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Prevail supports survivors of all ages throughout their journey.
We strive to empower victims of crime and abuse on their path
to healing, while engaging the community to support safe,
health relationships.

Rock the Block returning to Westfield High School

The REPORTER

Westfield Washington Schools will bring Rock the Block back for the second year from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 4 at Westfield High School (WHS).

Last year, nearly 3,000 people attended the event with more than 100 local businesses, organizations, and clubs providing free games and prizes.

The goal of this community event is to start the school year off on a positive note. Last year, the Westfield

community helped make this event so successful that it was named the Event of the Year by the Westfield Chamber of Commerce.

Event details

The goal is to fill the WHS soccer field with free games, activities, food, and fun that bring the community together to kick off the 2023-2024 school year.

This event will be open to the public. Games and activities will be free to play with prizes supplied

by each booth. Prizes can be small swag, trinkets, or a piece of candy. Food will be available for purchase.

What is the cost to be a vendor?

For Westfield schools, athletics, and clubs, the cost is free. For local organizations and community partners, the price is \$25. You'll need to provide a tent. One six-foot table will be provided.

Questions?

Contact Ashley Knott at (317) 607-8623 or via email at knotta@wws.k12.in.us.

BEAUTY

from Page 1



Photos provided by Megan Rathz

The word *Hemerocallis* is derived from Greek meaning “day” and “beautiful.”

Some of my most treasured daylilies have come from a little farm in northern Indiana where you can walk rows and rows of daylilies and hand select your favorite to add to your garden.

The word *Hemerocallis* is derived from Greek meaning "day" and "beautiful."

I love how daylilies get a fresh start each day. Imagine if every single day, you had the chance to begin anew again. There is something poetic about knowing if today didn't go as you planned that you have tomorrow to bloom again. One of my favorite morning rituals I have is going outside with my morning coffee to see which new daylilies have popped open that day. I love trying to remember where that particular daylily came from. Many of my daylilies have come from my mom's yard and my former childhood home. Each one comes with its own story and memory. I love to tell my kids where they came from and ask which one is their favorite.

I have little cordial glasses that I like to pop some of the blooms and display each morning in my kitchen. My old neighbor and dear friend, Karen, used to do that and ever since I saw her doing it, I too, have joined in the daily ritual.

While daylilies do best in bright sun with well-drained soil, they are an incredibly low-maintenance plant. They are resilient, easy to maintain, and can

survive in poor soil conditions. They are a wonderful plant to divide and are very easy to transplant.

If you're looking to add some unique daylilies to your garden, check out the Hamilton County Master Gardener's Association Daylily sale from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 15 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville. There you can walk the rows of daylilies and hand-select the perfect addition to your garden. Master Gardeners will be on hand to dig the daylilies of your choice.

Daylilies are each different and have a story to tell. They are like people. You never know what is going to pop open or what awaits when you plant a new one. They offer a daily fresh start.

Imagine how beautiful our world would be if, like daylilies, we offered each other and ourselves the grace at a chance for a fresh start. Nature is speaking to us. Are we listening?

Megan Rathz is a wife, mother, and teacher. She says everything she has ever learned in life came from her Master Gardener mother.

INDECISION

from Page 1

Again, and again, he said, we fail to accomplish as much as we would like to do. Each day is a challenge for renewed courage and strength to stand on higher ground. Whether our days be many or few, we should strive not to lose the high and adventurous spirit characteristic of youth. Grandpa said that he did not mean the foolhardiness which forebodes disaster, but rather the incentive to maintain a lively interest in the potentialities of life.

Grandpa also told me about Harry P. Cooper, an exemplary young man with a high regard for Christian principles. While attending State Normal, in Terre Haute, he wrote, "My roommate leans toward the Presbyterian Church, but he doesn't lean quite hard

enough.” On another occasion Grandpa received a letter stating that there were comparatively many leaners and few lectures among the world’s benefactors. Grandpa indicated that he believed most people are favorably inclined toward the church but some lean so lightly that the pressure is scarcely noticed, and then only on special occasions. Whatever you do, he counseled, don’t do it halfheartedly.

My father had a similar admonition. He was always an early riser up and at it in the 4 o'clock hour. Summer mornings would find me awakened by his pounding on the stairway wall and yelling, "Get up, get up, get up. Here it is Monday, almost Tuesday and the week is half over. Let's go." I never saw him do anything halfheartedly.

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Plus, Noblesville Township's Signature Event is so BIG we had to squeeze it into August:

NOBLESVILLE TOWNSHIP

FUN AT FOREST PARK CAROUSEL AND TOM THUMB GOLF COURSE

July 1-31, 11 a.m.- 6 p.m., Forest Park
Cicero Road, Noblesville

Some FREE events! \$2 for carousel, \$3 for mini-golf
The 103-year-old "Little Beauty" Carousel (*pictured above*) and "Tom Thumb" mini golf course will be showcased in all their glory. FREE ride times will include July 11 and 18, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

MUSIC FESTIVAL ON THE SQUARE

July 1, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Courthouse Square
Conner Street, Noblesville | **FREE**

The Noblesville Township Office will offer a jam-packed music festival to kick off Noblesville's month! Almost a dozen artists will play multiple genres throughout the day!

NOBLESVILLE NOSTALGIA ART SHOW

July 7-29 (hours vary), Nickel Plate Arts
South 8th Street, Noblesville | **FREE**

Artists will share original pieces showcasing Noblesville's history and heritage. Art from the Hamilton County Bicentennial book and traveling exhibit will also be on display. The exhibit will open on First Friday on July 7; visit with artists and book authors, and purchase a signed copy! (Limited quantities available.)

HISTORY FAIRE

July 8 and 22, Gal's Guide to the Galaxy Library
South 8th Street, Noblesville | **FREE**

Kids and adults are invited to create a tri-fold board and dress up as notable people from Hamilton County to interact with History Faire guests.

July 8, 1-2 p.m. Information session will provide ideas, examples and tri-fold boards for free.

July 22, 1-4 p.m. The History Faire is open to the public. See how history comes to life when the community shares what they have learned about our wonderful community.

HAMILTON COUNTY MILITARY & VETERANS CELEBRATION AND RESOURCE FAIR

July 8, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m., Noblesville Schools Community Center, Field Drive, Noblesville | **FREE**

Veterans, active military, their families, and the general public are invited to this Veteran Resource Fair to learn about federal, state and local resources available to our Hamilton County Veterans.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 45 REOPENING

July 15, time TBD, American Legion Post 45
South 8th Street, Noblesville | **FREE**

Recently moved from Conner Street to the historic R. L. Wilson House, the Noblesville American Legion invites the public to its reopening with activities, historic presentations, music and ice cream.

NOBLESVILLE TOWNSHIP'S SIGNATURE EVENT

HAMILTON COUNTY FABRIC ARTS SHOW

August 2023 (Visit HamCoTurns200.com for date updates)
Noblesville Township Office, South 8th Street, Noblesville
FREE



Celebrate the fabric arts, both old and new! Hosted in partnership with Nickel Plate Arts, the Hamilton County Fabric Arts Show will showcase artists and techniques for different fabric arts. Check out heirlooms and new pieces and vote for your favorite. Artists may apply to participate until July 22.

TASTE OF HISTORY: EARLY NOBLESVILLE DINING AND RECIPES

July 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Hamilton East Public Library - Noblesville, Library Plaza | **FREE**

Sample dishes that made Noblesville's early restaurants famous, from corn pone to wild game; in partnership with 9th Street Bistro. (*Registration is full. Keep an eye out for the next in this series!*)

POLITICAL CELEBRITIES AND THE VOTE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

July 22, 1-4 p.m. Hamilton County Historical Society, 810 Conner St. Noblesville | **FREE**

Hear reenactments of speeches by Harry Truman, Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony and Teddy Roosevelt on the stage of the Noblesville Street Dance! Free ice cream while supplies last. Inside the museum, enjoy the Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit "Faces in the Crowd."

GIBSON GUITAR AND MANDOLIN COMPANY TRAVELING INSTRUMENT TOUR

July 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Preservation Hall
Logan Street, Noblesville | **FREE**

Enjoy an exhibition of valuable antique and vintage instruments from 1903 to the present, transported all the way from Nashville, Tenn. Musician-historians, including the Master Luthier for the Gibson Company, will play and discuss the historic context of the instruments. (*RSVP requested.*)

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

July 29, 8-10 p.m., Potter's Bridge Park - Allisonville Road, Noblesville | **FREE**

Hamilton County Parks and White River Canoe Company are working together to provide a lighted visual experience for visitors during this evening event along historic Potter's Bridge.

HAMILTON CO. BICENTENNIAL TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Noblesville:

July 1-14, Nickel Plate Arts, S. 8th St.

July 15-28, Hamilton County

Fairgrounds, Pleasant Street

July 29-Aug. 4, Noble Crossing

Elementary School, Noble Crossing Parkway

FREE | Learn about all five of our

Bicentennial themes: Arts, Diversity/

Inclusion, Education, Historic Preservation, and Parks/Environment.

Contact the hosting organization for information on when the exhibit is open to the public.



Access the entire **2023**

Bicentennial Event Lineup

and get event/program details:

HamCoTurns200.com



Bicentennial Partners



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Stella Luna shines light on Cool Creek fans

Stella Luna & The Satellites, billed as Indy's Premier Party Band, brought their high-energy talent to Cool Creek Park on June 30. From today's hits to timeless classics, Stella & the fellas got the crowd on their feet with singing and dancing. Since this was the Hamilton Bicentennial Celebration concert, county historian David Heighway presented a short story about the Squirrel Stampede of 1822. Don't miss the next musical group in the Cool Creek Summer Concert Series lineup . . . Mike & Joe will be at Cool Creek Park on Friday, July 7! Tickets for adults are \$5 at MyHamiltonCountyParks.com. Kids aged 12 and under are free. (Photos provided by Hamilton County Parks & Recreation)



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Wesley Moore of Fishers makes honor list at Missouri S&T

The REPORTER from Fishers, made the list.

Missouri University of Science and Technology has announced the students who made the honor list for the Spring 2023 semester.

To be included on the honor list, students must have carried a minimum of 12 hours and had grade-point averages of 3.2 or above out of a possible 4.0.

Wesley Moore, a junior

Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) is a STEM-focused research university of over 7,000 students. Part of the four-campus University of Missouri System and located in Rolla, Mo., Missouri S&T offers 101 degrees in 40 areas of study.

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The Hamilton County Reporter

Fourteen local students achieve distinction at Franklin College

The REPORTER

Franklin College has announced the president's and dean's list for the spring 2023 semester.

Students named to the president's list have achieved academic distinction by earning a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours during a regular semester. The following Hamilton County students have been named to the president's list:

- Katie Brown, a junior from Noblesville
- Colleen Kincaid, a senior from Fishers
- Timothy Leonard, a sophomore from Westfield
- Isabella Neiling, a sophomore from Cicero

* * *

Students named to the dean's list have completed a

minimum of 12 credit hours during a regular semester, earning a GPA of at least 3.5 but less than 4.0. The following Hamilton County students have been named to the dean's list:

- Lora Adkins, a senior from Carmel
- Justin Case, a senior from Westfield
- Amber Dawson, a senior from Sheridan
- Jonathan Hicks, a sophomore from Westfield
- Makenna Mundy, a junior from Noblesville
- Owen Ogle, a senior from Carmel
- Jireh Ojata, a junior from Carmel
- Dianna Rollag, a junior from Fishers
- Jillian Schlieper, a junior from Carmel
- Jada Tooley, a senior from Noblesville

Hamilton Co. Prosecutor Greg Garrison recovering after recent heart attack

By **ASHLEY FOWLER**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Hamilton County Prosecutor Greg Garrison is recovering after a recent heart attack.

Garrison, 75, had a heart attack last week at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis but is expected to be okay, according to News 8's news-gathering partners at WIBC-FM.

Garrison, a Republican, defeated Democrat **Jessica Paxson** in the November election after beating out a Republican incumbent in the May primary.

During his campaign, Garrison cited his long experience in both public and private practice and his work training attorneys. He previously served as Marion County deputy prosecutor and gained national attention in 1992 as the special prosecutor in the rape trial of boxer Mike Tyson.

Garrison was also the host of *The Garrison Show* on WIBC and Network Indiana for nearly 20 years. He made his debut in January 2000 as the replacement for Mike Pence and hosted his final show on June 9, 2017.



Garrison

Fishers police arrest man following fatal crash

The REPORTER

The Fishers Police Department arrested Hunter Monts, 24, Fishers, for Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated Causing Death.

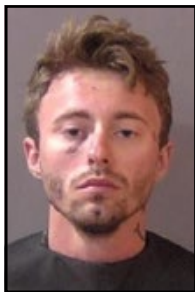
At 4:30 a.m. on July 1, Fishers police officers responded to a motor vehicle crash near the intersection of 126th Street and Winding Creek Lane. Upon arrival, officers observed a red 2010 Ford F-150 truck and a red 2013 Chevrolet Malibu passenger car in the roadway. Both drivers and a passenger in the Malibu were transported to the hospital.

The driver of the Malibu, Richard Wentzel, 66, Fishers, did not survive his

injuries and was declared deceased at the hospital.

The Fishers Police Department's Crash Reconstruction Team responded to the scene. Based on evidence and witness statements, it appears both the Ford and the Chevrolet were traveling eastbound on 126th Street when the Ford struck the Chevrolet. During the investigation Fishers police officers developed probable cause to believe the driver of the Ford, Monts, was operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Monts was arrested and transported to the Hamilton County Jail without incident.



Monts

Democrats add city council candidate to Carmel ballot

Submitted

The Hamilton County Democratic Party has announced an additional candidate to join the Nov. 7 general election ballot after holding a caucus of eligible Precinct Chairs. Melanie Brown is now running for Carmel City Council in the Northwest District.

According to Indiana Code, after the primary, if there is a vacancy on the ballot after the filing deadline, major political parties can appoint or "caucus in" individuals to run in the November general election. A caucus of elected and ap-

pointed Precinct Chairs participates in these activities. State and county parties had until noon on July 3 to hold a caucus to fill ballot vacancies.

"We are incredibly proud to continue to make municipal election history in this county," Hamilton County Democratic Party Chair Dayna Colbert said. "We're making history with 20 candidates across the county, eight each in Carmel and Fishers. Our candidates made history with the amount of money they raised before the primary election. We've made histo-

ry with the number of votes received in the primary. And we're ready to make history again in November."

About the Candidate

Melanie Brown has lived in Carmel's Northwest District for 18 years.

Brown grew up in Alcoa, Tenn., and graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a B.S. in Psychology and from Samford University with a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (PharmD). After decades in community and hospital pharmacy, she is currently employed as a consultant for a medical technology com-

pany. In this position, she works with cross-functional hospital teams to implement patient safety medical systems.

Brown has been involved in volunteer work such as Carmel Dads' Club coach, Carmel Elementary PTO President, Carmel Middle School FAM Club president, and Carmel High School Vice President of Concert Bands. She has been married to her partner for 22 years and they have two children. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, baking, hiking, playing pickleball, and working out.

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State Road 32 closes east of downtown Westfield

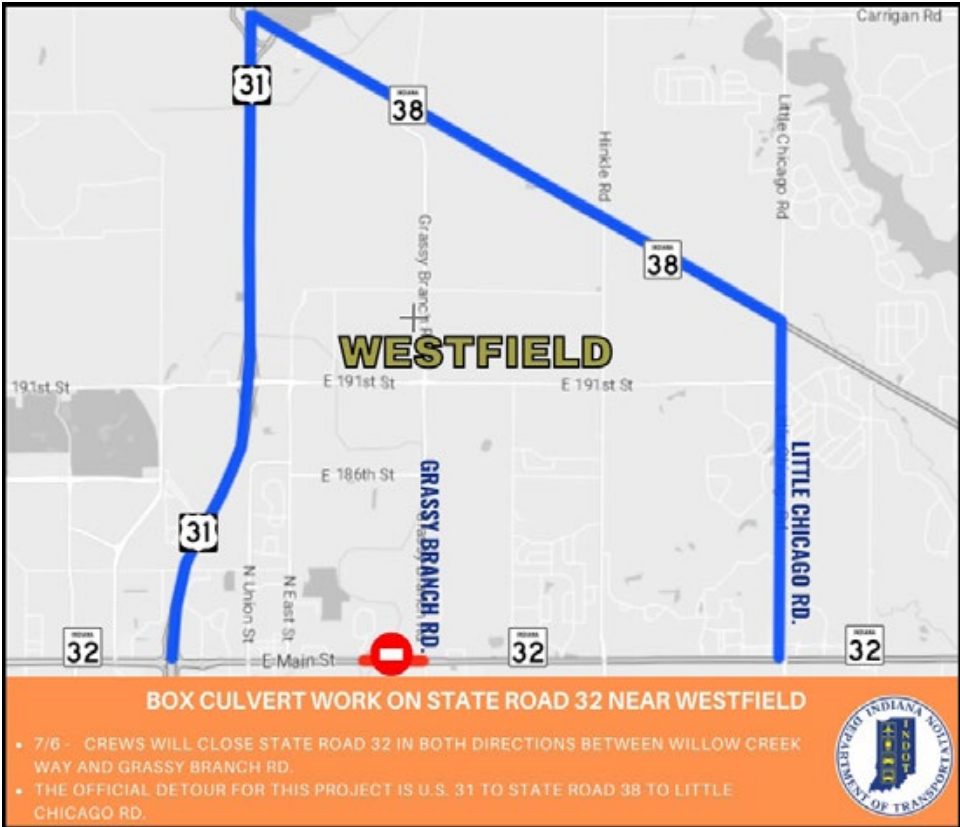
The REPORTER

Indiana Department of Transportation contractor CHA Consulting, Inc. has announced an upcoming closure on State Road 32 near Westfield.

Beginning on or after Thursday, July 6, crews will close State Road 32 in both directions between Willow Creek Way and Grassy Branch Road. This closure will allow crews to complete a box culvert over Cool Creek. This work is expected to be complete late August, weather depending.

The official detour for this project is U.S. 31 to State Road 38 to Little Chicago Road.

INDOT urges drivers to consider worker safety by slowing down, using extra caution, and driving distraction-free when traveling in and around all work zones.



Graphic provided by INDOT



One-day closure on Friday along 146th Street

Beginning on or after Friday, July 7 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., 146th Street between the White River and River Road within the existing construction limits will be under lane restrictions for the paving of a 90-foot stretch of median.

This is a one-day restriction. Only the left-hand lane for westbound traffic will be restricted.

Be sure to use extreme caution while driving through this construction zone.

Summer is in full swing at Anderson Museum of Art

The REPORTER

The Anderson Museum of Art (AMOA) is celebrating summer with an exhibition opening, a First Friday celebration, and sharing special Christmas in July savings on venue rentals.

First Friday on July 7

Visit AMOA when you're in Downtown Anderson for the monthly First Friday event. In celebration of World Chocolate Day, AMOA will offer visitors tasty treats from Uranus Indiana.

The First Friday celebration will also include the official opening of the 12th annual Figures of Speech Exhibition. Figures of Speech, which runs through Sept. 2, includes works from more than 30 artists from across the Midwest. This year's judge,



Larry Lawson, has selected Best of Show, first, second, third, and several honorable mention awards. Each will be acknowledged during the opening reception awards presentation at 6:30 p.m.

First Friday will also include AMOA's A.R.T.S. – A Reason To Shop – featuring local artisans, crafters, consultants, and vendors. Come out to shop local. To learn more about A.R.T.S or to participate, visit andersonart.org/arts.

Christmas in July specials

To celebrate the warm weather and sunshine,

AMOA offers a Christmas in July special: a 10 percent discount for any 2023 or 2024 venue rental booked in July. If you know of someone looking for a venue for their wedding, baby shower, birthday party, or graduation party, encourage them to take advantage of the savings. The 10 percent off will be honored for corporate holiday parties. It's never too early to start planning for upcoming celebrations.

About the Anderson Museum of Art

Located in the historic Carnegie library building

in downtown Anderson, the Anderson Museum of Art is host to a variety of local, regional, and national art exhibitions. In keeping with its mission statement – “To engage the community in the visual arts” – AMOA endeavors to be an integral part of the growing arts community through a variety of means including collaborations with other arts organizations, youth and adult art classes, youth Summer Camps, public art receptions and participation in various downtown activities. Learn more at AndersonArt.org.



WESTFIELD—
FARMERS MARKET

Westfield Farmers Market is back, baby!

Submitted

The Westfield Farmers Market continues from 5 to 8 p.m. today and every Thursday at Grand Junction Plaza, 225 S. Union St.

July 6 Market vendors

The following is a list of vendors that have confirmed their participation for today's Market. The list is subject to change without notice.

- A Couple Kids Family Farm
- A&E Farms
- Becky the Bakerster
- Boozee Bundts
- Chez Pauline homemade French bakery
- Cool Creations Company
- Courtney Ann Designz
- Creolicious Bakery
- Darling Impressions
- Dragonwood LLC
- Eagle Creek Apiary
- Easy Baby Boutique
- Etta's Goody Goodies
- Fox Holler Woodworks
- Glauco Co.
- Good Chew Company
- Grace over Grace Boutique
- Groomsville Popcorn
- H&S Knife Sharpening
- Happy Mutt Pet Bakery
- Hidden Acres
- Hoosier Kettle Corn
- KD Soap Designs
- Kim's Key Lime Cookies, Inc.
- Lazy Labs Bakery
- Lucky Lemon Bakery
- Mary D Jellies and Preserves, LLC
- Middlefork Meadows LLC
- Nash and Company
- My Dad's Sweetcorn
- Old Major Market
- Orange Cat Creations
- PipKing Creations with Soule
- Pixie's Bake Shop
- Revolt CBD LLC
- Rosie Sue Designs
- Sandys Sass
- Sheilacakes Sweets and Treats
- Simply From Scratch

- Snacks by Jacq LLC
- Tall Girl Specialty Pasta
- Textbook Repository
- The Goodie Basket
- Tommi Makes Goodies
- Variegated Designs
- With the Grain Woodshop
- Witness Graphics

Food & Beverage Vendors

- Bearded Burger
- Grand Junction Brewing Co.
- Taco Express LLC
- The Lemon Bar
- The Walking Waffle Co
- True Texan BBQ

Community Partners

- Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District

This week's live music

Each week the Westfield Farmers Market features live music from some of the Indianapolis area's best and brightest. This week will feature **Monte Parker**. Come out and enjoy a beautiful evening in the Grand Junction Plaza. All the music events are free and open to the public.

About the Market

The Westfield Summer Farmers Market and Winter Market are managed and operated by the Downtown Westfield Association. Interested in volunteering at the Market or have an idea or question? You can reach the Market Manager Nick Stepaniak at markets@westfieldchamberindy.com.

The Market would not be possible without the support of the City of Westfield, the Westfield Welcome Department, and the Parks & Trails Department – especially the city staff from those departments who help support the weekly market.

— COUNTY —

Request for Qualifications
Hamilton County Special Projects for 2023 and 2024
Construction and General Contracting Services

Project Location: Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, Hamilton County Historic Courthouse, Hamilton County Jail Complex, and the Hamilton County Health Department. Noblesville, Indiana

Response Due Date: July 21 by 4:00 PM

Hamilton County is requesting qualifications (the "RFQ") for professional Construction Management Services ("CM Services") for the following interior and exterior renovations:

- Exterior brick work, renovation, and rehabilitation
- Repair and/or replace windows
- Design and oversee the construction of a storage facility for the Hamilton County Health Department
- Install a new HVAC system and remove the existing HVAC system

These services are being requested at the following locations (a non-exhaustive list): the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, the Hamilton County Historic Courthouse, the Hamilton County Jail Complex, and the Hamilton County Health Department. The RFQ is being issued to solicit certain documents from qualified firms to perform professional services for the above-mentioned project as outlined in this RFQ.

A response to this RFQ is not a guarantee that the firm responding will be awarded a contract to perform CM Services, but only that the responding firm wishes to be considered.

Contact for questions regarding this RFQ:
Mr. Steve Wood
Title: Building and Grounds Superintendent
Phone Number: 317.776.8446
Email: steve.wood@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

INTRODUCTION

Potential firms shall be required to submit the following documents:

1. A response to this RFQ as outlined herein.
2. One (1) original, three (3) copies, and one disc or flash drive of the response are to be submitted.
3. All submittals shall be titled: Request for Qualifications for the Hamilton County Special Projects for 2023 and 2024: Construction and General Contracting

Services

4. All submittals shall be made to:
Hamilton County Board of Commissioners
c/o Mr. Lee Buckingham
Title: Director of Administrations
Address: 1 N. 8th St., #157
Noblesville, IN 46060

Pre-selection information:

1. The firm shall be properly licensed in Indiana to provide the CM Services requested.
2. A contract with terms similar to a standard AIA terms will be executed between the selected firm and the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners. The County reserve the right to modify, amend, or replace the AIA contract with a County drafted contract.
3. The County reserves the right to reject any or all RFQs, to waive any informality or irregularity in any RFQ received, and to be the sole judge of the merits of the respective RFQs received.

Section 1: The Project

The Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County (the "Commissioners"), Indiana seeks CM Services to begin a project for the renovation and modernization of existing space to accommodate the needs for the County government's continued growth, updating existing systems, updating and installing new HVAC systems, removing old HVAC systems, brick work, and other similar construction services (the "Project").

The scope of Project is:

- a. Renovate, rehabilitate and other brick work on the current historic courthouse, judicial center, health department center and jail complex.
- b. Update and/or replace certain windows at the current historic courthouse, judicial center, health department center and jail complex.
- c. Install a new HVAC system and remove the current HVAC system at the Hamilton County Jail Complex.
- d. Renovate and modernize the County Council offices.
- e. Work with design and architect team to design additions to the Hamilton County Health Department offices and facilities to promote health and safety guidelines.
- f. Work with the "Design Package or Packages" provided by the design and architect for the Project, meeting the "basic services" as defined within the standard AIA terms.
- g. All of the scope of the Project shall likely be performed and completed while continuing the operations of the Hamilton County government at all Project locations/sites.

In order to complete the project, the Commissioners are seeking a qualified professional CM Services firm with experience in the construction, renovations and modernizations of judicial facilities and design of government use space. The potential firm must have the experience to ensure the continued operations of Hamilton County throughout the duration of the Project. The Commissioners expect that the selected firm will provide recommendations and services to work with the conceptual design, prepare construction documents and specifications of the renovations and structures.

The final project scope will be determined through a scoping period with the selected firm, during which the selected firm will be required to provide site analysis, design, operation of the project site during construction, and construction analysis to create a final scope and budget. The scoping period is anticipated to be a very intense and fast-paced process, with the goal of achieving a final schematic design and budget in the fall of 2023.

Upon receiving a satisfactory scoping schedule from the selected firm, the County will move forward with the Project and selected firm. If the selected firm is unable to produce satisfactory deliverables and budget, the County will begin a new scoping period with another firm or cancel the RFQ process all together.

Section 2: Qualification Information Required (10-pages maximum)

1. Informational Cover Letter
2. Identification, Qualifications and Key Staff
 - a. Provide the firm name and office location from where the work will be performed. Include the name and contact information for the person authorized to negotiate the proposed contract.
 - b. Describe the project team, organizational structure and individuals responsible for the delivery of the key tasks.
 - c. Include a listing of the proposed subconsultants and the tasks to be completed by the prime and each subconsultant.
 - d. Describe the capacity of the team to complete the required work elements.
3. Describe experience in the construction and construction management of courthouse construction/renovations, or other similar projects, projects and a description of space for other government uses. Include references for the projects noted. List up to four county courthouse projects and similar government projects.
 - a. Provide references for projects included in the project experience section.
4. Your firm's project understanding and approach to the project.
 - a. Address your firm's understanding of the services requested and approach to completing the design requirements. Describe your proposed innovative ideas, cost containment measures, energy efficiency and/or sustainable design suggestions, staging and sequencing of work to accommodate operating government offices, seamless design of building additions, quality control procedures, etc.
5. Presuming you are selected by July 24, 2023 include a Proposed Project Schedule.

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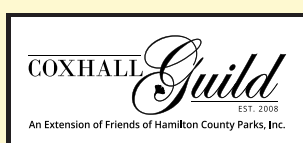


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Westfield has a rockin’ 4th of July

If Grand Park is rocking, don’t bother knocking . . . come on in! With bounce houses, bungee trampolines, live music, a giant Uncle Sam, tons of food and even fireworks combined with a drone show, there was pretty much something for everyone. See more photos at ReadTheReporter.com. (Reporter photos by Stu Clampitt)



Photos provided by Lisa Everling
Drone enthusiasts may ask how safe it is to fly UAVs in the middle of explosions, but the crowds mostly just enjoyed the *Star Wars* images at least as much as the Ewoks did at the end of *Return of the Jedi*.

(Above) Community Theater icon Laird John Sampson took a moment to pose for The Reporter’s camera on July 4. We felt a little baited since he was wearing that righteous hat and those shades straight out of the 1970s. (Left) Gianna Hodge shows off her acrobatic skills on a device that could only exist in America. Bungee harnesses and trampolines go together like July 4 and hotdogs! To whatever genius put those two things together, we tip John Sampson’s hat to you, sir or madam.

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Cicero gets festive for July 4th

One day is just not enough to hold all the Cicero enthusiasm for America's birthday. Last Friday there were two . . . count them, TWO inaugural pageants for Miss Lights Over Morse Lake and Little Miss Lights Over Morse Lake. The festival had games, rides, fundraisers and more fun than you can shake a stick at. See more photos at ReadTheReporter.com. (Reporter photos by Nik Roberts)



Big parade in small town America

Don't let Cicero's sleepy little lake town demeanor fool you – when it's time to throw America a party, they pack the streets with flags, floats, golf carts, tractors, funny cars, classic cars, wagons, horses, and pretty much anything that will carry, pull, or pace a person down the road. There were a lot of July 4 parades around the county, but this small town rivals any city when it comes to good old-fashioned Midwestern spirit. See more photos at ReadTheReporter.com. (Photos provided by Joe Katuin, [Cicero Art & Photography](#))



(From left) World War II Veterans Carl Scott and Marshall Kitterman, Vietnam Veteran Joe Robbins, and Grenada Veteran Tim Fonderoli.



Carmel goes all in on patriotism

You knew we'd get a-round to Carmel, right? Carmel's parade reflects the city well. It was a multicultural extravaganza that included bands, veterans, city officials, and has become so popular that even the Sheridan Blackhawk Band & Guard drove south to be a part of it. See more photos at ReadTheReporter.com. (Reporter photos by Richie Hall)



When Millers march, people line the streets & wave flags to beat the band

Patriotism was on parade across Hamilton County on July 4, and Noblesville did the county proud with a little bit of everything in theirs. Lions and dancers and tractors, oh my! Say what you will about this county, but when it comes to American spirit, we have it in droves! See more photos at [ReadTheReporter.com](#). (Reporter photos by Stu Clampitt)



Photo provided by Noblesville Lions

(Above) This past Tuesday, the Noblesville Lions Club had many of its patriotic members participate in the Noblesville July 4th Parade. Even Stanley the Lion was available in the heat. The Lion float also sported some new red and blue lighting this year! (Right) This is the Midwest, the Hoosier Heartland, filled with the farmland that feeds a nation, so The Reporter was pleased to see an old-school Massey Ferguson 285 rolling down the streets of Noblesville on July 4.



Noblesville's three immediate former mayors served as the Fourth of July parade grand marshals. (From left) Mary Sue Rowland, who served from 1988 to 1995; Dennis R. Redick, who served from 1996 to 2003; and John Ditslear, who served from 2004 to 2019. They were joined by current Mayor Chris Jensen.



There was just too much Noblesville parade for one page to hold it all!

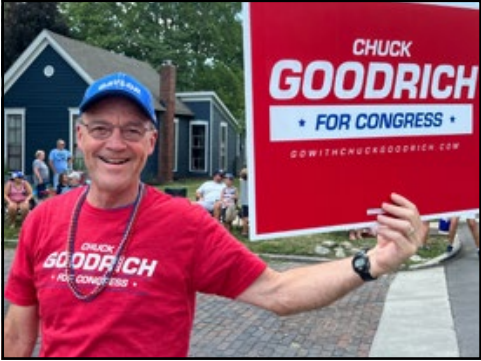
Noblesville did such an amazing job with their parade this year that we had to give them a second page of pictures. There were going to be some hard choices made about which pics to include and which to cut, so The Reporter's owners threw caution to the wind and packed this paper with so many photos that you could spend all day counting them. Don't worry, we counted them for you. This newspaper has 113 local photos! Happy birthday, America! See more photos at ReadTheReporter.com. (Reporter photos)



Tucker White decked out his ... uh ... T-Rex? Velociraptor? ... Dinosaur of choice! There we go. Tucker White decked out his dinosaur of choice in red, white, and blue and rode that bad boy all the way to the parade Tuesday afternoon. Watch that tail, pal!



(Above, from left) Congresswoman Victoria Spartz, Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt, Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, and Hamilton County Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush were kind enough to take a moment to pose for The Reporter's camera before the start of the Fourth of July parade.



Lance Norman Hyde
June 14, 1950 – June 29, 2023

Lance Norman Hyde, 73, Tipton, passed away on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at his residence. He was born on June 14, 1950, in Peru, Ind., to Norman & Norma (Pavey) Hyde. On May 21, 1982, he married Peggy Ammerman. The couple enjoyed 41 years of marriage together.

Lance was retired but had owned his own body shops, All Types and Hyde & Co. Lance was a true artist when it came to restoring all makes and model of cars. He could take a complete wreck and restore it to new condition, sometimes even better than it was when new. He was also an inventor. Lance invented the Cole-Bar hammer, for which he holds the patent.

Lance was a member of the Lord of Life Lutheran Church and St. John's Lutheran Church. He enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, fishing, and boating. He loved his family and cherished the time he spent with them at cookouts and during the holidays. He was a Colts fan and also enjoyed listening to music. Animals were special to Lance and over the years he had nursed several of them back to health. His dog Chloe was a very special friend.

Besides his wife Peggy, he is survived by four children, Brandon Hyde and wife Danielle of Tennessee, Michell Fiscus and husband David of Noblesville, Tamara Cook and husband Dayne of Noblesville, and Heather Fivecoate and husband Russell of Cicero. He also has several siblings, Sandy Moorehead of Peru, Lisa Brindle of Tennessee, Susan Rogers and husband Mike of Peru, and Phillip Hyde and wife Tatia of Peru; eight grandchildren, Briana Miller (Michael), Gaige Guire, Veronica Fiscus, Nathan Hyde, Conner Hyde, Brooklyn Hyde, Mason Cook, and Victoria Cook. Lance was blessed with two great-grandkids, Gabriel & Harper Miller.

A memorial service honoring Lance's life will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, July 7 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 4283 E. 191st St., Westfield, with Pastor Ethan Spira presiding. The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until the time of the service on Friday.

Memorial donations in memory of Lance may be made to the Tipton County Humane Society, P.O. Box 237, Tipton, IN 46072; or the Humane Society for Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, IN 46038.

Young-Nichols Funeral Home is honored to be assisting the Hyde family in their time of need.
Condolences: young-nichols.com

Dennis Keith Branham
September 13, 1963 – June 29, 2023

Dennis Keith Branham, 59, Noblesville, passed away on Thursday, June 29, 2023. He was born on September 13, 1963, to Andy and O. Louise (Stump) Mullins in Welch, W.V.

Dennis was an electrician and loved riding Harleys, fishing, and camping.

He is survived by his siblings, Tammi Burgess, Wally (Vickie) Branham, Robert (Marsha) Branham, Susie (Tom) Swenson, Marie Sizemore, Linda Branham, and Junior Branham; children, David Webber, Cody Branham, and Raven Edwards; granddaughter, Alli'lynn; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Dennis was preceded in death by his siblings, Brenda Branham, Georgette Branham and Andy "Peanut" Branham; stepfather, George Branham; and grandson, Princeton.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Condolences: randallroberts.com

Charles Dupree
May 14, 1953 – July 4, 2023

Charles Dupree, 70, Fortville, passed away on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, at his home. He was born on May 14, 1953, to Charlie Garland and Lelia Mae (Castle) Dupree in Florence, Ala.

Charles was a laborer for Vantage Construction for many years before retirement. There were two things he loved most, family and fishing. Charles was always there to help others in their time of need. He was a do-it-all kind of guy and will be dearly missed. Charles was always good at making up songs, his family and friends enjoyed his humor.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Rachael Dupree; son, Charles (Jennifer) Dupree; daughters, Amber (AJ) Riggs, Angela (Jason) Willis; grandchildren, Natalie, Katelin, Mason, Jaxon, London Dupree, Conner, Caleb, and Ella Emery, Jace Riggs, Brittany (Gabriel) Fernandez, and Hunter Willis; five great-grandchildren; sister, Cynthia Blackstock; and brother, Danny (Linda) Dupree.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Larry Dupree and James Dupree; sister, Donna Davis; and an infant brother.

Services will be held at noon on Monday, July 10, 2023, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will be at Farley Cemetery in Carmel.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years."

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

Genesis 6:1-4 (NIV)

Nancy Louise Tingle (Staples)
April 22, 1942 – July 3, 2023

Nancy Louise Tingle (Staples), 81, passed away peacefully on Monday, July 3, 2023, after a long and full life. She was born in Bedford, Ky., on April 22, 1942, to Johnnie Mae Staples. It was there she met the love of her life, Wilbur Tingle, whom she married on September 23, 1961.

Nancy retired from OneAmerica in Indianapolis. In her spare time, she enjoyed baking, gardening, sewing, and reading Stephen King books. She

was also known for her amazing cryptogram skills. Above all, she cherished spending time with her family. She doted on her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and when it came to them every day was a 'yes' day.

She will be lovingly remembered by her family, which includes her daughters, Stella (Brian) McDole and Shelley (Ron) Lloyd; grandchildren, Brian (Britni) McDole, Shelby (Zack) McDole, Brianne (John) Baute and Abigail (Jason) Schmidt; and her great-grandchildren, Elijah, Andrew, Caleb, Darby, Gwen, Mavis, Gabriel, Cooper, Auli, and Colin.

Nancy was preceded in death by her mother, Johnnie; her brother, Forest Staples; and her husband, Wilbur.

Visitation will be from 1 to 2:45 p.m., with services at 2:45 p.m., on Monday, July 10, 2023, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023 (diabetes.org).

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Thanks for reading
The Reporter!



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Family, history & tradition

MID-TAC Annual Championship Tournament proves Black tennis is thriving

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

CARMEL – A July 4 tradition continued this past weekend on the courts of the Carmel Racquet Club.

For over 35 years, the club has been one of the host sites of the MID-TAC Annual Championship Tournament. This year, MID-TAC celebrated its 100th year with an extended tournament, a banquet and other special events, and of course, many competitive and fun tennis matches.

The Carmel Racquet Club is one of three sites for the MID-TAC tournament. The seniors (55 and over) play at CRC in order to use the facility's clay courts, although some early matches were moved indoors because of weather. But on Tuesday, the players were back on the clay, and they treated the spectators to some great competition.

In fact, there were around 30 spectators watching Tuesday's senior finals. Margaret Dorsey, the president of MID-TAC, said that's a result of the camaraderie that develops among the MID-TAC players.

"When we sit and watch, we actually come to do that," said Dorsey. "That is part of the weekend. We know that there are certain teams, we're going to see them execute and they pretty much are going to end up in the finals."

This year's MID-TAC tournament had 101 junior players and 162 adults participate. The adults who were not playing in senior competition played their matches at Tarkington Park, while the juniors played at West Indy Racquet Club. The players also celebrated at a banquet on Sunday night at the Marriott Indianapolis North Hotel, which served as the host hotel for the tournament.

Community ties

MID-TAC's full name is Midwestern Tennis Association, and it is the Midwest section of the American Tennis Association (ATA). The ATA was founded in 1916 by representatives from over a dozen Black tennis clubs. At the time, Black players were barred from competing in United States Lawn Tennis Association (USLTA) tournaments.

MID-TAC has ties to community organizations in 10 states across the Midwest, including the Capitol City Tennis Club in Indianapolis. The CCTC has hosted the MID-TAC tournament every year since 1979, with Carmel Racquet Club serving as one of the sites for over 35 years.



(ABOVE LEFT) Lonnie White (left) and Michael Harden won the Men's 60 doubles event at this past week's MID-TAC tournament. The event has taken place in Indianapolis since 1979; Carmel Racquet Club hosts the senior players on its clay courts. (ABOVE RIGHT) After playing a competitive doubles match, these four ladies talked with the Reporter about the family and fellowship that tennis provides. Pictured from left: Tina Dandridge, Mary Richardson-Webb, Sytera Lynn Sanders, Denise A. Davis.



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

American Tennis Association has produced all-time great players

By RICHIE HALL

sports@readthereporter.com

The ATA hosted its first tournament in Baltimore in 1917 and it quickly became "one of the most anticipated social events of the year" in the Black community, according to the ATA's website, yourata.org/history. In 1940, Don Budge, the first player to win a calendar-year Grand Slam, played that year's ATA champion, Jimmy McDaniel, in a match at New York City's Cosmopolitan Club, an ATA affiliate. That began the process of integration.

Budge played a doubles match with Dr. Reginald Weir, who would become the first Black player to compete in a USLTA event in 1948, at the U.S. Indoor Lawn Tennis Championship. Weir was a five-time ATA champion between 1931 and 1942.

An all-time great player that came out of the ATA was Althea Gibson, who won 10 ATA titles in a row between 1947

and 1956. Gibson became the first Black player to compete in the U.S. Nationals and claimed the first Grand Slam title for a Black player when she won the French Nationals in 1956. Gibson went on to win the U.S. Nationals and Wimbledon twice (1957-58), ranking No. 1 in the world both years, and is a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

The ATA also produced Arthur Ashe, who won three consecutive titles from 1960 to 1962. Ashe is the first Black man to win a Grand Slam title, winning the first-ever U.S. Open (the successor to the U.S. Nationals) in 1968. Ashe also won the Australian Open (1970) and Wimbledon (1975) and was elected to the Hall of Fame. Two other ATA champions, Zina Garrison (1979-80) and Lori McNeil (1981) would both go on to rank in the world top 10 during their careers. Garrison won three mixed doubles Grand Slams, a gold medal in doubles in the 1988 Summer Olympics and reached the 1990 Wimbledon final.

been in existence and how long have you been coming to MID-TAC?" she asked. Through that process, "we discovered that we were older than we thought we were."

"Under my administration, everybody was completely informed at the same time as to who brought us into being," said Dorsey. That person was "Mother" Mary Ann Seames, a pioneer in Black tennis. Seames is part of an exhibit on the International Tennis Hall of Fame website. Seames was giving tennis

lessons to Black children as early as 1906.

[Click here to see the exhibit.](#)

"Nobody really understood that role that she had," said Dorsey. "And now we're going to get a chance to celebrate it even more completely, because everybody's learning that same information collectively."

Dorsey enlisted the help of Tony Burrows, a genealogist, to help research the archives to find out more information about the beginning of MID-TAC.



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Robert Velasco (left) was playing in his first-ever MID-TAC tournament, while James Walker has been playing in the tournament since 1955.

(That history can be found on MID-TAC's website at [midtac.jrjox.com/current-history](#).) They found a 1926 article from the *Chicago Defender*, an African American National Newspaper, that mentioned the "3rd Annual Western Tennis Championship" that took place in Chicago. Another *Defender* article, from 1935,

said MID-TAC's beginnings were in Wilberforce, Ohio.

Walking history

Some of the players competing in the MID-TAC tournament could be considered walking history lessons about the organization. A good example is James Walker of Jackson, Tenn.

See MID-TAC... Page 16

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As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man. Prov. 27:19
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Zionsville’s Annabelle Pancake shines at British Women’s Amateur

By ANGELA MORYAN
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

CARMEL – Zionsville native Annabelle Pancake’s golf game has flipped to another level. Her name is now known internationally – but it all started at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, where her dad, Tony, is the director of golf.

“I just learned to love golf, not like it was a chore, but like it was a fun game – like it should be,” Annabelle said. “When I realized I could get good if I worked hard, that’s when I really was motivated and started to enjoy it.”

Get good she did. Annabelle made her first trip to England for this year’s British Women’s Amateur, and quickly found herself playing for the championship.

“I had to beat like five or six golfers to get to the finals, and I love match play. That is my favorite form of golf.

It’s just super fun and interesting, and it’s something different and a lot more competitive and exciting. You can be aggressive, and that’s how I like to play normally,” Pancake said. “I understood that I belonged there. I knew that I had good enough game, but also just realizing that the results are not in my hands. They’re in God’s hands.

Instead of putting my faith in a number, I put my faith in God.”

Time wasn’t on Tony Pancake’s side. He was here at Crooked Stick’s Member-Guest event on Saturday, when his daughter Annabelle was playing in the British Amateur. However, nothing was stopping him from being there to see her play on



Annabelle Pancake



Tony Pancake

Father’s Day.

“I was watching her play on the live stream. When she won that semifinal match, I thought... I’m getting a little emotional about it. I just had to be there,” Tony said. “I started doing the research. It was just a miracle how it all worked out. And the members here they helped us pay for the ticket. I was just really cool. Driving a stick shift on the wrong side of the road, it was a miracle I survived.”

His Father’s Day gift was seeing his daughter have a chance to win the biggest event in women’s amateur golf.

“I said, ‘Hey, I can’t wait to watch you!’” Tony said on a phone call Saturday night.



ANNABELLE PANCAKE SHINES ON WORLD STAGE

Photo courtesy WISH-TV

Annabelle Pancake gave her father Tony a great Father’s Day present by reaching the final of the British Amateur. Tony, the Director of Golf at Crooked Stick Country Club in Carmel, found a way to the United Kingdom to watch his daughter play in that match.

“I love spending Father’s Day (with her) on the golf course. We’ve done it many times, and I just wanted her to play like we’ve done so many other times.”

“I’m so thankful,” Annabelle said. “The fact that I have a mom and dad, and brothers and sister, that love me so much to travel halfway across the world to watch me do what I love is such a blessing.”

Annabelle didn’t win the finals match, but came home to Indiana as the event’s first American runner-up in five years.

“I know how hard she’s worked on her game. I just know how difficult it is, and I’m just really proud of her,” Tony said. “Just a memory I’ll treasure forever.”

With many more memories still to come.

Two Indiana Fever players to compete in WNBA All-Star Game

The REPORTER

The Indiana Fever will have two players compete in this year’s WNBA All-Star Game.

Center Aliyah Boston was named a starter for the WNBA All-Star Game. Boston joins Shoni Schimmel (2014), Elena Delle Donne (2013), Brittney Griner (2013), Maya Moore (2011), Sue Bird (2002), Tamika Catchings (2002) and Chamique Holdsclaw (1999) as the eighth rookie selected to start a WNBA All-Star Game.

The 2023 AT&T WNBA All-Star Game will be played in Las Vegas at the Michelob Ultra Arena, home of the Las Vegas Aces, on Saturday, July 15 on ABC at 8:30 p.m.

In 13 games to begin her WNBA career, Boston is averaging 15.6 points, 8.1 rebounds, 2.2 assists, 1.5 blocks, 29.4 minutes per game and has started every game this season. Boston leads all WNBA players in field goal percentage shooting 82-of-126 (65.1 percent). The most impactful rookie this season leads all first-year players in points, rebounds, blocks and minutes per game.

The WNBA Rookie of the Month in May became the first Fever player to win WNBA Player of the Week since Kelsey Mitchell won on May 31 during the 2022 season.

Boston also joins Catchings, Anna DeForge and Ka-

tie Douglas as the only Fever players in franchise history to earn WNBA All-Star starting lineup recognition.

Fever guard Kelsey Mitchell was named a reserve for the 2023 WNBA All-Star Game. Mitchell and this year’s All-Star Game reserves were selected by the league’s head coaches.

The sixth-year guard, who has spent her entire WNBA career with Indiana, will join Fever rookie center Aliyah Boston at the 2023 WNBA All-Star Game in Las Vegas at Michelob Ultra Arena, on Saturday, July 15 on ABC at 8:30 p.m. This season marks the 10th time in franchise history the Fever will send multiple players to the same WNBA

All-Star Game.

Captains A’ja Wilson from the Las Vegas Aces and Breanna Stewart from the New York Liberty, who received the most fan votes, will draft their respective rosters by selecting first from the remaining eight players in the pool of starters and then from the pool of 12 reserves. ESPN will broadcast the WNBA All-Star Team Selection Special on Saturday, July 8 at 1 p.m. ET.

In 15 games this season, Mitchell is averaging a team-best 17.0 points, 2.5 assists, 1.3 rebounds and 33.3 minutes per game while shooting 40.7 percent from the field and 83.9 percent from the free throw line. Entering this week-

end, Mitchell ranks third in the WNBA in most made 3-point field goals (38).

She has scored in double figures in 14 of 15 games played this season and recorded five 20-point outings already. Mitchell’s game-winning field goal at the Chicago Sky on June 15 also helped the Fever earn a 92-90 victory at Wintrust Arena.

In 2023, Mitchell has continued to rise in the Fever record books, which now includes her as the No. 2 overall scorer in franchise history (2,683 points), second in franchise history for field goals made (940) and second in made 3-point field goals (385).

It was announced in

MID-TAC

Walker has been playing in the MID-TAC tournament since 1955, when he started as a junior player. He’s now 79 years old and still playing at a high level.

Walker is still teaching at a high level, as the teaching pro at Jackson Park and Recreation.

“I’ve been through the USTA program,” said Jackson. “I got my teaching cer-

tificate through the USTA. I think I was about 27 years old when I started. So I’ve been in tennis for a long time.”

Walker said he has made many friends at the tournament from all over the country, ranging from places such as Chicago, Nashville and Florida.

“They come from a lot of different states,” said Walker. “It’s a big tourna-

ment.”

At the other end of the spectrum is Bob Velasco, 78, of Forest Park, Ill. He said this was the first MID-TAC tournament he had ever played in.

“I haven’t played tennis for quite a while, so I’m just getting back into it,” said Velasco. “And I know a lot of people who come to this. Matter of fact, we were here

just watching, kind of as a vacation. I decided to go ahead and play since I hadn’t played for a while and want to get back into the game.”

Velasco said he would “definitely” play at the MID-TAC again, “because I know a lot of the players here. It’s very convenient to run into old friends.”

“Tennis is a family”

The matches at the MID-TAC tournament are competitive, but the sense of friendship among the players at the senior level transcends the scores. Just a few minutes after playing a doubles match, with each other, four women – Denise A. Davis (from New Jersey), Mary Richardson-Webb (Chicago), Tina Dandridge (Chicago) and Sytera Lynn Sanders (Arizona) – sat down with the Reporter to talk about their experiences.

“It’s very almost family-oriented,” said Richardson-Webb. “It’s very, very nice to get people from all over and everybody just seems to always mesh, in my opinion, very well.”

Dandridge agreed about the social aspect of the tournament, calling it an “outlet, at least for me being an older player. And I’ve always had good relationships with everybody I’ve played tennis with, whether it’s here or people I don’t know.”

Dandridge said, “Tennis is a family. You don’t have to know anybody. We just commune, break bread, play and have fun, win or lose.”

Sanders noted the diversity in players – “all different level skills,” she said. “They come from all parts of the world and come together” for fellowship, playing tennis and getting to know each other. “That’s how some people find partners and it’s just a fun thing to do.”

“Ditto in terms of what all the other ladies have just mentioned,” said Davis. “It’s family-orientated. And you meet people from all over, and I’ve gained more of a respect for the game itself and the individuals that I have actually been competing against. Like the other ladies have said, it’s family. It’s a big family.”

While tennis brings the players together, the MID-TAC experience goes beyond the courts. The event began last Friday with a welcome party. On Saturday, the event hosted “Friends and Family Evening In The Park” at Tarkington Park, where a cook from Chicago served barbecued chicken, spaghetti, salad and baked beans.

On Sunday, MID-TAC hosted the banquet at the Marriott North, which included the 100th Year Celebration Program. The

program featured special guests, “who were all previous administrators for MID-TAC,” said Dorsey. The guests were awarded plaques, “and we had a great time,” said Dorsey. Then on Monday, there was a cocktail party with a silent auction, and Tuesday featured pizza and wings.

“Our motto is ‘MID-TAC is the premier tournament for juniors and the preferred tournament for adults,’” said Dorsey. “Because we don’t give you rankings. You don’t get points. You come because you love to play. You love the competition and you know it’s going to be a great weekend.”

Dorsey also had nice words for Carmel Racquet Club, which welcomed the MID-TAC players with signs throughout the facility.

“We have a splendid, excellent relationship with Carmel,” said Dorsey. “Greg Griffey and his staff have always treated us just royally. We can say we need a couple of courts and he’ll make it happen. Anything that we need, it’s just a phone call away.”

It’s a relationship that will continue for many years to come. And expect to see more competitive tennis and family-style camaraderie as MID-TAC – and its tournament – enter their second centuries.

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