

FRIDAY, AUG. 9, 2024

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



TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Mostly sunny.
 Humidity falls again.
 Tonight: Clear and cooler.



HIGH: 79 LOW: 54

Colts Camp salutes servicemembers

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

Colts Training Camp at Grand Park Sports Campus in Westfield hosted a Salute to Service Day on Wednesday, Aug. 7.

"I think anything like this is just a great opportunity to say thanks to the soldiers because they do a lot of work for us," Col. Shawn Eaken said. "They sacrifice a lot and their families sacrifice a lot, so it's a good opportunity for them to get some appreciation."

Eakins commands the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Army National Guard of Indiana. Around 30 members of the 76th IBCT were present for Colts' practice as part of the event, as well as service members from the Marines, Air Force, and Air National Guard.

In addition to those currently serving in branches of the military, local police, firefighters, and veterans were on hand at the invitation of Westfield Mayor Scott Willis.

"Being a veteran myself, I understand how important it is to recognize our veterans," Willis said. "I have an extensive veteran network, but I also put the invitation out on Facebook."

Approximately 15 to 20 military veterans enjoyed snacks, drinks, and shade with the mayor in the VIP area, in addition to police and firefighters, some of whom were also military veterans.

Eaken said that events that honor service members help keep the military in the forefront of people's minds.

"There's less than one percent of Americans who are in the military," Eaken said. "Recruitment and retention are a top priority, so we have to keep doing things to bring people on the team and keep them on the team."



(TOP) Members of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team received Colts footballs and watched practice from the sidelines. **(ABOVE LEFT)** Select service members were escorted onto the field after practice to players and get autographs. **(ABOVE RIGHT)** Mayor Scott Willis, right, expressed his appreciation to Staff Sgt. Corey Mount for his service with the Indiana National Guard.



Photo provided by Amy Shankland
Four out of five of this columnist's favorite "accessories."

Hey, I'm just accessorizing!

Wanna know the number one question uttered by middle-aged people?

"Where are my reading glasses?"

Whether you're one of the over 2 billion people in the world with a vision impairment or have somehow avoided wearing glasses or contacts all your life, these little boogers are almost a rite of passage when you approach or enter your 50s.

When I first got contacts at age 17, I was thrilled. No more "Coke bottle" glasses. I could see so much better. My little near-sighted self was happy, and life was grand.

Then came my 40s. My eye doctor said he'd adjust my prescription and that I might need to wear 1.0 or 1.25 reading glasses on occasion. No problem! I remembered my father wearing his reading glasses and eagerly embraced them for a few minutes a day.

And I've always thought that reading glasses are just so darn cute for women. You can get them in so many sassy, colorful styles. Plus, they're not thick.

I was proud that I was on the lower end of the reading glasses strength for my 40s and early 50s. I maybe had two pairs. I didn't need them often for the computer or for reading books in the evenings.

But last year, I noticed that I couldn't see as well when I was driving, especially at night. Not good. When my new eye doctor said she could change my prescription to help with that, but that I'd need my reading glasses a little more often, I once again exclaimed, "No problem!"

I was thrilled with how well I could see when I went out and about. I swore I could view each and every leaf on the trees! I drove with confidence once again.

However, she wasn't kidding. And soon, I had to have reading glasses for not just the computer and reading, but for watching TV, working in the kitchen, and dozens of other tasks.

See *Accessories* . . . Page 2



COLUMNIST

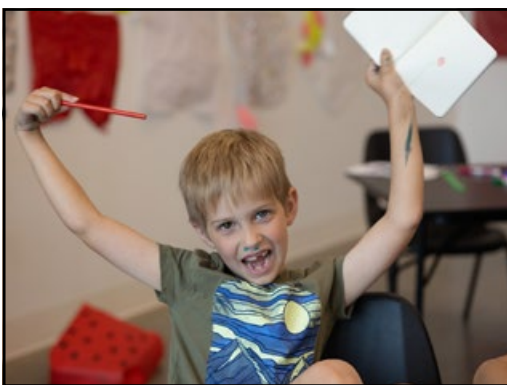
AMY SHANKLAND
Perfectly Imperfect

From drawing to digital art, Fishers Art Center announces new classes for both adults & kids

The REPORTER

This fall, the Fishers Art Center is offering more than 100 multi-week classes for adults and kids and 30 one-time "Make It Take It" workshops – all taught by professional artists from around central Indiana – at the new Fishers Art Center, located inside Fishers City Hall at 1 Municipal Drive just off 116th Street near the Nickel Plate Trail.

"If you are curious or creative, want to learn something new or build on your skills, we have something for you," said Mark Williams, president of the Art Center. "Amazing art experiences for all ages are now available, and not far from home."



Learn about what classes are available at FishersArtCenter.org. Why wait any longer?

The Fishers Art Center, a partnership between the City of Fishers and Indy Art Center, features 1,200 square feet for art exhibitions, three art studios, and a flexible theater with multiple configuration options to accommodate performances, meetings, events, and of course, classes.

See *Art Center* . . . Page 2

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation installs communication board at River Heritage Park

The REPORTER

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) has installed a communication board at River Heritage Park, 11813 River Road. Designed to be an augmentative and alternative form of communication (AAC), the communication board will enhance the park experience for non-verbal and limited language community members.

A communication board is a device that displays symbols and illustrations to help those with limited language skills express themselves more effectively. Users can point to or gesture at the images on the board to express and share their emotions and needs non-verbally.

at River Heritage Park also features a QR code. By scanning the code with your phone, individuals can take the communication board with them digitally during their visit, rather than going back and forth to the board to convey their message.

In June 2001, River Heritage Park was dedicated as "Everyone's Playground," where individuals of all abilities could play and explore. This park sparked CCPR's focus on making accessibility the standard for all parks utilizing Universal Design, which ensures spaces are intentionally designed for accessibility.

"Our hope is that the communication board at River Heritage Park will help empower individuals with communication



Photo provided by Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation

differences, allowing everyone of all abilities to participate and take joy in our community's natural spaces," CCPR Inclusion Program Instructor Kelvin Solares said.

CCPR plans to install additional communication boards in other parks in the coming year to help provide exceptional park and recreation experiences for everyone.



Get ready for Hope Fall Festival at Red Bridge Park

The REPORTER
 The Hope Family Care Clinic will hold its fourth-annual free community event called the Hope Fall Festival next month. The festival will take place from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8 at Red Bridge Park in Cicero.

Hope is a nonprofit family center offering free medical, dental, and mental health counseling in Cicero.

The festival will feature New Augusta Bluegrass Band playing bluegrass favorites and The Beatles Remix offering their versions of Beatles' classics. There will be food vendors and kids activities for everyone to enjoy. There will be drawings for gift cards from Boathouse Kitchen and Swan Dive in Cicero.

There will also be information at the festival on how you can support Hope's mission. Learn more at hope-familycare.org.

ACCESSORIES

from Page 1

Soon I was uttering that phrase “where are my reading glasses?” on more than one occasion. My husband teased me that I needed to start wearing them on one of those chains around my neck.

I refuse to do that. For now at least. Instead, I bought ... wait for it ... FIVE new pairs on Amazon. Five colorful, sassy pairs. And they're no longer on the lower end of the diopter strength. I'm a

2.0 gal (does that mean I'm a newer version of myself?)

So now there's a pair in my car ... purse ... desk ... coffee table ... and bedroom. No longer will I be pacing through the house and wracking my brain wondering where my reading glasses are.

I know you're thinking, “Why doesn't she just wear a pair all the time?” The answer, dear Readers, is vanity, pure and simple. I'm primarily a woman who

wears contacts and will dig my heels in to stay that way.

In the meantime, I'm just occasionally “accessorizing” with my colorful reading glasses and avoiding that middle-aged question for as long as possible.

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.

ART CENTER

from Page 1

Adults will find a variety of classes for beginners to advanced artists in drawing, painting, clay, digital, print making, and more.

It's also a place where parents can make art alongside their children as young as age 2 in weekend classes like “Little Big Art: Messy Art,” or in one-session drop-classes, like “Art & Stories” for 2- to 4-year-olds. There are many different class options for children ages 4 to 14, as well as more advanced options for high school art students in “Teen Institute” classes. Classes include clay, painting, drawing, character design, and even digital art for children

and teens.

Two-hour Make It Take It (MITI) classes include a “Paint Your Pet!” painting class, as well as “Clay Play Wheel” on the pottery wheel and a “Digital Art on the iPad” class.

The Fishers Art Center also offers private lessons, classes for homeschooled children, as well as one-day Fall Break Camps for children ages 6 to 14 and team-building workshops. To learn all about classes go to FishersArtCenter.org.

If you love art, but aren't ready to start creating, you can always stop by to see art. Artworks by Kurt Vonnegut featured in Bal-

FISHERS ART CENTER

derdash continues through Aug. 18. On Sept. 3, the Art Center will feature works by Austen Brantley, a sculptor from Detroit, and Susan Tennant, a sculptor based in Indianapolis, with “Interwoven.” The Art Center is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

While there is a cost for classes, exhibitions are always free to enjoy. Tuition assistance is also available for those who apply, which you can do at FishersArtCenter.org.

From the desk of Heights Supt. Dr. Derek Arrowood

COLUMNIST



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Heights Superintendent

Update No. 132

The first day of the new school year is always special, and Tuesday did not disappoint. It was an amazing day filled with lots of positive energy, joy, and enthusiasm throughout our campus. I am excited about the infinite possibilities that the new year brings to learn, grow, and succeed together.

We are pleased to share that 30 new faculty and staff have joined Heights to start or continue their career for the 2024-25 year. These new and veteran educators and staff bring with them expertise and talents to their role that will enrich and strengthen the learning environment here. I think they will be an excellent addition to our vibrant, committed, and engaging roster of faculty and staff.

Speaking of awesome staff, I am excited to share that HHSC Teacher of the Year, Emilie Carson, was selected as a Top 25 finalist for the Indiana Teacher of the Year.

Emilie, Hamilton Heights High School Agriculture Education teacher and FFA Chapter Advisor,

was among an impressive pool from around the state to make the cut. Ten from this pool went on to the final round. She is a great example of a teacher whose passion, enthusiasm, and love of her work shines bright every day. Our Ag and FFA programs continue to bloom under her leadership.

The Indiana Teacher of the Year program celebrates the teaching profession by recognizing existing teachers who excel in their field while also encouraging others to join the profession. Congratulations!

I want to give a shout out to our Marching Huskies who returned to Indiana State Fair Competition for the second year in a row to showcase their talent and potential. The composition of young student performers, many making their first appearance there, knocked it out of the park. They were there to impress, and they did just that, placing among the Top 20.

Stay tuned this group is going to continue to hit high notes ahead!

Attention Husky fans and enthusiasts ...

The Husky Fan Shop is open for all your Husky-themed spirit wear. The Husky Fan Shop, our student-run enterprise, has just what you need to show your spirit and support your favorite sport and Hamilton Heights. Items from the Husky Fan Shop are available for show and sale at every home football and basketball game now through mid-December. Items can also be ordered online [here](#).

Also, our 2024-25 All Sports Passes for Hamilton Heights Middle and High School sporting events are available. Get yours [here](#) today!

We just rolled out our new district website. The site was redesigned to offer visitors a fresh, new look and more ways to locate information and interact with the district. The website address is the same. Take a few minutes to check it out and familiarize yourself with the layout and location of information. We invite you to stay engaged, connected, and a part of the conversation on all things Hamilton Heights via our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#) (formerly Twitter), and [YouTube](#).

As we begin this new school year, I cannot adequately express how fortunate I feel to be part of such a wonderful school district and community. It is an honor for me to serve the students, parents, and the Hamilton Heights community.

On behalf of the Board of Education, administration, teachers, and staff, welcome back! It's going to be an outstanding and memorable year!

#WeAreHuskies

There are plenty of other banks out there. Frankly, they're why we started this one.

What makes us different? The answer is in our name: Community First. We're dedicated to seeing people—and entire communities—thrive. It's highly un-bank-like, but when you put people above profit, good things happen.

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Three young local bands place at Bach to Rock's national "Battle of the Bands"

The REPORTER

Bach to Rock, America's music school for students of all ages, proudly announces the winners of its Fourth Annual National Battle of the Bands competition.

Sixty-four bands competed in three divisions: elementary school, middle school, and high school, while a distinguished panel of music industry professionals selected one winner and two runners-up per category. Additionally, over 10,000 online supporters voted for their fan favorites in each category prior to the July event. All music genres were represented, from country to pop-rock and hip-hop, to classic rock.

The winners of local and regional Battle of the Bands competitions competed in the national event. The list of national winners is below, and the performances can be viewed on bachtorock.com/live.

Elementary School Division

- Winner: The RAGS Snakes – Bach to Rock, Gaithersburg, Md.
- Runner up: Black Gold Rhapsody – Bach to Rock, Tanasbourne, Ore.
- Runner up (tie): The Electrics – Bach to Rock, Mt. Juliet, Tenn., & Your Mom's Crazy Junkyard – Bach to Rock, Minnetonka, Minn.
- Fan favorite: Heads of Stone – Bach to Rock, Carmel

Middle School Division

- Winner: Fear the Hammer – Bach to Rock, Lutz, Fla.
- Runner up: Mortal Wombats – Bach to Rock, Fishers
- Runner up: Red the Trouble – Bach to Rock, Lansdowne, Va.
- Fan favorite: BOMB-FACE – Bach to Rock, Lake Mary, Fla.

High School Division

- Winner: Tabuu – Bach to Rock, Port Washington, N.Y.
 - Runner up: Lush – Bach to Rock, Fishers
 - Runner up: PHOENIX JONES – Bach to Rock, Lutz, Fla.
 - Fan favorite: PHOENIX JONES – Bach to Rock, Lutz, Fla.
- "The Battle of the Bands competition is a fun, enriching and rewarding experience," Bach to Rock President Brian Gross said. "Our students work toward the

competition all year. It's the culmination of their practice and dedication, where they showcase their talent in front of a live audience. At Bach to Rock, we teach students how to work in teams and develop their stage presence, building their confidence as they prepare for the Battle of the Bands. We focus not just on instructing kids how to play an instrument or how to sing, but also on helping them perform with confidence and poise."

Bach to Rock thanks the judges for their time and dedication in selecting the winners of the 2024 Battle of the Bands and inspiring a new generation of professional musicians:

- Elementary school judges: Sandy Gennaro, Calea Moore, and Brian Frasier Moore
- Middle school judges: Jake Silverman, Jay Milton, and Cal Saunders
- High school judges: Claudia B., Luis Espaillat, and Mort Rolleston

The **Battle of the Bands** competition is a core component of Bach to Rock's progressive music curriculum. Bach to Rock's modern approach couples individual music instruction with band instruction. This dynamic philosophy leads to regularly scheduled public performances, local Battle of the Bands competitions and recording sessions in Bach to Rock's professional sound studios.

Bach to Rock: a franchise opportunity with industry stature

Bach to Rock has earned numerous accolades including being named: an *Entrepreneur Magazine* Top 500 Franchise consecutively for the last 10 years; a top 100 Franchise for 2021 by *Franchise Gator*; a number one franchise for Children's Enrichment Programs and a Top 150 Franchise for Veterans by *Entrepreneur Magazine*; and one of the 500 Powerhouse Brands by *Franchise Times*.

To learn more about franchise ownership opportunities and veteran and franchise referral programs, contact Ralph Rillon, Vice President of Franchise Development, at 1-855-227-7570 or franchise@bachtorock.com, or visit bachtorockfranchise.com.

About Bach to Rock: Changing the Way Students Learn Music
Bach to Rock is a mod-



Photo provided

The band Mortal Wombats from Fishers is a middle-school division runner up in the 2024 Bach to Rock Battle of the Bands competition.

ern music school for students of all ages, from early childhood through high school and beyond. Bach to Rock knows learning music should be fun and students learn best when they play music they enjoy. The unique approach combines one-on-one instruction with group practice and performance. Weekly ensemble instruction and band formations lead to public concerts, Battle of the Bands and recording sessions in Bach to Rock's professional recording studios. Bach to Rock builds technique, fosters teamwork, and enhances self-esteem through private lessons, band instruction, and public performances.

Bach to Rock's **Beat Refinery** is the largest Serato certified DJ school in the United States and is one of only a handful of schools worldwide to offer the elite training developed by Serato. Serato, founded in 1999, is the premier provider of audio software to the DJ industry. The **Serato certification** ensures that select Bach to Rock DJ instructors have been trained and authorized to teach using Serato software and equipment.

Bach to Rock has instructed over 170,000 aspiring musicians since launching in 2007. The brand comprises 58 music schools, 47 of which are franchisee owned. Twenty-six of those schools are in Top Ten markets, ranked by population. Follow Bach to Rock on **Facebook** and on **Instagram**. For more information, visit bachtorock.com or call 1-877-227-8558.

Where can I find 4-H Results? Thank you for supporting 4-H'ers, Hamilton County!

ARCADIA

- Hamilton Heights Main Office of each school
- Jackson Township Office 506 W Main St.
- Town Hall 208 W Main St.

ATLANTA

- Town Hall 105 E Main St.

CARMEL

- City Hall 1 Civic Square
- First Farmers Bank & Trust 11711 N Pennsylvania St., Ste. 112
- Monon Community Center 1195 Central Park Drive West
- Visitor's Center 37 E Main St.

CICERO

- First Farmers Bank 1100 S Peru St.
- Hamilton North Library 209 W Brinton St.

FISHERS

- Fishers Arts Council 1 Municipal Drive
- Fishers High School Available to students
- Hamilton County Community Foundation 11810 Technology Drive
- Hamilton Southeastern High School Available to students

NOBLESVILLE

- 4-H Extension Office 2003 Pleasant St.
- Adler Attorneys 136 S 9th St.
- Community First Bank 17661 Village Center Drive
- Government & Judicial Center (front desk) 1 N 8th St.
- Louise Lane Design 248 N 9th St.
- Noblesville City Hall 16 S 10th St.
- Rep. Spartz's Office 5540 Pebble Village Lane

SHERIDAN

- Sheridan Community Schools Main Office of each school
- Town Hall 506 S Main St.

STRAWTOWN

- Taylor Center of Natural History 12308 Strawtown Ave.

WESTFIELD

- Community First Bank 381 S Junction Crossing
- Community First Bank 707 E State Road 32
- Cool Creek Nature Center 2000-1 E 151st St.
- CrossRoads Church 19201 Grassy Branch Road
- Farmers Market 225 S Union St.
- The Farmers Bank 17370 Farmers Bank Way
- Westfield High School Available to students

Pick up your free copies now!

Get advance tickets for Showcase & Taste of Westfield

The REPORTER

The second annual Showcase & Taste of Westfield will take place from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 3 at Grand Park.

Discover the best Westfield has to offer in one place. Exhibitors include food and beverage establishments, healthcare and service providers, legal

professionals, entertainment venues, contractors, and more. Food and beverage establishments including restaurants, caterers, wineries, and breweries are encouraged to provide menu tastings and samples.

Click [here](#) to purchase tickets. Advance tickets are \$7; \$10 at the door.



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Grand Junction Plaza

THE INDIGOS

visit westfieldwelcome.com for more info

Thank you to these supporters of 4-H & "Meating the Need"



The Hamilton County Reporter thanks these advertisers, supporters, and friends for their help in bringing our readers comprehensive 4-H results this year. With their generous support, The Reporter once again set the record with the largest ever donation to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank's "Meating the Need" program, which purchases meat processed from local 4-H'ers livestock after the conclusion of the fair.

- ADLER Attorneys at Law
- American Bank of Freedom
- Atlanta New Earth Festival
- Beck's Hybrids
- Breathe Easy Hamilton County
- Chris Hartig for Indiana
- Cicero Friends of the Park
- Cicero & Harbour Markets
- Community First Bank
- Congresswoman Victoria Spartz
- CrossRoads Church at Westfield
- Dani Robinson (FC Tucker)
- Duke Energy
- Feeding Team
- First Farmers Bank & Trust
- Fishers Arts Council
- Gaylor Electric, Inc.
- Hamilton County Farm Bureau, Inc.
- Hamilton County Parks & Recreation
- Hamilton Co. Professional Fire Fighters Local 4416
- Hamilton County TV
- Jackson Township Trustee's Office
- Lights Over Morse Lake
- Main Street Productions
- Nickel Plate Express
- Noblesville Lions Club
- Prevail Inc.
- Randall & Roberts Funeral Home
- Smiths Painting Co.
- Suzanne Thomas for School Board
- Suzanne Thomas Realty
- Westfield Lions Club



Carmel's own Casey Collins interns for Senator Todd Young

The REPORTER

U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) recognizes Hoosier students who participated in the second session of his summer internship program in Washington, D.C. The students assisted with daily activities and special projects related to legislation, communications, and constituent services.

The intern class included Cael McCullum, a sophomore from Newburgh attending Yale University; Nathan Mock, a junior from Clinton attending the University of Chicago; Kennedy Ebner, a senior attending Indiana University; Carson Tranter, a first-year law student from Fort Wayne attending Indiana University McKinney School of Law; Marley White, a junior from Marion attending Purdue University; Casey Collins, a senior from Carmel attending King's College London; and Nolan Hemminger-Jones, a student from Greenfield attending graduate school at Indiana University.

Senator Young's office offers internship opportunities year-round, in both his Washington, D.C. and Indiana offices. The internship program offers students the opportunity to experience the legislative branch of government and serve Hoosiers.

Students interested in applying can visit Senator Young's [internship webpage](#) or call (202) 224-5623 to learn more.

Senator Young [released a video](#) to provide more information about the internship program.



Photo provided

Casey Collins (front row, second from right), a senior from Carmel attending King's College London, took part in the D.C. summer internship program with U.S. Senator Todd Young.

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Family Promise of Hamilton County names new executive director

Submitted

Nancy Ramsey, the first Executive Director of Family Promise of Hamilton County (FPoHC), has retired, and Alicia Klingerman has been announced as the new Executive Director. Ramsey moved into a consultation role on Aug. 1 and will mentor the new Executive Director throughout a one-month transition

period. She was the first person hired into the FPoHC affiliate. She has used her passion for the community, contacts, and mission to grow the organization to what it is today. "I've been truly blessed



and it's been an honor serving the community with Family Promise of Hamilton County," Ramsey said. "Since moving here as a little girl, I have loved

wealth of experience and passion to Family Promise, having previously held key leadership roles at the Department of Child Services and Family Development Services (Head Start). With dynamic experience in community outreach and program development, she is poised to drive impactful change and strengthen FPoHC's efforts to provide vital services and support to families in need.

Hamilton County and enjoyed sharing my love and passion through my work. Many thanks to all of the volunteers, staff members, and board members that I've had the pleasure of working with. I will take many great memories of the families we've helped with housing needs over the years and will continue to advocate for them ... 'because every child deserves a home'"

Jennifer Novello, Board President, praised Ramsey's leadership and service.

"In Nancy's six years of inspirational leadership she is leaving our organization in an incredibly strong and stable position," Novello said. "She has used her influence to shift the conversation regarding housing sustainability and has generously shared her wisdom and insights with us all."

With Ramsey's retirement, FPoHC has announced the appointment of Alicia Klingerman as its new Executive Director as of Aug. 1. This pivotal appointment marks a significant step forward in the organization's mission to support families and children experiencing homelessness in the community. Klingerman brings a

"I am extremely honored to be Nancy's successor as the Executive Director at Family Promise of Hamilton County," Klingerman said. "As a Noblesville native, it is my privilege to serve my hometown and county. We will continue to serve families through our mission because we believe ... every child deserves a home!"

"We are incredibly excited to welcome Alicia to the Family Promise family," Novello said. "Her impressive background and deep commitment to addressing homelessness and supporting families align perfectly with our mission. We believe Alicia will lead us into a new era of growth and success."

Family Promise of Hamilton County extends its heartfelt thanks to the community for its ongoing support and partnership during this transition. Thank you to Nancy Ramsey for her many years of dedication, and everyone at FPoHC looks forward to the new opportunities that Alicia Klingerman will bring to the organization.

Carmel, Indiana

PUBLIC SAFETY DAY 2024

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

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Come see a large variety of equipment - big and small! Let your kids explore it all!
- Demonstrations to Watch**
Come witness how police officers and firefighters prepare for everyday shift work.
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Thanks for reading the Hamilton County Reporter!

Noblesville's Joseph Jackson graduates from U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

Submitted by USMMA Alumni Association & Foundation, Inc.

Joseph Bartrum Jackson of Noblesville recently graduated magna cum laude from the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) at Kings Point, N.Y.

Jackson earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission in the U.S. armed forces. He also earned a Merchant Marine officer license, qualifying him to serve as an officer on any ship in the U.S. flag merchant marine.

The USMMA is one of five U.S. federal service academies. It educates and graduates licensed Merchant Marine officers to serve the nation during

peace and war. In addition to the rigorous academic and physical requirements for admission, applicants must be nominated by their Congressman or Senator.

All USMMA graduates incur an obligation to serve the United States. The U.S. Flag Merchant Marine – manned exclusively by American mariners – is essential for securing the country's commerce in peacetime and delivering warfighters, weapons, and military supplies in times of conflict. The majority of "Kings Pointers" serve for eight years as Navy reservists in the Strategic Sealift Officer Program while working aboard U.S. flag vessels; others will serve on active duty in the nation's

armed forces.

By virtue of their elite training and real-world experience, graduates are ready to go on day one in service of American military strength and economic power. As part of his four-year education, Jackson spent one year training as a cadet aboard ocean going vessels.

The Academy welcomed White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan as the commencement speaker.

"You have much to be proud of, and the path you have chosen is tremendously honorable," Sullivan said to the graduates. "As soon-to-be ensigns and second lieutenants, assistant engineers, and third mates,

you will crew ships that are essential to our nation's security. You'll spend a large part of your life at sea so that your fellow Americans can live safely at home."

This year marks the 50th anniversary of women entering USMMA, making it the first federal service academy to admit women. In honor of this celebration, Rear Admiral Dianna Wolfson (USMMA class of '96) delivered the distinguished alumna speech.

Dedicated during WWII, USMMA has since served the nation in both peace and war. Learn more at WeAreTheUSMMA.com.

For more information about the Academy, visit usmma.edu.

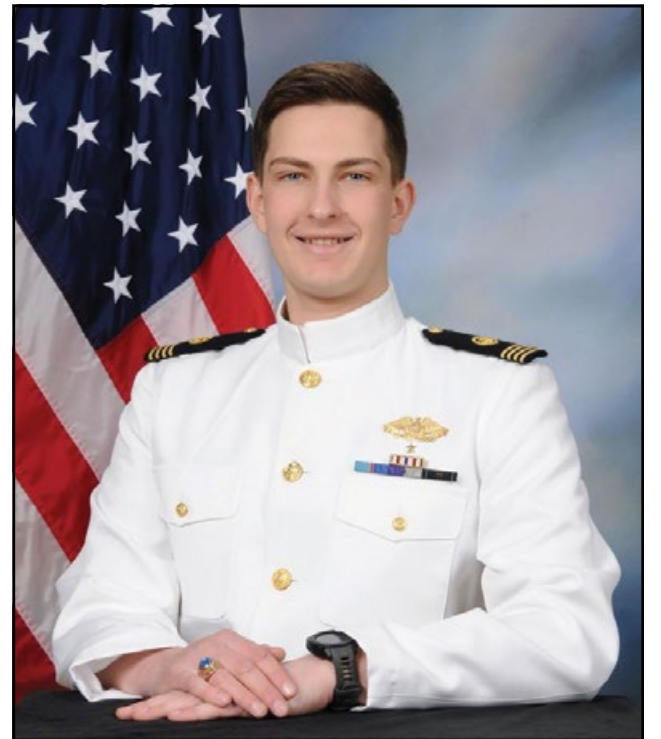


Photo provided

Pulling a Boeing 757 to raise money for a worthy cause ...

Independence Village of Zionsville West to participate in 2024 Plane Pull Challenge to support Special Olympics Indiana

The REPORTER

Independence Village of Zionsville West is participating in the 2024 Plane Pull Challenge hosted by Special Olympics Indiana. The event will take place at the Indianapolis International Airport Postal Hub on Saturday, Aug. 10.

Event Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. – Opening ceremony
- 9 a.m. – Competition begins
- 11 a.m. – Halftime ceremony
- 11:30 a.m. – Kids Pull
- Noon – Competition resumes

The senior living community is honored to support Special Olympics Indiana by participating in the Plane Pull Challenge. The team, comprised of staff and residents, is preparing to pull a FedEx Boeing 757 aircraft, which weighs over 164,000 pounds, a distance of 12 feet. Their goal is to achieve the fastest overall time and actively **raise funds** and awareness for Special Olympics athletes across Indiana in the weeks leading up to the event.

The **Plane Pull Challenge** is an exciting and unique fundraising event

where teams of up to 20 people pull a FedEx Boeing 757 aircraft. All funds raised through the Plane Pull Challenge support the Special Olympics Indiana. The nonprofit uses sports, health, education, and leadership programs to end discrimination against and empower people with intellectual disabilities. Founded in 1969, it has grown to include more than 19,000 athletes and Unified partners, support-



ed by over 10,000 coaches and volunteers throughout the state.

About Independence Village of Zionsville West

Independence Village of Zionsville West is a StoryPoint Group community that offers independent living, as-

sisted living and memory care options. The community is located at 6800 Central Blvd., Zionsville. To learn more about the community's full services and amenities or to speak with the Independence Village of Zionsville West team, call (317) 973-0220.

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The REPORTER

With construction season in full swing, thus making it ever more challenging to travel around Hamilton County, our friends at Hamilton County Tourism have compiled this handy guide.

Below you will find links to road projects in each of the four major cities in the county, as well as county projects like the Streamline 146th plan. Even a link to state projects through INDOT is included. Thank you, Hamilton County Tourism!

Carmel road projects
Fishers road projects
Noblesville road projects
Westfield road projects

Reconstructing SR 32
Reimagine Pleasant Street
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Hamilton County road projects
INDOT projects across the state

paulpoteet.com

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NickelPlateExpress.com/railbike-rides

Art Fair was on a hill not far away



Photos provided by HCAA / Walt Thacker

The Hamilton County Artists' Association's "Art Fair on the Square" was held last Saturday, Aug. 3 at Federal Hill Commons this year along with the Noblesville Farmers Market. The heat was on, the sun was shining, and the humidity was rising – but people still came out to enjoy all the art, music, food, and fresh veggies. The HCAA's fine art festival had 40 artists participating, some doing live demonstrations of their art as well as live music. Lots of original fine art on display from central Indiana's finest artists.



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Arrive AI bolsters its team with two world-class additions

Former Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard & former Elevance Health CFO John Gallina add international heft to company leadership

The REPORTER

Arrive AI, the inventor of the nation's first smart mailbox platform, announced Monday that John Gallina, former Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Elevance Health, and Jim Brainard, former mayor of Carmel, have joined the company.



Brainard

expand its reach," Gallina said.

Brainard, who *Governing Magazine* described as "maybe the country's most prominent suburban mayor," transformed the City of Carmel in his 28-year tenure. Under his leadership, the city tripled in size to more than 100,000, and is

consistently ranked as one of the best places to live.

"Arrive AI has a transformative platform that I think mayors across America will want to see in their communities," Brainard said. "I'm looking forward to introducing them to it."

O'Toole hopes to place Arrive smart mailboxes across the U.S. and internationally. Ancillary benefits of the mailboxes include giving emergency responders a beacon to find those in need of fire, police, or medical help. Support from government leaders would help smooth installation of the units in commercial as well as residential and multifamily housing areas.

"As Arrive AI looks to enter the public market via the Nasdaq, continuing to attract world-class leadership is paramount, and we've just achieved that with these two superstars," O'Toole said.

Gallina and Brainard began working with Arrive AI on Aug. 1.

About Arrive AI

Arrive AI's patented Mailbox-as-a-Service ("MaaS") platform makes the exchange of goods between people, robots, and drones frictionless through the use of artificial intelligence, leveraging climate-assisted cargo space, smart alerts, and advanced chain of custody controls to secure the last inch of the last mile for all shippers, delivery services, and autonomous delivery networks.

Gallina joined the board of directors and will chair the Audit Committee, and Brainard will lead the company's municipal partner development efforts.

"We are elated to have both of these impressive leaders join our team," Arrive AI CEO Dan O'Toole said. "As we continue to work toward scaling our products, developing our platform and entering the public company arena, their insights and connections will be invaluable."

Gallina served as EVP and CFO at Elevance Health from 2016 to 2023 and as Special Advisor to the CEO until his retirement in early 2024. He spent nearly 30 years with the company, formerly known as Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and Wellpoint, holding several key management and executive positions throughout his tenure. Elevance Health reached No. 20 on the Fortune 500 under Gallina's leadership, boasting a \$123 billion market cap and is the largest U.S. health insurance company based on membership.

Arrive AI's smart mailbox platform could help healthcare organizations improve safety, reduce risk of contamination, and increase efficient deliveries on hospital campuses, for pharmacy deliveries, and between medical facilities.

"The Arrive AI platform offers tremendous potential for the healthcare industry, and I'm pleased to help

Arts Commission grant supports Songbook Foundation mission

The REPORTER

For the fifth consecutive year, the Indiana Arts Commission has approved a grant to support the Great American Songbook Foundation's music preservation and education initiatives.

The \$16,294 Arts Organization Support grant comes from state and federal funding aimed at arts organizations and cultural providers that prioritize community engagement throughout the state.

The Songbook Foundation, which maintains a vast archive of materials from the 20th century foundational era of American popular music, also oversees a number of community engagement initiatives, including an exhibit gallery open to the public; traveling exhibits and other resources made available free to schools and community groups; Perfect Harmony, a program of group music activities for older adults; and the Songbook Academy, a national summer music intensive for high school singers.

In the planning is the construction of a national museum and interactive visitor experience dedicated to the history and future of American popular music. A site in Carmel has been selected.

"Beyond the clear practical value of this grant, we see our ongoing relationship with the Indiana Arts Commission as a noteworthy endorsement of the



Photo provided

National finalists perform July 20 during the Songbook Academy summer intensive for high school singers at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. The annual academy is the Great American Songbook Foundation's flagship educational program.

work we do," said Christopher Lewis, executive director of the Great American Songbook Foundation. "All kinds of support are important as we expand our reach nationally and proceed with our long-awaited museum project."

Funding for the Indiana Arts Commission and its programs is provided by the Indiana General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.


"All across Indiana we have seen the positive impact that investing in arts and creativity has on quality of life," said Anne Penny Valentine, Chair of the Indiana Arts Commission.

"Each of the projects and organizations selected to receive funding are doing exceptional creative work in and for Hoosier communities. The Commission is excited and honored to support the work these organizations are doing to engage the public, develop their communities and encourage creativity across our state."

About the Great American Songbook Foundation

The mission of the Great American Songbook Foundation, founded in 2007 by five-time Grammy Award nominee Michael Feinstein, is to inspire and educate by celebrating the timeless standards of pop, jazz, Broadway and Hollywood.

Headquartered at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, the Foundation advances this rich legacy by curating physical artifacts of its creators, performers and publishers; operating a multimedia exhibit gallery; overseeing the Songbook Hall of Fame; offering programs for the public and research opportunities for scholars and artists; and providing educational opportunities for student musicians, including the annual Songbook Academy summer intensive. The Foundation is a Cultural Affiliate of the Los Angeles-based Grammy Museum. More information is available at TheSongbook.org.



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Noblesville cuts the ribbon on Promenade Trails community

Submitted

Promenade Trails of Noblesville, a “55 & Better Community,” held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, marking the latest phase of its development.

The event, held at the Central Park at Promenade Trails, featured special remarks by Mayor Chris Jensen, bringing together city officials, the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, community members, residents and staff to celebrate this exciting milestone.

The event, featuring a Hawaiian theme, began at 9:30 a.m., as guests were welcomed with leis and tropical beverages. The ceremony followed at 10 a.m. and Mayor Chris Jensen, the first speaker, highlighted the importance of this development for the Noblesville community.

Following the mayor's remarks, Walt Justus, President of the Justus Companies, thanked the city, the chamber, and the staff for their involvement in bringing the community to life. He also expressed appreciation for the residents and depositors who put their trust in the Justus Companies and this 55 & better community.

The official ribbon-cutting took place shortly after, symbolizing the continued growth and success of Promenade Trails. Attendees were then invited to tour the newly completed cottages with four unique floorplans and explore the community building plans



Photo provided

The lively and engaging ribbon-cutting ceremony highlighted the growing appeal of Promenade Trails, where residents 55 & better can enjoy a high-quality, customizable living experience in a vibrant and fun community.”

while enjoying a delightful Hawaiian brunch. With residents already moving into their new homes and new cottages becoming available daily, Promenade Trails is quickly becoming a sought-after destination for those seeking an upscale, maintenance-free lifestyle.

Promenade Trails offers leasing options with monthly rents starting at \$1,514 for apartments and \$2,360 for cottage homes. The community is designed with high-quality construction, providing residents with the benefits of for-sale homes, along with maintenance-free living, social and wellness programming,

and the flexibility of leasing – all without HOA fees and the responsibilities of home ownership.

Promenade Trails residents are already enjoying the vibrant lifestyle that the community offers.

“I was privileged to be the first resident to move into our lovely cottages at Promenade Trails in May,” said resident Sue Johnson. “Relocating from Minnesota, everything was new and unfamiliar, but their patience with my million questions made all the difference. I couldn't be happier with my decision. If you are considering a move, I highly recommend Promenade Trails.

It's a place where you'll find happiness in every way.”

Recent events organized by the community's Lifestyle team have included a trip to Spencer's Winery, a lively fiesta, a walking club, and the introduction of chair exercise classes. The Community Building, scheduled for completion by summer 2025, will feature a spacious courtyard with a pool, grilling stations, perennial gardens, a pergola, and an outdoor TV. Indoor amenities will include the Vista Clubroom for parties and events, a Wellness Center, Life Enrichment Center, pet spa, pub, fireside lounges, and more.

Church News

Family fun & ice cream at Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran Church of Noblesville invites the community to an Ice Cream Social from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24.

Come enjoy ice cream, hot dogs, a bounce house, and fun and silly games. You can even throw a pie at the pastor for only \$1! Money received for the pie throwing will toward the Hamilton County Chaplain fund.

Christ Lutheran Church is located at 10055 E. 186th St., Noblesville. For more information, visit the church's [Facebook page](#) or go to [clc-in.org](#).

Today: flagging on Spring Mill Road over I-465

The REPORTER

Indiana Department of Transportation contractor Beauty Construction Inc. plans for flagging operations on the Spring Mill Road bridge over Interstate 465 near Carmel.

Beginning on or after Friday, Aug. 9 at 7 a.m., crews will work under flagging operations to place signage and replace the existing barrier wall on the

northbound lane of Spring Mill Road. This work is expected to be complete by Friday, Aug. 9, at 7 p.m., weather permitting.

INDOT reminds drivers to consider worker safety by slowing down, using caution, and avoiding distractions when traveling in and near work zones. All work is weather-dependent, and schedules are subject to change.

Department of Insurance announces new All Payer Claims Database website

The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI) announces the launch of the Indiana All Payer Claims Database (APCD) website. The Indiana APCD is a statewide database that collects healthcare claims information from various sources, such as health insurers, and provides valuable healthcare insights for all Hoosiers.

This interactive tool allows consumers to shop for health care services by comparing price and quality of care across the state. For example, if you are in need of a knee replacement you can select your insurance, procedure, and ZIP code on the database. You will then see a list of health care providers that perform the service within a certain distance of your ZIP code, the quality rating for that facility, and the average out-of-pocket cost.

“The Indiana All Payer Claims Database website will provide valuable insights into healthcare costs, quality, and utilization patterns across our state,” IDOI Commissioner Amy L. Beard. “By making this data accessible, the APCD website will be an invaluable tool in driving data-based decisions, and ultimately enhance the well-being of Indiana residents.”

In addition to the benefits for healthcare consumers, the Indiana APCD may provide valuable information to employers, researchers, and policy makers. In-

diana employers can glean more information about the quality of care their employees receive and strengthen their decision making about benefit design and network optimization for employees. Additionally, researchers and policy makers can study healthcare utilization and cost trends by service type and location across the state.

Improving healthcare price transparency has been a priority for Governor Holcomb. The Indiana APCD was part of Governor Holcomb's Next Level Agenda and authorized by the Indiana General Assembly.

“Our partnership with Onpoint marks a significant milestone in advancing our data management capabilities,” said Jonathan Handsborough, Executive Director of the IDOI APCD. “We're confident that this collaboration will enhance our ability to deliver innovative data insights that will benefit our stakeholders across the state.”

IDOI partnered with OnPoint Health Data to create the APCD. OnPoint developed the first-of-its-kind APCD for Maine in 2003 and is a recognized industry leader on APCDs, developing more than 50 percent of the APCDs nationally since that time. The Indiana APCD adheres to industry-leading data privacy and security standards and follows the strictest federal and state security requirements.

Visit the Indiana APCD website at [apcd.idoi.in.gov](#).

Meeting Notices

The Westfield Washington Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024, in the Community Room at the Westfield Washington Schools Administration Center, 19500 Tomlinson Road, Suite B.

The board will meet in a non-public executive session immediately after the regular meeting, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(5) To receive information about and interview prospective employees; and IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(11) To train school board members with an outside consultant about the performance of the role of the members as public officials.

The Westfield Washington Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024, in Meeting Room A of the library, located at 17400 Westfield Blvd., Westfield.

Send Meeting Notices to:
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TODAY'S BIBLE READING
THE PLAGUE OF FROGS

Moses replied, "It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the Lord our God. The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile."

After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the Lord about the frogs he had brought on Pharaoh. And the Lord did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the courtyards and in the fields. They were piled into heaps, and the land reeked of them. But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said.

Exodus 8:10-15 (NIV)

Claudie Christine "Chris" Gordon
November 18, 1933 – August 5, 2024



Claudie Christine "Chris" Gordon, 90, Carmel, passed away August 5, 2024. She was born in Huntsville, Texas, on November 18, 1933, to Ruby and Willie Kelley.

Chris moved to Carmel as a young girl where she attended Carmel schools and graduated from Carmel High School in 1951. Chris had three jobs in her entire life: Brown's Pharmacy in Carmel, Merchant Bank, and the Union State Bank for the following

30 years, advancing to become the first female Vice President before retiring.

Remaining active in retirement, Chris served on the Carmel High School Alumni Association Board for several years. She was also involved in multiple organizations, including the Special Olympics, Trailblazers bowling program, and Agape horseback riding center, among others. Chris was affectionately known as "the Crazy Old Lady" by her family, due to her spirited and fun-loving nature, a nickname she was very proud of. Chris was an avid reader, a woman of faith, and the matriarch of her loving family.

In additions to her parents, Chris was preceded in death by her husband, Francis "Hap" Gordon; and her beloved black Cocker Spaniel, Doogie.

Family and friends will gather from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday, August 12, 2024, at Bussell Family Funerals, where the Funeral Service will begin at 4 p.m. with Chaplain David Gibson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Chris are suggested to the Carmel Clay Historical Society. Envelopes will be available at the service.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family in arrangements.

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

Anthony's Chophouse earns 2024 Wine Spectator Restaurant Award

The REPORTER

Anthony's Chophouse, 201 W. Main St., Carmel, has been honored for its outstanding wine program in Wine Spectator's 2024 Restaurant Awards, which celebrate the world's best restaurants for wine.

"The restaurant industry is growing and thriving, with restaurant openings surpassing pre-pandemic levels for the first time. To take advantage of the uptick, restaurateurs are re-investing in their wine programs," *Wine Spectator* Editor & Publisher Marvin R. Shanken said. "Restaurants that make wine a priority are what the Wine Spectator Restaurant Awards program is all about. I'm pleased to congratulate all 3,777 restaurants for their dedication to wine and exemplary wine lists."

"We are incredibly

honored to be recognized by *Wine Spectator* in their 2024 Restaurant Awards," said Anthony Lazzara, owner of Anthony's Chophouse. "This accolade is a testament to our Executive General Manager, Colin Atterton's, dedication to curating an exceptional wine program that enhances our guests' dining experiences. We are proud to be celebrated among the world's best restaurants for wine and look forward to continuing to offer our patrons an unforgettable journey through our carefully selected and constantly changing wine offerings they won't find anywhere else."

Launched in 1981, the Restaurant Awards represent the world's only program focused exclusively on restaurant wine service. They are assigned on three levels: the Award of Excellence, the Best of Award of

Excellence, and the Grand Award, with 2,150, 1,531, and 96 winners this year in each respective category.

Anthony's Chophouse has won the Award of Excellence for the second year in a row. The Award of Excellence recognizes restaurants whose wine lists feature a well-chosen assortment of quality producers along with a thematic match to the menu in both price and style.

About Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator is the world's leading authority on wine. Anchored by *Wine Spectator* magazine, a print publication that reaches around 3 million readers worldwide, the brand also encompasses the Web's most comprehensive wine site (WineSpectator.com), mobile platforms and a series of signature events. *Wine Spectator* examines the world of wine from

the vineyard to the table, exploring wine's role in contemporary culture and delivering expert reviews. Parent company M. Shanken Communications, Inc., also publishes *Cigar Aficionado*, *Whisky Advocate*, *Market Watch*, *Shanken News Daily*, and *Shanken's Impact Newsletter*.

About Anthony's Chophouse

Anthony's Chophouse is a family-owned restaurant with unparalleled views of downtown Carmel. Owned by Anthony Lazzara, Anthony's is an innovative take on a traditional steakhouse that redefines the modern fine-dining experience by serving classic steakhouse cuisine with a unique spin alongside signature cocktails to the Indianapolis area. Guests can experience Anthony's Chophouse for lunch and dinner and learn more at anthonyschophouse.com.

Westfield Young Professionals invite you to happy hour

The REPORTER

Join the Westfield Young Professionals from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at Urban Vines, 303 E. 161st St., Westfield, for an exciting happy hour event.

Urban Vines opened the

spring of 2017 in Westfield. It's the city's first winery and second brewery.

The Herron family acquired five acres in the heart of the city where they have built a winery, brewery, tasting room, and vineyard. The

tasting room can accommodate more than 80 patrons and outdoor patio and meadow can hold large events overlooking the pond and vineyard. The meadow out



back provides the perfect setting for the Westfield week-ends where people gather to enjoy great wine, beer, live music, and light fare.

[Click here](#) to register.

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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Home from Paris, Luke Whitlock takes time to speak to young fans

One of this year's youngest Olympic swimmers now looks ahead to 2028

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

When an Olympian speaks, many people will listen. Especially the young ones.

Noblesville's Luke Whitlock returned home from Paris this week after competing in the 2024 Olympic Games. The Fishers Area Swimming Tigers star qualified in the Men's 800 freestyle; he finished 15th in the preliminaries with a time of 7 minutes, 49.26 seconds.

Whitlock is only 18, which made him one of the youngest swimmers at the Olympics. But to the young people who were among the roughly 100 that attended Whitlock's homecoming event Wednesday at the Fishers High School cafeteria, he's already someone they look up to.

Whitlock and FAST head coach Joe Keller spoke for about 40 minutes at the event, after which Whitlock took questions from the crowd. After he finished speaking — as well as sign autographs and take pictures with his young fans — Whitlock said now that he's taking a break from training and competing, he's been able to process the past several weeks, which saw him go from hometown favorite at the Olympic Trials to competing in Paris.

"I still don't even think that it sunk in that I was an Olympian by the time I competed in the Olympics," said Whitlock. "After the trials, I got right back to work to prepare, so I was focused on that, not really thinking about how I had made it. But now, it's definitely able to sink in and a little bit and it's still kind of surreal to me."

It was also surreal for Kara Whitlock, Luke's mom, who spoke to the Reporter after the event.

"Going into trials, I really thought 'Okay, maybe in 2028,'" said Kara Whitlock. But she said she was "pleasantly surprised that he made it this year."

Luke Whitlock told the crowd there wasn't "one specific moment" that led him to believe that he had

a chance of becoming an Olympian.

"It's just all the training together and just consistency, training hard and training well," he said. "If you have just one good practice, it doesn't mean much. Having a practice that's better than you've ever done before just allows you to start training at a higher level all the time."

"That's something I definitely noticed in April and May was, once I had one good practice, I would think to myself 'I don't know if I could do that again. I was really good.' But then I'd surprise myself and I'd just have multiple good practices like that in a row. It really gave me confidence. It's my first trials, but when I got there, I knew I'd put in the work and I wasn't really nervous at all, and I knew that I could race anybody there."

Whitlock qualified for the Olympics by finishing the 800 free in second place.

"I was notified right after I swam the 1500 prelims," said Whitlock. There weren't many people around when he got the word, and he admitted he "wasn't in a great mood" just after finishing his 1500 race.

"I was not very happy with how that swim went," said Whitlock. But he said it "was fun to be officially named to the team then and notified then, so that brought my mood back."

Whitlock joined the national team for its domestic training camp in Raleigh, N.C., where he was working out with Bobby Finke, who won gold medals in the 800 and 1500 freestyles at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and would go on to claim gold again in the 1500 free in Paris. He also trained with Katie Ledecky, the most decorated female swimmer of all time; Ledecky added two more gold medals to her total in Paris with wins in the 800 and 1500 freestyles.

"It was really fun being able to train with Bobby and Katie and under Coach (Anthony) Nesty and just seeing what I'll be doing for the next four years," said Whitlock.

Kara Whitlock enjoyed the fact that her son was now



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Noblesville's Luke Whitlock signed autographs for young fans who attended an event at Fishers High School Wednesday to celebrate Whitlock competing in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

800 m NAGE LIBRE - HOMMES		0.0
SERIE 4 DE 4		WR 7:32.12 OR 7:41.28
LISTE DE DÉPART		
1	EGY ELKAMASH Marwan	
2	USA WHITLOCK Luke	
3	AUS WINNINGTON Elijah	
4	AUS SHORT Samuel	
5	IRL WIFFEN Daniel	
6	GER WELLBROCK Florian	
7	BRA COSTA Guilherme	
8	CHN ZHANG Zhanshuo	



Photos provided

(ABOVE LEFT) Luke Whitlock's name is shown here on the scoreboard before his swim. (ABOVE RIGHT) Whitlock makes his walk out onto the pool deck to swim the Men's 1500 freestyle event at the Paris Olympics.

on a first-name basis with world champion swimmers.

"He was texting me, we didn't have any phone calls while he was gone," said Kara Whitlock. "He was texting with me, and he said 'Katie,' and I was surprised. I immediately went to (marathon swimmer) Katie Grimes in my head because she was younger, and I know that he's met her and talked to her before and stuff like that. Then when he said

it was Katie Ledecky, that was funny.

"And I did get to meet her family in Paris. I've met her mom before, I met her at the U.S. Open in December, ended up sitting next to her and not knowing until she told me her daughter was Katie Ledecky."

Luke Whitlock said there was nice camaraderie on Team USA, noting that "everybody there has respect for each other" and

also the level of commitment the swimmers have to doing their best.

"Yeah, we're going to have fun, but people are going to take care of business, too," said Whitlock. "And I think that's really nice, just being able to see that and watch other people and what they do and try to learn from that."

"Part of it is believing that you can do something that's at an extraordinarily

high level," said Keller. "I think that camp helped Luke see that he can swim with the best athletes in the world."

Whitlock will swim collegiately at the University of Florida, which is where Finke swam from 2018 to 2022 and continues to train today. Keller said that should help Whitlock to continue his improvement and give him a solid chance to qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Golf

Several Hamilton County golfers place in Top 5 at Junior Tour Championship

The REPORTER

The Indiana Golf Association's Howard Bailey Junior Golf Program conducted the Junior Tour Championship July 30 at The Players Club

in Yorktown.

Westfield's Connor Trice had the top placement of Hamilton County golfers at the meet, placing second in the Boys 16-19 division.

Trice, a senior at Guerin Catholic, scored a three under 69 for the championship, making four birdies.

Two other county golfers made the top five. Carmel junior Noah Johnson placed third with a two under 70 (four birdies) and Hamilton Southeastern junior Mattingly Upchurch tied for fourth with a one under 71 (five birdies).

In the Girls 13-15 division, Carmel sophomore Maddie Headlee finished third with a score of 78, making one birdie during her round.

Here is a complete list of county competitors.

Boys 16-19

2. Connor Trice, Westfield 69, 3. Noah Johnson, Carmel 70, T4. Mattingly Upchurch, Fishers 71, T8. Maverick Beeson, Noblesville 76, T11. Jaxon Henegar, Noblesville 78, T16. Schaefer Doane, Noblesville 80; Max O'Neil, Carmel 80, T18. Owen Medley, Nobles-

ville 81; Cooper Smith, Fishers 81, T21. Soren Baker, Westfield 82, T26. Brigham Horal, Carmel 85; David Connery, Carmel 85, T31. Nathan Daugherty 87.

Girls 16-19

6. Presley White, Noblesville 79, T10. Peyton Kauzlick, Noblesville 85, T18. Boise Moore, Sheridan 94; Brooke Willard, Fishers 94.

Boys 13-15

T7. J.T. Kelley, Noblesville 78, T11. Ben Miller, Fishers 79, T15. Keaton Knott, Westfield 80; Alex Gardner, Carmel 80, T21. Brody Motz, Noblesville 83, T24. Luke Decker, Noblesville 86, T27. Blake Weimer, Noblesville 87, 30. Cooper Howard, Carmel 90, T31. Keaton Chapman, Westfield 91; Jude Kaufman, Westfield 91.

Girls 13-15

3. Maddie Headlee, Carmel 78, 10. Reese Roudebush, Carmel 90.

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Westfield schools to unveil \$12M tennis complex

By KYLA RUSSELL
WISH-TV | wistv.com

WESTFIELD — Westfield Washington Schools will unveil their new state-of-the-art tennis complex next week, which will also be open to the public upon the opening.

The project, which totals \$12 million, includes 15 courts and a team room with lockers, concessions, and restrooms. The team room will wrap up construction around December.

The complex sits across the street from the district's intermediate school and is near the high school.

The courts are made with post-tension concrete to ensure they are long lasting and include an underground water retention system.

The new courts were built after the previous courts were unable to be used to host home matches last year due to flooding and deterioration. The courts used before were built in the late nineties.

"All of the courts are designed with post-tension concrete, so they should last for about 50 years," the school district's Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Brian Tomamichel said. "Compare that

more to those asphalt courts, which you have to always worry about cracks and re-filling them."

Parker Gibbs, a Westfield High School senior and tennis player, is especially excited about the change.

"Just one last year of high school, new classes, new courts — obviously great too," Gibbs said.

Gibbs fellow teammate and senior Jay Hostetter hopes the new courts will bring his team some extra luck this season.

"I hope we make a run for it. I hope we get past Noblesville, past the sectionals," Hostetter said.

Longtime coach and WHS math teacher Tony Peters is also thrilled and says the construction of the courts has been years in the making.

The plans for the courts were first drawn up a few years ago.

"The initial plan was to put us off site somewhere and as the coaches, both me and the girls' coach, decided we really want to try to keep it close to our campus," Peters said. "By having it across from the intermediate school, we're able to get fifteen courts here, which is fantastic, coming from having only ten across the



street."

The district's teams will begin playing on the courts next week and will host their first scrimmage Thursday.

A community day at the courts, free and open to the public, will take place Sept. 14 at 10 a.m. Residents can play on the new court and learn more about the district.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wistv.com/news/education/westfield-schools-to-unveil-12m-tennis-complex.



Photos provided to WISH-TV by RocksMedia House

Westfield Washington Schools tennis complex mid-construction.

Colts offensive lineman placed on Injured Reserve List

By ANDREW CHERNOFF
WISH-TV | wistv.com

The Indianapolis Colts announced on Wednesday that they have placed center **Wesley French** on the Injured Reserve List.

French played in all 17 regular season games last season for the Colts. In fact, he started in three of them, in place of the team's normal starting center **Ryan Kelly**.

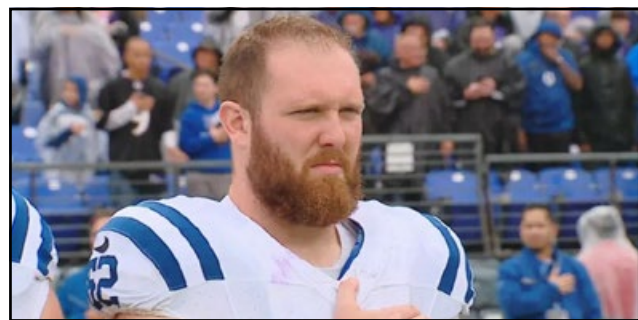
French was signed to the Colts as an undrafted free agent in May of 2022. He did not see any game action during the 2022 season, although he was on the team's 53-man roster during the entire year.

With French's move to the Injured Reserve List, the team also announced that it has signed free agent center **Ryan Coll**.

Coll took part in the Atlanta Falcons' 2024 offseason program after signing with the Falcons this past April.

The official announcement regarding French came on the same day as another Colts player suffered an injury.

Wide receiver Josh



WISH-TV photo

Wesley French during the 2023 NFL season.

Downs suffered an ankle injury during the team's training camp practice Wednesday morning. The injury came during a seven-on-seven period after safety Nick Cross tackled Downs. The wide receiver needed assistance getting off the field.

"Yeah, I mean we've got to be smart," Colts head coach Shane Steichen said after practice. "I mean we're competing like crazy, but we've got to stay off the ground, and we can't go down. That's the bottom line."

A report from NFL Network Insider **Ian Rapoport** said that Downs has a high ankle sprain and could miss four to six weeks.

The Colts' next practice at training camp is sched-

uled for Friday morning.

They then get ready to play their first preseason game on Sunday afternoon against the Denver Broncos. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. EDT inside Lucas Oil Stadium.

Steichen said that he will determine on Thursday whether the starters play in the preseason game.

"I have a good idea of what I'm going to do," Steichen said. "I'll let you guys (media members) know Friday for sure. I just want to get with the staff tomorrow (Thursday) because I haven't told the players yet. So, I want to tell them first."

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wistv.com/sports/colts-of-fensive-lineman-placed-on-injured-reserve-list.



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