 at a site to be announced. The Indiana senior All-Stars will play Kentucky's seniors again on Saturday, June 8 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

The second IndyStar Indiana All-Star "Futures Games" doubleheader will be played on Monday, June 3 at Hamilton Southeastern High School. The Futures Games will be a girls-boys doubleheader with Indiana-only squads of sophomores and freshmen in a North vs. South format. The Futures Games rosters will be announced later.

The 2024 Indiana boys' Junior All-Star team was selected through a process that allows all IBCA-member head coaches to nominate players through the IBCA all-state procedure. The IBCA 22-member Indiana Basketball Coaches

Association boys' all-state committee reviewed and voted on players for the 2024 IBCA/Franciscan Health boys' All-State teams that were released on Friday, March 22.

The boys' all-state committee members also provided input to a six-person boys' Junior All-Star subcommittee appointed by IBCA executive director Marty Johnson and chaired by Brandon Bradley of Kankakee Valley. Bradley, Broughton plus coaches Ryan Abbott of Carroll (Fort Wayne), Chris Giffin of Lawrence North, Mark Rohrer of Gibson Southern and Andy Weaver of Plainfield finalized the selections for the 2024 boys' Junior All-Stars.

The Indiana Junior All-Star program was founded in 1996 by former Indiana All-Star games director Patrick Aikman. In most years, 18 players have been chosen to the Junior All-Stars. In five years (2005, 2006, 2007, 2018 and 2019), 24 players were chosen to the Junior All-Stars. In

2021, just 12 players were chosen to the Junior All-Stars.

In games from 1996 through 2023 (with no games in 2020 because of COVID-19), the Indiana Senior boys lead the Indiana Junior boys 41-11 and the Indiana Senior girls lead the Indiana Junior girls 41-11. In seven years of games against the Kentucky Juniors, the Indiana Junior boys lead 7-5 and the Indiana Junior girls lead 11-1. Games against the Kentucky Juniors previously have been played in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023.

The Indiana portion of the All-Star Games is organized and produced by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association. The Indianapolis Star, with its IndyStar brand, is the title sponsor.

Hoosier Shooting Academic is a presenting partner for All-Star Week. Energy Systems Group is a presenting partner for the Saturday doubleheader against Kentucky.

## Girls' All-Star Futures roster announced

By **Steve LeMaster**  
Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Two players each from Lawrence Central, Hamilton Southeastern and Homestead plus one player from 18 other schools have been named to the rosters for the 2024 IndyStar girls' All-Star Futures Game, games director Mike Broughton announced on Friday, March 29.

The Futures Games, one each for boys and girls, are a second-year part of the Indiana All-Star basketball program. The Futures Games will pair teams of current Indiana freshmen and sophomores in a North-South format. The second Futures Games will be played Monday, June 3 at Hamilton Southeastern High School in Fishers. The girls' game is set for 6 p.m., and the boys' game will follow around 8 p.m.

Sophomores Lola Lampley and Aniyah McKenzie of Lawrence Central as well as sophomores Kennedy Holman and Kayla Stidham of Hamilton Southeastern

have been selected to the South Team for the 2024 Futures Game. Those four players will be joined by sophomore Mollie Ernstes of Jennings County, sophomore Denell Jacobs of Warren Central, freshman McKenzie Koch of Eastern Hancock, freshman Hannah Menser of Plainfield, sophomore C.C. Quigley of Noblesville, sophomore Brooklynn Renn of Silver Creek, freshman Paige Schnaus of Gibson Southern and sophomore Madalynn Shirley of Evansville Central on the South squad.

Sophomores Myah Epps and Gabby Helsom of Homestead will team with 10 others on the North Team. Completing that squad are sophomore Lillian Barnes of Valparaiso, sophomore Kenedi Bradley of Chesterton, sophomore Joslyn Bricker of Warsaw, sophomore Laniah Davis of Marquette Catholic, sophomore Gracyn Gilliard of Munster, freshman Lillie Graves of McCutcheon, sophomore Vanessa Rosswurm of Norwell, sophomore Miley Wareing

of Fort Wayne Bishop Luers, sophomore Khala Williams-Thomas of Fort Wayne Northrop and sophomore Laniah Wills of Lapel.

Kyle Brasher of Gibson Southern is head coach for the South Team. He will be assisted by Tyler Choate of Evansville North. Lisa Finn of Indianapolis Cathedral is head coach for the North Team. She will be assisted by Amy Shearer of Columbia City.

Brasher is 124-31 in six seasons, and his Titans were 2024 Class 3A state champions with a 26-4 record. Choate is 135-61 in eight seasons at Evansville North, including 16-11 last season with sectional titles in 2020 and 2024. Finn is 63-57 in five seasons at Cathedral, including 12-12 in 2023-24. Shearer is 197-137 in 14 seasons at Columbia City, her alma mater, including 22-3 last season.

Players and coaches for the All-Star Futures Games are picked by a Futures Games committee chaired by Broughton. In a change from last year, the 2024 Futures Games will feature only

freshmen and sophomores. The inaugural Futures Games in 2023 included freshmen, sophomores and juniors.

In the inaugural girls' Futures Game, Maya Makalusky of Hamilton Southeastern scored 15 points and Jordyn Poole of Fort Wayne Snider tallied 11 points as the North girls defeated the South girls 73-63. Talia Harris of Fishers added eight points, nine rebounds, five assists and two steals for the North and was named Game MVP. Jaylah Lampley of Lawrence Central and Juliann Woodard of Jennings County each scored 12 points to pace the South girls.

In the first boys' Futures Game, Braylon Mullins of Greenfield-Central scored 16 points to lead a balanced South Team to a 100-96 victory. K.J. Windham of Ben Davis added 15 points, while Jack Benter of Brownstown Central and Azavier Robinson of Lawrence North each netted 14 points, Taray Howell of Evansville Bosse chipped in 12 points and Brennan Miller of Lawrence North had 10 points for the

winners. Flory Bidunga collected MVP honors after totaling game highs of 21 points, 13 rebounds and three blocks for the North. Ajani Washington, then of Fort Wayne Concordia, added 20 points. Sabien Cain of University had 17 points.

The Indiana All-Stars program was founded in 1939 when the Indiana boys' All-Stars played the state champion Frankfort Hot Dogs. The All-Star series with Kentucky began in 1940, and the girls' portion of the All-Stars was added in 1976. The Junior All-Stars, boys and girls, were added in 1996. The Futures Games doubleheader was added in 2023.

The Indiana portion of the All-Star Games is organized and produced by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association. The Indianapolis Star, with its IndyStar brand, is the title sponsor. Hoosier Shooting Academy is a presenting partner for All-Star week. Energy Systems Group is a presenting partner for the Saturday doubleheader against Kentucky.

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2004 STERLING tri-axle dump truck, 8LL transmission, 16.5 ft. aluminum bed, 849,000 miles, great shape, mechanically sound, one owner, professionally maintained. Mid 30s Call 812-639-1078 (tfn)

2009 Toyota Camry LE. New tires. \$6,250 call 812-639-1246

2006 Yamaha Roadliner 1900 w/accessories. 29,000 miles and 2,000 miles on the tires. Drag pipes and Mustang seats. \$5,500 call 812-686-1774

1987 Cadillac Fleetwood, front wheel drive, 4.1 liter V8. Good condition. Runs great in snow. 4 regular and 4 studed wheels and tires. BEST OFFER. 812-389-2067

2005 Honda Shadow 750. 15,200 miles Cobra floorboard, Mustang seat. \$4000, Call 618-240-5811

1976 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible, front wheel drive, 22,400 actual miles, 2nd owner for over 30 years. Mint. Never rained on. Always garaged and covered. \$23,900 firm. 812-481-1470

## MOTORCYCLES & ACCESSORIES

2007 Honda Shadow, excellent motorcycle. 2 owner. White & Grey. 13,100 miles. Asking \$4,000. Please call... 765-661-5498.

(7-26-22 tfn)

2006 HD Fatboy motorcycle, 1450 cc F.I., pearl white metallic, custom wheels, HD saddle bags, lots of extras, 51,000 miles. Looks and runs awesome! \$9,500. 812-639-1356 (tfn)

# NOW HIRING: WELDING POSITION

American Mobile Power is dedicated to providing quality products and services that will satisfy the needs and expectations of our customers. We are committed to the continual improvement of our products and processes to achieve our quality objectives; maximize value to our customers and realize a reasonable profit that will provide a stable future for our employees.

American Mobile Power will continue to build on our long history of providing quality products for the truck equipment industry. Providing problem solving and educational services to our customers has always been a trademark of American Mobile Power.

## OPPORTUNITY

The Welding role is a full-time position. A Welder is responsible for assembling pieces of metal together or repairing damage in metal components using heavy machinery that emits high heat, melting the metal into shape. Their duties include reviewing blueprints, cutting metal into the appropriate shape and smoothing molten metal to remove creases.

## ESSENTIAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Read blueprints and drawings and take or read measurements to plan layout and procedures.
- Determine the appropriate welding equipment or method based on requirements.
- Set up components for welding according to specifications (e.g. cut material with powered saws to match measurements).
- Operate angle grinders to prepare the parts that must be welded.
- Align components using calipers, rulers etc. and clamp pieces.

- Weld components using manual or semi-automatic welding equipment in various positions (vertical and horizontal).
- Test and inspect welded surfaces and structure to discover flaws.
- Maintain equipment in a condition that does not compromise safety.
- Lift and move heavy objects
- Keep work area clean
- Observe all safety rules, company policies and procedures
- Perform other duties as assigned

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Experience: Two (2) years of experience (preferred)  
Education: High school diploma or equivalent (GED) (preferred)  
Physical Demands: This individual may be required to lift items up to 50 lbs.  
Language: English

## COMPETENCIES

Welding experience preferred  
Good mathematical aptitude  
Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing  
Self-motivated and work well with other employees  
Flexible to effectively adapt to changing conditions and job assignment

Classification: Full time  
Department: Manufacturing  
Position Reports to: Weld Shop Supervisor

## BENEFITS

American Mobile Power offers a highly competitive compensation and benefit package including Medical, Dental, Prescription, Life Insurance, Dependent Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance, Short-Term Disability, 401(k) Plan, Employee Assistance Program, Vision.

American Mobile Power is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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Members of the Marion High School Varsity Choir pose for a photo with their awards from the Worldstrides Heritage Music Competition in Nashville, held April 3-6, 2024. Photo provided by Marion Community Schools

# MHS Varsity Choir shines at Nashville competition

Congratulations to the Marion High School Varsity Choir, which earned several awards last week at the Worldstrides Heritage Music Competition in Nashville. The choir earned

first place in their category, and also earned the overall Spirit of Nashville award, which recognizes the group that best represented themselves, their school and their

community. In addition, MHS senior Kendalyn Vetur earned the individual Ovation award at the competition. We are proud of our talented, hard-working students!

# 2024 Bob King Boys' District Coaches of the year announced

INDIANAPOLIS — Three Indiana high school boys' basketball coaches have been chosen as 2024 Bob King Coaches of the Year by their peers in the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association, it was announced on Monday, April 1

Clint Swan of Class 4A regional champion Crown Point, Matt Luce of Class 2A state runner-up Wapahani and Dave Benter of Class 2A state champion Brownstown Central have been selected as honorees for the 2023-24 season through voting that occurred from late January through late

March, IBCA executive director Marty Johnson said.

Honors are awarded according to IHSAA district boundaries, and one coach from each district is a recipient – Swan in District 1; Luce in District 2; and Benter in District 3. These three coaches will receive plaques as an IBCA District Coach of the Year during the 2024 IBCA Clinic, which is set for April 25-26 at Mt. Vernon High School in Fortville.

The Coach of the Year award is named for the late Bob King, the IBCA executive director from 1984-94. King was

a Lebanon native who coached at Sacred Heart and Shortridge high schools in Indianapolis before serving as an assistant basketball coach at Purdue University. He later also was as an assistant athletic director and associate athletic director at Purdue.

The Indiana Basketball Coaches Association has presented Coach of the Year Awards since 1972. These awards are named for Bob King, a former executive director of the organization who also spent years on the Purdue University men's basketball coaching staff and later served as an assistant athletic director at Purdue. He played and then coached basketball and football for 13 years at Indianapolis Shortridge and is a graduate of Butler University. He was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1986. Honorees were selected one per district in five districts from 1972 through 2003, two per district in three districts from 2004-2022, and one per district in three districts starting in 2023. The boys' awards started in the 1972-73 season. The girls' awards started in the 1983-84 season.

# Indiana Members Credit Union named one of the 2024 best places to work in Indiana

Indianapolis, IN - Indiana Members Credit Union was recently named one of the 2024 Best Places to Work in Indiana. This marks the 19th edition for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce initiative.

The statewide survey and awards program is designed to evaluate participating organizations and honor those with the highest levels of employee satisfaction and engagement in the workplace.

"The honored companies offer a blueprint for employee attraction and retention, and we are excited to celebrate their success. We hope the values and strategies on display in their workplaces can serve as models for other Indiana employers as we work together to address Indiana's talent pipeline needs," says Indiana Chamber President and CEO Vanessa Green Sinders.

"IMCU is honored to have been named one of the 'Best Places to Work in Indiana' for 2024 by the Indiana Chamber," said John Newett, President and CEO, Indiana Members Credit Union. "Thank you to our team for sharing their feedback and making this happen! It has always been an important part of our culture here at IMCU to create a positive and friendly work environment, and it is one of our key

strategic initiatives to remain an employer of choice. We will continue to strive for excellence for our team, ultimately to provide our members with the best possible service."

To be considered for participation, companies had to fulfill the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a for-profit, not-for-profit business or government organization;
- Be a publicly or privately held organization;
- Have a physical operation in Indiana;
- Have at least 15 full- or part-time permanent employees working in Indiana;
- Have been in business for at least one year, at the program registration deadline.

Companies from across the state entered the two-part survey process to determine the Best Places to Work in Indiana. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company's workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. This part of the process, the Employer Assessment, was worth approximately 20% of the total evaluation.

The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience.

This part of the process, the

Employee Feedback Survey, was worth approximately 80% of the total evaluation. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final rankings. Workforce Research Group managed the overall registration and survey process in Indiana, analyzed the data, and determined the final rankings.

The final rankings will be announced at an awards ceremony May 8, 2024, and then published in the Indiana Chamber's BizVoice® magazine after the event.

For more information on the Best Places to Work in Indiana program, visit [www.BestPlacesToWorkIndiana.com](http://www.BestPlacesToWorkIndiana.com).

About Indiana Members Credit Union Indiana Members Credit Union, headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, was founded in 1956 on the campus of IUPUI. IMCU has since grown to 31 branches, serving Central and Southern Indiana, offering consumer and business members a better financial alternative and a full array of products and services. Traditionally offering better rates on loans and deposits, IMCU maintains true to its roots by "Keeping It Simple" for members.

For more information, please visit IMCU online at [www.imcu.com](http://www.imcu.com).



Arts place is holding Regional Student Art Exhibition 2024: The Wonderful World of Art now through Friday, April 26th, at 131 E Walnut St., Portland, IN 47371 in the Performing Arts Building.

The public is invited to come see work on display from our local school kids! The Wonderful World of Art features many different types of art from a variety of grade levels! The exhibit is free and open to the public! There are works from Redkey Elementary, West Jay Elementary, Jay County

Middle School, and Jay County High School! A reception will be held Friday, April 12th from 4pm-6pm. Viewing hours are Monday-Thursday 10am - 8pm and Friday 10am

# Regional Student Art Exhibition

- 4pm. For more information or questions on how to be involved, please contact Arts Place by calling 260-726-4809 or emailing [visualarts@myartsplace.org](mailto:visualarts@myartsplace.org)



Painting by Annah Helm

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