

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

See page A7



VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Eclipse

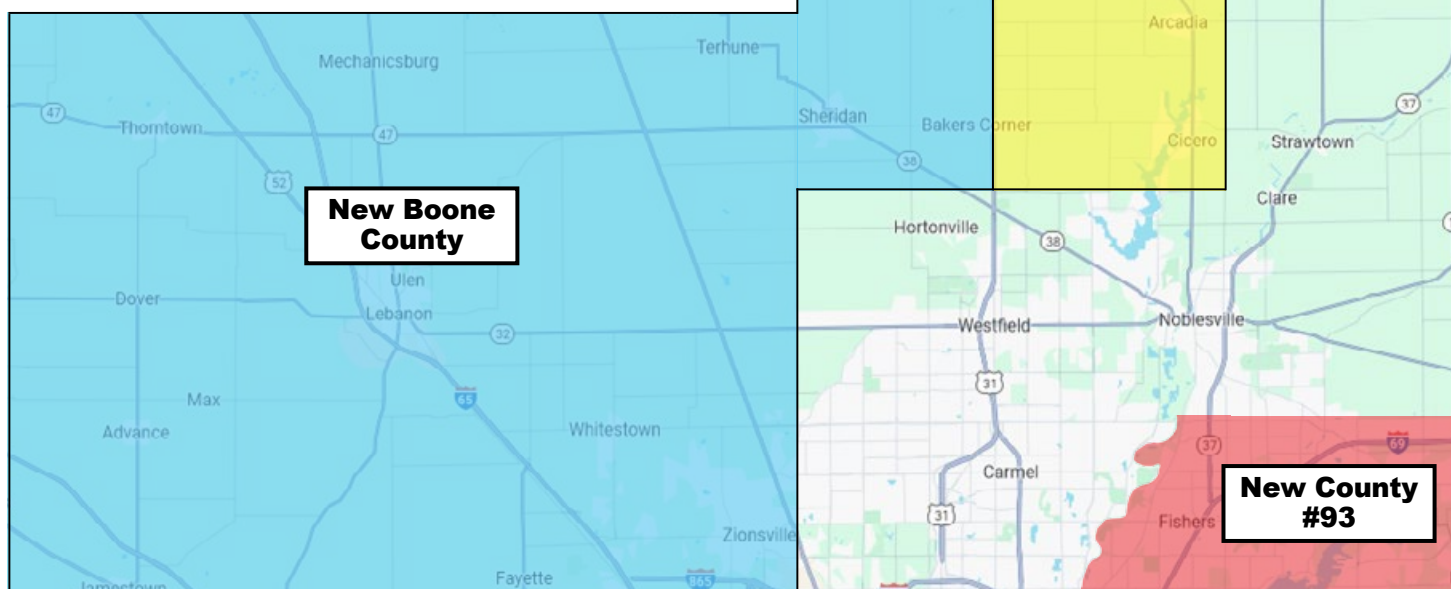
THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

TOTALITY IS COMING 4.8.2024

Breaking up is hard to do

Four townships plan to secede from Hamilton County this year

Reporter exclusive uncovers mass exodus of new unigovs



The REPORTER

The territorial battles inside Hamilton County have taken a strange turn in recent weeks.

Adams and Jackson townships are each working toward their individual consolidation plans. Fall Creek and Delaware townships are now seeking a different form of consolidation with Fishers.

All four townships are also seeking to secede from Hamilton County.

In addition to a ballot mea-

sure in November to consolidate Adams Township and Sheridan into a unigov, that township is simultaneously appealing to the State of Indiana to become part of Boone County instead of Hamilton.

Likewise, Jackson Township is asking voters to approve a unigov-style consolidation of the Township with one or more of its three towns and is appealing to the State of Indiana for the right to become part of Tipton County.

The Fall Creek/Delaware/Fishers situation is a little different. While those three entities are not seeking to consolidate into a single governmental unit, they are asking the State for the right to fully secede from Hamilton County and become Indiana's 93rd county.

Hamilton County's commissioners and council have washed their hands and walked away from this fight, telling The Reporter they will leave it up to the voters and state officials to sort out.

"It will never happen, but if they do pull this off, someone in one of those counties owes the remaining residents of Hamilton County a rather large check to repay taxpayers for all the work we just sank into this U.S. 31 water project," one county councilmember said. "It doesn't need to be one of those big photo-op checks, but it will need space for a lot of zeros!"

See Breakup . . . Page A4

Another story to tell . . .

How can one vintage columnist find herself in such precarious positions to write about? Hold my sweet tea . . . here I go!

On Wednesday, five girlfriends and I headed to a funeral in Plainfield. My friend Patti volunteered to drive. She suggested that our friend, Sandy, and I sit in the third row of her SUV because we had small backsides and short legs.

I said, "No problem." What was I thinking?

Getting in the back was challenging, but I had no idea what it would be like getting out.

I struggled to get out of the third row when we got to the church.

After the funeral, we stopped for lunch. Another struggle getting in and out.

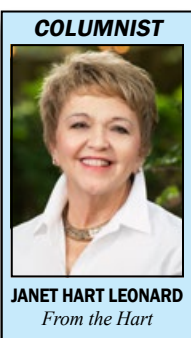
On the hour-long drive home, my legs started feeling a bit cramped.

When we reached the parking lot where we had met Carol, Kim, and Teresa, Sandy and I decided to stay in the back seat until we reached Patti's house, where our cars were parked.

After exiting the third row twice with great difficulty and an hour-long drive back to Patti's with my short legs confined into a somewhat fetal position, I attempted to get out of the third row for the third time.

My legs refused to cooperate. The strength in my short little legs was depleted.

See Story . . . Page A4



JANET HART LEONARD From the Hart

Bringing the glory days back to Westfield

By SHANA SLOMA shana@readthereporter.com

Beginning this Thursday, Main Street Productions (MSP) is giving audiences a chance to relive their high school glory days in Jason Miller's Pulitzer Prize winning play, *That Championship Season*, to stage at Basile Westfield Playhouse, 220 N. Union St., Westfield.

Director Lori Raffel will lead an ensemble cast of five men struggling to accept the direction their lives have taken following the greatest moment of their lives two and a half decades earlier.

The Reporter spoke to Raffel about the context of the play, her motivation behind directing this specific production, and finding the right cast to carry out her creative vision.

"The play takes place in Scranton, Pa.," Raffel told The Reporter. "It is the 25-year reunion of a basketball team that won the state championship in 1952. The team is getting back together again. Some of them haven't left town, and some of them have. It's about the good, the bad, and the ugly that comes with that. They all start to find out that winning [the championship] might have been the best thing that ever happened in their lives, and that none of their lives turned out the way they thought they would."



Photo provided

Meet the cast of *That Championship Season*. (From left) Jim Simms as Coach, Earl Campbell of Noblesville as George, Adrian Blackwell of Noblesville as Tom, Ken Kingshill of Whitestown as Phil, and Mark Kamish of Indianapolis as James.

When asked about the length and structure of the play, Raffel told The Reporter that she will not present the play in a series of acts but in a continuous 90-minute production.

"It's 90 minutes straight through," Raffel said. "It is broken into acts in the original script, but I took that out. It's in real time. It's from when [the characters] arrive at the reunion straight through to the end."

Raffel said that she had first liked the play when reading it in college, but her affection for it deepened when she wit-

nessed the Carmel Greyhounds win their first basketball championship in 1977.

"I read this play back when I was in theater school at IU," Raffel said. "It hadn't been out for very long, but I just thought that it was a really cool story. And part of that is because I was around when Carmel and the Shepherds won the State Championship. It was like a Cinderella story. It was so wonderful. It just made me think of how the town comes together. It was just a really special thing."

See Glory Days . . . Page A4



During the eclipse, only call for real emergencies

The 2024 Total Solar Eclipse will be a busy day for many in its viewing path. To ensure the safety of Hamilton County residents and visitors, county leaders ask that the following instructions related to emergency communication be heeded.

In an emergency

It is estimated that Hamilton County will welcome over 600,000 guests for on Monday, April 8. In preparation for this event, public safety officials are identifying emergent and non-emergent calls.

Emergency situations may include but are not limited to:

- Medical assistance
- Car accidents with entrapment or injuries occur
- Physical or verbal disturbances
- Wrong way drivers

During heavy emergency request periods, lower priority calls may have a longer response time.

Non-emergency situations may include but are not limited to:

- Requesting a VIN check
- Possession of a lost or found animal
- Minor property damage crashes occur
- Submitting a noise complaint

For these non-emergency situations, please call the non-emergency line at (317) 773-1282.

Additional public safety information related to the Total Solar Eclipse can be found at tinyurl.com/HamCoSolarEclipse.

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Hamilton County Fairgrounds
Proceeds Support Lions Club Charitable Projects



Photos provided by Westfield Lions Club
(ABOVE LEFT) The Evans and Slonaker families enjoying the pancake breakfast. **(ABOVE RIGHT)** Pancake chefs Katie Leber and Maxwell Montgomery.

Miracle League pancake breakfast raises \$3,500

Westfield Lions & WHS SOS Club pull off a big win

By **JEFF LARRISON**
 Westfield Lions Club

On March 23, the Westfield High School SOS Club and the Westfield Lions Club held their second annual pancake breakfast at the WHS cafeteria. This year's event raised \$3,500 for the Miracle League of Westfield – blowing away last year's donation of \$2,500.

The SOS Club students cooked pancakes and sausage, staffed the serving line and drink stations, and operated a face-painting table (all with a little help from the Westfield Lions). The students also took an active role in promoting the event and soliciting sponsors.

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, the SOS Club set up a meeting with the Westfield Lions Club to discuss ways to work together to serve the community. At the meeting, the students and their sponsor, Megan Springer, made

it clear that they wanted to hold another pancake breakfast to raise funds for the Miracle League (last year's recipient of the breakfast proceeds). They set their sights on beating last year's number and spent considerable time planning and prepping for this year's breakfast.

The turnout at the breakfast was phenomenal – about every sports team at WHS showed up in mass. The various school sports teams even had a competition to see which team could get the most players to attend the breakfast (the girls softball team won).

A special note of recognition should be given to the Westfield food services department for their assistance in making the breakfast a big success. Director of Food Services Paul Sherrer made sure the event went off smoothly. When it was discovered there were some significant last-minute logistical

problems that would jeopardize the event, he said he'd do whatever was needed to enable the students to hold the breakfast – and he did.

The Westfield Lions and the WHS SOS Club would also like to thank the sponsors of the event – the City of Westfield, Mark Heirbrandt, Busby Eye Care, Sobczak Construction, Compass Realty, Indy Eye Care, EPYK Realty, Sunshine Pediatrics, Heartland Growers, Lazar Insurance, and Chuck Godrich for Congress. Without their support, the breakfast would not have been as successful as it was.

About the Westfield Lions Club

The Westfield Lions Club has been serving the community since 1930 and is looking for men and women who would like to be part of this effort. For more information on the Westfield Lions Club and how to become a member, go to WestfieldLions.org.



Photos provided by Noblesville Lions Club / Jake Doll
(ABOVE LEFT) Reed Fish was welcomed by Noblesville Lions Club VP Jeff Kozicki. **(ABOVE RIGHT)** Robby Slaughter was thanked by Kozicki.

Noblesville Lions Club welcomes two distinguished guests to latest meeting

By **JAKE DOLL**
 Noblesville Lions Club

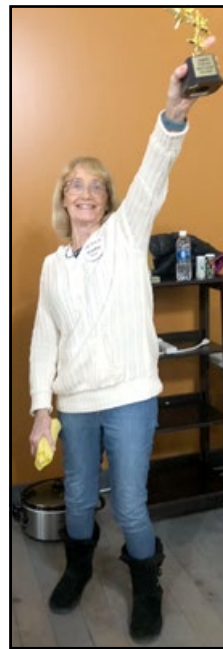
The Noblesville Lions Club welcomed two special guests to their meeting last Wednesday evening.

Reed Fish of the Speedway Lions Club has been a Lion for over 35 years with many awards and personal dedication. He has had many distinguished positions in the Lions organization over

the years, which include Club President, District 25F Governor, and activities in MD 25 Lions of Indiana. He has also received awards and recognitions at the International level of Lions Clubs. He has now decided to run for Lions Club International Director, and the Noblesville Lions Club is proud to support him in this endeavor.

Robby Slaughter highlighted the evening with

his comments on trust. He spoke on how trust is basic for all that we do. And these days, trust is down in government and many other areas. Two of the main areas needed for trust are consistency and honesty (saying and doing the right things). A lot of details were covered that explained these areas. Being Lions in the public eye, this subject kept attention.



Photos provided
(ABOVE LEFT) Cathy Good had the overall high score. **(ABOVE CENTER)** Sue Treida and chapter member Judy Ottinger won the outhouse for the lowest scores. **(TOP RIGHT)** Mike Treida (left), who paid the pig the most, shown here with Cathy Good and Sue Treida.

They may not be playing with a full deck, but Phi Beta Psi goes alone to raise Euchre money

The **REPORTER**

Sheridan's Phi Beta Psi held their Euchre Party on Feb. 24 at The Studio on Main Street.

Appreciation was given to all members for the donations of food for the dinner. There were 32 players, and six additional people to assist with food and games. A total of \$1,001 was donated with \$100 given back

to hostess Cheryl Merrill to help with her expenses for the evening.

The group voted and approved the purchase of a vinyl banner for hostess Cheryl to use for future community euchre games held at The Studio on Main Street.

Chapter member Cathy Good had the overall high score of the night. Mike

Treida paid the pig the most, and Sue Treida and chapter member Judy Ottinger won the outhouse for the lowest scores.

Phi Beta Psi looks forward to co-hosting the annual community Pork Loin Dinner with Sheridan Lions Club from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 20 in the Sheridan Elementary School cafeteria.

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THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

By **Jason Miller**

Directed by **Lori Raffel**

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Reporter photos by Amy Adams (ABOVE LEFT) Jackson Snyder enjoys chasing bubbles. (ABOVE CENTER) Blake Petesch is ready to gather eggs.

Raining eggs: crowds brave cold for Westfield's annual Egg Drop event

By AMY ADAMS news@readthereporter.com

The Westfield Easter Egg Drop on Saturday, March 23 marked the 12th year of the tradition, with anywhere from 50,000 to 70,000 eggs being dropped from a helicopter or scattered on the fields at Grand Park Sports Campus.

Around 2,500 pre-registered kids and family members braved the unseasonably cold day either in the morning or afternoon to gather eggs as well as enjoy bounce houses, games, face painting, and more – all for free. An added surprise this year, two helicopters, rather than the one used in the past, dropped eggs during each event. Then, once kids gathered eggs, they could turn them in for a gift bag filled with candy and prizes. The eggs are collected, stored, and reused, with the addition of around 5,000 eggs each year.

"The Easter Egg Drop is one of NSpire Church's biggest and most long-standing community events," Senior Pastor Matt Gaylor said. "Spire means life, breath, wind, or spirit. As a church, we want to breathe life into the community. It's a way to love our neighbors."

To pull off the event, Gaylor said it took more than 100 volunteers from their three campuses, as well as sponsors Chick-Fil-A, All Dry Water & Mold Remediation, Central Indiana Insulation, Garage Doors of Indianapolis, Azure Plastic Surgery & Med Spa, Beau



Reporter photos by Amy Adams Event volunteer Gabe Goddard gets carried away with the Easter bunny.

Benjamin Realty Group, Academy Chariot Automotive Group, Hoosier Spray Foam, Pro X Development, Shiners' Club Preschool, Texas Roadhouse, Dean Ballenger Auto Home Life, Gaylor Contracting, and Conforti Photography.

NSpire Church Westfield is located at 18097 Sun Park Drive. The church also holds a Sunday service in Tipton at the CW Mount Community Center and a Spanish-speaking service, known as NSpire Iglesia, at the Westfield location. Easter services will be held at the Westfield location at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, and at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 31, in Westfield and in Tipton. NSpire Iglesia will meet on Easter Sunday at 4 p.m. in Westfield.

For more information, visit nspire.church.

Noblesville Kiwanis Sunrisers & Key Club team up to serve community



Photos provided by Noblesville Kiwanis

On Saturday, March 23, the Noblesville Kiwanis Sunrisers held a Pancake Breakfast before the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt at Forest Park. Members of the community were served the signature Kiwanis pancakes and sausage breakfast and enjoyed a visit with the Easter Bunny. Several members of the Noblesville High School Key Club volunteered their morning to serve the breakfast. The Key Club is a great community service club with well over 125 high school members at NHS. The Noblesville Kiwanis Sunrisers are planning to be back again next Spring. Until then, you can find them on Tuesday mornings at 7 a.m. at Ginger's Cafe for their weekly meetings with special guest speakers and planning the next community pancake breakfast. (TOP LEFT) Noblesville High School Key Club members with Kiwanis Sunrisers Mark Saxhaug, Dan Stevens, Roger Brown, Alaina Shonkwiler, Jim Grabowski, Jerry Hochstetler, Ted Mahnensmith, and Jerry Schlensker. Not pictured: Elvis Douglas, Tom Gang, and Heidi Henry. (TOP RIGHT) Kiwanis Sunrisers Ted Mahnensmith, Tom Gang, Heidi Henry, and Elvis Douglas.



Photo courtesy Miss Cara Photography / @MissCaraPhotography Realizing the Dream honoree Maddi Martin (HHHS '22 and Anderson University sophomore) shown here with her most influential educator, Kim Kaiser (HHHS Business Teacher and Business Department Chair).

Hamilton Heights graduate Maddi Martin named "Realizing the Dream" honoree

The REPORTER

Maddi Martin, a sophomore at Anderson University (AU), in Anderson, Ind., was among 29 Hoosier students honored with the "Realizing the Dream" scholarship from the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI).

Martin, a 2022 graduate of Hamilton Heights High School, is a member of AU's women's tennis team and majoring in visual communications and design.

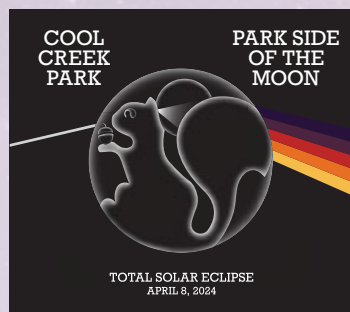
Martin was one of 29 students in the state of Indiana to receive the award, given to sophomore students who attend one of the ICI member institutions like Anderson, DePauw, Franklin, Marian, and Manchester to name a few. The "Realizing the Dream" program recognizes students from ICI

campuses who are the first in their families to attend college. The program also pays tribute to the students' families and their inspirational teachers.

Martin recognized her high school business teacher, Kim Kaiser, as being her most influential educator. They reconnected at a special reception and awards dinner at the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis. Along with recognition at the event, each honored student received a plaque and a \$4,000 check for outstanding achievement to apply toward their college costs. The "Realizing the Dream" program, made possible by the support of the Lilly Endowment

See Dream ... Page A4

A rare, total solar eclipse will occur in Hamilton County on Monday, April 8, 2024 and not be repeated in this area until 2153! Hamilton County Parks is staging two events that will entertain and educate, in celebration of this celestial spectacle!



Moon Market | April 8 12 - 5 PM | Strawtown Koteewi Park \$5 (\$10 out of county)

Invited artisans will be selling crafts and wares while respected eclipse expert W. Keith Turner presents fascinating eclipse programming. Guitarist Robin Harrison will set the eclipse to music. Special activities and the Duke Energy Nature Education Trailer will be part of the celebration. For-purchase food and drink will also be available.

Park Side of the Moon | April 8 10 AM - 5 PM | Cool Creek Park \$10 (\$15 out of county)

Get your eclipse on with Echoes of Pompeii A Tribute to Pink Floyd. Broadcast personality Paul Poteet* will serve as host, joined by noted stargazers, Dr. Doug Balogh and Jeff Attebury. Enjoy fun activities, vendors, and for-purchase food and drink throughout the day.



FREE eclipse viewing safety glasses will be issued to all attendees when entering the event grounds. Free parking for registered guests and the option to tailgate will be offered at both locations. Register at MyHamiltonCountyParks.com or scan the QR code below. Hurry, attendance capacities have been set at both park locations!



The perfect way to remember this historic event!

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation is offering commemorative eclipse merchandise online. A select number of the online items (viewing glasses, t-shirts and stickers) will also be sold at Cool Creek Nature Center until sold out. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Hamilton County Parks and Recreation.



Thanks to these valued sponsors for supporting these two very special events.



*Paul Poteet's hotel accommodations provided by Hotel Carmichael. "We love being Paul Poteet's hotel of choice! It is always a pleasure having him stay with us. Paul and all of our guests are incredibly important to us." - Hotel Carmichael Director of Sales and Marketing, Austin Campagna



STORY

from Page A1

leaving them like limp noodles.

I tried to put my legs through the tiny opening the second seat afforded as we couldn't get the second seat to move forward. I then put one leg out the door. It could not reach the ground. I wiggled my backside onto the floorboard. My left leg, which had fallen asleep, did not know where to go. I was now straddling the second seat with my right leg dangling outside the car. I kept trying to gain traction by throwing my right leg in the open air, but I wasn't getting anywhere.

To complicate matters, Sandy and Patti started cautiously laughing, which caused me to go into cackling mode. The sight of me was not pretty, but it was hilarious. I was trying to deliver myself from the birth canal of a Hyundai. I was attempting to come out breech if I could get my left leg to cooperate.

The sight of a 68-year-old lady doing the splits as she removed herself from this vehicle's third row had to be right out of a Saturday Night Live comic sketch ... back when SNL was funny.

Finally, I was able to land on my right foot on the pavement as I held onto the grabber piece above the door's window.

After several years of yoga classes, I have become quite flexible. However, I was in a new and yet-to-be-named position. It was somewhere between the



Photo provided

Here we see Janet preparing for the next time she's forced to deliver herself through the birth canal of a Hyundai.

Vertical Frog Pose and the Pigeon Pose, with a bit of a Side Lunge Pose.

I could finally drag my left leg out while desperately holding onto the grabber piece.

I would have done a Happy Day Dance if I hadn't felt a hitch in my get-a-long.

I hugged Sandy and Patti and told them I had a column to write. I limped to my car and hugged the steering wheel. I had no idea having short legs and a small hind end could get me in such a position.

Perhaps I will tell my yoga instructor, Joan, about the position I found myself in, and she will name it after me, the Vintage Writer Pose. The thing is, I won't be able to recreate it. Not going to happen again ... ever.

Janet Hart Leonard can be contacted at janet.hartleonard@gmail.com or followed on Facebook or Instagram (@janethartleonard). Visit janethartleonard.com.

BREAKUP

from Page A1

Adams Township

"Westfield is trying to gobble us up," Sheridan's Otis "O" MacDonald said. "If they do, what will happen to my farm? They want to start with those 30-some acres down south, but it won't stop there, I tell you. It won't stop anywhere near there! In a few years we'll all be living in a city. No one moved here to live in a city. We need a county government that will protect us and let us preserve our culture. You know what else? Hamilton doesn't even HAVE a rodeo, but Boone has the one our kids compete in."

According to Sheridan Community Schools (SCS) officials, becoming part of Boone County will be a win.

"It does a few things," SCS officials told The Reporter. "Right now, we have to publish all our public notices in newspapers in two counties because some of our students come from across the county line. Publishing in one newspaper will save us several hundred dollars every year. Do you know how many art supplies we can buy with hundreds of dollars? How many basketballs? This move will be like mini-Christmas for our students."

Without an influx of new residents from Westfield developments, SCS can also keep class sizes small.

"We can keep our teacher-to-student ratios low and keep excelling in academics," school officials said.

Boone County officials said they're excited to bring Adams Township into the fold, both because of the fine school system and also because of the water resources.

Hamilton County has been planning to pump up to one million gallons of water per day from Sheridan along the U.S. 31 corridor both for the planned Nation Guard facility and for the explosion of development expected in the next several years once water and sewer lines are in place.

"It's no secret that Lebanon needs water," one Boone County official said. "If - I'm sorry - WHEN Adams Township becomes part of Boone County, we can look at bringing some of what will be our own water to the places in this county that need it. That's not for some potential future growth, but for the growth already happening right here."

Westfield

"I don't know if anyone

remembers this, but in 2004 Carmel tried annexing seven-and-a-half miles of our land." Westfield city officials told The Reporter. "That was between State Road 32 and 146th Street and from Ditch Road to Little Eagle Avenue. Back then, that would have been 3,000 people who would instantly have become Carmelites against their wills. We'd never do anything like that. It's not like we're trying to swallow Adams Township all in one bite. We're just nibbling a little on a patch of land where no one even lives yet."

Jackson Township

"Westfield isn't just coming for Adams Township," Jackson Township officials said. "They want both sides of 31 all the way up to the county line. We can't have that. We need to be able to control our own destiny. This move just makes sense. We have more in common with Tipton than southern HamCo. No one in Tipton is trying to be Little Indy. We will miss our hometown newspaper though."

One consideration for Jackson residents is taxation. Several former Hamilton County residents have moved to Tipton County in recent years specifically to get lower property tax bills.

"I can look out my back door and see Hamilton County," one such resident said. "Every time I do, I just smile. Maybe money can't buy happiness, but taxes sure buy unhappiness!"

While the Town of Atlanta is not convinced it should consolidate with the rest of the township to form a single governing body, they do see advantages in being part of Tipton County.

"Every year at our New Earth Festival there are all these people who set up on the north side of 296th Street to sell food and whatever else," one Atlanta town official said. "Since that's in Tipton County, we can't charge them any booth rent and they're taking away money from this town by just riding on our shirtnails. It makes me so crazy! But if we are all one big happy Tipton family then all that money will go to our town - where it belongs."

The Nickel Plate Express (NPX) has been trying to convince Tipton County to pay for track repairs so the train can run from Forest Park all the way to the town of Tipton. If Jackson succeeds in seceding, that

Potential Names for New County No. 93

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. AA | 7. Hamilton |
| 2. AMP | 8. Mudsock |
| 3. Deer Creek | 9. Royal Tiger |
| 4. Fadness | 10. The Best |
| 5. Feeshers | 11. TIF |
| 6. Geist | 12. Top |

negotiation gets a lot easier.

"Now that The Shack is back, we'd love to take riders up there," one NPX spokesperson said. "If most of our rail is on the Tipton side of the line, that county will pony up for the express in no time."

Hamilton Heights Schools is looking forward to being the big fish in a small athletic pond.

"We are already a great school with a great athletic program," Heights officials said. "But can you imagine how bright we'll shine up there? When we keep winning like we already do, Tipton might even throw us a good old-fashioned tickertape parade or two."

Tipton County officials told The Reporter there is a strange and unexpected benefit to this plan.

"Look at that map," officials said. "Our county will be shaped like a capital T."

Fishers

And then there is Fishers.

Fishers, Delaware Township, and Fall Creek Township have asked Indiana to let them break away completely and become an as-yet-un-named 93rd Indiana county. The overall cost to the state if that were to happen is still unknown.

"You start talking about adding a county and there's just a lot that comes with that," one state senator said. "You've got to reorganize tax allocations. You're talking about a new number to add to license plates and court documents. Then there's the question of the whole county numbering system. Right now, counties are numbered according to their alphabeti-

cal order, so what the heck do we do about that?"

Fishers first proposed naming their new county "AA County" in part so they would sort at the top of the list and thus become County No. 1, forcing the other 92 counties to bear the cost of renumbering.

"We also thought AA would be a great county name since it matches our S&P bond rating," Fishers city officials said.

Fishers has been working on this plan for several years.

"The pandemic gave us a great opportunity to test the waters and set the stage for this," city officials said. "We formed our own health department, and no one bat-

ted an eye. There's one new county problem solved right there. We are the home

of the Humane Society for Hamilton County, but rebranding will only take a few signs and website redesign. We have great fire and police departments. All we really need is a court and a jail. And honestly, we'd be happy to pay Hamilton County to house our criminals."

Many residents approve of this secession plan.

"We've outgrown Hamilton County," local resident Tippi Hedren said. "This place is for the birds! It's time to go."

Conclusion

If you made it this far before picking up the phone to call an elected official, thank you for gathering all the facts first. Here's the most important fact of all: today is April 1 and this was our annual joke. No one is seceding.

Happy April Fool's Day, Hamilton County!

"We need a county government that will protect us and let us preserve our culture." - O. MacDonald, Sheridan

"We have more in common with Tipton than southern HamCo." - Jackson Twp. officials

"We've outgrown Hamilton County. This place is for the birds!" - Tippi Hedren, Fishers

DREAM

from Page A3

Inc., also provides a \$1,000 professional development grant to the teacher who inspired the recipient to go to college.

Martin, who was raised by her mother in a single parent home, was grateful for the recognition and additional financial assistance. While she only had Mrs. Kaiser for one business class her junior year, the experience of being in that class and how Kaiser made her feel left a lasting impact.

Martin said she was an outstanding and great teacher.

"I am so appreciative of this honor and proud of Maddi and the path she has chosen at Anderson University," said Kim Kaiser, upon learning that Martin was a recipient of this award. "Many thanks to the Lilly Endowment Fund for supporting the 'Realizing the Dream' program.

Find out more and view Martin's video at icindiana.org/rtd.

GLORY DAYS

from Page A1

Raffel told The Reporter that while the play does contain some controversial themes and inappropriate language, she thinks that audiences will not take offense.

"There is a lot of humor in it, but it's also poignant, as well," Raffel said. "It has rough language and racial slurs, but it's 1977. I don't think [the audience] will be offended because it's just the way that people talked."

But foul language did not keep people from trying out. While the script was off-putting to some of the men who auditioned, Raffel told The Reporter that there was no shortage of potential talent on each night of auditions.

"Some people asked

to see the script and they said, 'Not for me,' which is fine," Raffel said. "I just needed five actors. I had about 10 each night at auditions, so I had a good amount to choose from."

Raffel told The Reporter that she is happy with her selection of actors for the upcoming production.

"Two of them I've worked with before, and one I know," she said. "The other two I've never worked with, but you just get the feeling, and they got it. They got the script. They got the humor and the sadness that's in it."

When asked what makes someone a great actor, Raffel said that personal experience is the key to effective acting.

"To me, the best actors

are the ones who are damaged," Raffel said. "There are people who act, but they've never really been through anything in their lives. All these guys were able to bring that [life] experience with them to the show."

Raffel said that although she and the rest of the cast have spent many hours rehearsing for *That Championship Season*, she has thoroughly enjoyed her time directing such talented people.

"We've really had a good time doing this," she said. "All the guys are wonderful."

But Raffel said she does not think *That Championship Season* is for everyone. She thinks the foul language and thematic

content make it best suited for slightly older audiences.

"I do not think this is a play for small children," Raffel said. "It should be rated at least PG-13."

But Raffel told The Reporter that she has also enjoyed the challenge brought forth by directing such a controversial play.

"It's not easy theater," she said. "But I don't think theater should be easy."

That Championship Season will run April 4 to 14 at Basile Westfield Playhouse, 220 N. Union St., Westfield. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available online at Westfield-Playhouse.org or by calling (317) 402-3341.

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Westfield Lions help prep for Post Office Food Drive

Club members fold 1,000 bags for postal carriers



Photo provided by Westfield Lions Club

At the Westfield Lions Club's March 21 meeting, the members spent time folding 1,000 plastic bags that will part of the upcoming "USPS Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive" event that benefits the Open Doors Food Pantry. Over the past few weeks, Open Doors has been utilizing people in the community, along with the Westfield Lions Club, to fold approximately 60,000 plastic bags that will be delivered to homes by postal carriers around the Westfield/Carmel area. A post card will be attached to the bags that explains what the event is all about and encourages the public to put non-perishable food donations in the bags and leave them at their mailboxes for the postal carriers to pick up. The collection date for the food bags will be May 11.

It sure is nice what they do, but that will never be me

COLUMNIST



MARK HALL
The Feeding Team Feature

Growing up in rural southern Illinois, oil, farming, candy bars, hunting, and sports dominated the discussions every week. If you were in school in Robinson one of these silos of activity would play a big part in your life.

As an average athlete in a small town, I watched

more than I played. Especially in football. What I remember vividly was the dominating confidence that each of us carried into our games. It extended to our practices and even permeated all our preparations. We would watch in silent horror as a teammate or opponent got pummeled, broke a bone, or worse – lay motionless on the field as coaches, parents, and EMTs scurried about treating the injured.

What I will always remember is the mental gyrations that most of us went through in our minds. We had to convince ourselves of one thing to keep going to get back in the game: "This will never happen to me." In my mind, I am invincible.

Having lived over six decades, the foolishness of that self-talk is apparent now. But back then, no one would talk about what everyone was thinking: "Wow, that poor guy, that will never happen to me. Let's suck it up and get back to the game."

That same attitude often dominates here in 2024. I have a decent job; it is secure. We have some savings, and we are healthy. We have a home, two cars, and a dog. We work hard and I will not let anything take what I have away from me. The attitude of invincibility is what carried us through high school, college, and, if I am being honest, several stupid risky life decisions. The attitude of invincibility still carries many of us today.

That will "never happen to me" until it does.

I recently reconnected with an old friend – for our purposes his name is not important – but we will call him Robin.

In 2020, Robin, married with two children, was about to celebrate his 62nd birthday. Along with his professional career, he owned a profitable growing small business. Like most of us he had some mortgage left on his home and car

payments. Robin clearly had done well as he hit 800 on his FICO credit score.

Three years later, pushed in part by the pandemic, Robin lost his home, lost his job, lost his business, lost his health insurance, and went to an older model car just to get around town. When we reconnected, Robin was living out of his car, with his now two teenagers. He was applying for any kind of work and would grab a cheap hotel room for a good night's sleep and showers when he could afford it.

Robin fed his family from the pantries for close to two years. Robin shuttled local homeless to and from pantries allowing them to be fed, too. All this occurred right here in Hamilton County. Serving hungry neighbors is a participation sport, usually we have no idea who shops from or donates to the pantries. The person you help may be nearer than you think.

Yeah, but that could never happen to me, right?

Feeding Team provides a way and a place for those in need to get food for their family. While each pantry really is just a big wooden yellow box, it means so much more for donors and for families in need. You are welcome to join us as together we fight to eliminate hunger in Hamilton County.

With over 47,000 food-challenged neighbors in Hamilton County, FeedingTeam.org is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides outdoor 24/7/365 no-questions-asked free food pantries throughout the county.

The pantries exist to meet the food insecurity needs of gap families, neighbors who may not qualify for public assistance and could use a few meals before payday. The pantries serve as many food-challenged neighbors as possible, and our hearts are with those who, like my family, could not always make ends meet.

Thank you for supporting the pantries. We love serving with so many neighbors across Hamilton County. In future columns, we will share more stories about how your generosity

See Team . . . Page A6

Young Rocks help Open Doors



Photos provided by Westfield Washington Schools

Recently, some young Rocks (we like to call them pebbles) had lessons in charity. At Carey Ridge Elementary School, teachers did a philanthropic project to help Open Doors Food Pantry of Westfield. Kids saved and spent their Funny Money for food that they donated to Open Doors. These students donated more than \$3,000 worth of food to Open Doors. At the Virginia F. Wood Early Learning Center, the city's youngest learners found out what a food pantry is and how it works. Each kid got the chance to put his or her donation on the cart. Great job, Rocks! See more photos at ReadTheReporter.com.

Fighting perceptions that no one goes hungry here

The REPORTER

The 2024 Hamilton County Harvest (HCH) Annual Meeting, held March 19 at the Delaware Township Community Center, was a resounding success.

The Hamilton County Food Support Network was well represented at the event, along with community leaders, volunteers, and those interested in ending hunger in the community. The Carmel Culinary Students under Chef Nick Carter and Chaya Reich provided all attendees with appetizers and desert.

HCH Board President Kathy Young welcomed all, and Executive Director Anita Hagen shared highlights and the following key items of impact:

- More than 22,370 individuals are food insecure in Hamilton County. As the population grows, so does the number of hungry people. Over 72 percent of these people are likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs per Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap.
- A total of 150,423 meals, a 25 percent increase from the previous year, provided in 2023 through the Food Bank at a cost of \$309,438.
- Network services provided to 45 separate LOCAL organizations with 32 of these receiving food at an average annual cost of \$9,679 per pantry or program.
- A total of 305 volunteers provided 4,859 hours of service, an increase of 17 percent over the previous year.



Photos provided

(From left) Former Noblesville Mayor John Ditslear and Pastor Teri Ditslear, Board Member Mary Lou Finchum, and Executive Director Anita Hagen spoke of the great work Hamilton County Harvest does to serve the community.

Produce and meat distributions increased by 48 percent and 41 percent, respectively, year to year.

Board Members and Staff Amy Englert, Mary Lou Finchum, Janet Gaffken, and Alan Ariel spoke about the Board Listening Visits and upcoming Strategic Plan Goals for 2024-2026. Included were the areas of Community Education and Outreach, Stakeholder Engagement and Advocacy, and Operational Infrastructure and Sustainability.

Board Vice President Alan Ariel high-

lighted HCH's need to find a new home to co-locate its spaces in 2024 and more fully serve the Food Support Network of Hamilton County for the future.

Former Noblesville Mayor John Ditslear and Pastor Teri Ditslear spoke of their many years of support for the Food Bank via donations, volunteering and advocacy and urged all in attendance to consider how they can help as we work towards lowering the level of food insecurity locally and NOW.

Suzanna Hobson and Christina Feroli were elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term. Retiring Board President Kathy Young and Longtime Bookkeeper Larry Hopp were honored for their dedication and service.

Read the 2024 Annual Report at tinyurl.com/HCH2024Report.

For more information on any of the Food Bank's activities, go to HCHFood-Bank.org or contact Anita Hagen at hamiltoncountyharvest@gmail.com.

Meet author Janis Thornton at Sheridan Public Library April 11

The REPORTER

Local author Janis Thornton will visit the Sheridan Public Library at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 11 to discuss her book, *The 1965 Palm Sunday Tornadoes in Indiana*, presented on the anniversary of the event.



Thornton

powerful stories inspired her to write a book about Indiana's worst tornado outbreak. She became committed to collecting and recording firsthand stories of Hoosiers that experienced the disasters. The author gives a glimpse of one of the most devastating and catastrophic Indiana natural disasters.

Thornton's love for history and the telling of

Noblesville's own Rick Phillips receives National Volunteer Award for Exemplary Service to the arthritis community

The REPORTER

The Arthritis Foundation recently presented its Champion Awards to outstanding volunteer leaders from around the country who have made a significant impact on the arthritis community through their volunteerism.

Lawrence "Rick" Phillips of Noblesville is among the 2024 Arthritis Foundation Champion award winners. The awards were presented during the Foundation's Pathways conference on March 8 in metro Washington, D.C.

Phillips's experience living with chronic illness began in his teens when he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Today, he lives with rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylarthritis in addition to diabetes. He uses his experience to make a difference for people across the country through his volunteerism, advocacy, engagement, and voice.

On a national level, Phillips is active in multiple patient engagement projects, including serving as a committee member on a project done in partnership with the Arthritis Foundation and Brigham & Women's Hospital. Rick has served on multiple patient panels at Pathways Conferences on the importance of patient engagement, and more.

"Rick is one of the Arthritis Foundation's most vocal and dedicated volunteers," said Steve Taylor, president and CEO of the Arthritis Foundation. "He uses his voice and experience to further the priorities and core values of the organization in every volunteer role he holds. Because of this passion, others have found their



Photo provided

way to solace and comfort in the Foundation."

Locally, Phillips raises funds for Jingle Bell Run and in 2023 he was responsible for securing a Jingle Bell Run Corporate Chair who raised \$42,000 – financial support that had an enormous impact. He has also personally donated and raised funds for both the Jingle Bell Run and Walk to Cure Arthritis. He was also recently appointed to the FDA's Arthritis Medications Advisory Committee, where he's using his voice and experiences to push for more, better, cheaper drugs.

About the Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation is fighting for all people who live with arthritis. As Champions of Yes, the Arthritis Foundation has a mission to turn the obstacles arthritis causes into opportunities. The Arthritis Foundation champions life-changing solutions and medical advancements, and it also provides ways for people to connect, break down barriers in healthcare and join the fight to conquer arthritis – uniting hearts, minds, and resources to change the future of arthritis. To join the fight to conquer arthritis, visit arthritis.org.

Janus gets \$6,000 grant from Everwise Foundation

The REPORTER

Janus Developmental Services, Inc. has received a \$6,000 grant from the Everwise Foundation.

This gift will help Janus provide support to youth in Hamilton County for life skills such as financial education, financial safety training, and workforce development opportunities. These are skills for everyone to learn so they are able to successfully live



their best lives and be as independent as possible. This grant will help to change lives.

Learn more about Janus at janus-inc.org. You can find out more about the Everwise Foundation at everwisecu.com/about/community/everwise-foundation.

TEAM

from Page A5

served neighbors in times of need. The face of hunger in Hamilton County is not what you may think.

In practical terms, this straightforward way to help neighbors is having real impact on lives, families, and our communities. Thank you. A few meals can change the course of a person's life. A can of green beans means so much more when you have nothing to

feed your kids.

Would you like to get involved? Volunteer opportunities are available. We are evaluating new pantry locations. If you think you have a potential location, please contact us.

Mark and Lisa Hall are the Founders of Feeding Team. They may be reached at lisa@feedingteam.org and mark@feedingteam.org or by calling (317) 832-1123.



Photo provided

Auditions for *Anne of Green Gables* will be held on Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21.

Calling all young performers for CCP's *Anne of Green Gables*

The REPORTER

Carmel Community Players (CCP) and Director Amber K. Roth invite you to audition for *Anne of Green Gables*, adapted by Joseph Robinette, from the novel by L.M. Montgomery.

When a high-spirited, red-headed orphan girl is sent to live with the Cuthberts at Green Gables, they claim a mistake has been made since they had asked for a boy. But before Marilla and her quiet brother Matthew can send her back to the orphanage, Anne's winsome ways capture their hearts, and her winning per-

sonality and funny antics captivate all who come to know her.

Anne of Green Gables serves as CCP's "Rising Star Production," available only for youth actors aged 12 to 18 and one 6- to 8-year-old.

See the full list of characters and their descriptions at ReadTheReporter.com.

Auditions will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, and from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 21. You must register online beforehand to be assigned an audition time slot. Go to tinyurl.com/5m6pp5un.

What & how to prepare

Headshots and resumes are encouraged but not required. Auditions will consist of a prepared one-minute monologue including slating (introducing who you are, what play the monologue is from, and who wrote the play) along with reading from the script. Actors aged 6 to 8 looking to audition for Minnie May are asked to perform a 30-second to one-minute monologue along with separately working on facial expressions and body language for the stage. Directors will have those performers showcase that when asked.

Video auditions will also be accepted for those unable to attend in-person auditions. Prepare a 1+ minute monologue; in your video, please slate (introduce yourself) and the piece you are performing.

Submissions must be emailed to the director at am-berroth98@gmail.com by 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 21.

Performances will take place at The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel.

- Friday, June 28 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, June 30 at 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, July 5 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, July 6 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, July 7 at 2:30 p.m.

Hamilton County Community Foundation makes \$240K multi-year investment in two local nonprofits

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Community Foundation (HCCF) has announced an investment of \$240,000 over three years in support of two not-for-profit organizations dedicated to enhancing the well-being of Hamilton County residents.

"The two not-for-profits we selected to receive this funding are both highly unique and enhance the lives of our Hamilton County neighbors in ways rarely seen at this scale," HCCF President Tom Kilian said. "By investing these unrestricted funds over three years, Hamilton County Community Foundation is helping drive sustained impact and operational longevity for these not-for-profits and ultimately for those they serve."

Originally intending to offer a single grant of \$40,000 over three years, the HCCF board of directors approved the grants committee recommendation to expand its support and award two multi-year grants to the top finalists, acknowledging the deeper impact and relationship that can be made when embracing the core tenet of trust-based philanthropy – multi-year, unrestricted grants.

The two grant recipients are Invest Hamilton County and Trinity Free Clinic.



Kilian

Invest Hamilton County

Invest Hamilton County is an economic development driver for the county. It convenes and collaborates with partners to address critical community challenges, including re-entry, behavioral health, childcare and workforce development, to ensure that every person in Hamilton County has a pathway to a fulfilling life.

Invest Hamilton County leverages its deep expertise in securing federal funding and strategic partnerships to amplify the impact of the funding it receives. For every \$1 in operational support received, Invest Hamilton County has raised more than \$4 to support programming and sends more than \$2 back into partnering community organizations.

"This support from HCCF will impact dozens of non-profit, educational, civic, and business partners, while also helping to scale and sustain impactful training programs and community initiatives in areas like child care, disability employ-



Thibideau

ment, mental health, re-entry, and K-12 education," Invest Hamilton County President & CEO Mike Thibideau said. "Through intentional collaboration, evidence-based innovation, and a passion for action, we will build paths that allow every person in Hamilton County to live the best life they can."

Trinity Free Clinic

Serving uninsured, underinsured, and low-income residents of Hamilton County, Trinity Free Clinic provides essential medical, dental, vision, and behavioral health services with dignity and respect. Trinity Free Clinic plays a vital role in addressing healthcare disparities and preventing individuals from falling into extreme poverty due to healthcare expenses. By ensuring that all members of the community have access to the care they need to thrive, Trinity Free Clinic's mission intersects with HCCF's mission to bring equitable opportunities for prosperity.

"Nearly 35,000 people in Hamilton County cannot

afford needed health services and risk being pushed into extreme poverty due to lack of healthcare access and healthcare debt," Trinity Free Clinic Executive Director Mel Wischmeyer said. "We have been the safety net clinic for low-income and uninsured individuals in Hamilton County for nearly 25 years. These stable, multi-year funds will allow Trinity to go deeper in researching and addressing health equity and access in Hamilton County, including the nearly 50,000 Hamilton County residents enrolled in Medicaid who have difficulty accessing care close to home."

Through these investments, HCCF leads the charge in supporting organizations that foster a resilient and equitable community. These investments also continue the legacy of multi-year grants from the Foundation that have supported innovative organizations and programs in the past, including Hamilton County Youth Assistance, Shepherd's Center for Hamilton County Reaching Resources, and the Westfield YMCA.

HCCF was established in 1991 to inspire philanthropy while helping people enhance their family and charitable legacies in tax-smart ways. Learn more at HamiltonCountyCommunityFoundation.org.

Get ready for Hamilton East Public Library's Local Author Fair on Saturday, April 20

The REPORTER

Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) will soon hold its 2024 Local Author Fair, a free open house-style event for all ages. The event will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 20 at the FORUM Events Center, 11313 USA Pkwy., Fishers.

Nearly 60 local authors and literary organizations from Fishers, Noblesville, Carmel, Westfield, Cicero, Indianapolis, New Palestine, Avon, Bargersville, and other central Indiana areas will have exhibit space for the public to meet them with opportunities to purchase their books. Authors will be available for book signings. There will be chances to win book

bundles and other prizes for those who attend.

New to the 2024 fair are storytimes and short readings featuring participating authors throughout the afternoon, in a room adjacent to the exhibit space.

"Hamilton East Public Library is excited for the return of this annual event showcasing the talent of local authors!" Adult Program Coordinator Danielle Acton said. "Our service area within Hamilton County, and Indiana at large, has many gifted writers, some who have self-published and others who have launched their works through traditional publishing houses. The HEPL Local Author Fair provides a unique opportu-

nity to engage directly with nearly 60 authors and literary organizations as you support local storytelling. During the event you can purchase books for yourself or as gifts, network with other authors, ask them about their writing inspiration or process, and learn more about their journey to publishing."

A fantastic array of local author talent representing a broad range of genres, including picture books, mystery thrillers, action, adventure, true crime, biographies, romance, self-help, local and Indiana history, science fiction, and much more will be at the event.

The Local Author Fair is a free event for all ages, including children, teens,

adults, and families.

Three free writing workshops will take place at the Fishers Library, 5 Municipal Drive, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. before the Local Author Fair. While free, registration is required for each workshop as space is limited. Workshops include:

- Writing is Rewriting: Fixing a First Draft with Myra Levine
 - Turning the Tangible into the Intangible with John Hinton
 - Character Creation
- Visit the HEPL event calendar to sign up for these free writing workshops. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with the literary community. Visit hamiltoneastpl.org for more information.



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

CARMEL FISHERS NOBLESVILLE WESTFIELD NORTHERN TOWNS

THE SKIES ALIGN FOR A SPECTACULAR SHOW IN HAMILTON COUNTY ON APRIL 8, 2024

Get ready to be mesmerized by a celestial masterpiece as the communities of Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville, Westfield and the Northern Towns become the perfect stage for the Total Solar Eclipse, when the moon gracefully dances in front of the sun and casts its shadow across the landscape.

Witness the magic of the cosmos with friends and family at official viewing locations like Carmel Civic Square, Conner Prairie, Cool Creek Park, Grand Park Sports Campus, Ruoff Home Mortgage Music Center and Strawtown Koteewi Park.

Grab your Eclipse glasses, set up your cameras and join Hamilton County in this celestial celebration—it's guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience!

THE SKY WILL BEGIN TO CHANGE AROUND 1:50 P.M. WITH TOTALITY AT 3:06 P.M.

Hamilton County is in the narrow path of totality for the Total Solar Eclipse. These communities will be some of the best places to experience prime views of the epic event.

| | | | |
|---------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Arcadia | 3m 6s | Fishers | 3m 39s |
| Atlanta | 2m 56s | Noblesville | 3m 27s |
| Carmel | 3m 29s | Sheridan | 2m 51s |
| Cicero | 3m 15s | Westfield | 3m 19s |

VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Eclipse



**JUST NORTH
OF INDY**





March attendees with Brittany Rayburn of YMI with promotional check presentation.

Photo provided

Fifty Club of Fishers named winning charity at Fishers Century Club's March meeting

Fishers Century Club continues its philanthropic impact, nearing \$35,000 in total giving

The REPORTER

The Fishers Century Club announces the Fifty Club of Fishers as the winning charity of its March 26 gathering.

Nominated and presented by John DeLucia, the Fifty Club of Fishers was chosen for its vital mission of providing supplemental death and disability benefits to police officers and firefighters of the City of Fishers who become disabled or have fallen while in the line of duty.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to support the Fifty Club of Fishers," DeLucia said. "Their work directly impacts the families of our injured or fallen first responders, and I am grateful to my fellow attendees and participants of the Fishers Century Club for voting for them to receive this quarter's funds."

The Fishers Century Club meeting also featured a presentation from the December meeting winner,

Youth Mentoring Initiative (YMI), on how they used the \$3,300 they received. That brief presentation was given by YMI Executive Director Brittany Rayburn.

The event space, along with food and beverage, was hosted by Ross Emery of The Club Coworking.

Emery, the Operations Director of Fishers' premiere coworking space, had this to say: "We are honored to host the Fishers Century Club in our recreation event space. It is a fun environment to be able to host the Fishers Century Club and I find it very rewarding to hear about and support some amazing local charities within the community."

The Fishers Century Club will be collecting funds from this meeting over the next two weeks before sending a grand total to the Fifty Club of Fishers.

It is expected that after yesterday's meeting, the total donated via crowd-giving by the Fishers Century Club



Photos provided

(ABOVE LEFT) John DeLucia spoke about the Fifty Club of Fishers to the March attendees. (ABOVE RIGHT) Brittany Rayburn informed the March attendees about how the funds from the December meeting were used.

will approach the \$35,000 in total giving mark.

The next meeting of the Fishers Century Club will be held in June. For more information about the Fishers Century Club, how to get involved, or see previous winners, please visit fisherscenturyclub.com.

To participate in the crowd-giving group online, visit tinyurl.com/FCCgrapevine.

About Fishers Century Club

The Fishers Century Club is a group of individuals committed to making a positive impact on the local community. Through collective crowd-giving and active participation, the club aims to support and uplift deserving charities, ultimately contributing to the betterment of Fishers and our local community.



"A tradition unlike any other"

BGCN to host Topgolf Tournament during first round of The Masters

The REPORTER

The Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville (BGCN) will soon play host to the seventh annual Topgolf Tournament, title sponsored by First Merchants Bank, on Thursday, April 11 at Topgolf Fishers on the first day of The Masters.

The afternoon will bring Augusta to Fishers while featuring food, drinks, giveaways, a silent auction, and Topgolf's Top-Contender gameplay, all while supporting affordable, after-school programming for over 2,000 local youth and teens.

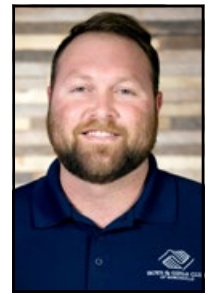
"Last year's Topgolf Tournament was a huge success with over 140 in attendance to support our Club Kids while taking in the first round of The Masters golf tournament," BGCN Director of Development Nathan Helm said. "The event will help ensure that the Club's memberships remain affordable to local youth. Each day after school, over 300 members are coming to the Club at a cost of only \$60 for the year, while the true cost of a membership is over \$900 per year. This outing is a great opportunity to network, give back to the community, enjoy the kickoff to golf season and support our local youth."

The event will kick off at noon with registration

followed by lunch buffet and open play, and two Top-Contender team games will follow beginning shortly after 1 p.m. During the event, participants will have the chance to network and participate in contests such as closest-to-the-pin in addition to a unique putting contest from GKM Property Services. The event will wrap-up with an awards ceremony at 4 p.m.

To inquire about team and individual registrations and sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to BGCN Director of Development Nathan Helm at (317) 773-4372 or nhelm@bgcni.org, or register online at bgcni.org.

About the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville
The Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville provides high-quality, low-cost programs for youth members with the help of donors and sponsors. Between the Club, the Community Center, and Camp Crosser, BGCN provides opportunities for members to enjoy activities and experiences that help shape character and offer new perspectives. BGCN is dedicated to inspiring and enabling all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens by promoting leadership, character, health and physical development.



Helm

Hamilton County invests in families & future with Childcare Action & Investment Plan

The REPORTER

Childcare is the backbone of a strong workforce and thriving families.

To address this critical need, Invest Hamilton County – the economic development corporation for Hamilton County – announces the development of a comprehensive Childcare Action and Investment Plan. This initiative aims to address the critical need for accessible, affordable, and high-quality childcare across the county.

Hamilton County is experiencing rapid growth, attracting significant economic investment and a growing population. However, this growth has also highlighted a critical gap: a lack of accessible and affordable childcare options. This can hinder workforce participation for parents and limit economic mobility for families.

"Invest Hamilton County recognizes the essential role that childcare plays in our local economy and the overall well-being of our families," Invest Hamilton County President & CEO Mike Thibideau said. "We are confident that a data-driven approach will lead to the development of a strategic plan that will significantly improve access to childcare for working parents in Hamilton County."

Invest Hamilton County has selected TPMA, a leading economic and workforce



development consulting firm, to develop the Childcare Action and Investment Plan. TPMA has served Hoosier communities for more than 35 years and is well-versed in childcare issues and will apply its data-driven solutions to Hamilton County.

"We are thrilled to partner with Invest Hamilton County on this important initiative," TPMA Project Lead Zachary Rice said. "Our team is committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to develop a plan that addresses the unique needs of Hamilton County families and businesses."

The plan will be built through a collaborative process, involving:

- In-depth stakeholder engagement:** Community convenings, focus groups, and surveys to gather insights from childcare providers, parents, employers,



Thibideau



Rice

and other stakeholders.

- Data analysis and gap assessment:** Analyzing data on existing childcare options, demographics, and waitlists to identify gaps in the current childcare ecosystem.

- Investment strategy:** Developing a strategic investment plan with actionable recommendations, potential funding sources, and a timeline for implementation.

- Establishment of a childcare collaborative:** Facilitating the creation of a collaborative body involving local employers, educators, and community leaders to ensure long-term sustainability of the plan.

The Childcare Action and Investment Plan is a crucial step towards building a stronger and more equitable Hamilton County. By ensuring access to affordable, high-quality childcare, the plan can support working

families, strengthen the local economy, and create a brighter future for all.

This is possible with support from the Indiana FSSA's Employer Sponsored Childcare Fund and the Hamilton County Community Foundation.

Learn more at investhamiltoncounty.org, or call (317) 573-4950 to explore the boundless opportunities that await you.

About TPMA

TPMA empowers organizations and communities through strategic partnerships and informed solutions that create positive, sustainable change. For community champions who are loyal to improving local and regional economic outcomes, TPMA provides professional consulting services and delivers transparent insights to the complete workforce, education, and economic development ecosystem that allows them to move forward together. TPMA envisions a world that thinks strategically, works collaboratively, and acts sustainably.

Visit tpma-inc.com and follow TPMA on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter.

Delightful morning awaits at Carmel Lions Club pancake breakfast

Submitted by Denise Jensen Carmel Lions Club

Get ready to indulge in a morning filled with delicious treats and heartfelt generosity at the Carmel Lions Club's annual Pancake Breakfast. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 20, from 8 to 11 a.m., at the Carmel Lions Club, 141 E. Main St., Carmel.

This year's Pancake Breakfast promises an array of mouthwatering options to satisfy every palate. Attendees can choose between two enticing dining experiences:

- Dine-In Option:** Indulge in our all-you-can-eat pancakes extravaganza, now with a new addition: biscuits and gravy! Treat your taste buds to a delightful array of flavors while enjoying the warm camaraderie of fellow community members.

- Drive-Thru/Carry-Out:** Can't stay? No problem! Opt for the convenient drive-thru or carry-out service. Choose between our delicious pancakes or the savory biscuits and gravy to enjoy on the go.

Pricing per person:
• Adults (13 and older): \$10 at the door or grab your

tickets in advance for just \$8. Preorders start April 1 at carmellions.org.

- Children (3-12 years): \$5
- Under 3: Eat for FREE!

All proceeds from this event go towards supporting the charitable initiatives of the Carmel Lions Club.

In the spirit of giving back, the Carmel Lions Club is collecting personal care items for veterans. Your contribution can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have served our country. Let's show them appreciation and support!

"We're excited to once again host our beloved Pancake Breakfast event," said Kyle Rich, Lion Member and Pancake Event Chair at Carmel Lions Club. "It's a fantastic opportunity for the community to come together, enjoy delicious food, and support a great cause."

Come hungry, leave happy, and be a part of this wonderful community gathering. The Lions can't wait to see you there.

For advance tickets or more information, please email carmellionsclub@gmail.com or visit carmellions.org.

Celebrate 'Golden Age' of ballet with Ballet Theatre of Carmel Academy

The REPORTER

Let Ballet Theatre of Carmel Academy ignite your imagination with tales of love, beauty, and magic.

Enchanted Tales, an exciting triple bill, celebrates the Golden Age of ballet with the iconic "Firebird,"

the romantic "Les Sylphides," and an inspiring tribute to legendary ballerina Anna Pavlova. It's perfect for ballet lovers of all ages.

The presentation will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 24 and 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 25 at

STAR Bank Performing Arts Center, 1000 Mulberry St., Zionsville. Tickets are available at ballettheatreofcarmel.org/enchanted-tales and cost \$25 for adults and \$20 for children, senior citizens, and military personnel. This event is presented

by Ballet Theatre of Carmel Academy's pre-professional performing company along with dancers from the "Be A Fairy" community program, and special guest artists from American Midwest Ballet Theatre, Colorado Ballet Studio Company, and

IU Jacobs School of Music. This is a family-friendly production with a 20-minute intermission and lobby activities for all ages. Join the dancers in a post-show cast meet & greet – check out their costumes, ask about their characters, feel their

pointe shoes, get an autograph, and take lots of photos. Shop the Ballet Boutique filled with books, tiaras and tutus, decorated pointe shoes, jewelry, ornaments, and more. Indulge in a delicious confection from the Enchanted Sweets Bake Sale.

Westfield introduces \$10 valet service on Park Street

The REPORTER

Valet parking is coming to Westfield's Park Street, enhancing convenience and accessibility for residents and visitors.

Valet service, offered by Tier 1 Valet, will be available Tuesday to Thursday from 5 to 10 p.m., Fridays from 5 to 11 p.m., and Saturdays from 4 to 11 p.m. The service is not specific to one business. The cost is \$10 per vehicle.

The valet service alleviates parking concerns during peak hours, particularly on weekends when the downtown and Park Street areas experience increased traffic. By providing this service, city officials aim to streamline the parking process and ensure a stress-free experience for all visitors.

"We are thrilled to introduce the option of valet parking services on Park Street for all restaurants," Mayor Scott Willis said. "This initiative aligns with our commitment to enhancing the overall experience for residents and visitors to our downtown area. We know parking has always been a challenge, and this is a great alternative as we work to bring more parking online downtown."



Graphic provided by City of Westfield

Free parking is also available in the lot at the southwest corner of Poplar Street and Park Street and in designated on-street spots along Jersey, Mill, and Union streets. There are also six designated 20-minute parking spots on Park Street.



Photo provided by MMI

The Dash for disAbilities is coming to Red Bridge Park on May 18 and they need more sponsors. Want to be one? Read the article right here on this very page!

Mephibosheth offers many ways to help Hamilton County's disabled people

The REPORTER

Mephibosheth Ministries, Inc. (MMI) will hold its annual Dash for disAbilities on Saturday, May 18 at the Red Bridge Park in Cicero.

Check-in begins at 8 a.m. and the Dash follows at 9 a.m. The Dash is held every year to help show support for MMI's day program, The Way.

MMI is a four-part ministry that serves adults with developmental disabilities in and around Hamilton County. MMI strives to "Embrace, Empower, and Believe" in its participants with opportunities for personal growth through day programming, adaptive church services, residential living, and summer camps.

"Mephibosheth Ministries has been an amazing lifeline for Abby," said Michelle Acres, parent of a participant. "The interaction with friends and important life lessons from the mentors help her to feel connected with others. All this helps her to feel the love of our precious Lord."

The Way

The Way, MMI's day program (Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), focuses on teaching everyday life skills. Some of those skills include budgeting, social interaction, reading facial cues, relationships, a healthy lifestyle, self-advocacy, and mental and spiritual well-being.

MMI has also integrated global awareness and compassion by partnering with FAME and IDES to give back to those in need around the world. Through cook-

ing, arts and crafts, speakers, a targeted curriculum and community outings, these folks have a hands-on opportunity to learn the life skills that are an integral part of everyday life.

Camp Mephibosheth

Camp Mephibosheth serves more than 60 campers every year at the beautiful campgrounds, The Ark Christian Ministries, in Converse, Ind. Combining Friendship, Fun, and Faith, these camps provide campers with the opportunity to experience canoeing, horseback riding, archery, swimming, and provide campers and their companions with a unique opportunity to create friendships and share their faith.

Friends Unlimited

Friends Unlimited (Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.) provides the community and MMI's friends a space to worship, pray, and socialize all under one roof. MMI focuses on its friends having a vital role in church services. From leading the singing to working the sound booth, they find a place to worship that is uniquely for them.

MMI is only able to meet the needs of residents in and around Hamilton County through the generosity of sponsors, donors, and volunteers. To learn more about how to sponsor or enter the Dash for disAbilities, as well as how you can help support this important ministry, visit mm-abilities.org/dash.

Thanks for reading!

Westfield's Green Day returns April 27

The REPORTER

Green Day, a celebration of Earth and Arbor Days, returns from noon to 2 p.m. at Grand Junction Plaza, 225 S. Union St., hosted by the Westfield Parks and Recreation Department.

This free event will include local organizations and vendors sharing tips and techniques highlighting green practices and initiatives that can be practiced at home and around the community. Topics include soils, trees, water, invasive species, and more.

The city will give away free native tree saplings while supplies last, courtesy of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Participating organizations include:

- Westfield Parks & Recreation
- Westfield Stormwater
- Earth Charter Indiana

- Greenways Foundation
- Hamilton County Soil and Water
- Westfield Green Together



Willis

Community organizations are partnering to make this an even bigger event," Mayor Scott Willis said. "We work hard each year to be named a Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation, and events like this help to inform the community of the work we're doing that they may not see every day."

Free public parking for the event is available in the lot at the southwest corner of Poplar Street and Park Street and in designated on-street spots along Jersey, Mill, and Union streets.

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Autobiographies & memories

Mother reminded me that several years ago I talked Grandma into writing the story of her life. (I recalled the year that sister Verna received her PhD. Grandma had asked what she wanted for Christmas and it was Verna that asked Grandma for her life story.)

Now Theresa has been twisting my mother's arm.

Eventually, Grandma wrote her story and said, "Now that's all. I'm not going to write anymore. Ever." And she didn't.

Mother said that she wished that she had written Grandmother's story. She would have included things that would interest us children that Grandma left out. At one time I well knew many of her old tales word for word. As she got older and would be stumped as to what happened next, I'd fill in for her. "Yes, that's right," she'd say and continue. But she forgot because she can't remember and I forgot more or less deliberately. Maybe it's better that way.

But she didn't tell me about the tramps in the hay-loft. Or the hog she and grandpa lifted out of the well. Or her can of plums that won first prize three years in a row. Or her prize-winning orange cake. More about "raising Thomas on the table" – the one we have in our kitchen.

Or how she cooked a quarter of beef when Thomas was less than two months old. Grandpa hauled 100 tons

COLUMNIST



RAY ADLER
Ask Adler

of hay to Decatur that week. Yes, they were bailing hay in January.

Or about the bulldog that went visiting. Or the ram that assisted Thomas when he was just a little fellow trying to fill the wood box.

Some of Grandma's memories never happen, even when her mind was sharp. How many times has she said, "There were always 12 of us at the table: Ma and Pa, nine children and the hired hand." And you couldn't change her on that: there were always 12.

However, Baby 9 arrived after Baby 1 was married. Baby 2 went West when Baby 9 was around two years old. Baby 3 was away when Baby 9 was around four. In the next eight years Babies 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 were in and out as they went to college or away to war. Ma and Pa moved to Decatur as Pa had become County Auditor.

Question: how many sit down at the table EVERY MEAL?

Yet, I understand memory is not engraved in stone. If it were Verna would not distinctly remember her first little red wagon which she described so clearly for me. Only thing – it wasn't hers that she described; it was Raymond's.

Your emotions are too apt to paint your memories so what one would be willing to swear is the truth, may in fact be like some of Dalí's pictures. Or were those paintings by ... now let me think ...

Fishers basketball legend & artist partner on basketball court murals

The REPORTER

Gary Harris, a Fishers native and professional basketball player for the Orlando Magic, has partnered with Koda Witsken, an artist who is also a Fishers native, to create two basketball court murals at Brooks School Park, 11565 Brooks School Road.

The design concept for the murals includes vibrant colors, cosmic elements, and Gary Harris' "GH" brand symbol. Through bright colors and symbolic out-of-this-world imagery, the designs are meant to inspire the next generation of Indiana basketball talent to reach for the stars for a bright future.

As a player at Hamilton Southeastern High School in 2012, Harris finished his high school career as 2012 Mr. Indiana Basketball with a school-record of 1,540 points, 467 rebounds, 232 assists, and 232 steals. Harris was rated among the top players in the nation by ESPN100 (No. 11), Scout.com (No. 16) and Rivals.com (No. 25). He was also ranked among the nation's top shooting guards by ESPN100 (No. 2).

Harris explained why he sought to install basketball court murals in his hometown.

"My love of basketball started in Indiana, THE basketball state, and specifically in Fishers," Harris said. "Given all that basketball has done for me and my family, I felt strongly about returning some of that love to the Fishers community with vibrant, statement-making basketball courts for the next generation of Indiana basketball talent to enjoy. I'm very excited to partner with Koda and the city on this project to make the vision a reality."

The courts are expected to be installed starting April 5 through May 1.

Witsken, a 2011 Hamilton Southeastern graduate, said of the project, "It's powerful to be a part of this project, not only to honor Gary's legacy as a hometown legend, but to invite current and future generations of youth players to gather on the courts. At the intersection of sports, art, and culture, people gather and dreams are made. It's special to be the person bringing the art to the table, and I thank Gary and his family for partnering with me."

To celebrate the mural's completion, Fishers Parks will host an outdoor 3x3 basketball tournament for ages 16 and older and a three-point competition for ages eight and older on Saturday, May 18 at Brooks School Park. Registration opens soon. Visit [FishersParks.com/BrooksSchoolCourts](https://fishersparks.com/BrooksSchoolCourts) to sign up to receive updates once registration opens.

The murals are part of the city's commitment to infusing vibrancy and celebrating creativity throughout the community through public art. In summer 2020, the city unveiled a new Art Wall at Brooks School Park that features new murals by local artists and students on a rotating basis. The court murals will continue the legacy of integrating art and play at Brooks School Park.

"What an awesome project to kick off the summer," Fishers Parks Director Marissa Deckert said. "Our Parks department is so grateful to Gary Harris for teaming up with artist Koda Witsken to make this dream a reality. We can't wait to share this with the community and celebrate with an event open to all ages. This project brings a winning combination of community and vibrancy to one of our most popular parks."

No luck required for these supremely sharp Shamrocks



Photo provided by Westfield Washington Schools

The Westfield Middle School academic team defeated all other Hamilton County schools in a tough competition. Congrats to all students and staff members who contributed to this accomplishment!

The same, but different

My husband is my "editor in chief" – as I jokingly like to call him – for all my blog posts. Really, he just reads through what I've written to make sure there aren't any glaring typos or grammatical errors (which there usually are!), but he doesn't change the context of what I've written.

It can be a bit of a challenge sometimes because he is a civil engineer, and the way I write is like the way I talk. As an engineer, he thinks it could be written a little differently.

I am the polar opposite of an engineer, whatever that is called. I don't really have a mathematical bone in my body, and honestly that used to make me feel inadequate.

When my boys came along, I realized that they are also math wizards. I started to see that really it didn't mean I wasn't smart, it just meant that I learn in a different way. The way my brain works is more on the

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

emotional, feeling side of things. We are somewhat the same, but different.

I think it can be the same with someone who has a disability regarding their disability. If you are listening to what those of us with disabilities are fighting so hard for, you will have heard that we are just fighting for basic human rights. The ability to use the bathroom in a public place, or sit on a plane in one's wheelchair, or being able to get into a store or restaurant: things that people do but take for granted.

Also, I think it's worth repeating a common misconception, which is, once you've met one disabled person, you know what all disabled people are like. That's just not true! We are the same in that we have challenges we face because of our disabilities, but we are also different in the way we live with our disabilities.

The same, but different. Growing up, it didn't feel okay for me to be dif-

ferent. When out in public, I would look at my mom and excitedly say, "hey, does that person walk like me?" She would always say, "no, it's a little different." I always felt so disappointed. I wanted to find that person who was the same as me.

That is how my mind worked as a child with a disability in the time when I grew up. It just wasn't as accepted to be different. The world has come a long way since then, but it still has a lot the same, but also a lot different. Now, I like being different. I'm proud of my differences. They are what make me who I am.

Many times in my life people have said to me, "when I see you, I don't see your disability." I know that people almost always mean well when they say that.

However, if you fail to recognize my physical differences, you aren't seeing me as I really am.

I am disabled. I do have a hard time doing certain things. I am not able to do certain things. I have needs that need to be recognized for me to feel safe around

you. I would never say, "I am only my disability," but it is always there ... always impacting me as a mom, a wife, a daughter, a sister, a blogger, a duo bike marathoner, etc. Those things aren't separate from my disability, more of just a flow of me. I don't get breaks from my disability. It is part of my identity.

It takes humble courage to walk with your head held high when your differences shine like a beacon drawing attention to you. It takes humble courage to look up to make eye contact with a stranger who may be giving you a look of complete confusion or even disgust. However, maybe you look up to see those who are smiling at your difference and are encouraged by your courage.

Until next time ...
Amy Shinneman is a former National Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, disability blogger, wife, and mom of two boys. You can find her blog at humblycourageous.com and reach her on Instagram @ashinneman.

Corporatized medicine: why it's bad for patients & physicians

The corporatization of medicine. It can't be good for patients. I know it's not good for physicians.

The corporatization of medicine removes much of the essential autonomy of physicians. According to the Physician's Advocacy Institute, almost 75 percent of physicians in the U.S. are now employed with half of all physician practices owned by hospital systems (for-profit and non-profit), large insurance companies, private-equity businesses, hedge funds, large physician-owned corporations, and others.

Employed physicians, especially primary care doctors, are mainly evaluated and paid on the basis of productivity. The more patients a provider sees, the more revenue generated, and the greater worth the provider has to the corporation. Quality care and patient satisfaction are relatively small parts. Ever wonder why your physician has very limited time to listen and address your medical concerns? That's likely why.

Medscape Medical

COLUMNIST



RICHARD D. FELDMAN, M.D.
State of Our Health

News reports that 10 percent of U.S. physicians are either employed by or work under the control of the parent company of UnitedHealthcare – just one of the insurance companies employing physicians.

Robert McNamara, M.D., emergency physician and cofounder of Take Medicine Back, is quoted in the same *Medscape* article, "To have the doctors now working for the insurance industry conflicts with a physician's duty to put the patient first."

The business of medicine has become very complicated, expensive, financially risky, and very challenging for private-practice physicians. Corporatization provides capital investment, greater financial stability, business expertise, and market leverage for reimbursement and attracting patients. But there is a price paid.

Corporatization wouldn't be necessarily bad if it operated on the highest ethical and moral ground. But it doesn't. Employed physicians are increasingly pressured directly or indi-

rectly to alter their medical care to maximize the bottom line. Corporations taking control of clinical operations is not always consistent with preserving the traditional healing role of the physician and the time-honored doctor-patient relationship.

It is commonly thought that half of physicians are "burned out" from long hours worked, loss of practice control, productivity pressures, and the burdens and the complexities of contemporary medical practice, much of which exacerbated by corporatization.

On top of burnout, many physicians suffer from "moral injury," well-articulated in a *New York Times Magazine* article, "The Moral Crisis of America's Doctors." They're struggling, discouraged, and frustrated that they have violated their physician core values in fulfilling the expectations of a corporate-dominated profit-driven healthcare system that values revenue over providing the best care to sick vulnerable patients. Patients are too often denied the care they deserve and need. Physicians under the productivity gun are unable to spend sufficient time with their patients and to be

sensitive to their needs. The article explains that physicians "feel complicit in the betrayal of patients."

The corporate takeover in health care causes ethical and moral dilemmas for providers. Physicians are trained in an ethos of service. The needs of patients always come first, and financial benefit should not be in the equation.

There are a very few bright spots. The corporate model of "value-based care" and the "direct care" model of private practice provide more emphasis on quality and personalized care.

Legislation loosening corporate control may help. But ultimately, until our healthcare system drastically changes from volume-based to quality-based, nothing will change.

As my colleague, Dr. David Blank wrote me recently, "Physicians seem to have lost our place as the captains of the ship. I hope we don't get stuck just rowing down in the galley, chained to our oars."

Richard D. Feldman, M.D. is an Indianapolis family physician and former Indiana State Health Commissioner who served in the administration of Governor Frank O'Bannon.

Young Shamrocks on ice . . . sort of



Photo provided by Westfield Washington Schools
 Westfield's Shamrock Springs Elementary School choir recently performed the national anthem at the Indiana Farmers Coliseum. During the game, teacher Mary Ann McMullen was named the Hoosier Hero of the Game.

Rep. Spartz encourages submissions for Congressional Art Competition

The REPORTER

Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) announced on March 25 the 2024 Congressional Art Competition. Started in 1982 by the U.S. House of Representatives, this annual competition highlights high school students' artistic works from across the country.

"Indiana's Fifth District is filled with many young,

talented artists, and I'm looking forward to seeing all the creative submissions in this year's Congressional Art Competition," Rep. Spartz said. "Art is an important part of a well-rounded education, so I strongly encourage inter-



Spartz

ested high school students to participate in this competition."

For more information, including submission guidelines, important competition dates, and staff contact information, go to spartz.house.gov/services/

art-competition.

The first-place winner's submission will be displayed in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, along with other winners nationwide, for one year.

Carmel High School junior Maya Bhagwat won first place in the 2023 competition with her work titled *Indian-American Oil on Canvas*.

This column is not about Downton Abbey

"Sometimes a hard sacrifice must be made for a future that's worth living."

— Tom Branson, *Downton Abbey*, Season Two

Don't we miss *Downton Abbey* and the engaging Tom Branson character ... Oh, but he is not the subject of my column this week! His comment, however, rings true for our timely topic.

Looking back over 248 years (this July 4th!) of eating habits in our country, I believe our American ancestors would be astonished to see that many Americans today must make some hard choices in their dietary and exercise habits in order to achieve a healthy life. After all, for the most part our ancestors did not have the ability to eat pretty much constantly by virtue of snacking and ready-to-eat dining options at their fingertips.

The typical 1776 diet of the colonists consisted of wild game, soups/stews, cabbage/root vegetables and breads¹ while the typical diet of the early-mid 19th century was made up mostly of salted cured meats, butter/milk, and homegrown vegetables², and the early-to-mid 20th century diet was more varied with fruit and vegetables but mostly consisted of meat and potatoes, dairy products, and the introduction of convenience foods.³

The typical diet of the USA population from the mid-50s until today introduced soft drinks both regular and diet, chips and salty snacks, processed meats, and a myriad of pastries and sweets. Growing up in the 50s and 60s, I seldom recall eating between meals, and snacks were limited to special occasions. "Fast" food and the accompanying increase of preservatives, antibiotics, and hormones in our foods has increased maladies from heart disease, cancer, diabetes, to an epidemic of obesity.

I used the quote above this week to emphasize that for many it is quite difficult to sacrifice the salt, sugar, preservative-laden foods

that are at our fingertips any time of day or night. Adding to this epidemic of obesity is the cable industry, offering hundreds of cable TV stations to choose from as we click the remote and video games that do not require movement from the sofa.

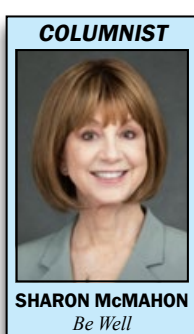
The combination of our dietary habits and "couch potato" fitness regimen are causing us to lose focus on living a long and healthy life. Remember, too, that our American ancestors were in constant movement if they were able; "sitting" was not part of their daily regimen. Their activity levels used what they consumed. For the most part, their shorter life spans were due to maladies not yet curable and preventable by antibiotics and inoculations against disease.

While no one has a guarantee on longevity, don't we owe it to ourselves and our loved ones to have a life that is worth living? Today's world is full of anxiety, stress, and the ability to make poor choices — let's choose a future that can be better shaped by a healthy, dynamic eating plan and the resolve to stay strong, flexible, and energetic.

My suggestion is begin slowly, omitting items from your eating plan and incorporating organic foods that actually make you healthier. This is a great time of year to begin a walking activity, add in that all-important stretching and some light weights and you will benefit from a much healthier life by making these changes.

Sharon McMahon, CNWC
The opinions expressed in this article are not intended to replace advice of your personal physician or licensed health professional. Please consult your physician for any issues you may have related to nutrition or fitness activity.

¹ Food Timeline Library, Jan. 3, 2015
² NCPedia, Spring 2007
³ Cooperative Extension, USDA, University of California, 2001 Vol. 2 No. 2



SHARON McMAHON
 Be Well

What's so great about native plants?

A 2022 National Gardening Survey reported a significant rise in native plant purchases. Since 2019, the number of people buying them has nearly doubled, with 58 percent of surveyed consumers reporting purchases in 2022. Home gardeners are increasingly seeking out native plants at specialty stores and nurseries rather than traditional garden centers and big-box stores. So, what's the deal with this floral phenomenon?

My journey down the native plant garden path started with monarch butterflies.

Around eight years ago, I read about how the eastern monarch population had declined by more than 80



CURTIS HONEYCUTT
 Wild by Design

percent since the 1990s. I learned that monarchs exclusively laid their eggs on milkweed plants. If I could do something to help in my own yard, I would.

That's when I planted butterfly weed, an attractive member of the milkweed family featuring stunning orange flowers and deep green narrow-leaved foliage.

Once my butterfly weed bloomed, I noticed a stark contrast between this plant and others. Not only did the plant welcome monarch butterfly visitors, but I watched as multiple species of bees, moths and butterflies stopped by for a hit of the plant's sweet nectar.

This didn't happen with my other plants.

I grew irises, hostas, daylilies, and daffodils in the flower beds around my house. These plants were attractive, but, after seeing the pollinator visitors to the butterfly weed, I observed that hardly any insects or birds interacted with the other plants. While pretty, the plants proved to be pretty boring to pollinators.

My family and I moved from our Fishers home into a house in downtown Noblesville the following year — not because of the plant situation, but because we loved the Noblesville house and its walkable proximity to local shops and restaurants. Although I was tempted to dig up the butterfly weed and bring it with us, I didn't; the new owners deserved to witness the summertime array of cool butterflies for themselves.

As we settled into the

new house, I decided to dig deeper into plants. I soon learned the difference between native and introduced plants. I discovered my yard could benefit bugs, birds, butterflies and other forms of biodiversity. The plants I inherited around my Noblesville house were a mix of natives, non-natives, and a few invasive species.

Gardening was fun, and I got to work editing the beds in my new yard. I yanked the invasives and began to plant native flowers from seeds and plugs. I realized I didn't care for some of the introduced plants, but that I liked some of the others. To this day we still have non-native hydrangeas, peonies and tulips dotted around the mulched beds (not that there's anything wrong with that).

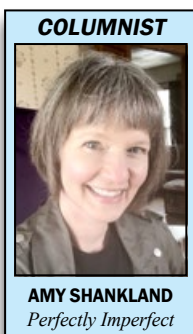
See Plants . . . Page A12

The little things you can do to bring joy to your work

"People don't care about how much you know until they know how much you care." — Theodore Roosevelt (or one of dozens of other people this quote has been attributed to)

Now that we are more joyful at work, or on our way to that goal, we can turn our attention to spreading joy to others. I can't even begin to tell you how much I love this part. Once you start to make even the occasional effort in your workplaces, you'll get big results and feel amazing at the same time.

Let's review why we want to spread joy to others at work. Sure, it's a nice thing to do and I believe it is the right thing to do. But there's so much more to it. The reasons we want



AMY SHANKLAND
 Perfectly Imperfect

our fellow employees to be joyful are, of course, like why we are working on being joyful people — they'll be more productive and experience less stress. I can't say they will be stress-free because there's no magic formula for that. Every job involves some stress.

But with the positive example you set and the joyful steps you are about to take, you'll help your fellow employees experience less stress and handle the difficult times much better.

And it's just so gosh darn fun. Do you ever have that wonderful feeling of anticipation at Christmas-time or when it's someone's birthday? When you positively know you got that person the most perfect gift

in the universe, and you just can't wait to see their reaction? That's how I feel every time I do something special for one of my co-workers. I take my life's mission quite seriously, Folks!

Let's look at the quote that kicked off this column: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." This has been attributed to dozens of people throughout the years. No matter who the heck said it, it's the best way to illustrate why it's important to not just care about our work, but care about the ones doing that work along with us.

I have a feeling the opposite philosophy is one of the major reasons so many people are unhappy at work, which is why I'm writing this series. An October 2012 article from *Forbes* states that when people must exercise restraint, measure their

words, and basically walk on eggshells around others, the results are not good. They include poor workmanship, missed deadlines, and cracks in the company or department's culture. This negativity can affect clients and customers and create turnover.

At a time when many of us are working more than 40 hours a week as mentioned in the beginning of this series, it can be challenging to remember to take time for others. But it's more important than ever before. Taking a moment here and there to build strong relationships at work creates high morale and leads to fun and increased productivity.

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

Thanks for reading
The Reporter!

**ACCURATE
BALANCED
LOCAL
NEWS**

Start your eclipse drinking a day early with NPX

The REPORTER

Nickel Plate Express (NPX) invites you to a special whiskey and wine tasting event aboard an historic train car, featuring a pre-solar eclipse theme on Sunday, April 7.

This unique experience offers guests the opportunity to enjoy exceptional drinks and delicious bites while taking in quintessential

views of northern Hamilton County. These 90-minute rides will depart from Hobbs Station in Noblesville's Forest Park.

Rides depart at 2 and 4:30 p.m.

What's included

Guests will indulge in three tastings of their choice, along with a delicious charcuterie cup. Whether you prefer whiskey or wine, there's something for everyone to enjoy amidst the pre-eclipse atmosphere.

Perfect for eclipse enthusiasts

NPX's historic train car offers a quintessential view of northern Hamilton County, making it the perfect location for visitors coming to view the upcoming solar eclipse. Immerse yourself in the pre-eclipse excitement while enjoying delightful drinks and scenic vistas.

Reservations

Seating is limited, so secure your spot early at NickelPlateExpress.org.



Graphic provided by Nickel Plate Express

ENJOY THE RICH HISTORY OF RAIL TRAVEL!

Sit back and enjoy the sights, sounds and experience of a ride in our 1950s Santa Fe equipment.

The Nickel Plate Express operates on 12.5 miles of the former Nickel Plate Road between Noblesville and Atlanta.

Excursions board out of Noblesville at 825 Forest Park Drive.

NickelPlateExpress.com

1956 Murder Mystery Express

Step back in time to the golden age of the 1950s and experience the thrill of the 1956 Murder Mystery Express! Join us, Nickel Plate Express, on a nostalgic journey as we embark on the inaugural run of the newly built Santa Fe El Capitan Hi-Level cars on July 8, 1956.

April 27 at 5 p.m.

NickelPlateExpress.com

History and Lunch Express

A scenic and educational train ride down the historic Nickel Plate Road. It's a 90-minute ride through Northern Hamilton County. While on board learn about the history of the railroad and the towns we go through. This all-ages ride is a perfect way to enjoy an afternoon on the rails.

April 14 at 12:30 p.m.

NickelPlateExpress.com

Eclipsed Spirits Express: Wine, Whiskey and Trains

Step for an unforgettable 90-minute journey that's as enchanting as the celestial event to come. Passengers may choose between a whiskey or wine tasting to enjoy during this unique train ride. Sit back, sip on a drink while enjoying the scenery from our historic train car.

April 7 at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

NickelPlateExpress.com

Murder Under the Big Top

A family-friendly murder mystery where the passengers will be the actors!

April 6 at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

NickelPlateExpress.com

Obituaries

Virginia Callahan Ewing
September 2, 1942 – March 18, 2024

Virginia Callahan Ewing passed away into the loving arms of her Heavenly Father on Monday, March 18, 2024. Born on September 2, 1942, in Adair County, Ky., she was the daughter of the late Henry C. and Eva Wise Callahan.

After growing up in Kentucky, Virginia came to Sheridan and started working for Pickett's Poultry. Virginia spent many years working in electronics for Zaring Industries and then JB Electronics until they closed. On June 16, 1999, she started working for Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana. She retired in 2010 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. In 2007, she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. She was a true survivor, bravely fighting both cancers without complaints.

Sheridan is where she met the Love of her life, Burlin C. Ewing. They were married on November 23, 1963, in Noblesville and celebrated 59 wonderful years together.

Virginia never met a stranger, and her infectious smile and easygoing sweet spirit could instantly put you at ease. Her heart always gravitated toward children, the elderly, and animals. She was always willing to help those in need, even if she didn't have much herself.

She loved being with her family, and ALL holidays were spent at her house. She loved baking, and especially loved making desserts. She enjoyed sharing them with anyone who stopped by, and always found a way to send some home. When you went to her home you were always offered something to eat. Her son-in-law, Steve, affectionately named her "food pusher."

Virginia was a constant caregiver, caring for her sister Margaret until her death on August 24, 2022, and later for her own husband, Burlin, during the last years of his life. Burlin passed away on March 26, 2023. After his death, Virginia found peace in helping her granddaughter look after the newest addition to the family, baby Eber, who was born one week after her Burlin's passing. She continued to help care for her great-grandchildren, Eugene, and Eber, on a nearly daily basis. They lovingly called her GiGi.

She loved Jesus, her husband, and her family with her whole heart! She loved spending time with her seven grandchildren, who her husband Burlin called "The Magnificent Seven." She was loved by her entire family, leaving them truly heartbroken.

Virginia is survived by her three children, Tina (David) Kalman of Kirklint, Trena (Stephen) Hunt of Kirklint, and Brian (Rachelle) Ewing of Cicero; seven grandchildren, Kaitlyn (Brandon) Pickett of Sheridan, Wesley Malbone of Katy, Texas, Kristina Kalman of Sheridan, Ciara (Nick) Halbert of Noblesville, Taylor Ewing of Cicero, Christian Ewing of Cicero, and Ella Ewing of Cicero; special grandchild, Drew (Laurie) Hunt of Kirklint; great-grandchildren, Eugene Bennett Pickett, Eber Bailey Pickett, James Tyson Hunt, and Emma Lee Hunt; brother, Bradley (Linda) Callahan of Elk Horn, Ky.; sister-in-law, Stella Callahan of Knifley, Ky.; several nieces and nephews; and her feline, "The 8th Street Cat," Coco.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry C. and Eva Wise Callahan; sisters, Margaret Stultz, and Mattie Bell Callahan; brothers, Herol, Eddie, and Coy Callahan; and by the love of her life, Burlin C. Ewing.

Services were held on Monday, April 1, 2024, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan. Burial followed at Spencer Cemetery in Sheridan. Virginia's son-in-law, David Kalman, officiated. Visitation took place on Sunday, March 31, 2024, at the funeral home.

Read this entire obituary and leave your condolences at kerchevalfuneralhome.com.

PLANTS

Beyond attracting and supporting local pollinators, it turns out there are many benefits to planting native plants in your yard. Once established, most native plants require very little watering and need relatively little maintenance. They don't need fertilizer or pesticides. Since they are acclimated to the area, native plants can withstand local weather conditions. By developing deep root systems, these plants actively provide erosion control and filter pollutants from reaching waterways. And many native plants are absolute showstoppers – the right plant in the right place can provide a ton of curb appeal in any suburban setting.

I'm not a native plant expert – I'm more of an enthusiast. Perhaps "plant nerd" is a more fitting term. In *Wild by Design*, I don't plan to use many scientific names for plants, and I won't flaunt any hoity-toity horticultural titles in front of you. I want you to take steps along with me to make our Hamilton County yards both beautiful and beneficial.

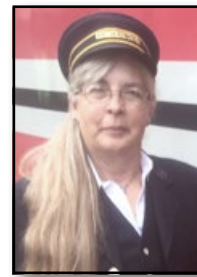
I want us to cultivate vibrant landscapes that celebrate the unique beauty and ecological benefits of native plants in Hamilton County. That doesn't mean you have to go outside and immediately rip up all your flower beds; however, this column is intended to encourage readers to thoughtfully consider adding these plants to their outdoor habitats along the way. Thanks for going on this outdoor adventure with me.

Read this entire obituary and leave online condolences at hartleyfuneralhomes.com.

Cathy D. Fuehring

March 2, 1959 – March 21, 2024

Cathy D. Fuehring, Tipton (East Hobbs), passed away on Thursday evening, March 21, 2024, in Indianapolis. At the time of her passing, her husband and two youngest sons were at her bedside and escorted her into eternity with many families and friends just around the corner in support. Waiting for her in Heaven was a beloved sister, granddaughter Kelsy, her healed daughter, parents, loved ones, and many more.



Cathy was born on March 2, 1959, in Noblesville as Cathy Darlene Condry to Calvin Condry and Avalene P. (Mace) Mossburg. Robert Mossburg married Avalene a few years later and became father to Cathy.

She was raised in Sheridan and learned many things from her parents, siblings, grandparents, and other relatives, such as gardening, canning, hunting, skinning, and building a new home with her father. Many critters, horses, and other four-legged animals were a big part of her early years.

After graduating from Sheridan High School in 1977, Cathy married Robert Rush, had three children (Autumn, Brock, and Dusty), and settled in Atlanta, Ind., until their marriage was dissolved. Cathy married W. Roger Fuehring on September 9, 1995, and became a mother to his son (Zachery). The Fuehring household became a blended family of six, with an additional niece (Crystal) and many other kids and critters throughout the years.

Cathy was a member of White Rock Fellowship Church in Noblesville, Mad River & Nickel Plate Railroad Museum in Bellevue, Ohio, and Railroad Passenger Car Alliance. She was a former member of Elevation Church in Scottsburg, Ind., before moving back to Tipton County. Cathy volunteered for 10 years as a firefighter and EMT in Atlanta, Ind., and at Jackson Township in Arcadia, Ind.

Cathy was inspirational to many young girls and battered women, and she logistically supported them behind the scenes as she guided them out of desperate situations. No less than three children were rescued from pregnancy termination with Cathy's mentoring and assistance with finding forever homes through adoption. On several occasions, Cathy placed herself in harm's way by working to get abused women and children away from their abusers.

Cathy is survived by her husband, W. Roger Fuehring; son, Brock (Megan) Adam Rush, E. Dustin Rush, and Zachery (Lauren) Taylor Fuehring; brothers, Calvin D. (Beverly) Condry, David L. (Janet) Condry, Robert D. (Loretta) Mossburg, and Donald L. (Ellen) Mossburg; sisters, Jan D. (Fred) Bell and Denise A. (Kevin) Morgan. She is also survived by six grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, and other family members.

Cathy was preceded in passing by her sister, Robin Baker; brother, Gary (Chrissy) D. Condry; daughter, Autumn L. Rush; granddaughter, Kelsy; and parents, Avalene and Robert Mossberg.

Visitation and funeral service was held on Monday, April 1, 2024, at White Rock Fellowship, 21070 Schullery Road, Noblesville, with Pastor Andy Waite officiating. Burial followed in Arcadia Brethren Cemetery, 8989 E. 266th St., Arcadia.

Memorial contributions can be made in lieu of flowers in Cathy's name to White Rock Fellowship Youth Ministries of Noblesville, Elevation Church Youth Ministries of Scottsburg, or Preborn Ministries (preborn.com).

Read this entire obituary and leave online condolences at hartleyfuneralhomes.com.

from Page A11



Photo provided by Curtis Honeycutt

Curtis Honeycutt is a Noblesville-based columnist and author. Send him your questions, comments and suggestions at curtis@curtishoneycutt.com.

Middle West April 5 - 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

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Paul Edward Dial

February 9, 1930 – March 12, 2024

Paul Edward Dial, 94, Atlanta, passed away on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, while surrounded by his family. Paul was born on February 9, 1930, to the late Isaac and Velma (Warren) Dial. On July 16, 1949, Paul married Marjorie Kramer and they shared 73 years of marriage.

Paul proudly served our country in the United States Marine Corps until he had to return home due to a family hardship. He worked as the maintenance manager at Fort Benjamin Harrison. He was a proud member of the Free Masons. In his free time, he enjoyed woodworking, building model planes, and camping. Paul was especially proud of the Cessna that he rebuilt and flew for many years. He liked riding motorcycles, and he took several cross-country trips. Paul was always thankful that he and Marjorie were able to enjoy life together, he always said, "They got to do everything their hearts desired."

Paul is survived by his daughter, Teresa Harris of Crystal River, Fla.; brother, Dick (Connie) Dial of Atlanta, Ind.; grandson, Michael Davis of Atlanta, Ind.; granddaughter, Michele Davis of Crystal River, Fla.; great-grandchildren, Justin, Brianna, and Zoe; and several nieces and nephews.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Isaac & Velma Dial; wife, Marjorie Dial; sons, Danny Dial and Dennis "Denny" Dial; brothers, Claude Dial, Donnie Dial, and Steve Dial; and sisters, Ellen Dial, Lorece Dial, and Dorris Readd.

Graveside rites were held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at Cicero Cemetery, Cicero, Ind., with Jody Brown officiating. Online condolences can be given at hartleyfuneralhomes.com.



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Keith W. Knapp

September 9, 1937 – March 30, 2024

Keith W. Knapp, 86, Noblesville, passed away on Saturday, March 30, 2024, at Bethany Pointe Health Campus in Anderson. He was born in Noblesville on September 9, 1937, to Clarence and Mabel (Pheanis) Knapp.

Keith was a life-long resident of Hamilton County. He proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean conflict. Keith retired after 35 years as a warehouseman for McMahon Food Company. After retirement, he then worked for King Systems in Noblesville. He was a member of White River Church and enjoyed traveling in his younger years with his family. Keith loved the challenge of fixing things and enjoyed tinkering and working on cars. Family and faith were the most important things to him.

He is survived by his daughter, Mary Beth (Doug) Morrison; son, Jeffrey (Cindy) Knapp; granddaughters, Lydia & Anna Morrison and Andrea Knapp; brother, David (Carolyn) Knapp; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Keith was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Mary Alice Knapp; sister, Phyllis Ann Clements; and his brother-in-law, Dave Clements.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon, with services at noon, on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Pastor Tim Garner will officiate. Keith will be laid to rest beside his wife, Mary Alice, at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to White River Christian Church Food Pantry, 1685 N. 10th St., Noblesville, IN 46060 (wrcc.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com



Robert Leigh Tate

February 13, 1934 – March 23, 2024

Brigadier General Robert Leigh Tate (better known as Bob), Noblesville, passed away on March 23, 2024, leaving his loving wife, Mary Frances (Stone) Tate and their son, Robert Edmund Tate, his wife, Elizabeth (Zarate) Tate and their son, Benjamin Joseph Tate. Bob was preceded in death by his and Mary's daughter, Mary Lynn "Chris" Tate.

Bob was 90 years old, having been born on February 13, 1934, in Providence, R.I., to Benjamin and Ruth (Young) Tate. When he was 11, he moved with his parents to California where Bob later graduated from San Diego State College with an engineering BS simultaneously with receiving his commission of Second Lieutenant in the Air Force.

In 1958, he was assigned to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) where he served on a B-47 crew at Mountain Home AFB – 5th Bomb Squadron, 9th Bomb Wing of SAC. After his initial tour of duty, Bob returned to Reserve status (1958). After several assignments, he became part of the Individual Mobilization Augmentee program and was assigned to the Mobilization Assistant to the Chief of Staff, AFSC.

Bob and Mary were married for 69 years, starting out as Bob entered active duty in the Air Force. After Bob returned to Reserve status, he served in many important positions, and after serving several assignments, he was appointed to Mobilization Assistant to the Chief of Staff, AFSC. Bob was promoted to Brigadier General in 1989 and retired from the Air Force in 1994.

Visitation will be from 2 to 3 p.m., with funeral services at 3 p.m., on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at Crown Hill Cemetery, 700 W. 38th St., Indianapolis. Full obituary and condolences: randallroberts.com



Arbadella P. Risdien

May 29, 1938 – March 22, 2024

Arbadella P. Risdien, 85, Noblesville, passed away on Friday, March 22, 2024, at Riverview Health in Noblesville. She was born on May 29, 1938, to Pearl and Dorothy (Ely) Parsons in Pennington Gap, Va.

Arbadella worked over 20 years at Best Lock and was a homemaker. She was a member of New Light Christian Center. Arbadella enjoyed cooking and yard work, but most of all loved spending time with her family.

She is survived by her son, Michael (Nellie) Risdien; grandchildren, Michelle (Frank) Chuta, Christina Collins, Troy (Jennifer) Risdien, and Michael (Tonya) Risdien; great-grandchildren, Anthony (Reagan) Manghelli, Emilio Chuta, Alex Mastin, Peyton Risdien, Aden Risdien, Mason Risdien, Jonathon Risdien, and Joshua Risdien; brothers, Delmer (Marie) Parsons, Jerry (Glenda) Parsons, Verlin (Shirley) Parsons, and Pearl (Debbie) Parsons; sisters, Eulayla Barnette, Mary (Ran) Ward, and Sara (Chad) Fultz; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Bruce Risdien.

Visitation and services were held on Saturday, March 30, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville, with Pastor Michael W. Risdien and Pastor Alfred Parks officiating. Burial was at Hamilton Memorial Park Cemetery in Westfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to New Light Christian Center, 1905 Hannibal St., Noblesville, IN 46060. Condolences: randallroberts.com



Charlotte "Cookie" Coonce

January 10, 1944 – March 29, 2024

Charlotte "Cookie" Coonce, 80, Noblesville, passed away on Friday, March 29, 2024, at her daughter's home in Noblesville. She was born on January 10, 1944, to Charles "Bud" and Betty (Murray) Thomas in Indianapolis.

Charlotte worked at Firestone for over 25 years, then after retiring worked for Noblesville Schools in the cafeteria. She was a member of White River Christian Church, where she helped with Heavens Handy Work and the widows support group. Charlotte enjoyed having lunch with friends and playing Euchre, but most of all she loved spending time with her family.

She is survived by her daughters, Debbie (Dave) Chapman and Kim (Rich) Harden; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Coonce; daughter, Pam Pyle; and sister, Linda Sinclair.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2024, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville, with Pastor Fred Knoll officiating. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Heaven's Handy Work, c/o White River Christian Church, 1685 N. 10th St., Noblesville, IN 46060. Condolences: randallroberts.com



LeRoy (Bud) Alfred Stokes, Jr.

March 23, 1943 – March 22, 2024

LeRoy (Bud) Alfred Stokes, Jr. passed away peacefully and joined our Heavenly Father on the morning of March 22, 2024. He was born on March 23, 1943, in Plymouth, Ind.

He and his family lived in Noblesville for many years and later moved to Monticello, Ind., where he loved living on the lake. He retired from the automotive industry where he was manager and head of body shops as well as service departments. He was also a Reserve Police Officer for the Noblesville Police Department. Bud was also a member of the Noblesville Jaycees.

Bud had a love for Westerns, his favorite being John Wayne. He loved playing Uno with his family. He also enjoyed traveling and boating on the lake. He loved his dog, Fury "Baby Girl" which he named after his favorite car.

Bud is preceded in death by his parents, Faye "Maxson" and LeRoy Stokes, Sr., as well as his brothers, Bill Stokes and Virgil Maxson and his sister, Peggy Davis. He is also preceded in death by his daughter, Trisha "Stokes" German and grandson, Michael German.

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Suetta "Unger" Stokes, a daughter, Cindy (Bret) Baldwin, and a son Ron Stokes, 10 grandchildren, Megan (Eric) Orcutt, Michele (Scott) Goff, and Malory (Clint) Ward, Kevin, Cody, and Destiny Stokes, David, Phillip, Chelsey, and Joey German, and six great-grandchildren, Carter, Conner, and Callie Orcutt, and Charlotte, Clara and Caroline Goff.

Visitation and funeral services were held on Saturday, March 30, 2024. Pastor Don Osten officiated the service.

Memorials may be made to the Humane Society or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences: miller-rosckafh.com



Mary Caroline Savitsky

March 6, 1930 – March 20, 2024

Mary Caroline Savitsky, 94, passed away peacefully at her home in Westfield, surrounded by her loving family, on Wednesday morning, March 20, 2024. Born March 6, 1930, in Shenandoah, Pa., she was the daughter of the late Joseph and the late Elizabeth (Gorski) Zynel.

After graduating from J.W. Cooper High School, Mary worked as a store clerk and as a secretary for an insurance company before embarking on her primary vocation as a homemaker. She was an amazing

wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Mary was also a meticulous housekeeper and superb cook and baker. Her many recipes are cherished by her children and grandchildren. Mary enjoyed gardening, traveling, doing word and Sudoku puzzles, and going to the casino.

A 36-year member of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Harrisburg, Pa., Mary was involved in a number of parish activities. After moving to Westfield, she became an active member of St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church. Mary was a devout Catholic and often attended daily Mass. In her later years she spent several hours a day in prayer, reading Scripture, saying the Rosary, and praying for loved ones both living and deceased. We are comforted that she will now be an intercessor for our family and friends.

Family was always the most important thing in Mary's life. She was preceded in death by her best friend and the love of her life, Wallace Ralph Savitsky. She and Wallace were married on January 13, 1951, and their 66 years of marriage were, and will continue to be, an inspiration to their children and grandchildren. Surviving are her son, Robert J. Savitsky (Julia) of Sheridan; her two daughters, Mary Savitsky-Ulowetz (Joseph Ulowetz) of Northbrook, Ill., and Patricia Hinrichs (Donald) of Westfield; her six grandchildren, Allison Brockley (Travis) and Devin Fetterhoff of Westfield, Andrew Savitsky of Washington, D.C., Matthew Savitsky of Chicago, Ill., Christina Ulowetz (Nina Fichera) of Ardmore, Pa., and Kathy Ulowetz of New York City; her great-grandchildren, Genevieve and Eloise Brockley; and many nieces and nephews. Mary was also preceded in death by her parents; four sisters, Mary Ann Zynel, Josephine Yanchulis, Genevieve Gilpin, and Theresa Kelly; and three brothers, Victor Zynel, Edward Zynel and Vincent Zynel.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, 17102 Spring Mill Road, Westfield, with visitation from 10 a.m. until the time of service. Burial will take place at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annville, Pa., at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to the St. Maria Goretti Food Pantry, 27102 Spring Mill Road, Westfield, IN 46074, or to the Reins of Grace Therapeutic Riding Center, 1414 W. 206th St., Sheridan, IN 46069.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kercheval Funeral Home in Sheridan.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com



Lucy Ann Sweigart

September 6, 1957 – March 24, 2024

Lucy Ann Sweigart, 66, Arcadia, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 24, 2024, surrounded by her family at her residence.

Lucy was born in Jamestown, Ky., on September 6, 1957, to the late Oves "Cardell" and Vina (Ballenger) Chapman. On May 26, 1984, she married John M. Sweigart and shared 37 years of marriage until his passing in 2022.

Lucy grew up in the Jamestown, Ky., area and was a member of Russell County High School's graduating class of 1975.

Lucy worked for Industrial Dielectrics for 23 years until she took early retirement so that she could care for her mother for the last eight years of her mother's life.

Those who knew Lucy knew she was a ball of energy and loved to care for others and volunteer. She spent countless hours volunteering throughout her community by helping arrange Teen Nights, volunteering as a Juvenile Probation Mentor, volunteering at the Aroma Food Pantry, and volunteering at Elwood Health & Living where she was recognized by being named Volunteer of the Year. In her earlier years, she enjoyed riding on the Harley with John, reading, and spending time at the lake on their boat.

As she battled cancer, she became more in tune with her old TV shows, especially *Andy Griffith*, and completing Sudoku puzzles. One thing about Lucy that never faltered is that she loved spending her time with her family and loved to spoil her nieces and nephews, whom she treated more like her own children. Lucy was a bright spot for anyone who knew her and is going to be greatly missed.

Lucy is survived by her brothers, John (Jo) Chapman of Arcadia, Rudy (Jenny) Chapman of Jamestown, Ky.; sister, Cathy (Jimmy, deceased) Grider of Arcadia; sister-in-law, Jackie Chapman of Jamestown, Ky.; several nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews.

Lucy was preceded in death by her parents, Oves "Cardell" and Vina Chapman; husband, John M. Sweigart; sister, Wanda Wethington; brother, Ronnie Chapman; and brother-in-law, Francis Wethington.

The funeral service will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at Hartley Funeral Home, Cicero, with Pastor Bill Johnston officiating.

Visitation and funerals were held on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at Hartley Funeral Home, 209 W. Jackson St., Cicero. Burial took place on Friday, March 29, 2024, at Bethel Cemetery, Jamestown, Ky. An additional visitation and service was held at H.E. Pruitt Memory Chapel, Jamestown, Ky.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, or the Bethel Cemetery: c/o Dale Malone, 2049 Arlus Hale Road, Russell Springs, KY 42642.

Online condolences can be given at hartleyfuneralhomes.com.

The Reporter's policy on obituaries

The Hamilton County Reporter does not charge families for publishing obituary notices in our pages. Every obituary appearing in online editions Wednesday through Saturday also appears in our Monday print editions. In order to continue to offer this as a community service, we ask that obituaries not exceed 600 words. The limitations of space may not allow for longer ones to appear in print.

Families and funeral homes are asked to send obituaries to obits@ReadTheReporter.com.

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Who says Noblesville isn't country? Certainly not the Grand Ole Opry!



Photos provided by Noblesville Schools
Noblesville High School varsity show choirs New Dimension and Singers had an exciting weekend performing on stage at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. Both groups took fifth place in their divisions at Show Choir Nationals. Senior Sarah Rolinson was named best female soloist and The Main Event won best band. (ABOVE) Lilah Cross with New Dimension. (RIGHT) Ray Kenley and Sarah Rolinson with Singers.



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TIGERS GO ALL THE WAY!

Fishers toughs out defending champs Giants for first state title, Perdue wins Mental Attitude Award

By **RICHIE HALL**

sports@readthereporter.com

INDIANAPOLIS – With teamwork and leadership, the Fishers boys basketball team became state champions last Saturday.

The No. 1-ranked Tigers beat No. 8 Ben Davis 65-56 to claim the IHSAA Class 4A state championship at Gainbridge Fieldhouse. Fishers led for all but a couple minutes of the game, weathered a third-quarter storm from the defending state champion Giants, and got the baskets and stops it needed during the fourth quarter to clinch the game.

Fishers finished their season with a 29-1 record.

The first quarter of the game belonged to JonAnthony Hall. The Fishers junior scored 14 of the Tigers' 19 points, including two 3-pointers. His second triple got Fishers out of a 16-16 tie and allowed the Tigers to go into the second quarter with a 19-16 lead. Senior Keenan Garner scored Fishers' other five points.

"JonAnthony, he's just a masterful cutter," said Garner. "He finds space so well. And then when he can step up, hit two 3s like that early on in the game, it really makes them respect him more, come out on that, and that just makes everything easier for him. His athleticism and ability to get downhill, combining that with the jump shot, that really worked for us this game."

"If he can shoot like that, I think he's one of the best players in the state of Indiana," said Fishers coach Garrett Winegar.

Junior Justin Kirby scored five points (a dunk and a 3) early in the second quarter, which gave the Tigers a 24-19 advantage.

"Kirby's been huge," said Winegar. "That speaks to our depth. That dude's a stud. He's a Division I player and he comes off the bench and does whatever is asked. That speaks to what kind of kid he is."

After that, Fishers was able to stay ahead by at least four points until halftime. Freshman Cooper Zachary helped with a three-point play, then senior Taden Metzger threw in a 3 and Garner made a layin.

The Tigers led 36-30 at halftime. Five points from Metzger, including another triple, gave Fishers its largest lead of the game at 41-32.

At that point, Ben Davis came storming back, pouring in nine points to tie things up at 41-41. Four different players scored in the run, which was finished by a rebound basket from Ramone Enis.

Garner nailed a 3 to end the run, and freshman Jason Gardner Jr. made two free throws to put the Tigers up 46-43. KJ Windham made a personal five-point run to push Ben Davis ahead for the first time since the first quarter, 48-46.

Gardner Jr. made a free throw to finish the period, and the Giants led 48-47. Fishers opened the fourth quarter with a 6-0 run, and the Tigers never trailed again. Garner made a dunk, Hall made a steal which led to his own dunk, then Garner dished to Hall for an easy layin.

Ben Davis fought until the



Photo by Joshua Herd

The Fishers boys basketball team goes into celebration mode seconds after winning the Class 4A state championship last Saturday at Gainbridge Fieldhouse. The No. 1-ranked Tigers beat No. 8 Ben Davis 65-56 to win their first-ever state championship.



Photo by Joshua Herd



Photo by Julie Brown



Photo by Joshua Herd

(LEFT) Fishers junior JonAnthony Hall led the Tigers scoring with 23 points and 10 rebounds for a double-double. (CENTER) Freshman Jason Gardner Jr. made key free throws in the third quarter. (RIGHT) Keenan Garner (23) and JonAnthony Hall (22) react after a big play.



Photo by Julie Brown



Photo by Julie Brown

(LEFT) Keenan Garner scored 19 points for Fishers and also pulled nine rebounds and handed out five assists. (RIGHT) Taden Metzger scored 10 points for Fishers, including two 3-pointers.

end, but Fishers got the baskets it needed to stay in front. The Giants pushed to within 53-52, which Garner answered with a 3-pointer. That began a 7-0 run, with Garner also making a putback and Hall scoring on a layin. Four points from Mark Zachery kept Ben Davis within 62-56; Garner made a layin in between two Zachery free throws and a layin. The Giants had several attempts during the final minute, but senior Parker Perdue made a steal with 30 seconds left, and that sealed the game up.

Hall led all scorers with 23 points and reached double-double status with 10 rebounds.

See Champs . . . Page B2

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Joshua Herd / File photo

Fishers' JonAnthony Hall is one of 18 basketball players that have been named Indiana Junior All-Stars. Hall will be one of six players in the Red Group.

Fishers' own JonAnthony Hall tapped for Indiana Junior All-Stars

The REPORTER

Fishers' JonAnthony Hall is one of the 18 players that have been selected to play for the IndyStar Indiana boys' Junior All-Stars for 2024, All-Stars games director Mike Broughton announced last Monday.

Hall is one of the six players chosen to the Red Group. He joins Michael Cooper of Jeffersonville, Julius Gizzi of New Palestine, Cedric Horton of Richmond, Tre Singleton of Jeffersonville and Shane Sims of Evansville Harrison.

Those selected to the six-player Core Group are Dezmon Briscoe of Indianapolis Attucks, Brady Koehler of Indianapolis Cathedral, Braylon Mullins of Greenfield-Central, Azavier Robinson of Lawrence North, Trent Sisley of Heritage Hills and Mark Zackery IV of Ben Davis.

The Blue Group players

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

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

Luce has a 309-96 record in 17 seasons at Wapahani, including a 26-2 mark heading into the '24 State Finals. In 22 seasons as a head coach, he has a 359-156 ledger with previous stops at Southwestern (Hanover), Crawfordsville and Benton Central. Over the years, Luce's teams have won six IV of Ben Davis.

See Hall . . . Page B4

Springtime grind

Editor's note: This column was written on Friday, March 29, prior to the first NASCAR race of the regular season.

NASCAR heads to Richmond this weekend, kicking off the heart of the regular season.

Over the next 10 weeks, drivers will race on what is the traditional NASCAR tracks, including Martinsville, Talladega, Dover, and Charlotte Motor Speedway. The next 10 races will show us which teams are contenders and which teams are not competitive. Here are some of my predictions over the next 10 races:

1. Ty Gibbs will win his first race.

Sophomore driver Ty Gibbs has incredible speed through the first six races and currently sits second in the points. His maturity and growth from one year ago are quite astounding considering the youngster is only 21 years of age. His has been close to a win at Phoenix, Bristol, and Circuit of the Americas, but couldn't quite pull it off.

The Toyotas will be fast at Richmond this weekend and they are typically good on the 1.5-mile tracks (Kansas and Charlotte). If Ty doesn't win at Richmond this weekend, I think he gets his first win at Kansas.

2. Fords will surpass Chevrolet on performance.

The talk of the first six races has been the perfor-

mance of the Fords. They introduced a new body design, which was supposed to help aerodynamic performance. However, Ford is winless since season start and only one Ford driver is in the top 10 in points (Ryan Blaney).

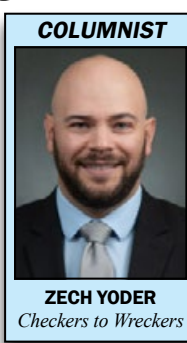
The Fords are struggling but I do not see that lasting. There was speculation before the season that a new car design could take a while to figure out, and I think we are seeing that with the Fords. Over the next couple races, Ford will make incremental improvements on the cars.

I see a Ford driver picking up a win before Mother's Day. Veteran Ford driver, Joey Lagano, has been clutch throughout his career. Look for him to get it done at Martinsville or Talladega.

3. Kyle Larson will complete the double and win one.

In just a couple weeks, we will see Kyle Larson on the track at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The biggest event this spring will be Larson's quest to complete both the Indy 500 and the Coke 600 on the same day. Larson is a generational talent and will be competitive at Indy, despite never having started an INDYCAR race. The question is not if he can win on Memorial Day Weekend, but which race it will be.

Zech Yoder is a local resident, an attorney at Adler Attorneys in Noblesville, and a lifelong race fan.



ZECH YODER
Checkers to Wreckers

Baseball

True warriors: Millers win final three in Tennessee on spring break trip

By CRAIG ADKINS
For The Reporter

The Noblesville Millers' annual spring break trip to Tennessee is a big key to how the team operates game-by-game for the rest of the season.

After losing in the first game of the trip at Siegel on Thursday night, 3-2 on a walk-off walk in the bottom of the seventh, the Millers flipped a switch and won their final three over the next two days.

Noblesville 10, Science Hill 0 (5 innings)

Friday afternoon's first matchup was a quick five-inning affair at Oakland against Science Hill. Scoring in bunches with a dominant fourth inning with seven runs, two more in the bottom of the fifth won it in five over the Hilltoppers from Johnson City.

Junior McCoy Fulk scored on a wild pitch in the bottom of the second to score the first run.

In the fourth, a Joe Glander double scored Nash Watson. Trevor Corbett drove in a pair with a single to center. Blake Widget touched home on an Aiden Reynolds pop fly to second. Nolan Decker sent two home on a grounder to left for a 7-0 lead.

Fulk walked with the bags loaded, sending Jacob Baker home for an 8-0 cushion.

Reynolds put the game away in the bottom of the fifth with a two-run double, plating Josh Peek and Cor-

bett, making quick work of Science Hill in five frames, 10-0.

Joe Glander made his varsity debut on the mound. The junior struck out six, walking just two in five innings. He also only gave us three hits. Corbett (2 RBIs) and Reynolds (3 RBIs) led the way at the plate with each going 3-for-4. Reynolds also had two doubles, while Corbett, Glander and Josh Peek also doubled.

Noblesville 10, Oakland 3

The Millers capped off Friday night with another convincing win and once again scored double-digits.

After Oakland's Hunter Wrather homered off of senior pitcher Lucas Stephan in the bottom of the first, it turned into another offensive show for the Millers from that point on.

Back-to-back doubles from Aiden Reynolds and Jacob Baker put Noblesville up 2-1. A fielder's choice by junior Aiden Ramsey scored Reynolds pushing it to 3-1.

Corbett's sac fly in the fifth added another. Reynolds and Glander both scored with Baker up when he grounded out to short, making it 6-2.

Four more runs in the top of the seventh cemented the win for the Millers.

Seniors Blake Widget and Sam Deno had consecutive successful bunt singles to third. Oakland's pitcher balked, allowing courtesy runner McCoy Fulk to score. Brady Bishop joined

the doubles parade sending one to right, scoring Widget and junior Cole Schott for a 9-3 score. Bishop scored on a sac fly by junior Luke Hagskamp to account for the final score of 10-3.

Reynolds was 2-for-2 at the dish, with an RBI double and three runs scored. Aiden Ramsey had two doubles in his four at-bats, while Jacob Baker drove in two.

Lucas Stephan threw five innings, striking out six. Freshman Eli Hall relieved Stephan in the sixth, providing two solid innings to get the win over the host Patriots.

Noblesville 15, Beech 3 (6 innings)

The Millers finished off its four-game Warrior Classic slate in Hendersonville against the Beech Buccaneers.

They found themselves in a 2-0 hole after the Buccaneers plated two in the home half of the first. But, that didn't last long.

Aiden Ramsey led off the second getting hit by a pitch and McCoy Fulk walked. Joe Glander lined a single to left, scoring Ramsey and moving Fulk to third. After Blake Widget walked, Brady Bishop followed suit, allowing Fulk to score from third to tie it 2-2.

Noblesville scored seven in the second, highlighted by Nolan Decker's two-run single and an RBI-triple from Ramsey that gave the Millers a 7-2 lead.

Bishop tripled to score Widget for 8-2. Aiden

Reynolds repeated, tripling to right to score Bishop for 9-2. Jacob Baker helped finish the three-run inning with a single, scoring Reynolds for 10-2.

Joe Glander doubled home Fulk for an 11-2 score.

Beech would try for one last-ditch effort to get back into it, but Corbett came in to relieve Decker. The Buccaneers managed one run.

The top of the sixth became the nail in the coffin that preserved the dominating win.

Consecutive walks to Glander and Widget, followed by Bishop lining a base hit to right to load the bases. Trevor Corbett then launched a grand slam on a line drive over the center field fence that gave the Millers the 15-3 win in six innings.

Decker went four innings, fanning six for the win and Corbett struck out a pair in his two frames.

Corbett led with his grand slam, the third long ball of his career. Reynolds, Baker, Decker, Bishop and Glander each drove in two for Noblesville's high-powered offense.

Noblesville (4-1) heads back home going 3-1 in the Volunteer State. Next up, the Millers host the Avon Orioles on Wednesday for their home and Hoosier Crossroads Conference openers.

Fishers and Hamilton Southeastern also played games in Tennessee. Read about those games in our Wednesday, April 3 edition.

CHAMPS

from Page B1



Photo by Joshua Herd



Photo by Joshua Herd

(LEFT) Tigers junior Justin Kirby helped out with five points in the second quarter. (RIGHT) Freshman Cooper Zachary provided solid minutes for Fishers during the state title game.

"I know JonAnthony has a lot of football offers, but if I'm any mid-major in the country, I'm trying to talk him into playing basketball," said Winegar. "That dude is a winner."

Perdue was the winner of the Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude Award for 4A boys basketball.

"It's really just an honor to win that," said Perdue. I feel really grateful that I was the person chosen to win that award."

"Anyone who's watched our team knows he deserves it," said Winegar. "There's been games he doesn't play till the fourth quarter and then we got to have him come in and guard and he makes defensive stops."

Hall credited Perdue and Bryson Seymour for helping them out in scout team.

"Man, they whip our butt in scout team," said Hall. "Bryson set us up nicely. I don't know how many points KJ had, but man, Bryson was an exact replica. He was hitting everything and he really helped us out. Parker did the same thing,



Photo by Julie Brown



Photo by Julie Brown

(LEFT) Fishers assistant coach Dr. Rob Bell congratulates Millen McCartney after the game. Tigers coach Garrett Winegar said McCartney was a "warrior" while defending Ben Davis star KJ Windham. (RIGHT) Fishers' Parker Perdue won the Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude Award. He is pictured here with his parents.

had to act like Mark Zachery for a couple of plays during practice. Just credit to them. And all those guys on the bench, Torey Breland, same thing. They all contribute in ways that you guys don't even know."

Winegar also credited Seymour with helping prepare junior Millen Mc-

Cartney for his defense on Windham.

"He torched Millen for about 50 points a day in practice," said Winegar. "He didn't miss this week, but he really prepared Millen for the looks that Windham was going to give and Millen just did a heck of a job just making things tough. We knew

he was going to get some points, but I thought Millen was a warrior all night."

Garner finished with 19 points, nine rebounds and five assists, while Metzger scored 10 points. Zachery led the Giants with 14 points, followed by 11 each for Enis and Windham and 10 for Mark White.

Baseball

Greyhounds get going early, shut out Covenant Christian

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

CARMEL – In the final act of a three-game season-opening homestand, the Carmel baseball team sprinted to the finish.

The Greyhounds used a tremendous first inning to take an early lead on Covenant Christian, and the momentum led Carmel to an 11-0, five-inning victory last Thursday at Hartman Field. The win kept the 'Hounds perfect to start the season at 3-0.

“The controllable thing that we take pride in is hustling on effort and how we go about our business,” said second-year Greyhounds coach Ty Neal. “I was pleased with our guys for sure.”

Neal said playing three games in three days is “not easy,” so he was proud of his team for “grinding it out. We talk about all the time preparing for the next level, and that’s a college baseball weekend there, a Friday-Saturday-Sunday three-game series, so I was proud of how they handled it.”

Carmel only gave up one hit during the game, a first-inning double. After that, the 'Hounds were unstoppable. Hunter Snow scored the first run after Gabe Mathison drew a bases-loaded walk, then James Charland got home on a passed ball.

Parker Heaney collected the first RBIs of the game, as his left field single brought in Mathison and Chase Sabo. Carson Mace scored on Nash Skelton’s RBI fielder’s choice, Silas Neal singled Skelton home, then JD Stein blasted a right field double to score Neal.

Just like that, it was 7-0 Carmel. The 'Hounds kept the momentum going in the second inning. The Warriors drew a leadoff walk, but pitcher Adam Buczkowski took care of business after that with three consecutive strikeouts.



Carmel’s Hunter Snow scored a run in the first inning during the Greyhounds’ 11-0 win over Covenant Christian last Thursday.

Reporter photo by Richie Hall

In the bottom of the second, the Carmel bats picked up where they left off. Mace batted in Charland with a center field hit, then Mathison and Sabo scored on a Heaney fielder’s choice. Heaney got home after a Covenant balk, which completed the scoring.

The Greyhounds’ defense took over from there, retiring nine consecutive Covenant Christian batters. Buczkowski got the pitching win, with five strikeouts over the first two innings. Colin Cabellon threw the third inning, with one strikeout, and Evan Vogt pitched the final two innings, striking out three.

“Our pitching these three days really gave us a chance to compete at a high level,” said Neal.

Heaney totaled four RBIs, while Mace finished with two hits. Mathison hit

a third-inning double.

Carmel is off for Spring Break, returning to action April 6 with its first away games of the season. The Greyhounds will play a doubleheader at Penn, the defending Class 4A state champion.

Earlier games

Carmel opened its season last Tuesday with a 5-0 win over Chesterton.

Stein scored the first run in the first inning, after Sabo was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded. Snow cracked a home run in the second inning, which also sent Stein home. Charland scored later when Mace was hit by a pitch. Heaney singled in Mathison in the fourth inning.

Stein finished with two hits, including a triple. Theo Nagy pitched three innings for the win, tossing five strikeouts.

Carmel scored a 3-1 victory over Brebeuf Jesuit last Wednesday.

The game was scoreless until the top of the fifth inning, when the Braves got their run. The Greyhounds broke through in the sixth inning, scoring all three of their runs on bases-loaded walks. Stein scored when Sabo got ball four, Snow got home on Parker Heaney’s walk, then Sam Woodward scored after Skelton drew ball four.

Carmel had two hits for the game, one each for Snow and Mathison. But the Greyhounds’ pitchers were strong, allowing Brebeuf just one hit. Mathison got the win after throwing the last two innings; he tossed three strikeouts. Max Winders pitched the first three innings, then Anthony Back relieved him by throwing the middle two.

Golden Eagles shut down Frankton to win season opener

By RICHARD TORRES
For The Reporter

FRANKTON – Ten months wasn’t long enough for the Guerin Catholic Golden Eagles to forget.

Picked as the Class 3A team to beat during the IH-SAA baseball state tournament last spring, the Golden Eagles had sectional title aspirations in mind, but things didn’t go as planned.

Falling to Circle City Conference rival Bishop Chatard, 4-2, in the Sectional 27 finals, Guerin Catholic missed out on a program-first championship, but after waiting all offseason the Golden Eagles are now ready to redeem themselves.

It showed on Tuesday night, as the 3A No. 2 Golden Eagles opened their campaign with a decisive 10-0 run-rule victory at Frankton in six innings.

“I don’t think there’s any doubt,” GC head coach Keith Nunley remarked on his players’ focus for 2024. “Our guys have been championing at the bit for a while to get on the field. They’re excited.”

Their anticipation is multi-faceted.

Firstly, their sectional finals setback stung them more than usual. Not because of their former state ranking but due to having beaten Bishop Chatard 13-3 and tying the Trojans 1-1 in eight innings during the regular season before the playoffs.

Secondly, they believe, much like last year, that they have the talent to win in June.

“Expectations are a play-off run. We have to win a sectional first. Win some games this year, and then get a shot at the state tournament,” GC senior Davis Wagner said. “I think about (that loss) every day. We have to play together. Don’t freak out in the moment. Just keep calm and do what we do. Do what we’re good at.”

At Frankton’s Paul Davis Stadium, the Golden Eagles were nearly perfect.

Wagner cruised through the first four innings, striking out nine, walking one and allowing just two hits with 64 pitches thrown.

At the plate, Wagner (2-for-4) contributed during a 1-run top of the first and later turned a 5-0 Guerin Catholic lead in the top of the fourth into an 8-0 game with a three-run bomb over the left-field fence on the first pitch.

“I was just looking to find a barrel. I’ve been having trouble with that the last couple of weeks, so it felt good to finally get a barrel,” said Wagner, an Augusta University commit. “I finally got one.”

The Golden Eagles laced four extra-base hits, including doubles from Grant Beard (1-for-3), Ian Taylor (1-for-2, three runs) and sophomore Tate Troxell (1-for-3).

Beard’s double plated three runs to kick start a six-run top of the fourth, which sparked eight runs scored over the final three innings.

Wagner’s home run highlighted a five-hit attack in the frame. Karson Smith (2-for-4) provided an RBI

sacrifice fly.

“(Wagner has) put up numbers ever since he was a sophomore, so he’s a really good player. I’m looking forward to seeing what he can do at the next level after we get done with him this year,” Nunley said.

On the mound, Wagner stuck out the first two batters he faced, retired six straight through the third and fourth innings and left a runner stranded at second base in both the second and third.

“I try to work with tempo first off, then I work fastball, curveball, slider, change-up, sinker. It depends on the hitter obviously,” Wagner said. “The fastball was working the best today. I got a lot of swings and misses. I left one over the plate, but it didn’t do too much damage, so we’re grateful for that. But everything was working today. Felt pretty good. Finally got some good velo.”

Troxell, an Alabama commit, relieved Wagner in the bottom of the fifth and pitched two hitless frames, striking out three and walking two. The Frankton Eagles were held to two hits overall and walked three times.

“Wagner has been a three-year producer for us since I got the coaching job at Guerin, and he does a fantastic job of commanding the strike zone and competing on a daily basis,” Nunley said. “Obviously, we’re early in the season, so we’re on a pitch count, but those two guys will be big horses for us for the entire season.”

The duo received ample run support in the opener with the Golden Eagles providing 11 hits in 27 at-bats.

Cuinn Morrow, who is committed to DePauw, finished 2-for-3. AJ Nunley went 1-for-2. Bryson Dorsley, a DePauw recruit, was 1-for-2.

Drew Wilhite drove in the team’s ninth run in the top of the sixth with a sacrifice fly before a passed ball scored the 10th.

“The last regular-season poll, we were No. 1 and then got upset in the sectional, so that’s still leaving a sour taste in our mouth, but I guess it shows some recognition by other people in the state,” Nunley said. “Recognizing the quality of guys we have in the program, and the credit goes to them. They do the work. We open doors and they walk through them.”

The Golden Eagles beat Anderson 23-13 last Saturday. Guerin Catholic trailed 5-0 after two innings, then exploded for eight runs in the third. The Indians jumped ahead 12-8 with seven runs in the top of the fifth, but the Golden Eagles scored 12 in the bottom of the inning, then ended the game in the sixth with three more runs.

Wagner hit two home runs, totaling seven RBIs. Bryson Dorsley had two hits, including a triple; he and Troxell both drove in three runs. Nate Gremelspacher had two doubles, while Dorsley, AJ Nunley, Beard and Karson Smith all hit one double. Ryan Zimmerman threw five strikeouts in three innings.

The Golden Eagles travel to Bishop Chatard on April 2 and host the Trojans on April 3.

Rocks sweep Flashes, remain unbeaten

By RICHARD TORRES
For The Reporter

WESTFIELD – With six of eight seniors committed to the next level, the Westfield Shamrocks are primed to contend this spring, but, collectively, they know talent alone won’t get the job done.

The unbeaten Class 4A Shamrocks (3-0, 2-0) swept Hoosier Crossroads Conference foe Franklin Central (0-2, 0-2) last Thursday night at Grand Park after winning their two-game series’ second contest by run-rule 11-1 in six innings.

The Rocks took the first game 3-1 at Franklin Central on Wednesday behind a four-hit, 10-strikeout 5.0 inning gem from senior Ty Anderson, an Eastern Illinois recruit.

However, even in sweeping victory at their home away from home, there remains room to improve moving forward.

“Anytime you get a sweep in the HCC, it’s a good week, but we certainly have things we have to do better,” Shamrocks head coach Ryan Bunnell said. “We aren’t clicking offensively like we’re capable of, and we have some things we have to do better offensively.”

While a luxury to win, especially by 10 runs, Bunnell remarked, the nearly 10 strikeouts by his hitters is the glaring issue.

In Game 1, the Rocks struck out 14 times, while facing Franklin Central’s pitching and Flashes’ stand-out Weston Harvey, an Indi-

ana Tech commit. In Game 2, the tally dropped to nine, but shaving off five is only the first step.

“We have to cut the strikeouts down. There’s no doubt about that. I stopped counting at around eight. We’ve been around 10 or more each game, and that’s just not acceptable,” Bunnell said. “It’s the way we’re striking out, too. That’s the concerning thing for us. We’ve done too much work in the offseason for us to come out like this.”

The Rocks countered their own strikeouts problems with a combined two-hitter from senior Preston Tamm and junior Jackson Blevins on the mound, while swatting eight hits of their own, including two of the extra-base variety.

Tamm, a Manhattan commit, went 3.1 one-hit innings with four strikeouts and four walks issued. Blevins had three strikeouts and one walk issued in 2.2 frames.

“In the series, we pitched it really well. Ty was good yesterday. We had a good relief appearance out of (Brayden) Hibler. Today, Preston pitched really well, and Jack came in and did a great job in relief,” Bunnell said. “We were really good on the mound.”

In Game 1, the Rocks posted only four hits, but two of them went for extra bases, which provided all the offense needed to win.

In the rematch, Hibler, who was 0-for-3 on Wednesday, set the tone at the plate by going 1-for-3 with two runs scored and a

two-run triple in the bottom of the first.

Hibler, who is committed to Central Missouri, later scored on a passed ball in the frame to put Westfield up 3-0.

“We just kind of came out ready to roll, and our pitcher did an even more exceptional job for us,” Hibler said. “Starting off the game with a back-swung fly ball to left field off the wall felt amazing.”

The good times carried into the bottom of the third with a two-run inning sparked by sophomore Nick Fero’s RBI single to make it 4-0. Fero (3-for-4) scored on a wild pitch to make it 5-0 before Franklin Central responded with a run in the fourth.

“Fero had his first game today, and he came out and absolutely swung the bat like a crazy man to be honest. He was awesome to watch,” Hibler said. “All of us have played at least two years on varsity, and we’ve done an exceptional job of building team chemistry all the way around it.”

The team rallied in the bottom of the sixth, plating six more runs capped by a walk-off, run-rule walk drawn by sophomore Gabe Garcia with the bases loaded.

Senior Alex Rudolph, a Grace College commit, was 2-for-4 with an RBI. Junior Ethan Colling was 1-for-2 with a two-run double, and junior Ian Wilson finished 1-for-4 with two RBIs.

However, the Rocks left runners stranded in three of four innings, which ended

in strikeouts.

“It’s funny how this game goes. (Pitching was) our biggest question mark coming in, and we felt our offense was going to be our biggest strength, and we still do, but pitching is always ahead of offense this time of the year,” Bunnell said. “We’ll be fine. Nothing to panic about, but we do have some things we need to fix.”

Their next chance will be on the road on Thursday when the Rocks head to Tennessee to face Beech, followed by games against Clarksville Academy and Ohio’s Whetstone on Friday.

“It’s always a luxury when you win by run-rule. We’ll take that anytime, but yeah, it’s early. You come out and start 3-0, and we still know we have a lot better baseball in us. That’s a good thing. Now, we just have to get to that part because we’re going to have a really tough stretch coming up here with Tennessee and deeper into HCC play,” Bunnell said.

“What I’ve been telling them is that the strongest team doesn’t always win. I think the better question is, do we have enough talent? And I think we have enough talent, yes,” Bunnell said. “We have to understand who we have to be to be successful, and as we do that we’ll be just fine.”

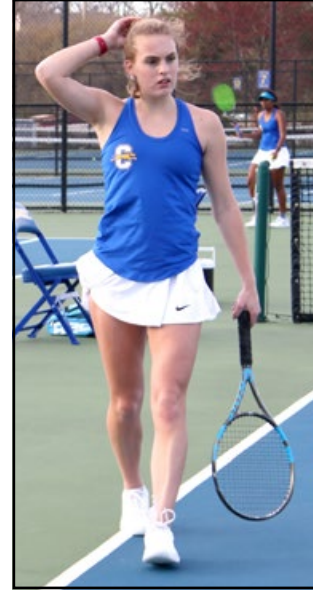
Westfield opened the HCC series last Wednesday with a 3-1 victory at Franklin Central.

See Sweep . . . Page B4

The Reporter brings you the best local sports coverage.

Full stop.

Girls Tennis



(ABOVE LEFT) Westfield's Reese Miller and Gabby Smith play a doubles match during the Shamrocks' tennis scrimmage March 21 at Guerin Catholic. (ABOVE RIGHT) Guerin Catholic's singles lineup this year includes freshman Cece Phillips, senior Katie Geon and freshman Grace Docktor.

Reporter photos by Richie Hall (ABOVE LEFT) Carmel senior Nora Perkins returns as the Greyhounds No. 1 singles player this season. Carmel is the three-time defending state champion, and the 'Hounds began their season last Tuesday with a 4-1 win over Jasper. (ABOVE RIGHT) Freshman Manogna Pagadala got a win at No. 2 singles for Carmel.

Regular season serving up, Westfield & Guerin Catholic get going with scrimmage

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

NOBLESVILLE – The high school girls tennis season is under way in Indiana. Regular-season matches began last week, with some teams getting on the court last week by holding scrimmages. Two local teams scrimmaged against each other March 21, with Guerin Catholic hosting Westfield. Many teams will be hosting the Shamrocks this season, as Westfield will be without home courts. The Shamrocks are building a brand-new tennis facility that is scheduled to be open in the fall. [Read that story at tinyurl.com/WHSnews14](http://tinyurl.com/WHSnews14). The old facility is retired, so the 'Rocks will be road warriors this spring. "We actually are trying to make it a fun thing this year," said Westfield coach Trudy Coler. "We're going to try to do a lot of themes

on the bus to make it fun for the girls. And we knew going into the season that's what it was going to be, so it wasn't a surprise. So, we've prepared for it. We got team captains working on some fun things to do on the bus." The Shamrocks made their first bus trip last Monday to play at Plainfield. It was a fun ride home, as Westfield won the dual 5-0. Isabella Norris led the way with a 6-0, 6-0 win at No. 1 singles. Juliette Gril-liot took the No. 2 singles match 6-1, 6-0, while Addi Kooi won at No. 3 singles 6-1, 6-1. In doubles, No. 1 Carlie Lukowiak and Jenna Berry were 6-0, 6-2 winners, and No. 2 Bri Saylor and Bella Rivera came back to win 2-6, 6-2, 6-4. Norris, Lukowiak and Saylor are seniors, along with Allison Emgenbroich and Mary Grenda. Coler said the Shamrocks have "a

lot of experience this year with the seniors." Westfield will be off for spring break, then plays at Brownsburg on April 9. **Young Golden Eagles** The Golden Eagles have a key senior leader at No. 1 singles but expect to see some younger players in the mix as well. "We've got two freshmen, Grace Docktor and Cece Phillips that are going to be in the top three singles players," said GC coach Becky Ragsdale. "Katie Geon is back. Right now she's our No. 1 singles player." Also returning are the Kolb twins, sophomores Katie and Anna. They played Nos. 1 and 2 singles last season; Ragsdale said this year they are playing No. 1 doubles, which is "a new position for them. But they're handling it nicely," she said. Junior Ella Hood is in

the mix at No. 2 doubles. The Golden Eagles have 90 players on their team. "They're handling it really well," said Ragsdale. "They understand that there are a lot of girls we have to look at. And they've done a great job." The main goal of the Golden Eagles is to improve every day. "I think that we just have to come together as a team," said Ragsdale. "We've got to get our doubles working together and get at least one of those doubles positions every match. And if we can get two out of three singles, I think that we'll be in every match." The Golden Eagles were to start the season last Wednesday with a dual meet against Tri-West, but it was canceled. Guerin Catholic will now open its season Tuesday by hosting Roncalli, then travels to Pendleton Heights on Wednesday.

Greyhounds open season with commanding win over Jasper

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

CARMEL – No matter who is playing on the Carmel girls tennis team, the expectations are always high. This year's Greyhounds team has several new faces. Carmel began its season last Tuesday at the Todd Witsken Tennis Center, where it hosted Jasper in the opener for both schools. The three-time defending state champion Greyhounds beat the Wildcats 4-1. The lone returning varsity player from last year's state lineup is No. 1 singles, senior Nora Perkins, who got a hard-fought win over Jasper junior Harper Wigand 6-3, 7-5.

close to the lineup last year, but she put a lot of work in the offseason, you could tell." Senior Sydney Carroll teamed with freshman Baylie Price at No. 2 doubles; they were 6-3, 6-4 winners. Another freshman on the team is Manogna Pagadala, who won at No. 2 singles 6-1, 6-4. "For it being their first varsity-experience matches, they played really well," said Brunette of the freshmen. At No. 3 singles, sophomore Maddie Littell dropped her match. Junior Grace Kim, who played on varsity last year, is also in the mix for the singles lineup this year.

"Especially for being a first match, I think they played like defending state champions," said Brunette. Carmel was to play Plainfield last Wednesday, but the meet was canceled. The Greyhounds are off until Tuesday, April 9, when they host Delta. "Carmel has been so dominant for quite a while here in girls tennis," said Brunette. "You don't really ever use the word rebuilding or anything like that. I don't think we are. I think it's next person up mentality and it's phenomenal to see. It's an enjoyable experience for the girls team. They're getting along very well."

"She had a big win tonight," said second-year Carmel coach Dan Brunette. "That's a very strong tournament player that she played." The 'Hounds had two other seniors in their Tuesday varsity lineup. Addison Joyce played with sophomore Gabby Hall at No. 1 doubles, and they scored a 6-4, 6-3 victory. "Addi Joyce has been waiting for this for four years," said Brunette, who noted that she has "always been on cusp of the lineup. She put her time in and she came out and executed tonight. Gabby Hall is an excellent athlete. She was

Boys Lacrosse

Royals keep winning streak alive in victory over Golden Eagles

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

NOBLESVILLE – An all-county boys lacrosse game went Hamilton Southeastern's way last Thursday. The Royals played at Guerin Catholic and won 14-1. Southeastern scored its first goal right away, with John Pauls scoring off an assist from Max Kemp just 44 seconds into the contest. The Royals put in five goals in both the first and second quarters, leading to a 10-0 advantage by halftime. Southeastern's four other first-quarter goals were unassisted: Kyle Perkins found the back of the net, followed by Kemp. Pauls added his second goal, then David Gould scored with 16 seconds left in the period. Kemp provided more offense in the second quarter, scoring twice and assisting with two other goals. Both of those assists came on quick goals during the last 23 seconds of the half; Pauls scored, then Gould scored just nine seconds later. Pauls assisted Kemp's second goal of the half, while Nicholas Weber also got a second-quarter score. "Really proud of how we battled the faceoff X," said Southeastern coach Scott Beesley. "Nick Weber's a junior for us and has done a really good job of controlling the tempo of the games by the way he wins faceoffs, so I really thought 16 had a tremendous effort for us tonight. "Then offensively, I thought we were really pa-



(ABOVE LEFT) Hamilton Southeastern's Max Kemp had four goals and six assists for the Royals during their win at Guerin Catholic last Thursday. (ABOVE RIGHT) Evan Bair scored a goal for Guerin Catholic.

tient when we the ball. I didn't think we tried to rush any shots. We really valued possessions and shared the ball very well as a team." Trey Boysen scored at the 3:36 mark of the third quarter. Kemp assisted that one, and then he scored his fourth goal of the game with 17 seconds left in the period. Ethan Ducey added the Royals' 13th goal of the game with 7:44 left in the fourth quarter, then Lukas Kress finished the HSE scoring with 1:40 left. Both goals were assisted by Kemp, giving him six for the game in addition to four of his own goals. "We're a pretty young team on offense," said Beesley, whose team is now 5-0 for the season. "We've got some great senior leaders on

defense, so it's fun to see the offense clicking this early in the season. I thought we were going to have a few more growing pains than we've had. Team's really bonded really well, both on and off the field. We've done a lot of things off the field to try to build the chemistry." Evan Bair scored for the Golden Eagles with 3:01 left in the first quarter. Kress led Southeastern's ground ball total with six, followed by five each for Pauls and Weber. Pauls also had five caused turnovers, while Brody Carlson had three caused turnovers. Luke Sell had four ground balls for Guerin Catholic. "Kudos to HSE," said Golden Eagles coach Charlie Barry, who noted that

the Royals are last year's Class 2A state runner-up. "They've been in that conversation for a long time, and they just got a bunch of dogs, man. They got a bunch of kids that can play. They're ranked in the Midwest and it's tough." Guerin Catholic rebounded with a 24-3 victory at Roncalli last Saturday. Bair had six goals and six assists, Chase Argir also scored six goals and had one assist, and Cooper Navarro had five goals and two assists. The Royals are off for Spring Break this week, returning to action April 12 against Olentangy Liberty (Ohio). The Golden Eagles are 2-2 and play at Bishop Chatard on Tuesday before their Spring Break.

HALL

from Page B2

sectional titles, two regional crowns and the 2024 semi-state. Wells has a 76-46 record in five seasons at Michigan City. Overall, Wells is 402-376 in 35 seasons with earlier tenures at Prairie Heights, Griffith, Portage and LaPorte. The Junior All-Stars will play one game against the Kentucky Junior All-Stars on Sunday, June 2 at Scottsburg's Charles E. Meyer Gymnasium. The Junior All-Stars also will play one game against the Indiana All-Star senior boys on Wednesday, June 5 at Kokomo High School. Both games will be doubleheaders with the 2024 Indiana girls' Junior All-Stars, whose roster was announced on March 4. The players listed as Core Group players each will play in two games. The players listed in the Red and Blue groups each will play in one game, the Red Group on June 2 against the Kentucky Juniors and the Blue Group on June 5 against the Indiana Seniors. The Indiana senior All-Stars will play the Kentucky senior All-Stars on Friday, June 7 at a site to be announced. The Indiana senior

All-Stars will play Kentucky's seniors again on Saturday, June 8 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. The second IndyStar Indiana All-Star "Futures Games" doubleheader will be played on Monday, June 3 at Hamilton Southeastern High School. The Futures Games will be a girls-boys doubleheader with Indiana-only squads of sophomores and freshmen in a North vs. South format. The Futures Games rosters will be announced later.

COURT NOTICES

29D03-2403-EU-000115
William J. Webster
Webster & Garino, LLC
209 E. 175th Street, Suite A
Westfield, IN 46074
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
In the Hamilton County Superior Court, Indiana. Notice is hereby given that Ray A. Winkler was on the 25th day of March, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Oranna Winkler, deceased, who died on December 15, 2022.
All persons who have claims against the estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Noblesville, Indiana this 25th March 2024.
Kathy Kreag Williams
Clerk of the Hamilton County Superior Court
R4144 4/1/24, 4/8/24

SWEEP

The Shamrocks scored all three runs in the fourth inning. Drew Law led off with a triple, then Hibler

drew a walk. Matt Drozlek stepped up and hit a double to score Law and Hibler, then a single by Ian Wilson

brought Drozlek home. Wilson finished the game with two hits. Anderson pitched five innings

for the win, an outstanding effort with 10 strikeouts against four hits and one walk.

from Page B3

- COUNTY -

Table with 8 columns: Site Name, Voting Location, Address, Add City/State/Zip, Precinct 1, Precinct 2, Precinct 3, Precinct 4. Lists 2024 PRIMARY POLL SITES across various locations in Hamilton County, Indiana.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Hamilton County has approved these locations as voting places for the Primary Election to be held in Hamilton County, Indiana on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Polls will be open from 6:00 am to 6:00 p.m. Dated this 23rd day of February 2024. Kathy Krag Williams, Clerk of the Hamilton Circuit Court

- COUNTY -

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Morse Park and Beach Playground
FOR HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Sealed bid proposals for the Prather Park Playground, 12575 River Road, Carmel, IN 46033 will be received by the Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Department's office, 400 Lafayette Road, Noblesville, IN 46060, until 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on Monday, May 13, 2024.

- COUNTY -

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
IN THE MATTER OF
Laurel Lakes Drain
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 405 of the 1965 Indiana Drainage Code that this Board, prior to final adjournment on March 25, 2024 has issued an order adopting the Schedule of Assessments, filed the same and made public announcement thereof at the hearing and ordered publication.

- WESTFIELD -

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION TO ENTER INTO LEASE
Taxpayers of the Westfield Redevelopment District ("District"), the boundaries of which are coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Westfield, Indiana ("City"), are hereby notified that the Westfield Redevelopment Commission ("Commission") did on March 18, 2024, adopt a resolution preliminarily determining to enter into a lease for the purpose of providing funds for the cost of the refunding of a certain outstanding loan of the City as evidenced by a Note Purchase Agreement dated May 8, 2015 and acquisition and leasing of a certain building.

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
IN THE MATTER OF
Bramblewood Drain
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 405 of the 1965 Indiana Drainage Code that this Board, prior to final adjournment on March 25, 2024 has issued an order adopting the Schedule of Assessments, filed the same and made public announcement thereof at the hearing and ordered publication.

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
IN THE MATTER OF
Oliver Armstrong Drain
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 405 of the 1965 Indiana Drainage Code that this Board, prior to final adjournment on March 25, 2024 has issued an order adopting the Schedule of Assessments, filed the same and made public announcement thereof at the hearing and ordered publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Please be advised that the Westfield-Washington Township Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana, or in a virtual format viewable at https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofWestfieldIN.

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
IN THE MATTER OF
Little Eagle Creek Drain
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 405 of the 1965 Indiana Drainage Code that this Board, prior to final adjournment on March 25, 2024 has issued an order adopting the Schedule of Assessments, filed the same and made public announcement thereof at the hearing and ordered publication.

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
IN THE MATTER OF
Bellewood Drain
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 405 of the 1965 Indiana Drainage Code that this Board, prior to final adjournment on March 25, 2024 has issued an order adopting the Schedule of Assessments, filed the same and made public announcement thereof at the hearing and ordered publication.

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
IN THE MATTER OF
Lion Creek Drain
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 405 of the 1965 Indiana Drainage Code that this Board, prior to final adjournment on March 25, 2024 has issued an order adopting the Schedule of Assessments, filed the same and made public announcement thereof at the hearing and ordered publication.

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
IN THE MATTER OF
Indianapolis Airport Authority
GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 01-2024
Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that, at a regular meeting of the Board of the Indianapolis Airport Authority, at 8:00 a.m. on March 15, 2024, General Ordinance No. 01-2024 was introduced.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INDIANAPOLIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 01-2024
Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that, at a regular meeting of the Board of the Indianapolis Airport Authority, at 8:00 a.m. on March 15, 2024, General Ordinance No. 01-2024 was introduced.

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
IN THE MATTER OF
Little Eagle Creek Drain
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 405 of the 1965 Indiana Drainage Code that this Board, prior to final adjournment on March 25, 2024 has issued an order adopting the Schedule of Assessments, filed the same and made public announcement thereof at the hearing and ordered publication.

Public Notice Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday
PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com

COURT NOTICES

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2402-MI-2248 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: Harli May Cox Petitioner... NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME... Harli May Cox, whose mailing address is: 301 E 1st St, Sheridan, IN 46069 in the Hamilton County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Harli May Cox has filed a petition in the Hamilton County Circuit Court requesting that name be changed to Harli May Favors.

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2403-MI-2541 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR: MaLell Minton Petitioner... NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME... Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, TaNia Slater, pro se, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor to change the name of minor child from MaLell Dion Minton to Mylon Dion Minton.

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2309-MI-9243 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: Mikhail Marcuson Petitioner... NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME... Mikhail Marcuson, whose mailing address is: 10004 Adventure Pass, Noblesville, IN 46060 in the Hamilton County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Mikhail Marcuson has filed a petition in the Hamilton County Circuit Court requesting that name be changed to Mikhail Karter.

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2309-MI-9243 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: Mikhail Marcuson Petitioner... NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME... Mhd Redwan Abougha, whose mailing address is: 14176 PRAIRIE LAKES BLVD S APT 205 Noblesville, Indiana 46060 in the Hamilton County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Mhd Redwan Abougha has filed a petition in the Hamilton County Circuit Court requesting that name be changed to Redwan Abougha.

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2401-MI-0635 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: JENNIFER LYNNE RUBIO Petitioner... NOTICE OF HEARING... Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, JENNIFER LYNN RUBIO, pro se, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name to change her name from JENNIFER LYNNE RUBIO to JENNIFER LYNNE ASHTON.

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2403-MI-2612 IN RE THE MATTER OF: Husam Abougha Name of Minor Mhd Redwan Abougha By Next Friend... NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME... Notice is hereby given that, Mhd Redwan Abougha, Next Friend of minor child, self-represented, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name on March 10, 2024 to change, the name of Husam Abougha to Husam Redwan Abougha.

29D03-2403-EU-000123 ATTORNEY: Gavin S. O'Gara, Attorney at Law ADDRESS: 7271 North Shadeland Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46250 PHONE: (317) 855-9922 NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION In the Hamilton County Court, Probate Division In the Matter of the Estate of Leon Edward Oldham, deceased. Leon Edward Oldham, was over the age of 55. Notice is hereby given that Kathy Murphy was on March 25th, 2024, appointed Administrator of the estate of Leon Edward Oldham, deceased, who died on November 22, 2023.

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2403-MI-2448 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: AMANDEEP KAUR Petitioner... NOTICE OF HEARING... Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, AMANDEEP KAUR, pro se, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name to change her name from AMANDEEP KAUR to AMAAN KAUR.

29D02-2401-EU-000042 STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON SUPERIOR COURT CAUSE NO: 29D02-2403-EU-000130 IN RE THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF JANE F. WALKER, DECEASED NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION In re the Estate of Jane F. Walker In the Superior Court of Hamilton County: Notice is hereby given that Margaret Gillespie, on March 20, 2024, was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of the above-named Decedent, who died on February 7, 2024.

29D01-2403-ES-000104 STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON SUPERIOR COURT In the Matter of the Estate of: WESLEY LYNN NEAL, Deceased. NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that Borkowski Legal Services, LLC d.b.a. Arrow Fiduciary Services was, on March 7th, 2024, appointed personal representative of the Estate of Wesley Lynn Neal (the Estate), who died on January 30, 2024.

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2403-MI-002776 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: Dareskedar Taweke Henry Petitioner... NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME... Dareskedar Taweke Henry, whose mailing address is: 10874 Knightsbridge Lane, Fishers, IN 46037, in the Hamilton County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Dareskedar Taweke Henry has filed a petition in the Hamilton County Circuit Court requesting that their name be changed to Dareskedar Taweke Bekele.

29D01-2403-EU-000125 STEPHEN W. COOK, Attorney for Estate NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION In the Superior Court No. 1 of Hamilton County, Indiana. Notice is hereby given that Stephen P. Gibbons was, on the 19 day of March, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Linda B. Gibbons, deceased, who died on the 23rd day of February, 2024.



DELAWARE TOWNSHIP

Table with 6 columns: Local Fund Number, Local Fund Name, Beg Cash & Inv Bal (Jan 1, 2023), Receipts, Disbursements, End Cash & Inv Bal (Dec 31, 2023). Total Receipts: \$10,472,640.58. Total Disbursements: \$2,666,500.45. Total End Cash & Inv Bal: \$9,773,238.06.

COURT NOTICES

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2403-MI-3129 IN RE THE MATTER OF: Rekha Damodaran Chambath Petitioner... NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME... Rekha Damodaran Chambath, whose mailing address is: 13220 Tanzanite Cir Carmel, Indiana 46033, in the Hamilton County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Rekha Damodaran Chambath has filed a petition in the Hamilton County Circuit Court requesting that their name be changed to Rekha Susant.

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2403-MI-2710 IN RE THE MATTER OF: Rebecca Marlette Smith Petitioner... NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME... Rebecca Marlette Smith, whose mailing address is: 12659 Kossuth Street Carmel, Indiana 46032, in the Hamilton County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Rebecca Marlette Smith has filed a petition in the Hamilton County Circuit Court requesting that their name be changed to Rebecca Marlette Hawksmith.

WESTFIELD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given that the Indiana Finance Authority (the "Authority") will hold a public hearing on April 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Indianapolis time, in the office of the Authority located at One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 900, Indianapolis, Indiana, regarding a proposed issuance of one or more series of its Indiana Finance Authority Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2024A (Citizens Water of Westfield Project) (the "Bonds").

WESTFIELD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LEASE BY THE WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION You are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held before the Westfield Redevelopment Commission on April 15, 2024 at the hour of 6:00 p.m. (local time) at the City Hall Assembly Room, 2728 East 171st Street, Westfield, Indiana, upon a proposed lease ("Lease") to be entered into between the Westfield Redevelopment Authority ("Authority"), as lessor, and the Westfield Redevelopment Commission ("Commission"), as lessee.

CICERO

Legal Notice Board of zoning appeals The Cicero/Jackson Township Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on April 18th, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Cicero Town Hall located at 70 N Byron Street, Cicero, Indiana 46034, in order to hear the following petitions: Docket No. BZA-0424-17-R3

COURT NOTICES

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2402-MI-1201 IN RE CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR: Sunita Khurana Vaid Petitioner... NOTICE OF HEARING... Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Sunita Khurana Vaid, pro se, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name of Minor to change the name of minor child from Abir Manav Vaid to Abir Vaid.

CAUSE NO. 29D01-2310-EU-473 NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION In the Superior Court No. 1 of Hamilton County, Indiana. Notice is hereby given that Richard Morgan Dellinger and Michael Scott Dellinger were on the 17th day of October, 2023, appointed Personal Representatives of the Estate of Richard M. Dellinger, deceased.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT COUNTY OF HAMILTON 1 Hamilton County Sq., Suite 337 Noblesville, IN 46060 Phone Number: 317-776-9600 STATE OF INDIANA IN THE MATTER OF: THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK V. BENJAMIN S. COTTINGHAM, et al. CAUSE NO. 29D02-2306-PL-005442 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO: Benjamin S. Cottingham You are hereby notified that there has been in the Hamilton Superior Court an action for foreclosure.

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON IN THE HAMILTON CIRCUIT COURT Cause No. 29C01-2403-MI-3179 INRE: NAME CHANGE OF: GABRIELLE SHERFICK NOTICE OF HEARING Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, GABRIELLE SHERFICK, through counsel, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name to change her name from GABRIELLE SHERFICK to GABRIELLE STONE.

2024 Jerry N. Higgins, MSSW, JD 26712-22 Marsha Dailey 25539-88 Derek A. Harvey, Jr. 36172-53 Ulrich, Sassano, Deighton, Delaney and Higgins, Co., L.P.A. 24755 Chagrin Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44122 Phone: (216) 360-7200 Fax: (216) 360-7210 jnhiggins@carlisle-law.com mdailey@carlisle-law.com dharvey@carlisle-law.com



State champions earn their rings

Hamilton Southeastern's 2023 girls volleyball team reunites for ring ceremony

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

FISHERS – The 2023 Hamilton Southeastern girls volleyball team is one worth celebrating, even months after the Royals' state championship season ended.

The history-making Southeastern squad got together again last Tuesday afternoon, as the players and coaches were presented with their state championship rings. The Royals won the Class 4A IHSAA state championship last November at Ball State University.

The team members were given the rings by HSE principal Reggie Simmons during a ceremony hosted by Royals athletic director Jim Self. HSE superintendent Patrick Mapes and Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness were also in attendance and spoke at the ceremony.

After the ceremony, the team members and their families hung out in the Southeastern gym, taking many pictures with their rings. The Royals were together again, and coach Jason Young was happy to see them together again, calling the team "a special group."

"You crave having that extra day and having one get them when you can." "Teams like this don't come along every year, as much as you'd like for them to. So, when they do come along, you do anything you can to get them when you can."

Young also spoke at the ceremony, as did Lauren Harden, one of the seniors on the Royals team. Harden was named Miss Volleyball (one of many awards she received) at the end of the season and is headed to the University of Florida as one of six Southeastern seniors who will be playing in col-

lege. "Honestly, a lot of us forgot what they look like because we picked out the design so long ago," said Harden. "So, it was really exciting just to get to open them and see them and they're really pretty."

Self said during the ceremony that the HSE players are looked upon as role models. Harden reflected on that afterwards, since she herself looked up to the Royals players when she was a little girl.

"It's really cool," she said. "It's really awesome to be a part of, especially just because I grew up coming to games when I was little, because both my cousins came through this volleyball program and played. And I always wanted to be like those players when I was little. To have that same effect on little kids now is just really cool and really awesome. And I'm really proud to be able to do that."

Self said that's exactly what is happening with the young kids at the HSE camps right now.

"All I ask the kids is, be a leader," said Self. "They're going to follow. They're looking up to you and the choice is, be a good leader or bad leader. Our kids have chosen to be great leaders." Simmons called the Royals players "outstanding young women that represent themselves and our school and their family so well."

"I see them not only supporting each other on the teams, but I've seen them at other events, like our performing arts events," said Simmons. "During football season, they're in the front leading the student section. That's one way that they just represent themselves and again, our school so well."

The list of athletic ac-



(TOP) The Hamilton Southeastern volleyball team shows off its state championship rings. The Royals received their rings for winning the Class 4A state title during a ceremony last Tuesday afternoon at Southeastern. **(ABOVE LEFT)** Southeastern athletic director Jim Self hosted the ceremony. **(ABOVE CENTER)** Royals coach Jason Young shows off the rings his team won from 2023, and from 2022. **(ABOVE RIGHT)** Senior Tiffany Snook accepts her ring from Southeastern principal Reggie Simmons.

Reporter photos by Richie Hall

complishments of the team is long, but the accomplishments off the court are also worth mentioning. For example, nine seniors on the team were named Academic All-State, and the team grade-point average is a 3.9. "The culture and the chemistry have to be right, and with this group, it's been special," said Self.

Many family mem-

bers of the players were also in attendance, and Self thinks the team parents are an integral part of the Royals' culture.

"I think it starts with the families," said Self. "A number of parents walking out today that have kids that are going to graduate, I still think they will be a part of our program. They'll still come support us. And

I've always thought if you want to tell how the culture of a program is, watch the number of kids and parents that come back and support it. This group, that's what they do."

And what the Royals have done the past two seasons – the team won back-to-back state championships and is on a 67-match winning streak – is something

that will be remembered for a long time.

"Obviously, it's still fresh for us," said Harden. "It's still something really cool that we got to do. I feel like definitely when those five, 10, 15 years come, we still get to come back and talk about it, then it'll really set in that what we did here is going to be talked about for a long time."

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