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# HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

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SATURDAY, AUG. 6, 2022

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## TODAY'S WEATHER

 Today: Partly sunny. A few spotty showers and storms in the afternoon through early evening.  
Tonight: Partly cloudy.  
HIGH: 88 LOW: 73



## Sheridan grad's evolving goals

*Talent & ambition make all the difference for Kirsten Hampton*

### The REPORTER

Kirsten Hampton, a 2022 Sheridan High School graduate, hasn't always wanted to be a professional rodeo pickup man, but as with most, her goals evolved over time.

She began riding horses before she could walk and trained her first mini horse by age five. She enjoyed working with young horses, but what she truly enjoyed the most was "going fast." She learned how to barrel race and rope and had many people help teach her along the way.

Hampton was the Missouri Breakaway Champion and named Indiana High School Rodeo's "Top Hand" in 2022. In the past year, her love for "going fast" evolved into her current goal to become one of the few women who are professional rodeo pickup men.

Pickup men, the riders who help cowboys safely dismount off bucking horses, is a mostly male-dominated rodeo role.

Melissa Hampton, Kirsten's mother, said, "Kirsten has been mistaken as the rodeo queen

until she rides out and saves the riders coming off the bucking horses. She's tough and she wants it. Her talent and ambition make all the difference. Kirsten is showing little girls that limitations don't exist if you're willing to put in the work."

Kirsten has picked up at Indiana High School rodeos and International Professional Rodeo Association (IPRA) events in multiple states. In December, she will head to Las Vegas to compete in the Vegas Toughest World Championship for Breakaway roping.

When asked what advice Hampton would give to young cowgirls, she said, "Don't let anyone tell you what you're capable of doing. If you want it, then go get it."

Hampton lives this advice daily. She has been mentored by some of the best pickup men in the business including Kaleb Barrett and Shawn Spaulding, International Finals Rodeo (IFR) pickup man of the year.



Photo provided

Sheridan's own Kirsten Hampton – named Indiana High School Rodeo's "Top Hand" – will head to Las Vegas.

See Hampton . . . Page 2

## One thing he'll never flip-flop on: It's still Deer Creek to him

It wasn't until I parked the car in our garage following last night's soul-stirring Santana concert did I realize I had driven home barefoot, unwittingly leaving my favorite flip-flops at the venue.

No, I hadn't been drinking.

I don't drink at concerts.

- I can't afford the \$22 mixed drinks.

- In 1964, I was delivered eight months into my gestation period. Due to my preemie status, I'm convinced a few dots failed to connect in the kidney unit; hence, I am cursed with the 1:3 rule – three trips to the bathroom per each bottle of beer consumed. At that rate, I'd miss most of the act I had paid to see.

- I prefer to arrive home afterwards still wearing everything I chose to wear to the show. (Apparently, this bullet point no longer applies since even sobriety doesn't guarantee returning home with shoes on.)

My favorite flip-flops and I have attended a lot of concerts together, great concerts, many at the very venue, Deer Creek, where I had apparently deserted them.

This morning, I announced that I was returning to Deer Creek before going to work. "Just buy a new pair," Brynne said.

"I'm not buying new flip-flops when I know exactly where I left the old flip-flops."

Unable to sleep, I had retraced our steps from the emptying venue to our car. As usual, finding the car proved challenging. We could probably improve the post-concert car hunt process if we simply split up and searched in opposite directions ... but then we might lose each other. How horrible it would be to return home after the show sans wife – losing my flip-flops was bad enough.

See Flip-Flip . . . Page 3



COLUMNIST

SCOTT SAALMAN

Scaramouch

## Sara Colter named T1L1 Area Manager

### The REPORTER

Sara Colter of Cicero has been hired as the new Area Manager for the Central Indiana Chapter of Teach One to Lead One (T1L1).

T1L1 is a community mentoring program that has helped to change the lives of thousands of young people, including students in central Indiana. It trains caring adult mentors from the local community to go into public schools, with life-changing

results. T1L1 mentors meet with students in their classrooms to lead them through a curriculum that teaches ten universal principles: respect, integrity, self-control, courage, humility, excellence, compassion, enthusiasm, teamwork and honor. T1L1 guarantees three measurable, positive results from



Colter

Colter has been a part of the Central Indiana Chapter since its inception. She was part of the first mentors to

the mentoring program: students will experience better attendance, better grades, and better attitudes.

The Central Indiana chapter was established at Hamilton Heights High School in 2019. Colter has been a part of the Central Indiana Chapter since its inception. She was part of the first mentors to

meet with students at Hamilton Heights. Last year, she served as the volunteer coordinator of mentors.

Since then, T1L1 has expanded into two more school districts. This fall, T1L1 will begin mentoring programs in Anderson at Anderson Intermediate School and in Indianapolis at Eastwood Middle School in Washington Township.

For more information on the program, visit [T1L1.org](http://T1L1.org).

## Fishers Fire Lt. Adam Lee promoted to Captain

### The REPORTER

The Fishers Fire Department has announced the promotion of Lieutenant/paramedic Adam Lee to the merit rank of Captain. Captain Lee was presented his Captain shield at the start of his shift on Aug. 1 by department Chief Steven Orusa.



Lee

Captain Lee is a 12-year veteran with the department. He is a paramedic, Public Safety Diver, member of

the Fishers Technical Rescue Team, Rescue Specialist with Indiana Task Force, sworn Tactical EMS officer in a partnership with Fishers Police Department and co-manages the City of Fishers High Threat Response Program.

Captain Lee will initially be assigned Station 396 as the "house captain" on 104th Street on the east end of the city. This station's motto is "Squared Away."



Photo provided by Fishers Fire Department

Fishers Fire Chief Steven Orusa (left) presents Captain Adam Lee with his Captain shield following his promotion on Monday.

## Sheridan Community Schools updates safety protocols ahead of new academic year

### The REPORTER

Like every school across the nation, school safety is a top priority at Sheridan Community Schools (SCS). SCS is continually working to upgrade safety practices, especially with the new construction and upcoming growth.

Sheridan has added a compliance officer and assigned high school assistant principal, Dr. Melissa Hampton, to the role of Safety Director to focus on a comprehensive plan and evaluate all best practices.

SCS officials recognize that it is just not "things" that make schools safer, but protocols, as well as compliance and collaboration with local communities and safety agencies.

Planning for school safety is an ongoing process, and



Hampton



Mundy

ies, safety levels consistent with Hamilton County schools and first responders, entry protocol training, and review for administrative assistants. In addition, thanks to a grant from the Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs, vape/security sensors were installed. A district-wide camera security audit was conducted, and multiple plans were developed. First responders have been equipped with updated keys, fobs and safety procedure/map update.

"Maintaining a safe and welcoming school environment is important for students, staff, and community," Hampton said.

See Safety . . . Page 2



## Alzheimer's research fundraiser coming to Fishers next month

### The REPORTER

A community-driven effort is organizing in Fishers to help end Alzheimer's disease once and for all. The [Race to Remember](http://Race to Remember) to benefit the Cure Alzheimer's Fund will take place on Saturday, Sept. 17 at Witten Park in Saxony, 13256 Saxony Blvd., Fishers.

Alzheimer's Disease affects over six million people. It is estimated that one in three seniors will die from Alzheimer's disease, a rate greater than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. This year, one person will be diagnosed every 65 seconds with this dreaded disease. By 2050 the disease is projected to afflict one person every 33 seconds.

"Like many others, my family has been directly affected by Alzheimer's disease," Race to Remember Community Coordinator Irene Young said. "The disease claimed my father five years ago."

Race to Remember will be a family-centered, community-driven annual event for Hamilton County. Proceeds from the event this year will benefit the Cure Alzheimer's Fund.

The Cure Alzheimer's Fund gives 100 percent of its donation directly to Alzheimer's disease research. Charity Navigator has recognized it as a Four-Star Charity – the highest rank a charity can receive for efficiency and transparency.

See Race to Remember . . . Page 2



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## Hello, Hamilton County With Mr. Weatherman, Paul Poteet





**Click to play video**

### SIGN UP NOW!

# RACE TO REMEMBER

## 5K WALK/RUN



**SIGN UP HERE:**



**Saturday September 17th**

8 AM (registration begins at 7:15 am)  
13256 Saxony Blvd,  
Fishers, IN 46037

This is the first year for Race to Remember. We will celebrate both survivors and victims of Alzheimer's disease and their families. Bring your photos for display to celebrate their lives.

All donations are fully tax-deductible and go to support the Cure Alzheimer's Fund. Cure Alzheimer's Fund is a non-profit dedicated to funding research with the highest probability of preventing, slowing, or reversing Alzheimer's disease.

Sign up: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/ALZRUN](https://tinyurl.com/alzrun)

## HAMPTON

from Page 1

She is currently a pickup man for South Plains Rodeo Company and has been hired by other professional stock contractors as well to ensure the safety of the bucking horses and their riders.

You can see Hampton and her horses work while attending any of the South Plains Rodeo Co. rodeos and events.

Hampton will attend Purdue University this fall to study Biomedical Agricultural Science with a focus on Equine Therapy to become an Equine Chiropractor.

She was also mentored by IFR World Champion Shawn Coleman as well. She's had many great professionals in the IPRA and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association who saw her potential, took an interest, and worked with her to develop her talents.

Hampton is currently sponsored by Cowpokes Work and Western Wear in Anderson, Ind., but is also accepting sponsorships for the World Championship in Las Vegas as well. Those interesting in becoming sponsors can reach out to her on Facebook at [facebook.com/kirsten.hampton.75](https://facebook.com/kirsten.hampton.75).



Photo provided

You can donate to her Las Vegas GoFundMe page at [gofund.me/335f5033](https://gofund.me/335f5033).

## SAFETY

from Page 1

"Being a small school is an advantage because teachers and staff know students well, while at the same time taking school safety very seriously."

SCS is fortunate to have a faculty and staff who continually put student safety first.

"Safety of our students and community

is our top priority," Superintendent Dr. Dave Mundy said. "We want to be outstanding community partners – that is what makes Sheridan such a terrific school district – but we also focus each day on keeping our students and teachers safe during the school day and beyond."

## RACE TO REMEMBER

from Page 1


The Cure Alzheimer's Fund endows the world's leading Alzheimer's research, provides rapid review for grant approvals, and inspires collaboration among fund scientists. The Fund's Board of Directors pays for all overhead so that 100 percent of donations go to research.

Race to Remember needs community sponsors to help underwrite the run and to ensure a fun, safe community event. Sponsorship packages include recognition on signage, event T-shirts, and promotional materials to

be included in participants' run packets. The goal is to secure commitments by Wednesday, Aug. 10 to cover the following costs:

- Police and Safety Sponsor: \$1,000
- Event and Course Sponsor: \$800
- T-shirt sponsor: \$600
- Memorial sponsor: \$250
- Patron/Team (five members): \$150

Your help is needed to make this event successful. For more information on the race, how to sign up, and how to donate, go to [tinyurl.com/AlzRun](https://tinyurl.com/AlzRun).




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:**

- Individually packaged snacks
- Lysol
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes

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



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# FLIP-FLOP

from Page 1

Once we found our car – I swear the parking lot people moved it to an entirely different section during the show – we decided to watch the lot empty a bit before battling for position. Waiting, I kicked off the flip-flops, sat side-saddle in the driver’s seat, rested my bare feet in the grass, and peeled an orange, watching the peelings fall to the grass between my flip-flops.

“I’m sure somebody already found your flip-flops,” Brynne reasoned. And again, she suggested, “Just buy new ones.”

“You would go back if you left your favorite shoes there.”

“I’m pretty certain I will never forget my shoes at a concert. Mainly because I keep them on my feet.”

“The venue is only five minutes away. What’s the harm in trying?”

I have always joked that the real reason I proposed marriage to Brynne was because she lived only five minutes from Ruoff Music Center, or as we (and almost everyone else in Indiana) continue to call it, Deer Creek, even though it hasn’t officially been Deer Creek since 2001.

The Deer Creek name has had amazing staying power. Even the Doobie Brothers’ Patrick Simmons referenced the name this summer during their 50th Anniversary show with Michael McDonald, saying something to the effect of, “Didn’t this used to be Deer Creek?” much to the audible approval of the Deer Creek diehards. The audience was as ecstatic as if “Black Water” had just been played.

Sometimes I see people at a Ruoff concert with an I STILL CALL IT DEER CREEK T-shirt. I wish I owned one. I’m unsure how the Ruoff people feel about the Deer Creek name still floating around. It has to be a bane of corporate branding. That I STILL CALL IT DEER CREEK T-shirts are allowed inside the venue tells me Ruoff must be pretty cool about it, though.

Here are reasons why I believe we cling to Deer Creek despite the venue having been renamed three times over:

- It’s a way to demonstrate affection for our fond live-music memories since the opening of the venue in 1989.

- It’s easy to remember. We of the Deer Creek Generation are fast approaching, have reached, or have surpassed middle-age, thus our memory tapes are thinning in the short-term rec-



Photo provided by Scott Saalman

ollection department while, weirdly, our long-term memories remain fairly secure. Shut up. There’s no way the venue was ever called Verizon Wireless Music Center.

- Seen any I STILL CALL IT KLIPSCH T-shirts lately? Enough said.

- Ruoff is difficult to say, without linguistic guidance. No matter how many times I try to say it, I put an “h” between the vowels: “Ruhoff.”

A time will come, I guess, when Deer Creek – the name – will disappear. The Deer Creek Generation is approaching an irreversible endangered phase (next stop, extinction – ALL ABOARD!). Think about it, when was the last time you heard a concert old timer shout out the annoying “Free Bird” request at non-Lynyrd Skynyrd shows? Those guys have already met their expiration date.

I assume younger generations currently refer to Ruoff as Ruoff, despite their parents or grandparents calling it Deer Creek. Decades from now, they might fondly refer to the venue as Ruoff and wear their I STILL CALL IT RUOFF T-shirts even though by then it might have undergone more name changes.

For now, though, it’s officially Ruoff, but I still call it Deer Creek.

By the way, I found my flip-flops in the grass between Sections 2 and 3. I knew they were mine because of the orange peels. Plus, they fit just right when I put them on. I hope to wear them to many more Deer Creek shows ... but first things first ... where the hell is my car?

Contact: [scottsaalman@gmail.com](mailto:scottsaalman@gmail.com). Order

Scott’s books on Amazon. See Scott perform some of his funny stories at Hamilton County’s first-ever Will Read and Sing For Food benefit show at Schoolhouse 7 Café at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 11. Guest musician is Jason Wilber, who toured with John Prine for a quarter a century before Prine’s death due to COVID. Admission: \$10 per person. All proceeds go to Humane Society of Hamilton County. Outdoor show. Bring lawn chairs.

Schoolhouse 7 Cafe & Hamilton County Reporter present a Humane Society for Hamilton County Fundraiser! A unique mix of live music and funny stories.

## Will Read and Sing For Food

Thursday | Aug. 11 | 7:30 p.m.

## Featuring Musician Jason Wilber

For 24 years, singer-songwriter Jason Wilber toured and recorded with Grammy-winning legend John Prine until Prine’s death from Covid in 2020. Bloomington-based, he has graced stages from the Grand Ole Opry to Red Rocks to Radio City Music Hall to Austin City Limits.

## Humorist Scott Saalman

Hamilton County Reporter columnist Scott Saalman is creator & host of the arts-award-winning Will Read And Sing For Food, which has raised over \$165,000 for worthy causes in Indiana.



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# Janet Hart Leonard

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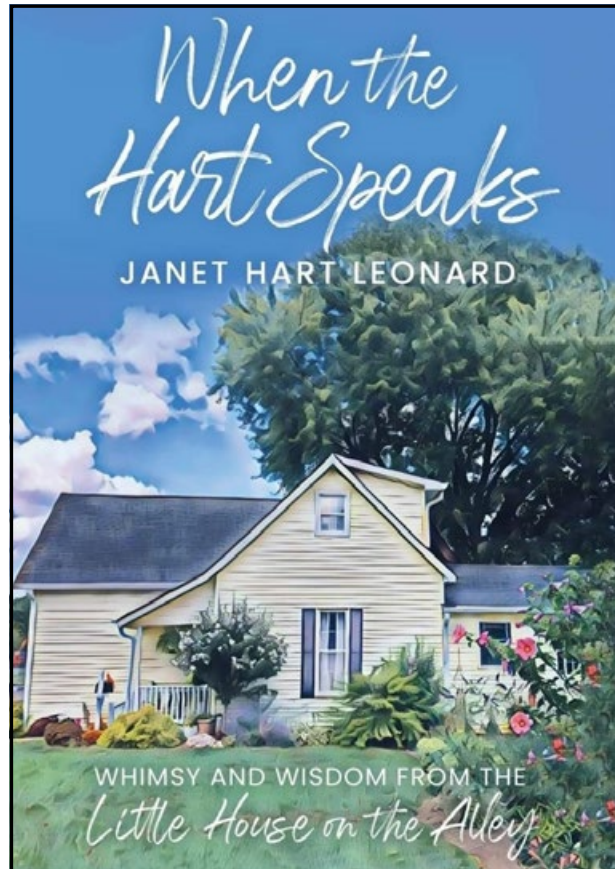
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As soon as you meet Janet you’ll realize she’s the dear friend you’ve always longed to have. She’s what you’d call a hometown girl, living in Noblesville her entire life she can show you all the best spots in town for a delicious cup of coffee or yummy sweet treat.

Janet would love the opportunity to meet you and chat. Plan on coming to one of her upcoming speaking engagements or reach out to schedule a date for her to join your group or organization.

[www.JanetHartLeonard.com](http://www.JanetHartLeonard.com)



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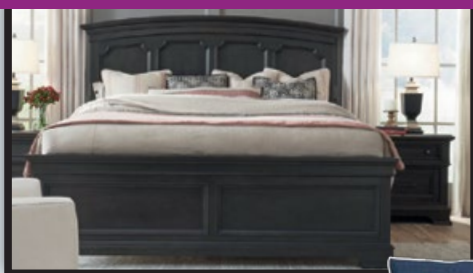
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Graphic provided by City of Fishers

# Celebrate Fishers' 150<sup>th</sup> birthday

*From trail tours to time capsules*

### The REPORTER

The City of Fishers has announced its Sesquicentennial Year celebration, marking Fishers' 150th birthday. This summer through June 2023, the city will celebrate the founding of Fishers, then called Fishers Switch, in 1872 by showcasing what it means to be uniquely Fishers.

Be sure to follow the City on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) and follow #Fishers150 for social media giveaways leading up to and during the event.

### Sesquicentennial Trail

Take a self-guided tour of Fishers' history, culture, and community favorites on the [Fishers Sesquicentennial Trail](#). Now through June 2023, pick up a trail passport from various locations around the city and begin checking off destina-

tions as you explore.

From historic sites such as the Ambassador House and Conner Prairie, to cultural destinations such as Holland Park and the Ignite Studio, to local businesses celebrating with Sesquicentennial specials and menu items, the trail is the perfect way to celebrate what it means to be uniquely Fishers.

The first 150 finishers will receive a special prize pack, including a gift card to a local business and Fishers branded apparel.

### Community Time Capsule

Fishers is partnering with Towne Post to curate a community time capsule that will be displayed in the keystone of the new Arts & Municipal Complex, debuting in spring 2024. The capsule will be opened in

50 years in 2073. The community is invited to submit ideas for items that should be included in the capsule via an online form on the [Towne Post website](#).

### Sesquicentennial Archives Free Digitizing for Residents

Fishers residents can digitize their historic photos and items for free in partnership with Fishers-based Memory Ventures ScanCafe. Through this partnership, residents and individuals with historically significant photos, slides, films, and other mediums can have them digitally preserved, shared in the official City of Fishers Sesquicentennial Archives, and receive digital downloads of their files for safe keeping and personal archiving. [Click here](#) to learn more.

*Thank you for reading The Reporter!*

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HELP FEED HUNGRY NEIGHBORS.



# Heights Area Pastors breakfast was huge success



The ninth Heights Area Pastors Community Prayer Breakfast was held Friday morning at Hamilton Heights Middle School. The annual breakfast is sponsored by a group of pastors from 19 churches within Jackson and White River townships. Scott Swan, longtime journalist with WTHR 13News in Indianapolis, was the keynote speaker, and worship music was provided by the White River Christian Church and Arcadia Church of the Brethren Band. Thank you to everyone who gathered to pray for the Heights school district, staff and students. (Above right) Scott Swan and Frankie Fehsenfeld, Team Leader Wyld Life at Young Life in Noblesville.

## Rokita: Legislature, not courts, has authority to allow changes to birth certificates

**The REPORTER**

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has issued a brief defending the practice of listing an individual's biological sex on a birth certificate rather than changing it later to reflect an individual's gender identity. "The purpose of a birth certificate is obviously to establish a record of biological birth and certain relevant factual details of that occasion," Rokita said. "To change the designated sex on a birth certificate at a later date is in effect falsifying that document."

At issue before the In-

diana Supreme Court is whether the judicial branch has the authority to order changes in the designated sex on birth certificates to make them match individuals' preferences. While the Indiana General Assembly possesses the authority to pass a law permitting such alterations, **Rokita noted in a brief**, the courts do not. The brief pertains to a case in which a mother filed a petition with a court



Rokita

seeking to change a seven-year-old child's designated sex from male to female. The child has been treated as a girl by family, peers and doctors since around age two, according to legal documents. "We all should care about and sympathize with our fellow Hoosiers' specific life experiences," Rokita said. "By insisting on public policies that serve the greater good, we ultimately reinforce that principle rather than diminish it."

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# State inflation relief bill approved, local Democrats react to passage

**The REPORTER**

The inflation relief package, Senate Bill 2, providing \$200 checks to all taxpayers – including

non-filers – overwhelmingly passed both houses of the Indiana legislature Friday. In addition to the relief checks, \$45 million will go

towards the Hoosier Families First Fund as well as \$1 billion for the Teachers Retirement Stabilization Fund, among other provisions.

[Click here](#) to read the bill, which now heads to the governor's desk.

All members of the House and Senate representing Hamilton County voted in favor of the measure.

State Senator Fady Qaddoura (D-30-Indianapolis) said that said he was pleased with the bill, although it's not perfect.

"Today I voted in support of SB 2, a piece of legislation that is not perfect but provides some help to Hoosier families," Senator Qaddoura said. "For several weeks, I advocated for larger relief checks for Hoosiers on a limited income, \$1 billion to fund K-12, \$750 million for maternal, mental and public health, and \$250 million to expand pre-k and childcare services across Indiana. While I'm disappointed that my proposals were voted down by the Republicans, I'm proud to always champion real solutions to chronic challenges impacting Hoosier families. I will always prioritize Hoosiers' best interest at the heart of every piece of legislation."

State Senator J.D. Ford (D-29-Indianapolis) supported the bill's passage but said it could have done more.

"Senate Bill 2 could have provided more significant relief for folks and done more to improve maternal and infant healthcare in our state, but I supported this legislation as an important first step and opportunity to help Hoosiers," Sen. Ford said. "Hoosiers have been facing high costs for months on everything from gas to groceries and these relief checks will help offset some of those costs. I was proud to play a part in ensuring that folks on Social Security would be eligible for this refund. The bill also provides a downpayment on improving healthcare for pregnant women and newborns, but it must be just the first step, we need to expand on this investment during the budget session. Finally, we finally repealed the sales tax on diapers which is a common sense idea to help families."

However, State Senator Greg Taylor (D-33-Indianapolis) was the lone senator to vote against the bill, citing issues with the support efforts not going far enough in the bill and money being directed toward non-licensed pregnancy centers. "Senate Bill (SB) 2 was created to provide relief to the women and families who will be impacted by an abortion ban in Indiana," Sen. Taylor said. "During the supermajority's back-room negotiations to reach an agreement on support for Hoosiers, economic relief from SB 3 was also amended into the proposal. Now SB 2 has provisions to help Hoosiers struggling right now as well as support for families and pregnant women as we prepare to enter a state where birth is state-mandated. Despite the purported intentions of the bill, however, it falls far short of providing Hoosiers with the meaningful help they need. That's why I voted against the legislation."



Qaddoura (Yea)



Ford (Yea)



Taylor (Nay)

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# Noblesville Police Department opens application process

## The REPORTER

The Noblesville Police Department (NPD) is accepting pre-applications for the 2022 Applicant Screen Process.

Citizens can apply for the selection process at [cityofnoblesville.org/employment](http://cityofnoblesville.org/employment). The deadline to apply is Sept. 16. The process is scheduled to take approximately three to five months to complete and will include the following components:

1. Pre-Application Screening Process
  2. Physical Fitness Screening
  3. Written Examination
  4. Oral Interview and Writing Exercise
  5. Complete Personal History Statement
  6. Polygraph Examination
  7. Background Examination
  8. Psychological Examination
  9. Complete Physical Examination/Drug Test
  10. Approval of Police Merit Commission
- Basic minimum requirements include:

1. Must be a U.S. Citizen
2. Must have a successfully received a high school diploma or GED equivalent
3. Must be at least 21 years of age and have not reached 40 years of age by date of hire
4. Must possess a valid driver's license to operate a motor vehicle
5. No felony or domestic violence convictions
6. No Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) convictions
7. No dishonorable discharge from the military service

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5. Take-home vehicle
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7. Lifetime pension after 20 years of service (1977 Police Officers' & Firefighters' Pension Fund)

Anyone requesting additional information is encouraged to contact Recruiting Officer Lt. Bruce Barnes at (317) 776-6340 ext. 1243 or [bbarnes@noblesville.in.us](mailto:bbarnes@noblesville.in.us).

Citizens can learn more about working for the City of Noblesville at [cityofnoblesville.org/hr](http://cityofnoblesville.org/hr).



## Noblesville First UMC's GriefShare starts Aug. 11

### The REPORTER

Have you lost a loved one or know someone that will find it difficult to face each new day?

Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St., announces its next GriefShare program, which is open to everyone in the community.

The weekly sessions will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays beginning Aug. 11. The meetings will be held at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St. You are invited to join anytime during the 14 weeks of meetings. A one-time registration fee of \$20 is appreciated, but scholarships are available.

GriefShare is a 14-week non-denominational

Christ-centered program focusing on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was seen on the DVD. Daily work in the GriefShare workbook also helps one look thoughtfully at their grief experience and helps in the healing process. GriefShare is led by caring people who have experienced grief and have successfully rebuilt their lives.

To learn more about GriefShare, visit [noblesvillefirst.com](http://noblesvillefirst.com), call Coleen Albright at (317) 773-2500 or email her at [coleen.albright58@gmail.com](mailto:coleen.albright58@gmail.com).

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The **City of Noblesville** is currently accepting applications for the position of full-time **Deputy Clerk**.

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For a complete list of duties and to apply, please go to  
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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

*My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?*

James 2:1-4 (NIV)

Michael C. Hitson

June 1, 1954 – August 4, 2022



Michael C. Hitson, 68, Noblesville, passed away on Thursday, August 4, 2022, at his home. He was born on June 1, 1954, to Charles and Helen Hitson in South Bend, Ind.

Michael was a project manager for many years. He enjoyed collecting art, gardening, and decorating the house for all the holidays. Michael liked to travel whether it was for work or vacation, and especially liked Mexico and Holland, Mich. He loved to hang out with his kitty cats.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Hitson; daughter, Courtney (Tom) Hitson; brother, Denny Hitson; and sister, Beth (Jay) Clark.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

At Michael's request there will not be a service. The Hitson Family has entrusted Randall & Roberts Funeral Home with Michael's care.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Riverview Health Foundation, 395 Westfield Road, Noblesville, IN 46060, or at [riverview.org/foundation](http://riverview.org/foundation).

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Products recalled in July

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita reminds Hoosiers to be aware of products that were recalled in July. Consumers should take full advantage of the solutions available for those who purchased the recalled items.

"Summer is a time to be outdoors, but that time should be spent safely with well-made products. This month's list has several items you might find in your own backyard. Hoosiers should be aware of potential danger and solutions available for these recalled items," Rokita said. "Consumer protection is one of my office's top priorities. If you have difficulty finding a resolution, call my office for help."

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the following consumer products were recalled in July:

• Lawn Tractors from John Deere

• Tents from Westfield Outdoor

• Fugleman Utility Terrain Vehicles from Segway Powersports

• Tony Hawk Silver Metallic Multi-Purpose

Helmets from Sakar International

• Key West Knock Down Hammock Stands from The Hammock Source

• Cayden 9-Drawer Chests from Samson International

• i330R SCUBA Diving Computers from Aqualung

• Silicone Baby Toy Bear Activity Toys from Konges Sløjð Denmark A/S

• Toy Box with Bins from Monti Kids

• LiftActiv Peptide-C Ampoules from Vichy Laboratoires

• LRB™ Leg Loops

from Crye Precision

• Look Touch Books from Scholastic

If you believe you recently purchased a recalled product, stop using it and check its recall notice. Then follow the notice's instructions, including where to return the product, how to get the product fixed, how to dispose of the product, how to receive a refund for the product, or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.

To view recalls issued prior to July, visit the Consumer Protection Safety Commission [website](http://www.consumerproduct.gov).

MDwise honored with Multicultural Health Care Distinction national award

The REPORTER

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) has awarded MDwise its Multicultural Health Care Distinction, which indicates the organization has met or exceeded rigorous standards in serving diverse populations and that it is providing culturally and linguistically sensitive services and working to reduce health care disparities.

MDwise is a health maintenance organization serving more than 410,000 Hoosiers in the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), Hoosier Healthwise and Medicare Advantage. It is one of only two HMOs in Indiana to have earned the Multicultural Health Care Distinction from NCQA.

"Everyone should have an equal opportunity to live a healthy life which is why MDwise is committed to being culturally responsive and reducing health disparities across Indiana," MDwise President and CEO Jessica Cromer said. "It's rewarding to be recognized by a national accrediting body for that work."

In choosing Multicultural Health Care Distinction recipients, NCQA evaluates how well an organization complies with standards for collecting race/ethnicity and language data, providing language assistance, responding to cultural differences, and providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services.

"The prevalence of racial and ethnic disparities has been a barrier to improving the quality of health care of many Americans for too long," NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane said. "Organizations achieving Multicultural Health Care Distinction are leaders in closing this gap, and NCQA commends them for their dedication."

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## Sports Editor Richie Hall

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Photos by Margaret Fallin

(Above left) Chuck and Mary Hansen, parents of Evan Hansen, present a \$50,000 check to Nick Torres (center) of Marian University during the Evan R. Hansen Golf Tournament, which took place July 30 at Pebble Brook Golf Course. The tournament benefits the Evan R. Hansen Legacy Foundation, which has donated \$160,000 to several different organizations since its inception. (Above right) Kyle Schultz (left) and Ben Almack (right) also present Nick Torres of Marian University with the \$50,000 check. The money will go to establish a perpetual, endowed scholarship at Marian University.

# Evan R. Hansen Golf Tournament continues Guerin Catholic grad's legacy

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

The fourth annual Evan R. Hansen Golf Tournament took place July 30 at Pebble Brook Golf Course in Noblesville.

The sold-out tournament once again honored the legacy of Evan Hansen, a Guerin Catholic graduate. Hansen played football for the Golden Eagles, then went on to become a standout student and player at Wabash College. He was a senior at Wabash when he passed away in September 2018.

Hansen's parents, Chuck and Mary Hansen established the Evan R. Hansen Legacy Foundation, and it carries out philanthropic activities in memory of Evan. Two of Evan Hansen's Guerin Catholic teammates, Ben Almack and Kyle Schultz, also helped with the establishment of the foundation.

Chuck Hansen said that 153 people signed up to play at the tournament, and the event also had "about 20 volunteers."

"It's really important for everybody that knew Evan to feel the support from others and realize that there's still good things happening from his memory and his legacy," said Chuck Hansen. "It's also a good chance for friends to see each other. Once people get out of high school and college, you don't see friends anymore and it's turning into a reunion of Evan's friends and coaches and things like that." Chuck Hansen called the event "a very positive, happy day, and a way to 'make something positive out of a sad story.'"

Since its inception, the Evan R. Hansen Legacy Foundation has given in excess of \$160,000 to many different organizations. This year alone, the foundation donated over \$70,000 to Marian University, the Merciful HELP Center, Wabash College, FOCUS and the Concussion Legacy Foundation. In addition, the foundation awards an annual scholarship to a Guerin



Photos by Margaret Fallin

(Above) The golf carts at Pebble Brook were lined up and ready to go for the Evan R. Hansen Golf Tournament. (Below) A total of 153 players signed up for the tournament.

in Catholic student. Elodie Krawczyk received the first scholarship in 2021, and Elodie Wilt received it this year.

"After graduation from Wabash College, Evan was planning for a career in the medical field," said a statement on the Evan R. Hansen Legacy Foundation website. "He was majoring in Spanish, so that he could better serve that community. He spent his 2018 Spring Semester in Valencia, learning Spanish medical terminology. That summer he interned at the Merciful HELP Center in Carmel, and also at the Kaseman community health clinic near Washington DC, where he translated between Hispanic patients and doctors. In his memory, the Foundation will use \$50,000 from this Golf Tournament to establish a perpetual, endowed scholarship at Marian University. Special consideration will be given to a student that embodies the Franciscan value of Dignity of the Individual, and who has demonstrated a commitment to serve the underrepresented."

The foundation's first donation was to Merciful HELP Center, which is run by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, located near 146th Street and Oak Ridge Road in Carmel. The center helps resident and homeless disadvantaged people in Hamilton County, providing



food, appliances and other necessities, and assisting with referrals for "social assistance, housing jobs and

legal matters in cooperation with dozens of other agencies," according to its website ([mercifulhelpcenter.org](http://mercifulhelpcenter.org)).

The Evan R. Hansen Legacy Foundation website offers additional resources, plus information about scholarships and internships. For more information, visit the foundation's website at [erh32.org](http://erh32.org).

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# Rookies Lundgaard, Malukas steal show in opening Nashville practice

**The REPORTER**

Experience? Who needs experience?

Two rookies with no prior laps on the streets of Nashville landed in the top three of the opening practice for the Big Machine Music City Grand Prix on Friday, with Christian Lundgaard leading the first timers and the session overall with a best lap of 1 minute, 15.9659 seconds in the No. 30 Shield Cleansers Honda.

It was the first time Danish driver Lundgaard has led a session in his NTT INDY-CAR SERIES career and the first time atop the time charts for a Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing driver since Graham Rahal led the morning warmup for this race last August.

Lundgaard, 21, scored his first career NTT INDY-CAR SERIES podium finish by placing second last

Saturday in the Gallagher Grand Prix on the Indianapolis Motor Speedway road course. He also finished eighth – then a season best – on the most-recent street circuit race this season, the Honda Indy Toronto on July 17.

“I’m super happy being up here now,” Lundgaard said. “We were there last weekend. To start this weekend here is obviously great, but we have qualifying and the race coming up. We need to be as efficient as we’ve been the last couple of races, making sure everything is right, just executing the package now we know we have the package.

“Toronto was a good weekend. We came here with a similar car. It works, so I’m super-hyped to see if we can continue this path.”

Veteran Felix Rosenqvist continued his sizzling

summer by ending up second at 1:16.2050 in the No. 7 Arrow McLaren SP Chevrolet.

Rookie David Malukas ended up third at 1:16.2366 in the No. 18 HMD Honda on the 11-turn, 2.1-mile temporary street circuit that includes two trips over the Cumberland River per lap via the Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge. Malukas trails Lundgaard by 27 points in a compelling race for series Rookie of the Year.

“All the changes we made went in the right direction, especially when we put the alternate tires on it,” Malukas said. “It ended up being very smooth.”

All 26 cars in the field this weekend are using Firestone’s new alternate tire that includes new, sustainable natural rubber in the sidewalls derived from



Photo provided

guayule (why-yoo-lee), a drought-resistant shrub native to the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The top 16 times in the 75-minute session were turned on the guayule tire.

Scott McLaughlin was fourth overall at 1:16.5755 in the No. 3 DEX Imaging Team Penske Chevrolet. His teammate and two-time

series champion Josef Newgarden, a Nashville-area native, rounded out the top five at 1:16.6957 in the No. 2 PPG Team Penske Chevrolet.

Series points leader Will Power was seventh at 1:16.8330 in the No. 12 Verizon Team Penske Chevrolet.

Saturday action will

start at 12:15 p.m. ET with a 45-minute practice, followed by NTT P1 Award qualifying at 4:30 p.m. Peacock Premium and the INDYCAR Radio Network will broadcast both sessions live.

Live coverage of the 80-lap race will start at 3 p.m. ET Sunday on NBC and the INDYCAR Radio Network.

# The athletic family & unlikely high school career behind Colts WR Alec Pierce

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

There was the mighty green machine of Glenbard West High School, a perennial prep football powerhouse just under 30 miles west of downtown Chicago, ready to mow down yet another opponent ahead of yet another season filled with state championship aspirations.

One season previous, sophomore free safety Alec Pierce watched as the Hilltoppers claimed their latest Illinois High School state title, eager to make an impact as an upperclassman as a wide receiver.

The 2016 season opener arrived, and Glenbard West handled Bolingbrook 17-7, but the lanky new addition to the wide receiver unit was nowhere to be seen. That is, unless, your binoculars were scanning the Hilltoppers sideline for No. 80.

“I didn’t start him week one his junior year because I felt like he needed more work on blocking and I had a senior ahead of him,” Glenbard West head coach Chad Hetlet told News 8. “I don’t think that lasted very long. Once he got on the field, he just started to work harder, harder, and harder. He wasn’t a guy who you would say, ‘He is going to be a big-time recruit.’ Alec wasn’t someone that anybody knew about.”

According to Hetlet,

Pierce underwent a major physical transformation between his junior and senior seasons, but despite the extra work in the weight room and clocking 40-yard dash times in the high 4.3 to low 4.4 range at recruit camps, major Power Five conference scholarship offers were not coming in.

“People weren’t offering him, and it was absolutely shocking,” Hetlet said. “Cincinnati was his best offer, and, obviously, it worked out.”

Standing on the sideline until the middle part of his junior high school season is not something that the top draft pick in the Indianapolis Colts 2022 rookie class has brushed off.

“I still think about that,” Pierce told News 8.

In addition to a stellar football career at Glenbard West, Pierce played volleyball until opting to join the track team his senior year. The results were astounding for a first-year high school track athlete, finishing as one of the top jumpers in the state of Illinois in addition to making the state meet as a sprinter.

“If he continued to do track, he would have been an All-American (in college),” Hetlet said.

At Cincinnati, head coach Luke Fickell won big landing Pierce, who evolved from a special teams player as a freshman to one of the

American Athletic Conference’s top wide receivers (867 yards, 8 touchdowns) as a senior.

Behind the scenes, Pierce found a way to complete a mechanical engineering degree, which typically takes five years, in just three and a half. He graduated this past December as the university’s first College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-American honoree in over 25 years.

The Colts, in desperate need of wide receiver help following a late regular season collapse in 2021, scooped up Pierce in April in the second round of the NFL Draft with the 53rd overall pick.

“He is really smart,” Colts head coach Frank Reich said following Wednesday’s training camp practice at Grand Park.

“Our group as a whole is really smart. I have been on a lot of skill groups. This skill group right here, I appreciate Chris (Ballard) because we just make that a priority. We want guys with a lot of skill, speed, strength and big size, but you’ve got to be smart – just because I grew up under Marv Levy and he used to always say, ‘Smart players with good work ethic always find ways to keep getting better and better.’”

Pierce’s steady start to his first NFL training camp



Photos courtesy @AlecPierce Instagram

**Alec Pierce lays out for a catch during his senior season at Glenbard West H.S.**

was highlighted this past Saturday by a deep ball down the sideline from quarterback Matt Ryan. A sold-out training camp crowd of 7,000 roared, and Pierce reminded everyone why he is on a clear track toward a starting wide receiver spot in Indianapolis as a rookie.

Despite the early accolades surrounding his summer on the field, Pierce admitted there is still a long way to go to gain the trust of a 15-year veteran like Ryan.

“He (Ryan) is just a tremendous leader, and I think I have to do a better job of winning him over,” Pierce said. “I have to get on the same page as him, and that is what training camp is for.”

Where does this work ethic start? Just take a look at the Pierce crew.

Mom (Stephanie) and dad (Greg) met at Northwestern University, where both played for the Wildcats. Stephanie Pierce was a middle blocker for the volleyball team and Greg transitioned from quarterback to tight end for the football program.

Together, each of their three sons has reached NCAA Division I collegiate athletics, with the oldest, Justin, playing three seasons of basketball at William and Mary before being recruited as a transfer by former legendary North Carolina head coach Roy Williams to Chapel Hill. Justin Pierce played the COVID-19 shortened season with the Tar Heels before embarking on a professional career overseas in Finland.

The youngest Pierce

son, Caden Pierce, joins the Princeton basketball program as a true freshman this upcoming season.

Together, they are keeping an eye on updates at Grand Park, including the recent advice passed to the rookie by his new receivers coach, future Pro Football Hall of Fame member Reggie Wayne.

“I told him before the night practice, ‘When you go out there and when you touch the field, just raise your hands up and take a deep breath,’” Wayne said. “You’re going to mess up; even the vets mess up. Just play.”

Unlike his season debut as a junior at Glenbard West, it appears Pierce will get to do just that September 11 in Houston against the Texans to open his NFL career.

## MLB standings

Friday's games					Minnesota 6, Toronto 5, 10 innings				
Chicago Cubs 2, Miami 1					Milwaukee 5, Cincinnati 1				
Baltimore 1, Pittsburgh 0					St. Louis 4, N.Y. Yankees 3				
Philadelphia 7, Washington 2					Boston 7, Kansas City 4				
Houston 9, Cleveland 3					Late games				
Tampa Bay 5, Detroit 3					Colorado at Arizona				
Atlanta 9, N.Y. Mets 6					San Diego at L.A. Dodgers				
Chicago White Sox 2, Texas 1					L.A. Angels at Seattle				

### American League

East	W	L	PCT.	GB
N.Y. Yankees	70	37	0.654	-
Toronto	59	47	0.557	10.5
Tampa Bay	57	49	0.538	12.5
Baltimore	55	51	0.519	14.5
Boston	53	55	0.491	17.5
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Minnesota	56	50	0.528	-
Chicago White Sox	54	52	0.509	2.0
Cleveland	54	52	0.509	2.0
Kansas City	43	64	0.402	13.5
Detroit	42	66	0.389	15.0
West	W	L	PCT.	GB
Houston	70	38	0.648	-
Seattle	57	49	0.538	12.0
Texas	47	59	0.443	22.0
L.A. Angels	44	61	0.419	24.5
Oakland	41	66	0.383	28.5

### National League

East	W	L	PCT.	GB
N.Y. Mets	67	39	0.632	-
Atlanta	64	43	0.598	3.5
Philadelphia	58	48	0.547	9.0
Miami	48	58	0.453	19.0
Washington	36	72	0.333	32.0
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Milwaukee	58	48	0.547	-
St. Louis	58	48	0.547	-
Pittsburgh	43	63	0.406	15.0
Chicago Cubs	42	63	0.400	15.5
Cincinnati	42	63	0.400	15.5
West	W	L	PCT.	GB
L.A. Dodgers	72	33	0.686	-
San Diego	61	47	0.565	12.5
San Francisco	51	55	0.481	21.5
Arizona	46	58	0.442	25.5
Colorado	47	61	0.435	26.5

## WNBA standings

Friday's games				
Atlanta 88, Los Angeles 86				
Chicago 93, Washington 83				

Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
x-Chicago	24	8	0.750	-
x-Las Vegas	22	10	0.688	2.0
x-Connecticut	22	10	0.688	2.0
x-Seattle	20	12	0.625	4.0
x-Washington	20	13	0.606	4.5
Dallas	15	16	0.484	8.5
Atlanta	14	18	0.438	10.0
New York	13	18	0.419	10.5
Phoenix	13	19	0.406	11.0
Minnesota	12	20	0.375	11.5
Los Angeles	12	20	0.375	12.0
Indiana	5	28	0.152	19.5
x-Clinched Playoff Berth				

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*As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man. Prov. 27:19*

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**Friday Aug 5, 2022**

**Westfield vs Noblesville - 6 pm**  
**Mudsock vs Brownsburg - 7:30 pm**

**Saturday Aug 6, 2022**

**Carmel vs Franklin Central - 11 am**  
**Ben Davis vs Indy Lions of Arsenal Tech - 1 pm**  
**Avon vs Center Grove - 3 pm**

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