

# VOTE BY MAIL

## Apply by May 21

All Hamilton County voters can now vote by mail for the June 2nd Primary. Learn more and apply to vote at [JeffHern.com/2020Primary](http://JeffHern.com/2020Primary).

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# HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper

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## FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020

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## TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mainly morning showers, then clouds decrease in the afternoon. Wind gusting to 30 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Patchy frost.

HIGH: 48 LOW: 28

# Westfield High School earns third statewide STEM honor

**The REPORTER**

Westfield High School (WHS) has been named a distinguished school for STEM and career learning programs for the third year in a row. WHS received the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School honor for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW courses including Computer Science, Biomedical Science, and Engineering.

Westfield was just one of 143 high schools across the United States to receive this honor and one of only seven schools to receive the honor in Indiana. WHS is only one of two high schools in Indiana to receive this recognition three years in a row.

Biomedical classes working to solve medical mysteries, to Introduction to Engineering classes that design and test watercraft, to cybersecurity Computer Science courses that inspire

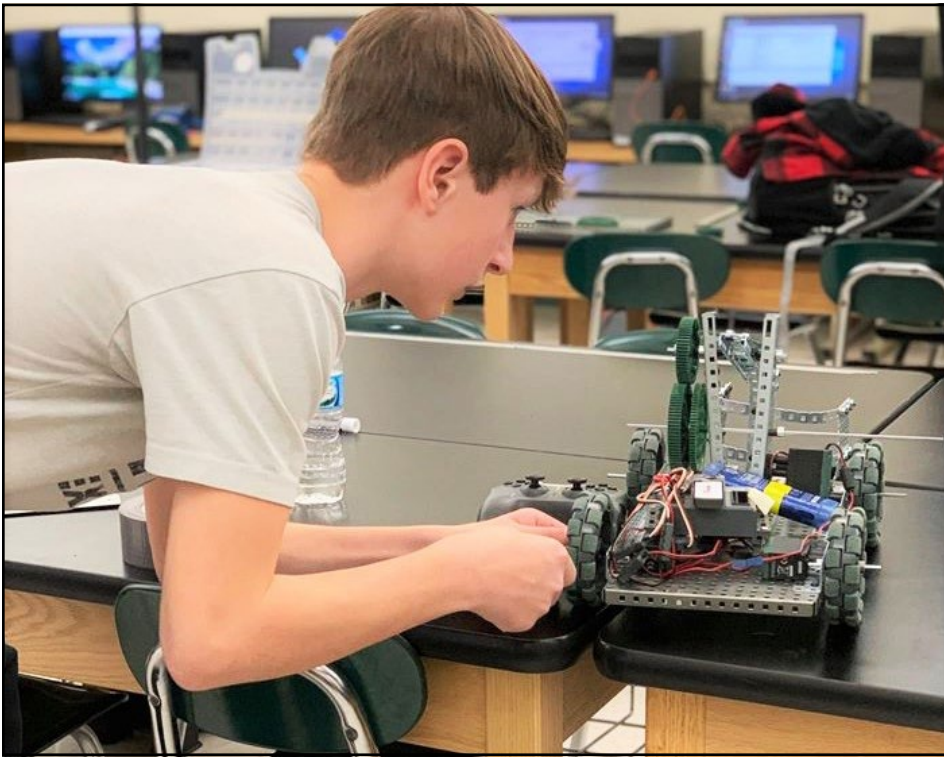


Photo provided

students for future careers – Westfield’s PLTW teachers work tirelessly to inspire and engage students in relevant and hands-on learning. According to the school officials, PLTW develops

students' STEM knowledge as well as in-demand, transportable skills that they will use both in school and for the rest of their lives and on any career path they take. A statement issued by

the school district said, "We are thrilled to be honored for empowering our students to thrive in an evolving world and achieving exemplary results from our PLTW programs."

# Hamilton County, your resilience will never change

None of us could have possibly anticipated the challenges this spring would bring to our community, nation and world. Many of us have had to learn how to use new technology, create new work routines, and maybe even learn some new recipes.

Even though the last month has completely reshaped our world, I am grateful that some things never change. I am thankful for the many stories from across the county of people helping one another and community members finding creative ways to celebrate important milestones like birthdays, prom, weddings and graduations.

These creative ways to celebrate life and the joy in our community give me hope to keep moving forward, and I can only hope that it does the same for you, too.

GUEST COLUMNIST

MARK HEIRBRANDT  
County Commissioner

We will begin the phased process to re-open Hamilton County. This process will take time and will require patience as we gauge what is best for our community. I cannot wait to see our public spaces teeming with people in all four corners of our county, but until then, we remain resolute in tackling COVID-19 aggressively and with care to those around us.

Hamilton County is resilient, and I ask for your patience and perseverance as we work together to re-open our county. This will take a conscious community effort, but I have no doubt we will tackle this challenge with grit and grace like every challenge we have faced before.

Thank you for your dedication to our community, and please stay safe and healthy.

# New Fishers Health Department completes 500 coronavirus tests

**By TRAVIS ROBINSON**  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

Hamilton County’s health department says Fishers’ new health department is in charge of all of that city’s residents.

Like all new things, Fishers is still figuring out the best way to navigate the new workflow. There are so many different jobs a health department has to do, but Mayor Scott Fadness doesn’t just want to hire on a bunch of staff. He wants to see what works best and hire within the taxpayer’s budget.



Photo provided

Fishers firefighter-paramedics working off-duty are conducting many of the Fishers Health Department’s new responsibilities.

You can see the results of the Fishers Health Department’s work right in the middle of the city’s downtown area. Fadness says Fishers has completed 500 free COVID-19 tests and residents have completed over 2,000 assessments.

“So we’re really

# Gray hair, don’t care

Thousands of men and women in Central Indiana will be flocking to their barber shops and salons for some much-needed “corona hair” relief next week. Many women will get back to their coloring routine, which in some instances includes covering gray hairs.

I’d like to throw out a different idea – embrace them!

I’m a former hair color fan. After discovering my first gray hair at age 27 and crying over it – which looking back now seems silly – I faithfully colored my hair. Red, light brown, dark brown, using a box at home or visiting the salon, I did it all for years.

My mom, who has ab-

COLUMNIST

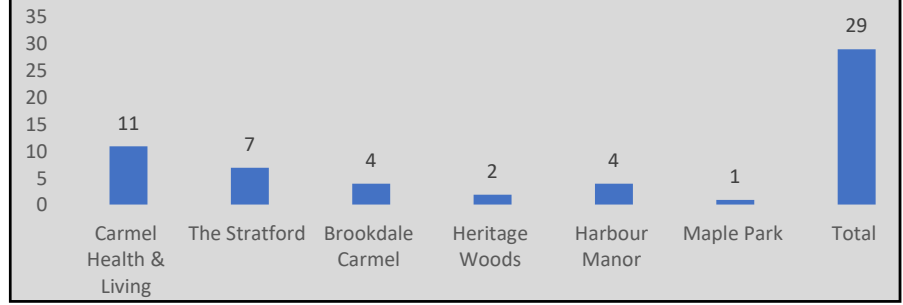
AMY SHANKLAND  
Sandwiched

solutely gorgeous gray hair, did the same thing thanks to my dad’s, um, “encouragement.” A decade or so after he passed away, Mom finally said, “I’m done, I’m in my 70s and I’m not fooling anyone.” She told her stylist “Enough!” and let those beautiful grays come through.

I became more environmentally conscious in my late 30s and didn’t like using chemicals on my hair anymore, so I decided to try henna coloring. I tried the globby concoction a few times, which looked and smelled liked dirty seaweed, but the results only lasted a week or two.

# County releases data on COVID-19 deaths in long-term care facilities

Data does not include facilities located in Fishers



The latest numbers from the Hamilton County Health Department show that a total of 29 individuals have died in long-term care facilities. Readers should note that this number does *not* include facilities located in Fishers.

# Carmel Clay Parks & Rec opens summer registration

**The REPORTER**

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) has announced summer programming registration is now open. Programming will begin June 1.

CCPR is offering an abbreviated schedule with a variety of programming option available for all ages and abilities.

“We are thrilled to begin the process of re-opening our doors this summer for recreation program participants,” said Michelle Yadon,

# Carmel • Clay Parks & Recreation

Program Recreation Manager. “We know we are a needed resource for our community to help everyone get out, get active and learn new things.”

As CCPR slowly begins welcoming the public back to Carmel’s parks and facilities, the safety of participants and staff remains a top pri-

ority. CCPR is currently working on protocols and procedures for social distancing once programs begin.

[Click here](#) to find the updated summer program guide.

For the most up-to-date information about recreation programming visit [carmelclayparks.com/programs](http://carmelclayparks.com/programs).

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Due to Covid-19, the owner's retirement has been delayed.  
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Please check our Facebook page [www.Facebook.com/SmithsJewelers](http://www.Facebook.com/SmithsJewelers)  
Or our website: [www.SmithsOnTheSquare.com](http://www.SmithsOnTheSquare.com) for updates

## HAIR

Soon after I turned 40, I thought, “Why am I doing this?” I like a simple routine in all aspects of life, and spending the time and money to color my hair didn’t make sense anymore. When my best friend Stacey commented that my grays were coming in “beautifully,” that made it official. I decided to stop and haven’t looked back. Granted, I have light brown hair, which makes the grays look more like highlights – lucky me. But as I approach 50, I’m finding that I genuinely like them. In fact, when a hairstylist acquaintance commented to me in church that she’d love

to color my hair, I replied, “No thank you, I like my hair just the way it is.” And in recent years, my attitude has become trendy! More women are embracing their gray hair and using new products to make it look and feel fabulous. You can find all sorts of ways to ease into being “beautifully gray” online.

More of us are fed up with society’s general feeling that looking and getting older is “bad.” Remember, growing old is a privilege denied to many (author unknown). On the flip side, if you disagree with me, I support that as well. If you feel better coloring your hair and don’t mind the time and expense, that is awesome! I just want to make certain you’re doing it for the right reason – for you and no one else.

Now more than ever, we all need to feel a little better and happier. One of my favorite sayings is “You do you.” If you love coloring your hair and don’t want to listen to this darn columnist, keep it up. But if you’re tired of the coloring routine, stop and see what happens. You just might discover a beautiful new you.

## TESTS

appreciative of the community’s willingness to engage in this and ensure the safety of our residents,” Fadness said. But, COVID-19 testing isn’t the only duty of the health department. It includes water sampling and restaurant inspections. The mayor says many of those duties are being handled by people with the right skill sets; for example, firefighter-paramedics stepping up to pitch in where they can after hours.

“We still maintain our minimum staffing for fire and paramedicine,” Fadness said. “This is really just creating the opportunities for firemen to be able to work off duty if they so choose, which, most firemen, if you get to know fire culture, just about every one of them has another job outside of just being a firefighter because they work 24 hours on and then 48 hours off.”

All of the operations are being funded by a half-million dollars in taxpayer money. But, the mayor says, that’s not an extra charge to Fishers residents; instead, it’s something they were already paying to the Hamilton County Health Department.

“We believe that that will be adequate,” Fadness said. “Between that and the miscellaneous fees that you charge for these permits and things like that, we feel will be more than adequate to meet our needs for our services.”

The eventual goal is to hire on the right amount of people to keep the budget neutral.

“What we’re trying to do is get into it, understand it, know what the workloads look like,” Fadness said. “And then if we need to add staff, we can. We’ve identified funding for that, will have funding for it. But we want to make sure we’re not adding staff just for the sake of adding staff to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. So, we’re going to do this very methodically as we move forward. And if there are opportunities or there is a need, we will add people, but we’ll also try to leverage the infrastructure we have here.”

The mayor says although the health department was created quickly, it’s not being hasty. He says people shouldn’t expect anything less than what Fishers residents were seeing before.

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I was born and raised right here in Noblesville. I grew up in a home without domestic violence or assault – it wasn't something I saw, or even heard about. But when I was introduced to Prevail of Central Indiana, I was shocked by the number of individuals who are affected by domestic violence. In 2018 alone, Prevail helped more than 4,000 clients in Hamilton County. (Nearly 80 percent of clients are women and children.) Domestic violence and abuse are hard topics to discuss, so you don't often hear about them. But at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, we're breaking the taboo and raising awareness for Prevail, an organization that helps families in Hamilton County.

– Mike Bragg, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville

**To help Hamilton County families affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse, you can donate the following items:**

- Art supplies (for children to journal and express their emotions)
- Bottled water (8 oz. bottles, preferably)
- Individually packaged snacks
- Gas cards (many women have no access to funds after fleeing their abuser)

**Drop off items at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, 14701 Tom Wood Way.**



## What's new for 2020? The Atlas Cross Sport.



All **Atlas Cross Sport** models come with a touchscreen infotainment display with both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration. Navigation is optional, as is a reconfigurable digital gauge display and SiriusXM satellite radio. The Volkswagen Car-Net connectivity app allows for remote starting and analytics while a 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot allows occupants to remain connected to the internet with their smart devices while on the go.

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Share a Friday night with ATI

Local home builder gives \$100,000 to food banks

**The REPORTER**  
Actors Theatre of Indiana will present its 8th Friday Night Live at 7:30 p.m. tonight, May 8, on [Facebook Live](#).

This Friday evening edition of "Music Heals and Unifies" will include special performances by ATI's Don Farrell, Judy Fitzgerald and Cynthia Collins and Executive Director Jim Reilly.

This virtual show will be a bit shorter than previous weeks, as ATI invites followers to return to [Facebook Live](#) on Tuesday, May 12, for a big celebration of ATI's 15th Anniversary and the announcement of the 2020-21 season.

**Celebrating 15 years**

At 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, Actors Theatre of Indiana will celebrate 15 years of bringing Broadway to your backyard virtually on [Facebook Live](#). Don, Judy, Cynthia and Jim will look back over the past 15 years with guest Jeff Worrell and with comments from Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard.

To cap off the 15th Anniversary Celebration, the 2020-21 Season will be announced. Patrons and fans are invited to be the first to hear what musical productions and community works will be coming to ATI when the new season kicks off in the fall – all performed in The Studio Theatre, ATI's home venue, located in The Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

**The REPORTER**  
Arbor Homes is pleased to announce it is donating \$100,000 to local food banks in response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's important for us to support and give back to the cities and towns in which we build," said Arbor President Curtis Rector. "We realize the urgency of the need and plan to distribute the funds immediately."

Locally, Arbor Homes' donation will be directed to Hamilton County Youth Assistance Program.

**About Arbor Homes**

Founded in 1994 Arbor Homes, a Berkshire Hathaway Company, has grown into Indiana's largest new home builder, with over 13,000 closings in 27 communities throughout the greater Indianapolis and Louisville areas. Arbor Homes was acquired by Clayton Properties Group® in 2018. Arbor Homes prides itself in developing relationships with cities, towns and homeowners in areas in which it builds. For more information about Arbor Homes, call (317) 842-1875, visit [YourArborHome.com](#) or connect on [Facebook.com/ArborHomesIndy](#).



Rector

| Meeting Notices  |  | Virtual Meeting  |
|--|--|--|
| The Sheridan Community Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020, in the Media Center at Sheridan High School, 24185 Hinesley Road, Sheridan. | The Westfield Washington Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, in the Community Room of Washington Woods Elementary School, 17950 Grassy Branch Road, Westfield. | TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold its monthly Board of Trustees meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020, virtually using GoToMeeting. Links and instructions on how to view the meeting can be found at <a href="http://trico.eco">trico.eco</a> . |

**Send Meeting Notices to:**  
**[News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com)**

## Hello, Hamilton County

### With Mr. Weatherman, Paul Poteet





**Click to play video**

Feel free to share The Reporter with friends and family.

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*Dear citizens of Hamilton County, I would appreciate your vote so I may continue being your taxpayer advocate in County government.*

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Letter to the Editor

## Weingardt confident in Ditslear's leadership ability

Dear Editor,

I have the pleasure of knowing John Ditslear for many years. I collaborated with him during his tenure as mayor of Noblesville and throughout my time on the Fishers City Council. I have been impressed with his leadership in Noblesville and I'm grateful for the opportunities we've had to work together.

After seeing John Ditslear's character first-hand, I am honored to support his campaign for Hamilton County Council. John is a proven leader and life-long community servant. I cannot think of

a better candidate than John. His dedication to the community is unwavering and his commitment to seeing the entire county succeed is admirable.

I am confident in his ability to lead the county and cooperate with others with the understanding that it takes a team of people to get meaningful change accomplished.

Please join me in supporting John Ditslear for Hamilton County Council on June 2.

**John Weingardt**  
Fishers City Councilor

Letter to the Editor

## Noblesville voter: Charlie McMillan can guide county to its best future

Dear Editor:

As a friend, I am endorsing and supporting Charlie as he runs for Hamilton County Commissioner, District 2.

This friendship began several years ago when his daughter, Addison, was cast in the children's summer production at The Belfry. As years went by and his daughter continued her acting career, Charlie would help with set construction, set decoration and working as crew for the children's shows. His support and involvement at the theater continued for many years and included being a member of the executive board and serving as its President. Charlie has a long list of serving non-profits and volunteering, training and accolades, and memberships in and around the county.

Our conversations covered a mul-

titude of subjects and I very quickly learned of his growing up in Noblesville and his caring and commitment to Hamilton County, its success, and making certain it meets the needs of everyone that lives here. In order to make that happen, he is an active participant in various committees and boards with goals to keep Hamilton County the best in the surrounding area.

Please vote, either in-person or absentee, for Charlie as he continues in his efforts to guide Hamilton County to its best future, yet making sure Noblesville maintains its small-town charm and atmosphere. There are more details about Charlie at [charliemcmillanjr.com](http://charliemcmillanjr.com). You will not be disappointed in the information you learn about him.

**David Todd**  
Noblesville

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](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com).

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June 5th



June 12th



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## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

*Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.*

*Acts 11:22-24 (KJV)*

### Jeffrey "Jeff" J. Thompson

November 24, 1951 – May 3, 2020

Jeffrey "Jeff" J. Thompson, 68, Hinckley, Ill., passed away on May 3, 2020 surrounded by the love and prayers of his family following a brief but fierce battle with cancer.



Jeff was born November 24, 1951, in Sheridan to proud parents, Larue and Waneta (Walker) Thompson. Jeff grew up in Sheridan and attended local schools. He graduated from Sheridan High School with the class of 1970 and continued his education at Indiana University, graduating in 1974.

Jeff and Kathy Piper met while working together in Peoria. A friendship bloomed into something more and on April 7, 1979 they were united in marriage. They were blessed with two children, Suzanne and Scott.

He worked 19 years for Lucent Technologies in Naperville. Later he would work as a flight dispatcher for various airlines. He and Kathy were members of the Elburn Community Congregational Church, and Jeff was a member of the E.A.A., the Experimental Aircraft Association.

Jeff's passion for aviation soared after earning his private pilot's license, and he enjoyed flying the friendly skies with family and friends. He dedicated time both on land and in the air to the Young Eagles Program, which encouraged the love of flying to youths aged 8 to 17 years. Jeff also participated in the "Angel Flight" program where private pilots gave free rides to those needing medical care a great distance from their homes. When he wasn't pursuing the horizon, Jeff indulged in his love of basketball. He played recreationally with a group of friends and alumni at North Central College in Naperville, who called themselves the "Noon Ballers." He also was very proud of his Hoosier background and cheered loudly and often for his Indiana University alma mater. In addition, he was a supporter of North Central College Cardinals and the St. Louis Cardinals.

However, what Jeff loved most was his family. When cancer came to call, he fought it with his mind, body and soul, fighting for every second, including to be there for the private but much celebrated wedding of his daughter. He may not have been able to physically dance with Suzanne, but nothing could keep him from looking on proudly. His loss only a day later capped a life well lived, a heart well loved, and a legacy of memories that will stand the test of time.

Jeff is survived by his loving wife, Kathy Thompson; two children, Suzanne Thompson (Don Griffin) and Scott (Kayla) Thompson, and their two children, Owen and Evan; two brothers, Butch (Gloria) Thompson and Randy (Liz) Thompson; and nieces, nephews and many friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Larue and Waneta Thompson, as well as his brother, Don Thompson.

Jeff will be laid to rest at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made directly to: Elburn Community Congregational Church: [elburn-ucc.org](http://elburn-ucc.org); North Central College Athletic Department: [northcentralcardinals.com](http://northcentralcardinals.com); Young Eagles: [eaa.org/eea/youth/free-ye-flights](http://eaa.org/eea/youth/free-ye-flights); or The American Cancer Society: [donate3.cancer.org](http://donate3.cancer.org).

Condolences: [kerchevalfuneralhome.com](http://kerchevalfuneralhome.com)

### David Ashpaugh

August 9, 1936 – May 3, 2020

David Ashpaugh, 83, Westfield, passed away on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at St. Vincent Carmel Hospital. He was born on August 9, 1936, to the late Sam and Grace (Boles) Ashpaugh in Tipton County.



Dave was a very tender, sweet, soft-spoken and gentle man. Dave was a man of faith. He started Ashpaugh Electric out of his garage on May 20, 1965, and served the greater Indianapolis area as a licensed electrical contractor for 55 years. He loved his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren very much.

Dave is survived by his wife, Sonja (Stewart) Ashpaugh; children, Brian (Kris) Ashpaugh, Greg (Betsy) Brown, Lynette (Steve) Mosbaugh, Bruce (Kathy) Ashpaugh, Holly Beady and David (Donna) Ashpaugh; siblings, Samuel, Shirley, Bill, Kay and Lois Ann; grandchildren, Joe, Miriam, Caitlin, Joshua, Jacob, Jessica, Bethany, Mark and Reagan; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Private services will be held. Randall & Roberts Funeral Homes will be entrusted with David's care. A public celebration of life will be held on August 9, 2020. Details will be posted on the website below closer to the date.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

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## HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

### Contact Information

#### Phone

317-408-5548

#### Email

[News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com)

#### Publisher Jeff Jellison

[HamiltonCoNorthReporter@hotmail.com](mailto:HamiltonCoNorthReporter@hotmail.com)

317-408-5548

#### Sports Editor Richie Hall

[Rhall1977@gmail.com](mailto:Rhall1977@gmail.com)

Twitter: @Richie\_Hall

#### Public Notices

[PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com)

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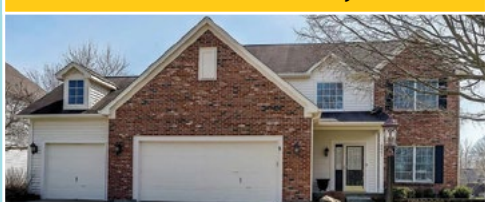
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# Hamilton County Sports



**Sports Editor Richie Hall**  
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A successful "business trip" . . .

# Molly Mitchell helps Huntington to NAIA indoor track national championship

By **RICHIE HALL**

The Huntington University women's track and field team went to South Dakota State University in early March, on a journey that team member Molly Mitchell said was to be treated as a "business trip."

The Foresters were at SDSU with a goal in mind: To win the NAIA national indoor track and field championship. Once there, Huntington was all business, winning the NAIA title. The Foresters scored 77 points, just ahead of William Carey's 71 points.

Mitchell, a Hamilton Heights graduate, was a big part of Huntington's success. She ran on the winning 4x800 relay and distance medley relay (DMR) teams, in addition to placing fourth in the mile run, part of a 1-2-4 finish for the Foresters in that event.

"We knew that achieving that goal was going to be really dependent on us being really focused, on us doing our jobs and helping each other out," said Mitchell. "Some of us had really busy days."

The NAIA nationals took place March 5 to 7, with preliminaries and finals in all of the running events. The Huntington women had eight athletes on the team – the first time a team had won a national championship with so few runners - so Mitchell said there were "a lot of people running a lot of races." As a result, the athletes had to be "really on it with our recovery," said Mitchell. "We had some people running two races within an hour."

Mitchell pointed out the adventures of her fellow senior, Aspen Dirr, who competed in five events. Incredibly, Dirr won four of those five, triumphing in the 1000-meter run and the mile, then joining Mitchell as part of the 4x800 relay and DMR. Dirr also was the runner-up in the 5000-meter run.

"She ran a bajillion races over the weekend," said Mitchell. "She had some races that, she finished the 5L and had to immediately got to the next race, the DMR. We had some people doing some pretty crazy turnover."

It never got that crazy for Mitchell, though.

"I had a decent amount of time," she said. "Probably two to three hours was the least amount of time I had between mine."

Dirr won the mile in 4:53.72, with junior Hannah Stoffel second in 4:55.21. Mitchell placed fourth with a time of 4:57.18. Most important of all, the trio earned 23 points for the Foresters, giving them a big boost in the team standings.

Then, add in 20 more points for victories in the 4x800 and distance medley. Mitchell, junior Mara McFarland, Dirr, Stoffel ran away with the 4x800, clock-



Photo provided

Molly Mitchell had a lot of hardware to hold after the NAIA women's track and field national championships in March. Mitchell helped Huntington University to the national team title, in addition to being part of the first-place 4x800 and distance medley relays.

ing in at 9:06.20, over 10 seconds ahead of second place.

"It wasn't the fastest time we've ever run it, but it was so early on in the weekend that we wanted to make sure we didn't completely burn ourselves out," said Mitchell. "We knew what time each of us had to run." The team didn't take the race for granted, but instead ran smart: "We couldn't go out there and bust all of our guts for it," said Mitchell.

The same foursome in the 4x800 race teamed up to win the distance medley. Dirr started the race with a 1200-meter run, followed by McFarland with the 400, Mitchell with the 800 and Stoffel with the 1600. The Huntington team finished the event in 11:46.71, over eight seconds ahead of second place.

Mitchell said one of the things she enjoys about the DMR is that everyone gets to show off the distance in which they specialize. She said trusting her training and remembering the hard workouts that have been done in preparation for the race are things that help out.

"I've done this before, so I know I can do it again," said Mitchell.

Since the team was so focused during nationals, many of the athletes weren't following the score and realizing that Huntington was winning. Mitchell was in that group.

"I personally wasn't aware that we were winning until right before that last race (the DMR)," said Mitchell. "There were a few other girls that talked to the coaches, and the coaches shared that we were ahead."

But once the Foresters had the DMR in hand, that's when it began to set in.

"We finally relaxed and could get excited about it," said Mitchell.

All of those high finishes meant that Mitchell and her teammates earned All-American honors in their respective events. In her junior season, Mitchell was part of the 4x800 team that finished ninth at nationals, also giving her All-American honors.

By the time the NAIA track national championships came around, Mitchell had gotten used to that stage. She competed on Huntington's national-qualify-

ing cross country team as well, helping the Foresters to a 10th-place finish.

Individually, Mitchell placed 17th in the 5000-meter race, finishing in 18:26.4 and earning All-American honors. Not bad for someone who wasn't even planning to be on the cross country team until she met the new coach, Nick Johnson, at the start of her junior year – "he convinced me," said Mitchell.

During her junior season, Mitchell admitted that she did not enjoy cross country at first. But she saw the positives: "I loved the team and I could see that I was growing a lot, even though I wasn't an awesome 5K runner at that point, I was able to see a lot of growth in myself."

Then came her senior year, which Mitchell said she enjoyed more.

"Because I put faith in my coaching, my team, I was able to improve enough to make my own mark at nationals," said Mitchell.

As a senior, Mitchell is about ready to wrap up her college career and graduate from Huntington. She is majoring in social work, and has received extensive real-world experience in that field.

"A big thing that our school focuses on is experiential learning," said Mitchell. "Your senior year, your whole last semester is you get 480 hours in a field placement." Mitchell did her semester at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mitchell will now be working on her Masters Degree, which she will get at Ball State University. She has expressed an interest in hospital social work. "I'd like to end up at a hospital somewhere," she said.



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# Colts LB Anthony Walker: 'We're on the clock'

By OLIVIA RAY  
WISH-TV

Quick feet versus quick internet speeds.

This NFL offseason is unlike anything we've ever seen due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Colts are keeping busy by trying to troubleshoot virtual training.

Colts linebacker Anthony Walker said his key to concentration is treating this time like a student would during e-learning.

He said, "When it comes to meetings. You want to be locked in as if we were in the building right now. So, no cell phones and we're at meetings and all that stuff to have notebooks out, pays whatever it is, highlighters, whatever it is that you need. But just locking in, locking in and understanding that. Again, this is, this is still a job that I did the other day. We're on the clock."

The other thing Walker is trying to tackle is bonding with his team while they are thousands of miles apart.

"Man, good thing for social media. You know, the first thing after we got D.Buck was look at his Instagram, and then I shot him a text," Walker added, "There's no substitute and being there in person and going through those workout days and you know, those hard days at workout. So there is no replacing that."

Deforest Buckner is just one of several new Pro-Bowler profiles available for stalking, because the Horseshoe stacked together four veterans this free agency. But that caused a shuffle in the deck. New jerseys all around, even for the Colts leading tackler.

"We all worked it out. We'll keep that in house and how we handled that. But, definitely one of those guys that feel comfortable coming in. I mean obviously Buckner, he's proven himself. We know that, you know, making, you know, the amount of money he's making and stuff



Photo courtesy WISH-TV

Colts linebacker Anthony Walker said that keeping concentration during virtual training is treating this time like a student would during e-learning.

like that. He deserves to get whatever number he wants," Walker joked.

He added, "I knew Justin (Houston) wasn't going, you know, going easy as far as if he wasn't getting number 50. And for me to switch numbers, again, whatever it takes for us to be successful on and off the field. So, yeah, it was fine. I mean, we all had the sacrifice often and it's all done."

Walker wouldn't give any hints at what kind of bribes were made to get his No. 50, but regardless he will no longer wear that number. Instead, he's taking No. 54 this season. Falling right beside his best bud on the roster, Darius Leonard. So, the NFL's top linebacker duo will

get a fresh look, but keep the same approach.

Walker said, "We're growing, we're learning. We have the pieces, we know we have to piece it all together, you know, started one in five, then we finished strong, then we started slow and play well

during the middle of the season and whatever it is. So, we all got to piece it together and no, I think that's where me and Derek has been talking about just piecing it all together, all three, you know, three areas on defense, D line linebackers in DBS and I will be a great defense."

## Colts release 2020 schedule

WISH-TV

The Indianapolis Colts have released their 2020 schedule.

The Colts first game is set for Sept. 13 against the Jacksonville Jaguars at Jacksonville.

You can see the full schedule below:

Week 1: Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. – Jacksonville Jaguars at TIAA Bank Field

Week 2: Sept. 20 at 1 p.m. – Minnesota Vikings at Lucas Oil Stadium

Week 3: Sept. 27 at 4:05 p.m. – New York Jets at Lucas Oil Stadium

Week 4: Oct. 4 at 1 p.m. – Chicago Bears at Soldier Field

Week 5: Oct. 11 at 4:25 p.m. – Cleveland Browns at FirstEnergy Stadium

Week 6: Oct. 18 at 1 p.m. – Cincinnati Bengals at Lucas Oil Stadium

Week 7: BYE

Week 8: Nov. 1 at 1 p.m. – Detroit Lions at Ford Field

Week 9: Nov. 8 at 1 p.m. – Baltimore Ravens at Lucas Oil Stadium

Week 10: Nov. 12 at 8:20 p.m. – Tennessee Titans at Nissan Stadium

Week 11: Nov. 22 at 1 p.m. – Green Bay Packers at Lucas Oil Stadium

Week 12: Nov. 29 at 1 p.m. – Tennessee Titans at Lucas Oil Stadium

Week 13: Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. – Houston Texans at NRG Stadium

Week 14: Dec. 13 at 4:05 p.m. – Las Vegas Raiders at Allegiant Stadium

Week 15: TBD – Houston Texans at Lucas Oil Stadium

Week 16: Dec. 27 at 1 p.m. – Pittsburgh Steelers at Heinz Field

Week 17: Jan. 3 at 1 p.m. – Jacksonville Jaguars at Lucas Oil Stadium

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