

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024

ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN
 CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Showers and storms. A few storms in the afternoon could produce damaging wind gusts.
 Tonight: Partly cloudy. A few showers possible overnight.
HIGH: 79 LOW: 62



A good day to read a book Bittersweet joy

By **AMY ADAMS**
 news@readthereporter.com

The children's department at the Westfield Washington Public Library celebrated the first Story Time in its new building on Monday morning, June 3 with a special guest – Mayor Scott Willis.

"What do you think of the new library?" Willis asked. "It's much needed."

The crowd of around 50 parents and children responded with a round of applause, and the traffic throughout the rest of the library indicated that the community agrees.

Donning a "hat" created especially for the day, Willis read *A Good Day for a Hat* by T. Nat Fuller followed by *My Dad!* by Charles Fuge.

"The mayor loves children," City of Westfield Executive Operations Manager Peg Strass said. "He has three kids of his own, and he misses them when they were little, so he takes every opportunity that comes to us



Around 50 parents and children gather for the first Story Time at the new library.

Reporter photo by Amy Adams

to engage with them because it's really important."

Children's Librarian Michelle Wright jumped in between stories to lead the kids in songs.

"It's terrific to hear all the

voices of our friends back in the space," Wright said. "It's been a little boring the last few weeks."

The previous library building at 333 W. Hoover St. closed at the end of April in order to move into the new building at

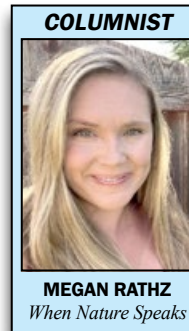
17400 Westfield Blvd. The facility on Hoover Street is now slated for renovation and future use by Westfield Washington Schools.

See Read . . . Page 3

If you've ever lost someone, you know that certain days, songs, anniversaries, stories, holidays, and milestones can evoke emotion from the deepest part of your core. Out of nowhere, something small can hit like a ton of bricks and make you realize how desperately you miss someone.

Sometimes you tell yourself that you're more healed, and then something will happen where you realize that you've moved on simply for the fact that life carries on and you don't have a choice. It's not so much that you're healed, but more so you just didn't have a choice.

There's a day we lost my dad 16 years ago. It's always a day that I take an extra deep breath when I see it coming up on the calendar. In fact, even as I write this column, I don't like seeing the date in print. It is a day that has shaped the course of my life and many others in our family. It's a day I normally just try to "power through" and draw the least amount of attention to. It's a day that 16 years later doesn't really get any easier. It's a day for 16 years I've wondered what my life would look like today if it had never happened.



COLUMNIST

MEGAN RATHZ
 When Nature Speaks

Noblesville Fire adds UAV to its fleet

See Joy . . . Page 2

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Fire Department (NFD) has added an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to its fleet. Commonly known as a drone, the UAV provides firefighters with information previously difficult or impossible to achieve.

The drone is capable of flight times exceeding 40 minutes per battery set (continuous operations by switching batteries), maximum speed over 51 mph, the ability to fly in wind speeds exceeding 33 mph, and operating between -4 to 122 degrees F. The drone is rated at IP55, so it can be flown in most of Indiana's weather, including rain, snow, and fog.

The drone records in up to 4K video from three cameras: wide-angle, 200x zoom, and thermal (infrared). Depending on the mission, the drone can also be equipped with a loud-

speaker, searchlight, or drop system capable of delivering a variety of items in an emergency (such as a flotation device).

The pilots all possess FAA Remote Pilot licenses ("Part 107"). The drone can be used to provide information on large structures before an incident, quickly identifying the location of a fire from above, search and rescue, structural collapse, water rescue, HAZMAT, fire investigation, and technical rescue. Not only is this information available to the incident commander on scene, but it can also be streamed to a command post off-site to provide more comprehensive situational awareness within seconds of arrival.

The drone will act as a force multiplier for firefighters, allowing them to quickly make better informed decisions to serve our community while increasing firefighter safety. Previously,



Photo provided by Noblesville Fire Department

This is a photograph of a drone carrying a backpack. (This caption was generated by a robot.)

Hamilton County Fire Departments have partnered with their police departments or the Emergency Management Agency for aerial support.

NFD is thankful to be the first fire department in Hamilton County to organically have a

drone available, especially with the technology and safety it will bring to the community. The drone program is an extremely cost-effective way to provide resources previously only available to the largest cities in the United States.

Hamilton County lawmakers: students can now apply for \$5K work-based learning scholarships

The REPORTER

Local lawmakers encourage high school students who want to pursue work-based learning and credentials to apply for a Career Scholarship Account.

"Indiana remains laser-focused on expanding work-based learning opportunities to help Hoosiers skill up for the jobs of today and the future," House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) said. "With the help of Career Scholarship Accounts, our hope is that employers will step up to make connections with students early on about training and job opportunities, which will set more young Hoosiers up for success after graduation."

State Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville), author of the law creating the scholarships, said Hoosier students in 10th, 11th and 12th grades at a state accredited public or private school can receive up to a \$5,000 state-funded scholarship to pursue apprenticeships, applied learning experiences, work-based learning and credentials attainment.

About 2,000 spots are available for the 2024-2025 school year and students can apply for a Career Scholarship Account until the Oct. 1 deadline.

"Hands-on opportunities teach young Hoosiers essential skills that prepare them for the next stages of their life," Goodrich said. "This scholarship



Huston



Goodrich



Jeter



Schaibley



Torr

can help our students discover a pathway to success, whether that's entering the workforce upon graduation, pursuing additional training or attending college."

State Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers) said accounts are available to high school students who are enrolled in a course or educational experience approved by the Indiana Department of Education. Eligible students will participate in joint career and technical education, modern youth apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships or an Indiana College Core program by an approved CSA participating entity.

"Career Scholarship Accounts are really a gamechanger for students," Jeter said. "They'll have more access to outside learning opportunities can help them identify their interests and start building skills so they can hit the ground running after graduating from high school."

Approved students will receive \$5,000 over four disburse-

ments and can use the money toward certain qualified expenses:

- Class expenses for student's apprenticeships/internship program
- Postsecondary education and/or training
- Equipment for student's apprenticeship/internship program
- Certification and credentialing examinations
- Career coaching and navigation services
- Driver's license
- Transportation

According to State Rep. Donna Schaibley (R-Carmel), courses and classes include a variety of topics like accounting, carpentry, cybersecurity, information technology, software development and veterinary science. A full list of approved courses, educational experiences, and participating entities can be found at in.gov/tos/csa.

"Whether students are planning to enroll in college or enter the workforce, the training made possible through Career Scholarship Accounts can help

set them up for a bright future," Schaibley said. "I encourage all students who are eligible to apply today."

"By removing financial barriers to hands-on, work-based learning experiences and training, students can learn more about possible career paths and expand their skills," State Rep. Jerry Torr (R-Carmel) said. "These scholarships will open up opportunities for more students, especially those who often face financial hurdles, when pursuing experiences outside the classroom like internships and apprenticeships."

To learn more about Career Scholarship Accounts and enroll before the Oct. 1 deadline, visit in.gov/tos/csa, email CSA@tos.in.gov, or call (317) 232-0723.

Local employers, trade associations, labor unions and others interested in connecting with the next generation of talent can apply to host a CSA program or be a provider. Visit in.gov/tos/csa and click on "provider resources" for more information.

Third duck's the charm

The REPORTER

Noblesville Main Street's "Pay It Forward" program is now in its third year, and one local business raced rubber ducks to the tune of \$2,000 in charitable donations.



In Pay It Forward, local businesses buy sets of 100 rubber duck race tickets and name a local nonprofit to get the prize money if any of their ducks win. Noblesville Main Street is a nonprofit, so this program allows businesses to potentially support two charitable organizations at once.

This year, Sease, Gerig & Associates won first and third place, giving a total of \$1,500 in prize money to Serve Noblesville. Sease, Gerig & Associates gave Noblesville Main Street \$500 for duck race tickets, bringing their total nonprofit support up to \$2,000.

Other rubber ruck racers who were paying it forward 100 ducks at a time this year were:

- Mchbx, who raced for the Indiana Peony Fest
- O.W. Krohn & Associates, who raced for The Cooper House
- Blooms of Joy, who raced for Friends of Hamilton County Extension, Inc.
- Johnston & Company CPA, who raced for Nickel Plate Express
- Church Church Hittle + Antrim, who raced for Noblesville Schools Education Foundation
- Lacy Arts Building, who raced for The Lions Club

Congratulations go out to Sease, Gerig & Associates for double-dipping on donations!

Work begins at SR 37 & 141st Street in Fishers

The REPORTER

The City of Fishers has announced that on or after Wednesday, June 5, preliminary construction work will begin at State Road 37 and 141st Street. During this time, pavement markings and concrete barriers will be placed.

There will be no closures during this phase, only intermittent lane restrictions during the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Find construction updates at and project information below or at 37thrives.com and follow [DriveFishers on X](https://twitter.com/DriveFishers) as work progresses.

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 www.basilewestfieldplayhouse.org

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1st ON MAIN opens in Carmel



Rendering provided by City of Carmel

Today, June 5, from 1 to 2 p.m., Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam will join Lauth Development for the dedication and opening of 1st ON MAIN. The new mixed-use development is on the site of the first plotted land in Carmel. The goal of the project was to redevelop the corner of Main Street and Range Line Road with a mixed-use development that would enhance and anchor the main crossroads of the Arts & Design District. At the center of this project is a new Seward Johnson sculpture that will add to the city's extensive collection from the artist. Parking is available in the 1st ON MAIN parking garage or on the street.

JOY

from Page 1



Photo provided by Megan Rathz

This year, however, on the same dreaded day, my sister told me that my sweet nephew's Baptism was going to take place. My immediate thought when hearing this was: why would you pick such an awful day for such a beautiful event?

As the day drew closer, we also got the joyous news that my nephew's adoption finalization date also happened to be that same week. This Baptism was not just a celebration of new life, but also the bookend to a very long journey for our entire family with the adoption process. It was a day we all prayed for and longed to celebrate.

As the day approached, I was flooded with so many emotions. It happened to take place during a very emotional week as we also had the funeral of a loved one, which turned into a joyful reunion with people I love and care about from my childhood. There was peace made that I did not realize how badly my heart needed.

Standing at the Baptismal font and watching this perfect little baby be celebrated and given a new life in Jesus saved me all over again. The same waters that gave my nephew new life also cleansed my soul and helped me heal. He saved me from constantly having to dread a stupid date on the calendar and gave me joy and a reason to smile on a day that I wish didn't exist.

I was talking to someone that week after sharing how emotional the week was who said, "All joy is a bit bitter-sweet when someone is missing." That statement really struck me because it's just so true. The happiest events are always a little sad just because someone I love so much who should be here is not. Instead of running from it, I think just acknowledging that life is bittersweet, and if I didn't love him so much, I wouldn't struggle so much in his absence.

Of course, I will always remember what happened that day and the way it changed the trajectory of my life, but it is no longer just a day of sadness; it is one of new life, fresh starts, healing, reconciliation, and a cleansing of my heart as my Godson was placed in the waters of new life.

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

HAMILTON COUNTY Veterans Resource Fair
 CORP

JULY 20, 2024 From 11am till 3pm
 NOBLESVILLE SCHOOLS COMMUNITY CENTER • 1775 FIELD DR. NOBLESVILLE, IN

The Hamilton County Veterans Corp is hosting a county wide Resource Fair again in 2024! We hope to reach as many of our Military/Veteran population as possible and to encourage our whole community to stop in and see what we are doing in Hamilton County. The more we know about the resources readily available to address all our issues and needs, the more connected and stronger we will be as a community of friends helping friends/Veterans Serving Veterans.

At this fair we will have over 85 resource tables there for you to get the assistance you need for the following topics and so much more from several local, regional and national providers:

VA Benefits	City Health	Insurance	Education
VA Hospital	Mental Health	Retirement	Suicide Prevention
CVSO's	Housing	Legal	Family Programs
County/City Health	Dental Health	Financial Help	HVAF
IDVA	Employment	Homeless	Faith Based

Tell all your friends and neighbors about this great Resource Fair that is for all of us here in Hamilton County, Indiana.

Bring a neighbor, bring a friend, bring a Veteran!!!!

DONATE WEBSITE

Don't just ride the rails ... Bike them!

Forest Park Rail Adventure
 An 8-mile round trip rail bike ride starting at Hobbs Station in Forest Park.

White River Family Cruise
 Enjoy this short, scenic rail bike ride from Hobbs Station in Forest Park.

NickelPlateExpress.com/railbike-rides

Rarely was an opening this grand



Photos provided

The new Westfield Washington Public Library opened to much fanfare last Saturday. The festivities began with a ribbon cutting in the atrium, followed by the kickoff of the “Adventures Begin in Your Library” summer reading program. The 43,000 square-foot library, now located at 17400 Westfield Blvd., is sure to serve everyone in the Westfield and Washington Township communities for decades to come.

READ

from Page 1

Not only did Saturday, June 1 mark the grand opening of the new library building, it also served as the start of the eight-week summer reading program.

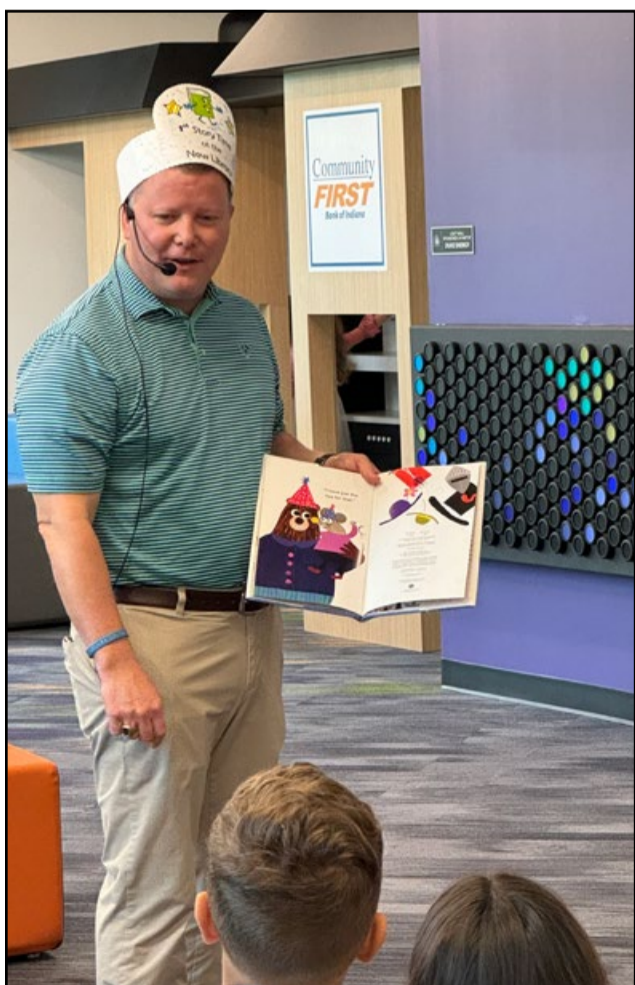
Following Story Time, Willis passed out “Junior Mayor” stickers, and library staff opened the doors on the area set aside for crafts so that the children could create their very own hats like Willis wore.

“We love Story Time,” Westfield resident Sara Anderson said. “I love the

way it’s books and songs and crafts. It’s perfect. And now I’m excited to see what they will do with the larger space.”

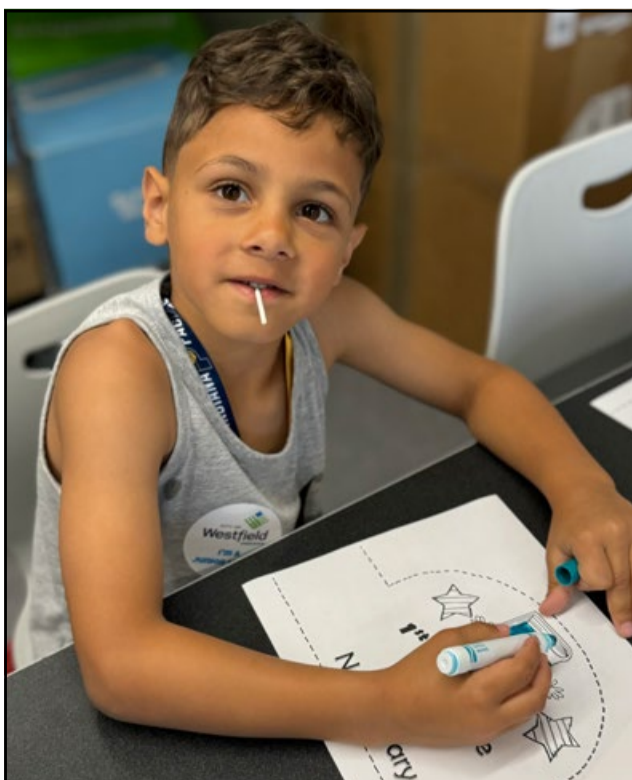
Jeff Owens was also on hand with Kasey and Karmel from the Kasey the Fire and Life Safety Dog educational program for some hands-on pats and cuddles from the kids.

Register for library events and find out more about the summer reading program at wwpl.lib.in.us.



Reporter photos by Amy Adams

(ABOVE) Mayor Scott Willis reads *A Good Day for a Hat* by T. Nat Fuller. (TOP RIGHT) Kasey the Fire and Life Safety Dog is always a calming presence. (RIGHT) Elias Espinosa colors his own “First Story Time at the New Library” hat. (FAR RIGHT) Natalie (left) and Lucy Anderson are excited about Story Time.





Photos provided

(ABOVE LEFT) Members of Troop 222 came to support their first Eagle Scout in her Court of Honor. Abby began her scouting journey in 2019 in Troop 219, when she lived in Zionsville, and joined Troop 222 in 2023 after a move. (ABOVE RIGHT) Catherine, Eagle Scout from Troop 219, replaces Abby's scout neckerchief with an Eagle Scout neckerchief, while Troop 222 Senior Patrol Leader Ellador, Troop 219 Eagle Scout Alison, and Caroline from Troop 1610 in Indianapolis look on.

Noblesville Scout Troop celebrates first Eagle

Submitted by Kris Julis

Noblesville Scouting America (BSA) Troop 222 for Girls awarded Abigail Vance, 17, Carmel, her Eagle Scout rank Saturday, June 1, at a Court of Honor at Cool Creek Park.

Abby, an incoming senior at Carmel High School, achieved the highest rank in Scouting America with her Board of Review in January. Her Eagle Scout project involved garden renovations at Janus Developmental Services in Noblesville. She built new raised planting beds and replaced the bricks surrounding garden beds at the facility on Westfield Road.

Troop 222 is Noblesville's only female BSA troop, founded in February of 2022 at Bethel Lutheran Church, 20650 Cumberland Road. Scouting America, the new name for Boy Scouts of America's youth programs, began admitting girls in 2019. In order to earn the rank of Eagle, Scouts participate in outdoor activities, earn merit badges, and assume leadership roles in their troop. Each scouting rank leads the scout through the process of learning and then leading other scouts.

Abby was a founding member of Troop 219 in Zionsville and joined Troop 222 in Noblesville in 2023. As a member of Troop 222, Abby served as the Senior Patrol Leader, the highest youth position in the troop. Abby is National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) trained and is a member of Order of the Arrow (OA). She was a member of the Crossroads of America Council contingent to the National Scout Jam-



Photos provided

(TOP LEFT) Abby Vance (center) thanks Stephen Herlt (right) and John Wiebke (left) for helping her get her start in scouting with Troop 219 in Zionsville. Abby achieved Eagle Scout with Troop 222 in Noblesville. (TOP RIGHT) The Vance family – Russell, Kendall, Kristen, Abby, and Ledger – gather for a family photo. All the family members are involved in scouting; Ledger is a member of Troop 183, and Abby and Kendall are in Troop 222. Their parents serve as leaders in both troops. (ABOVE LEFT) Troop 222 Scoutmaster Jenny Sherrill and Committee Chair Stuart Hilbert presented the Troop Eagle plaque at Abby's Court of Honor. This plaque will be on display at Bethel Lutheran Church, where a plaque like it celebrates the many Eagle Scouts from Troop 183, a boys' troop that Bethel also charters. (ABOVE RIGHT) Eagle Scouts from Troop 219 Ellie, Catherine, and Megan joined Abby for her Eagle Court of Honor Saturday.

boore at Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve in West Virginia in 2023 and is headed to Philmont Scout Ranch's Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS) this month. Her troop members in Troop 222 admire Abby as a leader.

"She helped us all improve," said Evelyn, a Life scout and founder of Troop 222. "She brought a fun, loving spirit – a lot of experience and amazing First Aid skills."

"She's very serious but also very silly," said Robbin, Tenderfoot scout.

Assistant Scoutmaster Annie Hilbert agreed that Abby made a difference in

the troop. "It was really special to have someone experienced and grounded," she said.

"She was the introduction we had to OA," Meg Pulfer, parent of one of Troop 222's newest inductees into the Order of the Arrow, added.

At her Court of Honor

Saturday, Abby recognized her parents and grandparents for their support. Zane, Troop 101 of Noblesville, opened the program, and Catherine, Troop 219 of Zionsville, served as emcee. She recognized her first Scoutmaster, John Wiebke, and Stephen Herlt, with mentor pins for starting her

on her journey.

After her trip to Philmont this summer, Abby will join other OA members at the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) in Denver before starting her senior year at Carmel High School. She serves Troop 222 as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

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Support kids literacy by eating chicken with Cicero Kiwanis

The REPORTER

This weekend, the Cicero Kiwanis Club will hold its annual BBQ Chicken Dinner, a community event dedicated to supporting the club's literacy initiatives. This year's event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 8 in the United Family Church parking lot, 210 Washington Ave., Cicero.

Community members are invited to enjoy great food and support a worthy cause. All proceeds from the event will directly benefit the Cicero Kiwanis Club's literacy programs, including Books For A Bright Future which aims to enhance reading skills and foster a love of learning among elementary school children and the annual scholarship program that provides financial assistance to graduating seniors.

"The Annual BBQ Chicken Dinner is one of our most popular events," Club President Todd Clevenger said. "It's a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together, enjoy delicious food, and make a significant impact on children's literacy. Every ticket purchased helps provide books and scholarships to students within our communities."

The "to go" dinners are \$14 each and include half a chicken, baked beans, coleslaw and a bottle of water. People are encouraged to



Cicero Kiwanis member Al Wilson mans the grill during the club's event last year.

get their presale tickets from any Cicero Kiwanis Club member, club members will be selling them now until Friday, June 7. Any tickets not sold prior to the event will be available to drive-ups on a first-come, first-serve bases the day of the event.

Take the day off from

CICERO
Kiwanis
SERVING THE CHILDREN

cooking, enjoy the tastiest chicken to go and help change the lives children within local communities.



Photo courtesy Hamilton County Tourism / Brian McGuckin

Tenderloin Tuesdays back for 15th year of tastiness

Tourism & Community Foundation partner for matching donation to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank

The REPORTER

The Tenderloin Tuesdays promotion returns to Hamilton County from June 25 to July 30 for its 15th summer.

This year, the annual celebration of the Hoosier favorite pork tenderloin will give back by supporting those in the community facing food insecurity. Hamilton County Tourism has partnered with the Hamilton County Community Foundation to sponsor a matching donation to the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank, which assists people in need through local food pantry distribution.

More than 40 local restaurants will participate in Tenderloin Tuesdays in 2024. Restaurants include returning favorites like Dooley O'Toole's and Muldoon's and newcomers like King Jugg Brewing Com-

pany and The Piper. The promotion will also include unique tenderloin offerings like Crafter's tenderloin pizza and Rosie's pork tenderloin benny.

Customers must have a smartphone to redeem the Tenderloin Tuesdays offers at participating restaurants. Visit [TenderloinTuesday.com](https://www.tenderlointuesday.com) and enter your name and email address and a link to the mobile passport will be texted to you. Save it to your smartphone home screen or bookmark the link for easy access. When visiting a participating restaurant, simply present your phone to a staff member to redeem the available discount.

After four redemptions, participants will be eligible to receive a commemorative T-shirt, while supplies last.

For more information, visit [TenderloinTuesday.com](https://www.tenderlointuesday.com).



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Military Academy Nominations

High school students in our district may contact my office to request a nomination to attend one of our nation's service academies.



US Capitol and White House Tour Requests

My office can help arrange tours throughout our nation's capital.

West District Office: (317) 848-0201

East District Office: (765) 639-0671

www.spartz.house.gov

Coollest of all possible Creek concerts

It was a beautiful evening for the first concert of the 30th concert season at Cool Creek Park last Friday. Renowned cover band Mike and Joe charmed the audience of approximately 1,200 spectators with music from a variety of artists such as "Chicken Fried" by Zac Brown Band and "Take It Easy" by The Eagles. Hamilton County Parks thanks the sponsors for the Cool Creek Summer Concert series: Title Sponsor Napleton Automotive Group, IU Health, Ashlin Hadden Insurance, The National Bank of Indianapolis, Renewal By Andersen, Compass Realty - Stacey Sobczak, Sobczak Construction Services, Community First Bank of Indiana, Keeler-Webb, Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc., Coxhall Guild, and Helium SEO. (Photos provided by Hamilton County Parks & Recreation)




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Thanks to these supporting sponsors



Cool Creek Park | 2000 E. 151st St., Carmel/Westfield



See you
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parks!



MyHamiltonCountyParks.com 317.770.4400

Hamilton County Councilman Mark Hall's May Timesheet

Welcome to the Timesheet. This column is a report of work done on behalf of the people of Hamilton County. It's to be informative, too – a place to learn about projects and how our county government works.



meeting, meeting with the firm recruiting our next Director of Tourism, and attending a Cicero Town council meeting.

This month, along with other RDC members, consultants, and county officials, I participated in the vendor interview and selection process for the Police & Fire Training Center project.

It was pretty much as you'd expect: study their proposals, analyze their answers to written questions we'd sent them, check their references on similar projects, and then I spent time checking their reputations by speaking with some of my friends that had prior business relationships with the finalists. Each company had 45 minutes to make their pitch and answer questions. Having been on the other side of the table in these things I have a certain appreciation for all the work, preparation and nervous anxiety that goes into preparing to be interviewed for a large project.

As a taxpayer, I appreciate the frank, open, back and forth discussion vetting each proposer's strengths and vulnerabilities. After the grilling of the two finalists was complete, as one of five votes awarding this RDC contract, I felt good about the discussion we had and how we arrived at a decision to award the contract. It was the first time I

had been a part of a contract award like this. Experiencing "how the sausage gets made" gives me an appreciation for what the Commissioners go through regularly in making similar award decisions. This is a \$20 million project, paid for by a county TIF district, and it was approached, vetted, and awarded with a tremendous level of fiscal prudence, detail, and oversight.

May's personnel committee meeting was moved to a poll of the members. Items included a position reclassification and two new hires in the Emergency Management Department. These changes were based on a review internally and an outside review by the county's independent benefits and compensation vendor. The Finance committee did not meet in May.

Personnel requests are voted on as they occur, first in the personnel committee and then at the next regular council meeting using a recommendation from the committee. I was a part of an in-depth county finance strategy meeting this month. Topics included public market bond financing practices, policies, and strategies to minimize interest costs to the taxpayers, future major projects financing and implementing procedures to maintain our present AAA bond rating. The presentation included an impact analysis of rising interest costs allowing the full council to better decide if we use cash or debt to

pay for projects. This month there were several taxpayer requests. In the interest of space and brevity, two constituent's requests are highlighted in this month's column. Usually, requests require research with a county department, securing the correct answer and then following up with the taxpayer.

May's first request was asking how to remonstrate against the County Utility District. Essentially, their questions boiled down to how can an individual citizen express concerns over the size of the utility district and apprehensions about being required to connect to a utility in the future. The second request, a constituent reached out, exasperated over their property taxes and their latest assessment.

A citizen needed assistance in getting their voice and concerns heard by the elected officials who control the Utility District. The resolution was twofold: first, reassurance to speak their mind to those in power, and second, when and how to do so. It may seem as though elected officials are difficult to reach, and the reality is we are, given the schedules we have, but that's the job. My encouragement was to show up, come to the public meetings (they are all published in advance on the county website), write letters and emails, and schedule meetings with elected officials. Public opinion really does matter – be heard.

One of the most frequent questions I get is "why are my property taxes what they are?" The question is often accompanied by a couple of adjectives. The resolution is almost always the same process. Have you appealed your assessment? Did you know that you can appeal it? Next, have you received all the deductions that you qualify for? In this case, meeting with members of the Assessors and Auditors team was the resolution to their question.

I showed the constituent that because they live in the Noblesville City tax district, 47 percent of their property tax bill goes directly to the schools, 41 percent goes to City Government, 10 percent to County Government, and the remainder to the Libraries and Solid Waste.

During the RDC bid process I began asking vendors to provide a cost saving estimate if the county implemented an owner-controlled insurance program, commonly referred to as OCIP. During May, we learned that the county may qualify for such a program. If so, this could represent a savings for the taxpayers in that it allows the county to better manage certain risks and costs for vendors under a standardized larger county insurance risk program.

Bringing cost savings like this and paying attention to details on spending is what I ran for office on. It's why you hired me to do this work and I'm happy to re-

port back to you about what is going on.

This month, it was an honor to represent you at the Gaylor Electric National Headquarters grand opening, on WIBC radio, at the Noblesville Youth Assistance Shining Stars student recognition dinner, at a transitional housing planning meeting with local agency leaders, at the ABC Prep Academy signing day ceremonies, and in meetings with Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen and with State Senator Scott Baldwin.

This is my timesheet. This is where my time went during month 17. There are many projects in the queue for 2024, and while my job is primarily the financial oversight of the county budget, it is important to understand the Board of Commissioners' priorities and balance them with the stewardship of taxpayer dollars. That is the job, and I am excited to do the people's business.

As a taxpayer myself, and listening to so many of you, our employers, it's important for the taxpayers to have access to all the information you want. I work for you and although you may not choose to do a deep dive into what your County Council does, it's important that you can always do so.

Feel free to contact me at (317) 832-1104 or mark.hall@hamiltoncounty.in.gov with questions, feedback or if you would like to talk about county business.

Comptroller Nieshalla highlights Indiana's financial health

The REPORTER

Indiana State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla released her first State of Indiana's Financial Report Monday to highlight the solid fiscal standing of the state as published in the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), the official, audited record of state finances.

"Indiana's ACFR provides tangible evidence of

our state's strong financial position," Nieshalla said. "In sharing Indiana's low debt, low pension fund liability, healthy cash reserves, balanced budget, and AAA credit rating, we are reminded how good it is to be a Hoosier."

The Comptroller's Office annually produces the ACFR, which is audited by the Indiana State Board of Accounts. The ACFR pro-

vides an in-depth analysis of all state expenditures, cash flow, debt administration and other financial information.

"The State of Indiana's Financial Report offers Hoosiers a quick tool to better understand our state's economic well-being and



Nieshalla

how Indiana manages taxpayers' dollars, based on the 300 pages of reporting in the ACFR," Nieshalla said.

Highlights from the report include:

• General Fund revenue of \$21.9 billion compared to \$20.9 billion in fiscal year 2022.

• Assets (cash, investments, capital assets, etc.) exceeded liabilities (payables, pension liabilities, etc.) by \$25.6 billion.

• Total reserves are \$2.9 billion, which is 13 percent of the current budget.

• Indiana ranks seventh lowest in debt among states in the U.S. at \$366 per capita.

The State of Indiana's Financial Report is a sum-

mary of the 2023 ACFR; the current ACFR and previous years are all available electronically on the [Comptroller's website](https://www.in.gov/comptroller). Indiana's ACFR has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the last 30 consecutive years.

[Click here](#) to read the report.

Meet team members of five Carmel city departments at Meet Me on Main

The REPORTER

This Saturday, June 8 at Allied Solutions' Meet Me on Main in the Carmel Arts & Design District, you will have the chance to browse many merchants and galleries, as well as meeting members of the following city departments: Redevelopment Commission, Fire, Marketing & Community Relations, Streets, and Utilities.

Enjoy live music throughout the District and stop by the city booths in Anthony's Plaza at the corner of Main Street and Monon Boulevard to learn more about how each department serves the community. Be sure to visit the Marketing & Community Relations booth; team members will be avail-



Photo provided by City of Carmel

able to discuss the city's rebranding initiative and have fun activities planned

for all ages.

Meet Me on Main runs from 4 to 8 p.m. this Satur-

day in the Arts and Design District. Just come to Main Street and Range Line Road.

AgriVision award nominations welcomed by Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch & Dept. of Agriculture

The REPORTER

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 AgriVision Award, the highest agricultural honor presented by the State of Indiana.

This award, now in its 18th year, was established by the lieutenant governor and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to recognize Indiana's agricultural leaders who are ensuring Indiana is, and remains, a global center for food and agricultural innovation and commercialization.

The AgriVision Award is open to any Indiana resident and all sectors of the agriculture industry – from bioenergy to livestock to the agbiosciences. Any person or organization may submit a nomination through July 1, 2024.

"This award is a way to recognize those individuals who continue to push Indiana agriculture to new heights," said Indiana's Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who

serves Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "It is my honor to serve as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and to work alongside some of the best and brightest leaders in the state."

Previous AgriVision Award winners have included individuals who have made significant contributions to the agriculture industry, whether it's developing a new technology, managing an agribusiness or organization, or working to address a global issue.

"Indiana has many leaders that oversee agricultural production, business and technology across the state," ISDA Director Don Lamb said. "I look forward to honoring this year's award recipients for their leadership and commitment to Indiana agriculture in August."

Award nominations will be accepted beginning June 1 and close on July 1. To nominate an individual, you must complete a form found

on the ISDA website and email it to the department. Once a winner has been selected, the award will be presented by Lt. Gov. Crouch and ISDA Director Lamb during the Celebration of Agriculture at the 2024 Indiana State Fair.

Previous AgriVision Award winners include:

- Beth Archer and Cindy Hoye (2023)
- Gary Truitt and Dr. Karen Plaut (2022)
- Doug Leman and Dr. Robert Waltz (2021)
- Garwood Orchards and MPS Egg Farms (2020)
- Stan Poe family and Terry L. Tucker (2019)
- Jerry Seger family and

Tim and Jim Craig (2018)

- Beth Bechdol and Dr. Jay Akridge (2017)
- Dr. Bret Marsh and John Hardin (2016)
- Don Orr and Don Villwock (2015)
- Adam Moody (2014)
- Norman McCowan (2013)
- Kip Tom (2012)
- Vic Lechtenberg (2011)
- JoAnn Brouillette (2010)
- Brian Reichert and John Swisher (2009)
- Charles "Shorty" Whittington (2008)
- Lawrence "Sonny" Beck (2007)

[Click here](#) to learn more about the award.

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— CARMEL —

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CARMEL COMMON COUNCIL
CERTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL TO LEGISLATIVE BODY REGARDING NO-RECOMMENDATION ORDINANCE Z-691-24

Notice is hereby given that the Carmel City Council, meeting on **June 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in Carmel City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 1 Civic Sq., Carmel, Indiana 46032, will hold a Public Hearing upon a certification to the Legislative Body for their recommendation of Ordinance Z-691-24 as it pertains to a PUD Amendment application for approval to add the (previously known as) Cunningham parcel into the overall Jackson's Grant Village PUD. The Amendment redefines the boundaries of the Conceptual Plan Use Blocks, which will allow for three (3) additional townhome units to be constructed and add additional commercial space within the existing PUD. The property is currently zoned S-2/Residence and is within the West 116th Street Overlay.

The property address is: 501 W. 116th Street, Carmel, Indiana 46032. The rezoning request is identified as Ordinance Z-691-24.

The real estate affected by said application is described as follows: Tax Id parcel number(s) 29-09-34-000-020.000-018 and 29-09-34-000-019.000-018.

All interested persons desiring to present their views on the above application, either in writing or verbally, will be given an opportunity to be heard at the above mentioned time and place. Any person may offer verbal comments at the Public Hearing or may file written comments prior to or at the Public Hearing. The above referenced Ordinance may be examined in the Clerks Office located at 1000 S Rangeline Rd Carmel, IN 46032.

Petitioner name: Air Alchemist, represented by Ashley M. Ulbricht- Taft Law. R4445

6/5/24, 6/10/24

You're gonna need a bigger cruiser



Photos provided

Pack the Cruiser was once again a massive success this year. Last Saturday saw countless people from around the county generously donate food and money for local food banks. In Westfield, Open Doors Vice President and Director of Special Projects Carrie Larrison said the response was incredible. "We were overwhelmed by the community response on Saturday," Larrison said. "We had over 98 totes of food as well as financial donations just from the Kroger on Spring Mill." The annual effort encourages citizens to donate to help fill police cruisers with food that ultimately makes its way to all the local food banks. (TOP LEFT, from left) Open Doors volunteer Laurie Zipton, Rory Gentry of the Westfield Police Department, Open Doors Vice President and Director of Special Projects Carrie Larrison, and Westfield Mayor Scott Willis. (LEFT) Rory Gentry and Billy Adams of the Westfield Police Department.

Hear who's welcome in Westfield at next Young Professionals coffee

The REPORTER

Join the Westfield Young Professionals from 8 to 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11 at the Hampton Inn Westfield, 17400 Wheeler Road, for a networking event featuring the Westfield Welcome team.

Westfield Welcome is the city's community event and hospitality organization. The organization holds over 35 events every year and provides hundreds of volunteer opportunities within the community. The Westfield Welcome team recently adopted the Farmers Market, and this summer is the organization's first time managing that event.

Westfield Welcome also collaborates with Colts Training Camp to provide event volunteers, as well as spearheading a new resident program which provides

new folks in the community with resources and a point of contact after moving to Westfield.



The team consists of one Hospitality Coordinator, Logan Charlesworth; three Event Coordinators, Molly O'Connor, Laura Engledow, and Kristen Mix; one Westfield Welcome Manager, Kelley Wells; and Director of Facilities and Events, Matt Deck. Together, they deliver unique and family-friendly events and opportunities for residents and visitors.

Register now and bring your coworkers for the May Young Professionals Coffee & Networking Event. Don't miss out on your chance to network with these professionals and gain valuable insight into this prestigious program.

GSN's Resource & Health Fair set for June 14

Submitted By Jim McGee

The Good Samaritan Network (GSN) of Hamilton County has announced the return of the free public event, the Hamilton County Resource & Health Fair, from noon to 4 p.m. on June 14 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville.

This free event is available to the public to promote a stronger and more informed Hamilton County.

The Resource & Health Fair will host over 100 booth spaces representing numerous food, clothing, baby pantries, and social service agencies, as well as nonprofits, for-profits, local organizations, businesses, and professionals who can provide programs and services as resources to support and improve the well-being and quality of life for Hamilton County families.

Various exhibitors will provide educational information, health resources, and free items for those visiting different booths. Door prizes will be drawn by those

who complete a survey.

Information for registering as an exhibitor/vendor can be completed online at gsnlive.org/resourcefair.

Nonprofits can participate for free, while for-profit exhibitors require a minimal registration fee. All exhibitors (nonprofits and for-profit) must register by June 7. Space is limited, and early registration is recommended.

"The Resource Fair is a remarkable FREE event for central Indiana!" GSN Founder/Executive Director Nancy Chance said. "Our vendors and exhibitors bring their extensive resources and expertise to one convenient location. By attending, families will have access to a wealth of information that can help them make informed decisions and discover opportunities they might not have heard about before!"

Visitors can network with numerous nonprofits,



Chance



schools, faith-based organizations, businesses, government and social service organizations, and civic organizations, including volunteer sign-up opportunities.

This free public event is presented and coordinated by GSN. Current sponsors include Duke Energy, Good Samaritan Network, and Miller Family Insurance Agency Allstate. Visit gsnlive.org/resourcefair for sponsorship details and for an updated list.


About the Good Samaritan Network

Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on assisting the at-risk population in Hamilton County. Client referrals are received from a variety of social service agencies, churches, town-

ship trustees, food pantries, local hospitals, and government emergency agencies. GSN also works with the Hamilton County Schools, Sheriff, police, and fire departments.

Direct services include serving at-risk and underserved individuals and families within Hamilton County. Typical service streams are emergency or crisis intervention, educational resources, and support. Indirect services include the network of GSN services which was established to ensure efficiency and communication among the different agencies and social services that support and assist the at-risk and underserved residents of Hamilton County.

Learn more at gsnlive.com.



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Rokita sues unlicensed Indy real estate manager for allegedly duping investors

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has sued an Indianapolis man and associated businesses involved in schemes to defraud real estate investors – alleging that Herbert Whalen continued to engage in the management of property for investors despite lacking a real estate broker license, as required by law, and hiding prior convictions.

In addition to Whalen, others named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit are MBNS LLC; MBNS Invest LLC; and My Bricks and Sticks LLC (now dissolved).

“Our office has made it clear that when you break the law, we will hold you accountable,” Rokita said. “Real estate investors and tenants should be able to trust that their property managers have the knowledge and skills necessary to protect their investments and their homes.”

Requiring property managers to hold valid real estate broker licenses helps ensure that professionals in the field meet basic standards of

competence and ethical responsibility.

The lawsuit alleges that Whalen, following a guilty plea relating to a 2018 conspiracy to defraud real estate investors in the Oceanpointe Investments scheme, has continued his illegal activities using a series of LLCs and the fictitious name “Herb Francis.”

The 2018 guilty plea followed Whalen’s **perpetrating of a scheme** to obtain money from victim real estate investors by misrepresenting and concealing the poor condition of properties he managed as owner of a company called Oceanpointe. As part of the scam, Whalen arranged for investors to purchase dilapidated properties with the promise that after repairs and rehabilitations were completed, and tenants rented the properties, investors would receive copies of the leases and begin to receive rent payments as their return on investment.



Rokita

In reality, many Oceanpointe properties were not repaired and rehabilitated, and were not ready for occupancy. To conceal this fact from victim investors, Whalen and others directed Oceanpointe employees to draft fake leases, making it appear to investors that Oceanpointe properties were rented when, in fact, the properties remained vacant.

Investors have alleged that Whalen used a false name to conceal his identity and used various LLCs to provide property management services. None of the entities created by Whalen and his recently departed wife Natalie Bastin maintain broker licenses.

Whalen’s broker license was revoked in early 2018 by the Indiana Real Estate Commission when he failed to report a series of criminal convictions and for knowingly managing a company without a broker company license.

Attorney General Rokita’s Consumer Protection Division filed this lawsuit through its Homeowner Protection Unit, which exists to protect the rights of all individuals involved in the housing market, including tenants, homeowners, and aspiring homeowners, by investigating and redressing deceptive acts in connection with mortgage lending and violations of relevant state and federal laws.

Rokita expressed gratitude to his team, including Deputy Attorney General Chase Haller, Section Chief for the Homeowner Protection Unit, for their work on this case.

The lawsuit demands a jury trial, costs of prosecution, and other damages against the defendants for multiple violations of the Home Loan Practices Act.

Hoosiers are encouraged to contact the Office of the Indiana Attorney General about any suspected scams or scam attempts. Consumers can file a complaint by visiting indianaconsumer.com or calling 1-800-382-5516.

TODAY’S BIBLE READING

MANASSEH AND EPHRAIM

Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked faithfully, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel who has delivered me from all harm—may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly on the earth.”

When Joseph saw his father placing his right hand on Ephraim’s head he was displeased; so he took hold of his father’s hand to move it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head. Joseph said to him, “No, my father, this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.”

But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He too will become a people, and he too will become great. Nevertheless, his younger brother will be greater than he, and his descendants will become a group of nations.” He blessed them that day and said,

“In your name will Israel pronounce this blessing: ‘May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.’”

So he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh. Then Israel said to Joseph, “I am about to die, but God will be with you and take you back to the land of your fathers. And to you I give one more ridge of land than to your brothers, the ridge I took from the Amorites with my sword and my bow.”

Genesis 48:15-22 (NIV)

Final defendant in trio responsible for eight armed robberies found guilty by federal jury

The REPORTER

A federal jury has found Robdarius Williams, 21, Indianapolis, guilty of interference with commerce by robbery and brandishing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence, following a one-and-a-half-day trial.

In April 2024, Quintez Tucker, 20, and D’Maurah Bryant, 21, each pled guilty to eight counts of robbery and eight counts of brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence.

According to court documents and evidence introduced at trial, from Nov. 8, 2021, through Dec. 3, 2021, Tucker and Bryant worked together to rob eight cell phone retailers around Indianapolis. During each robbery, the men brandished

firearms and pointed them at employees, demanding cash, cell phones, and accessories from the store and customers.

Williams joined in the eighth and final armed robbery as the getaway driver, stole a license plate for the vehicle, and took Tucker to pick up an AR-style rifle used in the robbery.

In total, the trio robbed eight businesses:

- Nov. 8, 2021: Verizon, Olio Rd., Fishers (Defendants: Tucker & Bryant)
- Nov. 18, 2021: T-Mobile, Southport Road, Indianapolis (Tucker & Bryant)
- Nov. 23, 2021: Verizon, Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis (Tucker & Bryant)
- Nov. 26, 2021: T-Mobile, E. 86th St., Indianapolis (Tucker & Bryant)

• Nov. 29, 2021: T-Mobile, Fox Road, Indianapolis (Tucker & Bryant)

• Dec. 1, 2021: T-Mobile, E. Stop 11 Road, Indianapolis (Tucker & Bryant)

• Dec. 1, 2021: T-Mobile, W. 38th St., Indianapolis (Tucker & Bryant)

• Dec. 3, 2021: AT&T, S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis (Tucker & Williams)

The FBI investigated this case. The Fishers Police Department, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, and the Marion County Prosecutors Office also provided valuable assistance. U.S. District Court Judge Jane Magnus-Stinson presided over the trial and will impose sentences for all three men at a later date.

U.S. Attorney Zachary

A. Myers thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeremy C. Fugate and Peter A. Blackett, who prosecuted this case.

This case was part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. The Department of Justice reinvigorated PSN in 2017 as part of the Department’s renewed focus on targeting violent criminals, directing all U.S. Attorney’s Offices to work in partnership with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, and the local community to develop effective, locally based strategies to reduce violent crime.

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.

Meeting Notices

The Noblesville Economic Development Commission will meet at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, June 7, 2024, at the Hamilton County Highway Department, 1700 S. 10th St., Noblesville. The meeting will begin with an Executive Session to discuss purchase or lease of real estate pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(D). A public session will follow immediately after the Executive Session to discuss highway projects and any other county business as needed.

The Westfield Washington Township Plat Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, June 10, 2024, has been canceled. Business items will be carried over to a future Plat Committee meeting.

The Sheridan Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 10, 2024, at the library, 103 W. 1st St., Sheridan. You also view the meeting on Google Meet at meet.google.com/nkw-ipto-yrf.

Send Meeting Notices to:
News@ReadTheReporter.com

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News@ReadTheReporter.com

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ReadTheReporter.com

Publisher Stu Clampitt
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Boys Golf Sectionals

Royals defend sectional championship, Golden Eagles get their first team title

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

NOBLESVILLE – The Hamilton Southeastern boys golf team successfully defended its sectional championship on Monday.

The Royals led a 1-2-3 finish of county teams at the Noblesville sectional, which took place at Harbour Trees. Southeastern totaled a team score of 292 to win the trophy and the program's sixth sectional victory.

Sophomore Mattingly Upchurch led the way for HSE. Upchurch drained five birdies and made no bogies on his way to a five under par 66. That puts him in elite company: Upchurch is now the 41st golfer to card a 66 or lower at a sectional tournament.

Everyone on the Royals team put up solid scores. Nate Benson made four birdies on his way to 74, Kai Warner had five birdies while scoring 75. Aiden Huffer added a 77, making three birdies and Jordan Huxford's 79 included two birdies.

The top three teams at the sectional advance to the regional, which takes place Thursday at The Player's Club in Yorktown. Noblesville placed second with a 301 to earn a regional spot.

Alex Peck was the Millers' low man with a 74, he made one birdie along the way. Lance Decker and Drew Werkey both scored 75, with Werkey draining two birdies. Tyler Marucci led the birdies with three during his round of 77.

Fishers placed third, taking the final regional place on a tiebreaker with Pendleton Heights. Both teams scored 315, with the Tigers

advancing on the fifth-man score.

Tommy Klinker led the Tigers with a 72, tying for second individually. Klinker had three birdies in his round. Sam Keithley made one birdie during his round of 79. Lucas Brown and Will Major both made two birdies; Brown chipped in his second birdie on the 18th hole. Carson Peters also got a birdie on the 18th hole.

Hamilton Heights placed sixth with a team score of 335. Nathan Cox led the Huskies with a 78, making four birdies. Caleb Sullivan, Kole Kirtley and Ethan Millsaps all drained one birdie.

First win for Golden Eagles

Guerin Catholic, the two-time defending state champion, did something Monday it never had before: win a sectional championship.

The Golden Eagles broke through with an outstanding performance at the Westfield sectional, which took place at Ulen Country Club in Lebanon. Guerin Catholic scored a 288 at this loaded sectional that saw the top four teams all score under 300.

Leo Wessel and Owen Nielsen both tied for third place individually with scores of 70. Wessel made three birdies during his round and Nielsen had two. Eli Wessel and Will Parenteau both carded 74s, with Parenteau draining two birdies. Gabe Berglund had four birdies in his round.

Zionsville took second as a team with 292. Westfield and Carmel both scored 298, but the Shamrocks had the lower fifth-man score, so they took third place and the last spot to advance to the regional, which takes place Friday at Coyote Crossing in West Lafayette.



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

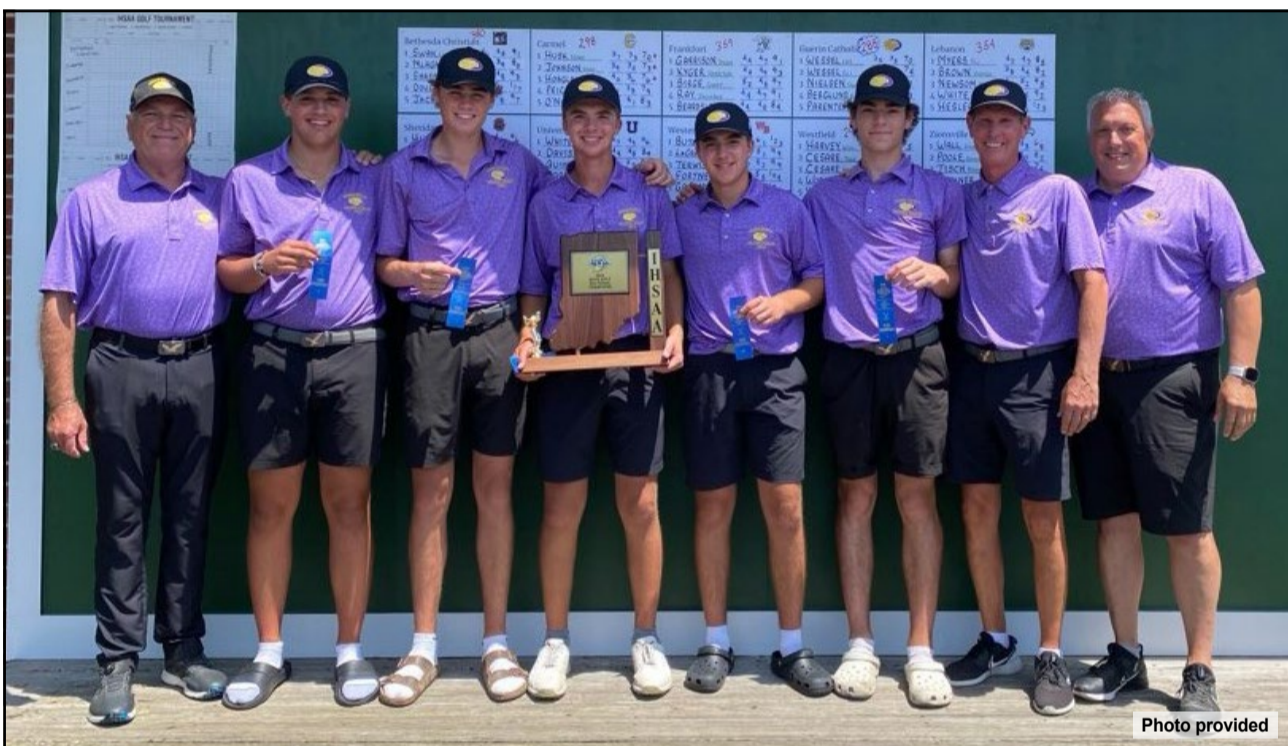


Photo provided

(TOP) The Hamilton Southeastern boys golf team defended its sectional championship Monday at Harbour Trees. The Royals scored 292 and will lead a 1-2-3 county march into the regional Thursday at The Players Club. (ABOVE) Guerin Catholic won its first-ever sectional title Monday at Ulen Country Club. The two-time defending state champion Golden Eagles totaled a 288.

The Shamrocks' Jake Cesare was the meet medalist. Both he and Zionsville's Adam Wall scored two un-

der par 68s; Cesare claimed first place in a playoff. He had two birdies in his round with no bogies.

Will Harvey and Ryan Cesare both had 75s; Harvey made four birdies and Cesare had three. Hudson

Kutchma also made one birdie.

See Golf... Page 11

Boys Lacrosse

Royals beat Greyhounds for state title

The REPORTER

A fast first half sent the Hamilton Southeastern boys lacrosse team to the Class 2A state championship.

The Royals scored seven consecutive goals during the game's first two and a half quarters on their way

to a 10-6 win over Carmel last Saturday in the 2A state finals, which took place at Westfield's Riverview Health Stadium. It's the third state title for Southeastern over the past four years, and the Royals' fourth overall.

The defending state

champion Greyhounds scored the first goal, with Ike Stittle finding the back of the net. Southeastern's Max Kemp tied the game with under 90 seconds left in the first quarter.

That was just the start. Kyle Jenkins put in back-to-back goals in the second quarter, then Henry Wans added another goal with under a minute to go, giving HSE a 4-1 lead. The Royals kept up that pace in the third quarter, with Wans, Max Kemp and Dillon O'Rourke all scoring to put Southeastern up 7-1.

Carmel pushed back during the middle of the third, throwing in three

goals to cut the lead to 7-4. Leo Prosser, Evan Coulter and Brock Rose all scored during that time. David Gould put in a goal for the Royals to finish the period and give Southeastern an 8-4 lead.

Gould scored again with 7:24 left in the fourth, which Prosser answered to keep the score 9-5. John Pauls added Southeastern's 10th goal with 4:22 left, then Prosser scored again 10 seconds later. But the Royals would hang on for the win.

Jenkins, Wans, Kemp and Gould all scored two goals for Southeastern, with Prosser scoring three for the Greyhounds.

Softball

HSE beats Penn for chance at state title

The REPORTER

After a decade, the Hamilton Southeastern softball team is back in the state finals.

The Royals punched their ticket to state after winning the weather-delayed Class 4A north semi-state Monday at Harrison. Southeastern beat defending 4A champion Penn 4-1 in the championship game to win its fourth semi-state title and advance to the 4A state championship contest on Friday.

The Royals got on the board in the first inning when Lani Wyrick got home after Addy Justice reached on error after a bunt. Southeastern added another run in the third inning; Makena Burlingame was sent home by Keira Lodes' left field single.

Justice hit an RBI single in the sixth inning, putting down a bunt to bring in Wyrick. An RBI triple gave the Kingsmen their lone run of the game in the bottom of the sixth, but the Royals answered back in the top of the seventh: Wyrick doubled in Jenna Chase for HSE's fourth run of the game.

Chase was perfect at the plate, going 4-for-4, while Wyrick went 3-for-4, also hitting a triple. Meanwhile, Grace Swedarsky was her usual dominant self in the pitching circle. She struck out 14 in a complete game effort, allowing three hits and no walks.

Southeastern is 24-4 for the season. The Royals will play New Palestine for the 4A state title at 8 p.m. Friday at Purdue University's Bittinger Stadium.

Huskies fall in semi-state

The REPORTER

The Hamilton Heights softball team fell in the semifinals of the Class 3A south semi-state at Jasper on Monday.

The Huskies lost to Tri-West 3-0 in the second game of the weather-delayed tournament. The Bruins scored all three of their runs in the second inning, while allowing the Huskies just one hit,

a double by Lily Roush in the seventh inning.

Roush, headed to IU-Indianapolis in the fall, pitched a complete game for Heights, striking out six.

The Huskies finished their season 22-8, setting a new record for season wins, including a defense of their sectional championship and their first regional title in eight years.

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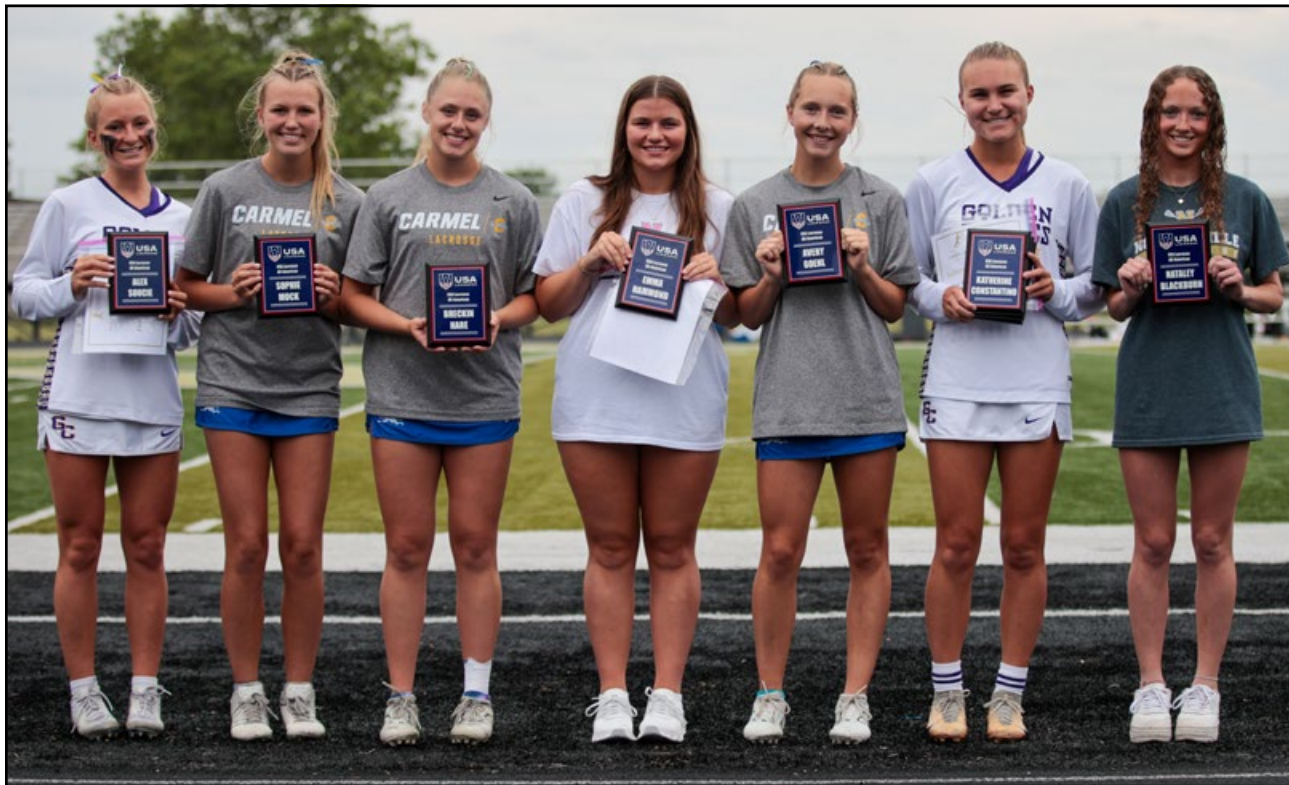


Photo by Mike Navarro

Seven Hamilton County girls lacrosse players were named USA Lacrosse All-Americans in a ceremony last Saturday at Beaver Materials Field in Noblesville. Pictured: Alex Soucie (Guerin Catholic), Sophie Mock (Carmel), Breckin Hare (Carmel), Emma Hammond (Noblesville), Avery Goehl (Carmel), Katherine Constantino (Guerin Catholic) and Nataley Blackburn (Noblesville).

Carmel makes major comeback to win state

The REPORTER

A huge comeback propelled the Carmel girls lacrosse team to a Class 2A state championship victory last Saturday.

The Greyhounds beat Guerin Catholic 10-9 in the championship game, which took place at Beaver Materials Stadium in Noblesville. This was the third consecutive year that Carmel played the Golden Eagles; Guerin Catholic had won the previous two state titles.

The Hounds' Avery

Goehl scored the first goal of the game, but the Golden Eagles took over after that, scoring five straight for a 5-1 lead at the end of the first quarter. Gabby Deer and Katherine Constantino both put in two goals and Jane Cline scored one.

Carmel's Elle Tomalia scored during the first minute of the second quarter, after which GC scored three goals for an 8-2 lead. Caroline Ford got two goals, then Cline added another to give Guerin the six-goal lead.

The Greyhounds cut that lead to 8-4 by halftime, with Breckin Hare throwing in a pair of goals. Deer began the third quarter with her third goal of the game, putting the Golden Eagles ahead 9-4.

It was all Carmel after that. Goehl and Tomalia both scored during the first part of the quarter to get the Hounds within 9-6. Then it was all Hare: she dominated the remaining quarter and a half, scoring four goals to push and keep Carmel ahead.

Hare tied the game with 7:25 left by making a long-shot goal. Just seconds later, Sophie Mock sent a pass to Hare, who scored the go-ahead goal with 7:11 to play. The Greyhounds' defense took over from there and Carmel soon had its state championship.

Hare finished the game with six goals, with Goehl and Tomalia both scoring twice. Deer totaled three goals for Guerin Catholic, followed by two each from Cline, Constantino and Ford.

Baseball

Shamrocks taking on Lake Central at Saturday's semi-state

The REPORTER

The Westfield baseball team will play the Class 4A north semi-state Saturday at Loeb Stadium in Lafayette.

The Shamrocks take on Lake Central in the first

semifinal game of the semi-state, with first pitch at 11 a.m. The second semifinal will feature Homestead playing Concord. Both winners advance to the championship game, which starts at 8 p.m.

GOLF

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Carmel advanced its three lowest scorers on to the regional as individuals. Noah Husk was part of the tie for third place by scoring 70; he made four birdies. Noah Johnson totaled a 73, including three birdies, while Ethan Hoagland carded a 76, making two birdies. Mason Price scored a 79, draining one birdie. Max O'Neil also had one birdie.

University scored a 380, while Sheridan totaled 391. Tyler Davis scored an 89 for the Trailblazers. Nathan Hinshaw and Erich Retz both had 96s for the Blackhaws, with Retz making one birdie.

AT HARBOUR TREES

Team scores: Hamilton Southeastern 292, Noblesville 301, Fishers 315 (advanced on fifth-man score), Pendleton Heights 315, Tipton 317, Hamilton Heights 335, Frankton 341, Lapel 347, Elwood 412, Alexandria 445, Anderson 478, Daleville 483.

Meet medalist: Mattlingly Upchurch (Southeastern) 34-32=66.

Other Southeastern scores: Nate Benson 37-37=74, Kai Warner 36-39=75, Aiden Huffer 39-38=77, Jordan Huxford 39-40=79.

Noblesville scores: Alex Peck 38-36=74, Lance Decker 38-37=75, Drew Werkley 35-40=75, Tyler Marucci 37-40=77, Brady Mangin 38-42=80.

Fishers scores: Tommy Klinker 34-38=72, Sam Keithley 38-41=79, Carson Peters 43-38=81, Lucas Brown 41-42=83, Will Major 45-44=89.

Heights scores: Nathan Cox 38-40=78, Caleb Sullivan 38-42=80, Kole Kirtley 42-44=86, Drew Woodruff 42-49=91, Ethan Millsaps 44-49=93.

AT ULEN COUNTRY CLUB

Team scores: Guerin Catholic 288, Zionsville 292, Westfield 298 (advanced on fifth-man score), Carmel 298, Lebanon 354, Frankfort 359, Bethesda Christian 361, University 380, Sheridan 391, Western Boone 422.

Meet medalist: Jake Cesare (Westfield) 35-33=68, won in playoff.

Guerin Catholic scores: Leo Wessel 35-35=70, Owen Nielsen 36-34=70, Eli Wessel 37-37=74, Will Parenteau 37-37=74, Gabe Berglund 42-41=83.

Other Westfield scores: Will Harvey 39-36=75, Ryan Cesare 38-37=75, Brayden Worthington 40-40=80, Hudson Kutchma 40-41=81.

Carmel scores: Noah Husk 37-33=70, Noah Johnson 39-34=73, Ethan Hoagland 40-36=76, Mason Price 41-38=79, Max O'Neil 42-41=83.

University scores: Tyler Davis 44-45=89, Emmett White 47-49=96, Ked Laborsky 49-48=97, Nick Quinto 45-53=98, Eli Barnes 58-58=116.

Sheridan scores: Nathan Hinshaw 50-46=96, Erich Retz 52-44=96, Parker Williams 51-46=97, Zach Phillips 51-51=102, Tyler Garner 56-51=107.

Girls Tennis

Two county doubles teams to compete in IHSAA tournament

The REPORTER

Two Hamilton County doubles teams will participate in this weekend's IHSAA individual doubles tournament at North Central.

Seven teams will compete in this year's event, which begins at 2 p.m. Friday with quarterfinal

matches. Guerin Catholic sophomores Katie Kolb and Anna Kolb will play the Fort Wayne Carroll team of sophomore Riley Glassley and freshman Chloe Ceresa. The winner of that match advanced to the semifinals, to play the winner of a match between the Jasper team of senior Paige Giesler and ju-

nior Reese Mundy, and the Evansville Central team of junior Sydnee Robinson and senior Zoe Robinson.

Fishers seniors Cassie Maurer and Caroline Ober received a bye into the semifinals, which take place at 10 a.m. Saturday. The Tigers play the winner of a quarterfinal match between Center

Grove seniors Ava Beecher and Lauren Dick, and the Angola team of junior Ava Harris and sophomore Maya Harris.

Semifinal winners advance to the championship match, which takes place at 2 p.m. Saturday.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 6

GOLF REGIONALS

Fishers, Hamilton Southeastern, Noblesville at The Players Club, 8 a.m.

Friday, June 7

GOLF REGIONALS

Carmel, Guerin Catholic, Westfield at Coyote Crossing, 9 a.m.

SOFTBALL

Class 4A state championship
Hamilton Southeastern vs. New Palestine, 8 p.m.

TENNIS

State doubles quarterfinals, 2 p.m. at North Central

Please email schedule changes or corrections to sports@readthereporter.com.

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Seven county players compete in Futures Games

The REPORTER

Seven Hamilton County basketball players (four boys and three girls) were among the rosters for the 2024 *IndyStar* Futures Games, which took place Monday at Hamilton Southeastern.

All three county girls competed for the South team, which won 97-84. Hamilton Southeastern had two players in the lineup: Kennedy Holman and Kayla Stidham. They were joined by Noblesville's C.C. Quigley, part of the Millers' regional championship team last season. All three just finished their sophomore seasons.

Holman scored eight points for the South team and also handed out four

assists. Stidham had seven points and Quigley added four points.

In the boys game, three county players were on the North team. Class 4A state champion Fishers had two representatives: Jason Gardner Jr. and Cooper Zachary, both of whom were freshmen during the Tigers' championship run. They were joined by Justin Curry, who just finished his sophomore year. Carmel's Evan Harrell, who also just finished his sophomore year, played for the South team.

The South team won 116-113, with Harrell scoring eight points. Gardner Jr. scored 16 points for the North team, while Zachary scored 11 and Curry had eight points.

Reporter photos by Julie Brown

(Clockwise from right) Cooper Zachary, Justin Curry, Kayla Stidham (7), Kennedy Holman, and Jason Gardner Jr.



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