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THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Your Hometown Newspaper

Memorial Day ceremony lands a familiar speaker

By KEVIN YANEY
For The Reporter

Memorial Day will take on a different, but familiar look in Noblesville this year. As in years past, there will be an honor guard and salutes to the fallen veterans on the grounds of the Hamilton County Courthouse. However, since this is the 250th anniversary of our nation, President Abraham Lincoln will deliver the Gettysburg Address during the ceremony.

If you have attended the Veterans Memorial Day ceremony in the past, you know there is a special place on the west side of the Hamilton County Courthouse where the roll of county veterans who have perished in service to our country stands. Each Memorial Day, our community gathers to remember them.

However, with the 250th anniversary of the United States,



Photos provided

(ABOVE LEFT) If you have ever wanted to hear Abe Lincoln deliver the Gettysburg Address, you will have your opportunity on Memorial Day at the Hamilton County Courthouse. (ABOVE RIGHT) Since the Civil War, 431 Hamilton County servicemen have perished on active duty. The Veterans Memorial Roll will be the site for this year's Memorial Day ceremony.

the Hamilton County Historical Society and VFW Post 6246 Ralph Lehr decided to add a bit

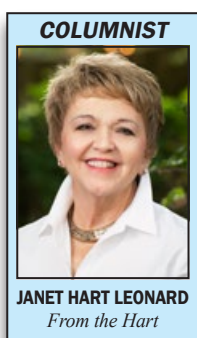
See *Memorial* . . . Page A3

Memorial Day Ceremony
at the Hamilton County Courthouse
Monday, May 25 at 11 a.m.

Presented by VFW Post 6246 & the Hamilton County Historical Society

The Power of Five

I had no idea all the places this column would go when I wrote it two years ago. So many parents and grandparents shared it with their graduates. When I wrote *From the Hart*, I had to include it in a Chapter 6. I elaborated a bit more. It's graduation season, so I thought I would share it again . . .



When my grandson, Jake Baker, graduated from high school, I wanted to give him something no one else could, so I shared my thoughts on how he could build habits that would help him succeed in life.

Do five intentional things every morning to create purpose for your day.

1. Make your bed. This creates order.
2. Pray for wisdom. This creates a mindset for any decisions you have to make.
3. Make a list of five things you want to accomplish. Keep the list simple. This creates intentionality.
4. Send a text to encourage a friend. Your words matter. Never doubt the power of a word of encouragement.
5. Leave your room/apartment/home in order. Coming home to a calm environment, rather than to clutter and chaos, creates a relaxed mind. Take five minutes to put away "stuff."

Show kindness in five ways each day.

1. Smile at five strangers. Yours may be the only smile they get that day. A smile tells someone they are seen.
2. Speak to the older adult standing in line with you. You may be the only one to speak to them. They need to feel seen.
3. Pat a buddy on the back, fist-bump him, and offer a word of praise or encouragement. He may be hiding a hurt or worry.
4. Ask your server how their day is going.

See *Power* . . . Page A4

Fishers sophomore earns perfect ACT score

Submitted by HSE Schools

Earning a perfect score on the ACT is a rare accomplishment. Doing it as a sophomore makes it even more remarkable.

That is exactly what Fishers High School sophomore Zaid Abuhassan accomplished when he earned a perfect composite score of 36. His achievement also marks the second year in a row that a Hamilton Southeastern Schools student has reached this milestone.

A perfect ACT score requires strong performance across reading, math, science,

and English, with each section scored on a scale of 1 to 36 and averaged into a composite score. Only a small percentage of students nationwide earn a perfect score each year.

For Abuhassan, the achievement came from preparation and learning from earlier testing experiences.

"I tried to be strategic in my studying and focus on the topics I was weakest in," he said. "When I missed questions, I would go back, read the explanations,

See *Perfect* . . . Page A4



Photo provided by HSE Schools

Zaid Abuhassan and Principal Kyle Goodwin.

Make sure your kids are safe in the car

The REPORTER

The Carmel Fire and Police departments are partnering to hold a free car seat clinic from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, May 28 at the Carmel Fire Department S.A.F.E. House, 210 Veterans Way.

Get your questions answered, and get hands-on guidance to help keep your child protected on the road.

Whether you are installing a seat for the first time, transitioning to a new seat, or simply want peace of mind, this clinic is a great opportunity to ensure your child's seat fits properly and is being used correctly. All families, caregivers, and expecting parents are welcome.

- Services offered**
- Car seat installation checks
 - Learn proper harnessing and positioning for child's safety
 - Guidance on transitioning between seat types
 - Education on proper car seat use
 - Answers to general child passenger safety questions

This event is free and open to the public. Help keep your most precious passengers safe every trip, every time.

Tipton Community Schools celebrates speech-language pathologists during Better Speech & Hearing Month

Submitted by Tipton Community School Corp.

During Better Speech & Hearing Month, Tipton Community School Corporation (TCSC) recognizes the extraordinary work of its speech-language pathologists (SLP), Carolyn Friend, M.A., CCC-SLP, and Valerie Watson, M.A., CCC-SLP. Every day, these two dedicated professionals help students strengthen their communication skills, build confidence, and access the tools they need to thrive in school and beyond.

At a time when districts across the country face shortages of specialized educators, TCSC is fortunate to have two

highly experienced, deeply committed SLPs serving students from preschool through high school.

"Carolyn and Valerie bring exceptional skill and heart to their work," Superintendent Dr. Ryan Glaze said. "Their impact is felt in every building, every classroom, and every student they support."

"Communication is at the center of everything we do," Friend said. "For students, being able to understand information and express themselves clearly is essential, not just for academics, but for building relationships and navigating daily life."

See *Better* . . . Page A4



Photo provided by Tipton Community School Corporation
Speech-Language Pathologists Valerie Watson, M.A., CCC-SLP, and Carolyn Friend, M.A., CCC-SLP, take an interprofessional approach to supporting students' speech, language, social, and cognitive development.

Ten students recognized at Gaylor Electric Crossing School of Business & Entrepreneurship Graduation & Signing Day

The REPORTER

On May 7, Gaylor Electric recognized 10 students during a Graduation and Signing Day ceremony for The Crossing, the company's integrated high school education program. The event celebrated students who either graduated and accepted full-time positions with Gaylor Electric or committed to summer internships with the company.

The Crossing blends traditional classroom instruction with hands-on, real-world experience in the skilled trades. Students split their day between academic coursework and applied learning at Gaylor Electric's Noblesville campus, with dedicated classroom and school facilities lo-

cated directly adjacent to Gaylor's Production & Innovation Center.

Students who accepted full-time positions will enter Gaylor Electric's four-year apprenticeship program. Upon completion, participants earn journey person certification while gaining paid, on-the-job experience and graduating without educational debt.

"Watching students graduate from The Crossing and accept internships or full-time opportunities is a powerful reminder of why programs like this matter so much,"



Photo provided

Gaylor Electric CEO Chuck Go-drich said. "These students chose a path that fit who they are, leaned into learning a skilled trade, and showed what can happen when commitment

meets opportunity."

The Crossing Regional Director Zack Durnell added, "This is far

See *Gaylor* . . . Page A4

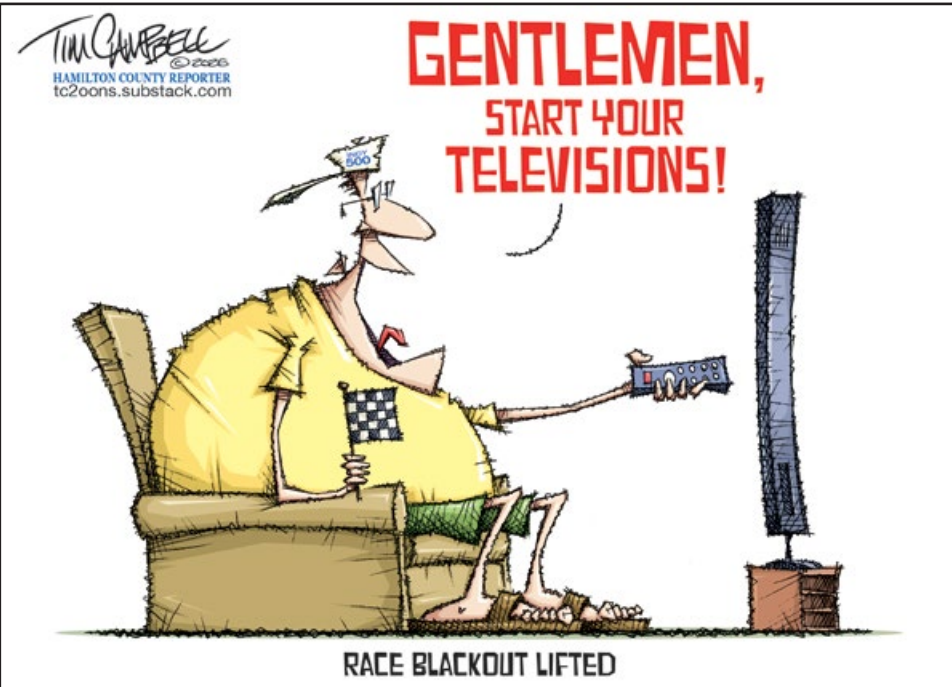


Photo provided
 (Front row, from left) Molly Sivertsen, Katelyn Bolduc, Allison Shen, and County Councilor Sue Maki. (Middle row, from left) County Councilor Tim Griffin, Norah Stites, Melanee Forrester, Josslyn Lee, and Mason McDonald. (Back row, from left) County Commissioners Christine Altman, Mark Heirbrandt, and Steve Dillinger.

Chemical reaction in Fishers High School classroom prompts emergency response

By MARGUERITE INCARDONE
 WISH-TV | wistv.com

A chemical reaction in a science lab last Thursday, May 14 at Fishers High School triggered a heavy response from Fishers Police and Fire departments.

A spokesperson with Hamilton Southeastern Schools told News 8 that a teacher was preparing materials for an upcoming

project for an AP Chemistry class. Crews safely destroyed the substance, and no injuries were reported. Indiana State Police assisted with the investigation.

A school official confirmed that normal school operations will continue on Friday.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wistv.com/news/education/chemical-reaction-at-fishers-high-school-prompts-emergency-response.

Carmel's own Allison Shen wins \$1,000 Youth Service Award scholarship

The REPORTER

Carmel High School senior Allison Shen was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at the 34th annual Hamilton County Youth Service Award on Monday, May 11. The Hamilton County Commissioners and the Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (HCCOAO) sponsored the award.

Shen is the founder of Infinity Squared Mathematics, a global nonprofit that provides resources and mentorship to underserved students. She is also an adjunct research associate with the Indiana University Department of Biostatistics where she contributes to research on diabetes and Alzheimer's. On top of that, Shen is also president of the school's Math and Chemistry Clubs and a student representative for Riley Children's Hospital Dance Marathon.



Photo provided
 Allison Shen with Commissioners Christine Altman, Mark Heirbrandt, and Steve Dillinger.

Six additional students were nominated for the Youth Service Award by their school counseling departments. The other nominees include Josslyn Lee of Fishers High School, Melanee Forrester of Hamilton Heights High School, Mason McDonald of Hamilton Southeastern High School, Molly Sivertsen of Noblesville High School, Norah Stites of Sheridan High School, and

Katelyn Bolduc of Westfield High School. Each will receive a \$300 scholarship.

"We're proud to celebrate these outstanding young leaders," HCCOAO Executive Director Monica Greer said. "Each finalist is making a meaningful difference in their community, and their commitment to service and living drug-free is truly commendable."

CrossRoads Church at Westfield presents a ...

Free Comedy Event

POPCORN & PUNCHLINES
 Eight Comedians • One Night • Family Friendly

7 pm • Friday • May 29

Event is held at
IMMI Conference Center
 18880 East Street
 Westfield IN
 [1 mile east of Grand Park next to IMMI]

Doors open 6 pm • Music 6:30 pm
 Comedy 7 pm

Special Pre-Comedy Music by Peter Fulton

No Pre-Registration Needed... Just Show Up for Fun!

Presented by the People of CrossRoads Church at Westfield
 19201 Grassy Branch Rd
 Westfield, IN

For more information scan here:

ForOurNeighbor.Life
 is an effort of CrossRoads Church at Westfield to meet, know, enjoy, and serve our local neighbors. This event is provided for you, our neighbors, because we love you!

Derek Arrowood presented with Ida Award from T1L1

The REPORTER

Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood has been presented with the Ida Yaney Overholser Award for his work with the Central Indiana chapter of Teach One to Lead One (T1L1).

The Ida Award is an annual award given to a person who has worked behind the scenes to help children overcome obstacles and become leaders through T1L1 mentoring. Hamilton Heights School Corporation is the first school system in Indiana to host a T1L1 mentoring group. He is also one of the original volunteer mentors from 2019 and continues to mentor students each week.

Since its inception, the Central Indiana T1L1 program has grown from one school serving 26 students into seven school districts serving 1,698 students across central Indiana. The Ida Award recognizes the significance of community partners who have impacted the lives of students.

Ida Yaney Overholser was born in Indiana in 1885. Although she experienced heart-breaking loss and tragedy during her lifetime, she overcame these obstacles and taught others to do the same. In her 100 years, she



Photo provided
 Dr. Derek Arrowood holds the 2026 Ida Award for his service to children.

served as a caregiver to people in need and a comforter to those who had experienced great loss in life, as she had. The Ida Award honors her legacy to bestow grace and kindness to people in need.

For more information on Teach One to Lead One, go to T1L1.org.

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Photo provided by Westfield Lions Club
(From left) Khadiga Moawad, Olivia Foor-Lecea, Gracie Czubik, Benjamin Hocker, and Maggie Pasztor.

Lions award \$15K in scholarships

By **JEFF LARRISON**
Westfield Lions Club

On May 7, the Westfield Lions Club held its annual Scholarship Awards Night, presenting a total of \$15,000 in scholarships to nine graduating seniors from Westfield High School.

This tradition demonstrates the Lions Club's enduring commitment to supporting the Westfield schools and the students within the community. Over the years, the amount awarded has grown, reflecting the club's dedication to education and service work.

The evening began with the presentation of the Male and Female Athlete of the Year Scholarships. Caleb Haney and Gracie Czubik received \$500 each in recognition of their achievements as outstanding student athletes and leaders at Westfield High School.

The Florence Benson Memorial Scholarship, valued at \$2,000, was awarded to Benjamin Hocker. This scholarship honors Flo Benson, a beloved Home Economics teacher at Westfield High School, remembered for her excellence in education and lasting impact on her students. The award recognizes academic achievement and dedication to community service. Flo's husband, Bob, has served as a Westfield Lion for nearly 57 years, and her son Rodney for over 10 years, continuing her legacy of service.

The Lester Tudor Memorial Scholarship, also \$2,000, is named for a former Westfield Lion and principal of Westfield High School in the late 1950s. His son, Dave, was also a dedicated club member. This year's recipient, Tori Bluto, was honored for her

extensive community service work, along with her involvement in the WHS Theater & Choir program and Westfield Youth Hockey Program.

Don Russel, a past Westfield Lion, is celebrated as the founder of the club's signature fundraising event, the "Poker for Sight"® Texas Hold 'Em tournament. The \$2,000 scholarship bearing his name recognizes students who exemplify commitment to service and academic achievement. Maggie Pasztor was chosen for her tireless work in the community and her academic success.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Westfield High School combined its service clubs into the Service Over Self (SOS) Club. The Lions Club partnered closely with this new organization, whose mission aligns with the Lions motto, "We Serve." To honor students who dedicate themselves to helping others, two \$2,000 scholarships are awarded annually to SOS Club members. This year, Olivia Foor-Lecea and Khadiga Moawad were recognized for their commitment to service.

Recognizing the needs of graduates pursuing trade and vocational education, the Lions introduced the Trade & Vocational School Scholarship in 2022. This year's recipient is Abigail Kraus.

The Lions Club has long supported the Westfield High School Culinary Arts program, choosing it as their "official caterer" for club events. To celebrate achievement in this field, a \$2,000 scholarship is awarded to an outstanding culinary arts student, with Jayden Belyew receiving this honor for 2026.

MEMORIAL

from Page A1

more to the hallowed event. An actor portraying President Abraham Lincoln will deliver the Gettysburg Address during the ceremony.

President Lincoln will be escorted by a Civil War soldier. That is appropriate for both Memorial Day and the location of the ceremony. The Civil War was the bloodiest war in American history, with 620,000 soldier deaths in four years, 1861 to 1865.

After the war, there was a concerted effort to honor these fallen veterans. Military cemeteries were set aside for this purpose. As early as one year after the war, people of small communities were gathering to decorate the soldiers' graves. In 1868, General John Logan, a veteran of the war and the Commander-in-Chief of the veterans' group, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), designated May 30, 1868, as the first Memorial Day. The original name of this special day was Decoration Day.

But before the war was over, there was another dedication of a soldiers' cemetery. On November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivered the most famous speech ever spoken by a U.S. president at Gettysburg, Pa. His words were succinct and powerful – so powerful that for years, his-

tory students were required to memorize them.

The Hamilton County Memorial Roll lists 277 local men who died during the Civil War. I mentioned that the courthouse square is a very appropriate place for both the memorial roll and the Lincoln speech to be delivered. In the opening days of the Civil War, this plot of ground was the place where the citizens of Hamilton County gathered to hear about the fall of Fort Sumter and the start of the war. This was also where the very first volunteers from Hamilton County were called to arms to help put down the rebellion. They boarded the Peru and Indianapolis Railroad that ran down 8th Street to go to war. This is the same train they would return when their service was over. It is where the GAR veterans would gather for reunions year after year.

For the Hamilton County soldier, this place is special.

I would encourage you to take some time on your Memorial Day to join our community in honoring our fallen veterans and hear that powerful speech from Abraham Lincoln. The VFW will be handing out copies of the Gettysburg Address while supplies last. Mr. Lincoln will be available after the ceremony for photos and some of his humorous stories.

Westfield Yearbook Team recognized at National High School Journalism Convention

Submitted by Westfield Washington Schools

Recently, six students from Westfield High School's (WHS) The Station yearbook staff recently attended the Spring National High School Journalism Convention in Minneapolis.

The event, hosted jointly by the Journalism Education Association and the National Scholastic Press Association, welcomed thousands of attendees from all over the United States and abroad. It is billed as the nation's largest gathering of scholastic journalists, advisers, and journalism teachers.

While there, students attended sessions on a wide range of media topics, got to hear from keynote speaker and music critic John Bream, and enjoyed a trade show with professional media organizations and



Photo provided by Westfield Washington Schools

media schools.

As a part of the experience, WHS entered two teams into the National Journalism Quiz Bowl competition, which paired broad media knowledge and speed in a trivia-style competition. Both competing teams made it into the competition's final round.

Attendees also represented WHS individually in on-site National Media Con-

tests against students from 66 schools from across the U.S. Five WHS journalists were recognized in the top 10 percent of competitors in their respective categories:

- Cameron Goodwin, Honorable Mention (Yearbook Copy/Captions: Clubs)
- Ava Salsman, Excellent (Feature Writing)
- Teagan Trent, Excellent (Yearbook Copy/Captions:

Student Life)

- Victoria Webb, Honorable Mention (Yearbook Copy/Captions: Academics)
- Lilia Doran, Excellent (Yearbook Copy/Captions: Sports)

If you know these students, please congratulate them on their excellence, successes, and their positive representation of WHS at this national event.

HEAR THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

MEET ABE LINCOLN IN NOBLESVILLE ON MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 25, 11 A.M.

HAMILTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE NOBLESVILLE, IN

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MORE THAN A JAIL



Photos by Chapital Photography

(ABOVE LEFT) The 16th annual Youth Recognition Breakfast recognized 10 local students. (ABOVE RIGHT) Westfield senior Kiersten Wettschurack won this year's Christine D. Brown Scholarship.

WYAP recognizes outstanding kids at Youth Recognition Breakfast

Submitted

Ten Westfield Washington Schools students were recognized on May 6 at Westfield Youth Assistance Program's (WYAP) 16th annual Youth Recognition Breakfast, presented by the City of Westfield.

"This event is about recognizing the strength, resilience, and determination these students have shown through difficult circumstances," said Kayla Arnold, Director of Communications for the City of Westfield. "Their stories are a reminder that growth is not always measured by perfect outcomes, but by the courage to keep moving forward. We are incredibly proud of each of these students and grateful to the educators, counselors, families, and advocates who continue to support and believe in them every step of the way."

Since 2011, the Youth

Recognition Breakfast has recognized outstanding youth in Westfield Washington Schools. The honorees, nominated by counselors, teachers, principals, and other school staff, are students who have overcome adversity at home or school, have demonstrated a profound positive change in their attitude or behavior, or have made an extraordinary academic turnaround. A selection committee vets the nominations and chooses the recipients. Nominees can be from all grade levels, with this year's recipients spanning from kindergarten through 11th grade.

At the breakfast, Mayor Scott Willis provided an introductory speech. This was followed by a speech from former YRB recipient, Jayden Belyew, a Westfield High School senior. WYAP Early Intervention Advocates, Amy Prater and Megan Contreras, introduced

the recipients and presented them with their certificates.

"It is an absolute honor and privilege to celebrate these most deserving students!" Youth Recognition Breakfast Chair Alyssa McCool said. "Our deepest hope is that they feel seen and supported as we publicly recognize their accomplishments, incredible resilience, and perseverance. We are so thrilled to be able to host this special event that conveys to our honorees the depth of our belief in them and their ability to succeed."

Additionally, WYAP had the honor of presenting Kiersten Wettschurack, a senior at Westfield High School, with the 2026 Christine D. Brown Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a youth who has proven that they know their purpose and own their own power. The recipient must be continuing their education, must have resid-

ed in Westfield Washington Township, and must be under the age of 25.

Students honored included:

- Matthias C., a kindergarten student at Washington Woods
- Levi M., a first-grade student at Carey Ridge
- Grayson S., a first-grade student at Shamrock Springs
- Camila Q., a second-grade student at Monon Trail
- Jean C., a third-grade student at Monon Trail
- Myles B., a fourth-grade student at Shamrock Springs
- Galilea G., a fourth-grade student at Washington Woods
- Lily P., a fourth-grade student at Carey Ridge
- Rori K., a 10th-grade student at Westfield High School
- Camden S., an 11th-grade student at Westfield High School

Hamilton County accepting not-for-profit grant applications

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Commissioners and Councilors are now accepting grant applications from local not-for-profits for funding in 2027.

The Grant Program is intended to furnish funding to organizations that provide services in furtherance of County goals and without the providing of these services the County may need to consider the development of such programming.

Awards are provided based on application score and funding available. Any funds awarded must be supported by other funding sources or documented in-kind services and may only be distributed to Hamilton County based organiza-

tions. Complete information including eligibility criteria can be found on the application at tinyurl.com/Ham-CoNonprofitGrants.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Award recipients will be notified on or after Friday, Nov. 13 and funds will begin being distributed in January.

For additional questions not answered in the application, please contact either Director of Council Operations Kelly Morehouse at kelly.morehouse@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or Assistant Director of Administration Dianna Lynch at dianna.lynych@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.

David Maddox appointed Tipton chief of police

The REPORTER

Tipton city officials have announced the appointment of David Maddox as the next Chief of Police.

Maddox, a 15-year member of the Tipton Police Department (TPD) and current School Resource Officer (SRO) for Tipton Community School Corporation (TCSC), began serving in this role on Monday, May 11.

Maddox brings more than a decade of local law enforcement experience to the position, having served with TPD since 2011. Since the fall of 2018, he has served as TCSC's SRO, a role that places a full-time sworn law enforcement officer in the school setting to support school-based policing, crisis response, student mentorship, and coordination between the school corporation and the police department.

Through his work as SRO, Maddox has become a familiar and trusted presence for students, families, educators, and residents. His responsibilities have included serving as a liaison between TPD and the school district, supporting school safety planning, and advancing the nationally recognized triad model of school-based policing: law enforcement officer, informal counselor and mentor, and educator.

Maddox holds several school safety and law enforcement-related credentials, including Advanced School Safety Specialist through the Indiana Department of Education, Master-Level School Resource Officer through the Indiana School Resource Officers Association, and National Practitioner through the National Association of School Resource Officers. He also served as School Safety Coordinator for TCSC and holds a leadership role with the Indiana School Resource Officers Association, where he serves on the organization's executive board as First Vice-President.

As Chief of Police, Maddox will be responsible for leading TPD's operations, personnel, policies, training, community engagement, and public safety priorities. His experience working across law enforcement, education, youth mentorship, crisis response, and interagency coordination aligns closely with the city's expectations for a police chief who can lead with professionalism, accountability, integrity, and a strong commitment to community-based policing.

"Officer Maddox has already made a significant impact on the Tipton community through his efforts

to establish the School Resource Officer program at Tipton Community School Corporation," Mayor Kegan Schmicker said. "Officer Maddox's statewide relationships, community rapport, and leadership skills will directly benefit him in this role."

Maddox said he is honored to continue serving the community in this new capacity.

"Tipton is

home, and I care deeply about the people, families, officers, and community partners who make this city what it is," Maddox said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to lead the Tipton Police Department and look forward to working alongside our officers, city leadership, schools, businesses, and residents to strengthen trust, support public safety, and continue building a department that serves this community with professionalism and pride."

City officials remain committed to supporting a police department that is visible, accountable, responsive, and engaged with the community it serves. Under Maddox's leadership, the department will continue focusing on public safety, officer development, community partnerships, and maintaining strong relationships with residents and local institutions.

Maddox's appointment represents an opportunity for leadership continuity while also positioning the department for continued growth and modernization. The city looks forward to supporting a smooth transition and working with Chief Maddox as he leads TPD into its next chapter.

Selection process for new School Resource Officer

Considering Maddox's new role as Chief of Police, he will spearhead the selection process for the next SRO at TCSC. This effort will be conducted in collaboration with the school corporation, the Mayor's Office, and key community members.

"We will be investing time during the summer months to find the right fit for this critical role at Tipton Community School Corporation," Maddox said. "Beyond the responsibilities outlined in the contract, we are searching for a candidate who is committed to investing time in extracurricular

See Chief . . . Page A6



Maddox



Schmicker

Meet this year's Miller Ambassadors



Photo provided by Noblesville Schools

Noblesville Schools graduated its ninth class of Miller Ambassadors this week, adding to the more than 200 participants who have completed the district's community leadership and learning program. The Class of 2026 includes: Brett Bigler, Reece Bowen, David Burian, Melissa Cahill, Lisa Conner, Stephen Craig, Stephen Cushen, Adam Furge, Rachel Glowacki, Corinne Gunter, Andrea Gustin, Alicia Klingerman, Natalie Mathes, Michael Maurovich, Sarah McLaughlin, Jackie Miller, Bryan Mills, Matt Mitchell, Aaron Priest, Geoff Robinson, Melissa Sanderson, Michelle Schmidt, Kevin Sears, Betsy Wallis, and Rachel Woloshin. Applications for the upcoming class open in June. To learn more and apply, visit noblesvilleschools.org/millerambassadors.

Aspiring firefighter Justin Tilton earns Jackson Township Fire's Rambo Memorial Scholarship

The REPORTER

The Jackson Township Fire Department has selected Hamilton Heights senior Justin Tilton as the recipient of the annual Arcenio "Rambo" Rumbaoa Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was recently presented by Jackson Township Fire Chief James Carter.

Rumbaoa, affectionately known by everyone simply as "Rambo," was a valued member of the Jackson Township Fire Department family who passed away in 2022. Rambo was deeply committed to serving others and was always working to further his education in firefighting and emergen-

cy medical services. In his memory, the scholarship was created to help support students who share those same passions and aspirations in fire and emergency medical services.

Tilton embodies the dedication and drive that this scholarship represents. He has dreamed of becoming a firefighter since he was a young boy and has already taken impressive steps toward achieving that goal. He is currently enrolled in the John Hinds Fire and Rescue program and will graduate with both his Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 certifications. In addition, he has dedicated seven hours every

Saturday to EMT classes and is expected to become a certified EMT before graduation.

What truly made Tilton stand out was not only his ambition, but also his heart for service and his commitment to the profession at such a young age. His work ethic, determination, and passion for helping others reflect the same spirit that Rambo carried throughout his life and career.

The Jackson Township Fire Department is honored to support Justin Tilton as he begins his journey in the fire and emergency medical field and looks forward to seeing the positive impact he will make in the years ahead.



Photo provided

Justin Tilton accepts his scholarship award from Jackson Township Fire Chief James Carter.

New property tax law produces mixed results

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](https://www.wishtv.com)

The two most populous counties in central Indiana on Monday reported more homeowners saw lower property tax bills this year, but many paid more.

This year is the first year for property tax bills following the implementation of the state's new property tax law. Last spring, Gov. Mike Braun, a Republican, said the new law would mean lower property tax bills for most

homeowners.

Numbers from Marion and Hamilton counties suggest this largely was the case, with some important caveats. Marion County Treasurer Barbara Lawrence, a Democrat, said a little more than 118,000 residential properties owed less than last year, while about 99,000 paid more. Last year, nearly 174,000 homeowners paid more in property taxes



Clevenger

compared to the year before, while a little more than 41,000 paid less.

Lawrence said the new law overall has been a mixed bag, though homeowners paying less outnumber those paying more.

Hamilton County Assessor Todd Clevenger, a Republican, provided estimates for how the average homeowner's tax liability changed in each of the county's 23

taxing districts. In six of them, the average homeowner paid more. The smallest increase was \$3.79 in Westfield, while the largest was \$189.13 in Sheridan.

The rest of the districts saw tax liability drops that ranged from \$4.32 in rural parts of Sheridan to \$481.88 in Wayne Township. Both Clevenger and Lawrence said individual homeowners' bills will vary because property taxes are based first and

See Tax . . . Page A6



Brown

Kegley

Pascoe

HSE Schools provides update & launches new finance webpage

Submitted by HSE Schools

A financial update was presented to the Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) Board of School Trustees Wednesday, May 13, highlighting ongoing cost-saving efforts, staffing adjustments tied to enrollment and a new resource designed to make school finance information more accessible to the public.

The presentation follows HSE Schools' earlier announcement that 18 K-6 teaching positions were identified through a reduction-in-force (RIF) process due to continued enrollment decline. Since that time, six teachers have been removed from the RIF list as additional staffing changes, retirements or resignations have allowed HSE to recall affected teachers.

District leaders emphasized that the RIF process is one part of a broader financial response and not the only action being taken.

"Over the last two years, HSE Schools has emphasized prudent spending and financial oversight, not only when budget challenges arise, but as an ongoing expectation of being good stewards of the funds available to us," HSE Schools Chief Financial Officer Tim Brown said. "Thoughtful spending decisions are part of our responsibility to students, staff, families and taxpayers."

Additionally, HSE Schools has taken several steps to reduce costs and improve efficiencies. Those efforts include a focus on high-deductible health plans and health savings accounts, negotiation of contracts upon renewal, department-level efficiencies, position absorption, a complete telecom audit, additional partnerships with the city, and salary hold decisions for the 2025-26 school year.

The district has also reviewed or renegotiated contracts upon renewal, including financial software, custodial services, copy machines, employee health clinic services, property insurance and food service maintenance.

Still, declining enrollment and recent legislative changes have created additional financial pressure. HSE Schools has experienced a steady enrollment decline since the 2020-21 school year, including a decrease of 863 students, or 4.1 percent, over the last three years.

The reduction in K-6

classroom sections for the 2026-27 school year reflects a 4.1 percent decrease, aligning with the district's enrollment decline over the last three years. Because teacher salaries and benefits represent 65 percent of the 2026 budget, staffing adjustments are a significant part of the district's overall financial response.

Of the current personnel reductions being made, 66 percent of the salary and benefit amounts are tied to K-6 teaching positions. In addition, more than 40 districtwide non-teaching positions are also being reduced as part of the overall budget response.

"All departments and areas within the district are working together to support the reductions that are necessary," Superintendent Dr. Matt Kegley said. "This is an ongoing process that changes regularly. The information shared at tonight's board meeting reflects where things stand today, but we know staffing and budget details will continue to shift before the first day of the 2026-27 school year."

A summary of the work completed by the district's budget task force over the last three months was also shared. The task force, which included teachers, administrators, department leaders and school board representation, was charged with identifying a minimum of \$5 million in ongoing cost reductions.

Collectively, the recommended steps and personnel decisions represent a potential impact of more than \$7 million. Future formal recommendations related to potential fee charges are expected to come before the School Board in June.

"The Board understands the weight of these decisions and the impact they have on our staff, students and families," HSE School Board President Tiffany Pascoe said. "At the same time, we have a responsibility to ensure HSE Schools remains financially stable and prepared to serve students well into the future. We appreciate the work that has gone into this process and remain committed to transparency as these conversations continue."

Also included in Wednesday's update, a new district finance webpage designed to help families and community members better understand school finance was unveiled.

The new finance webpage can be found at hschools.org/finances.

CHIEF

from Page A5

activities and building robust relationships with the administration, staff, and students throughout the corporation."

This collaborative approach emphasizes the importance of integrating the SRO into the school community, ensuring they

not only fulfill their law enforcement duties but also actively contribute to a safe and supportive educational environment. The selection process will prioritize finding an individual who embodies the values of community engagement and mentorship.

TAX

from Page A5

foremost on assessed valuation. Lawrence said assessed valuation depends above all on what your neighbors' homes are selling for.

"Probably the single biggest factor in a tax bill is the assessed value, which is the value of your property," Lawrence said. "It is impacted by what your neighbors' homes are selling for and homes in

the area in which you live, so a hot real estate market can impact your assessed value."

The spring property tax payment deadline has now passed. The fall deadline is Nov. 10.

This story was originally published by WISHTV at [wishtv.com/news/local-news/indiana-homeowners-property-tax](https://www.wishtv.com/news/local-news/indiana-homeowners-property-tax).



Photo provided by HSE Schools

A prime number of HSE third graders are on the road to mathematical perfection.

HSE third graders recognized for exceptional math achievement

Submitted by HSE Schools

Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) Schools recognizes 23 third-grade students who were nominated through a new partnership between the Indiana Department of Education and the nonprofit organization National Math Stars.

The students were recognized during the May 13 Board of School Trustees meeting for scoring within the top 2 percent of third-grade math students in Indiana on the 2025-2026 ILEARN Checkpoints. Their achievement demonstrates exceptional mathematical understanding, academic potential, and a strong foundation for continued success.

All 23 students are currently enrolled in accelerated math instruction through HSE's high ability services, which provide advanced learning opportunities designed to challenge

and support students who demonstrate exceptional achievement or aptitude.

"This recognition is a wonderful example of what can happen when students are challenged, supported and encouraged to grow," said Erin Mohr, Assistant Director of Elementary Education. "These students have demonstrated outstanding mathematical thinking, and we are proud of the hard work they have put into their learning. It also reflects the strong instruction happening in our classrooms and the importance of building a solid foundation in mathematics beginning in the elementary grades."

As nominees, students are eligible to apply for National Math Stars' free long-term support program. The program provides support for advanced math coursework, enrichment opportunities, family advising resource-

es and access to a national network of high-achieving peers.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our students to continue developing their talents beyond the classroom," Superintendent Dr. Matt Kegley said. "We are grateful for the partnership between the Indiana Department of Education and National Math Stars and proud to celebrate these students for reaching such an impressive academic milestone."

Hamilton Southeastern Schools congratulates the following students:

- **Deer Creek Elementary School:** Alexander Dodd, Bryce Nieten, and Elijah Taylor
- **Fall Creek Elementary School:** Andrew Chang and Josephine Sturm
- **Geist Elementary School:** Leo Lambert and Parker Law
- **Harrison Parkway Elementary School:** Theodore

Hampshire and Jahlan Morgan

- **Hoosier Road Elementary School:** Quincy Adams and Bali Jyoti
- **Lantern Road Elementary School:** Angelo Tippmann and Isaac Caskey
- **New Britton Elementary School:** Harvey Lancaster
- **Sand Creek Elementary:** Marli Perry
- **Southeastern Elementary School:** Mukhil Johnson, Grant Wall, Mark Landaur, Oliver Pott, and Taylor Lanwehr
- **Thorpe Creek Elementary:** Violet Ivanson, Nolan Renick, and Margaret Reschly

This recognition reflects the dedication of HSE students, teachers, and families, as well as the district's continued commitment to fostering academic excellence and helping students reach their full potential.

Fishers Arts Council announces winners of 2026 STAR Bank Senior Showcase

Submitted

Fishers Arts Council (FAC) announces the winners of the 17th annual Fishers Arts Council Senior Showcase sponsored by STAR Bank.

Senior Showcase is an annual exhibit where seniors of both city high schools, Fishers and Hamilton Southeastern, exhibit their artwork and poetry while competing for scholarships.

"The 17th annual Senior Showcase once again highlighted the impressive artistic talents coming out of the Fishers and HSE School programs," FAC Executive Director Les Reinhardt said. "This year over \$4,800 in scholarships were given to 19 seniors, ranging from \$50 to \$700 per award, thanks to the generosity of local businesses and art patrons. Fishers Arts Council is proud of this event and is thankful for the partnership with the Fishers Art Center in allowing an expansion of the gallery space to better serve our graduating artists. Additionally, we give thanks to Fishers and Indy Art Center Exhibitions Manager, Alex Moore, for judging this year's show."

The awards were presented Friday evening, May 8, at Art Gallery at City Hall in the Fishers Municipal Center Theater during FAC's Gallery Hop Second Friday reception. Erica Foreman, Fishers Arts Council's Vice President, along with STAR Bank Private Banking Manager, John Lee presented the awards. Catherine Snider also presented a special award, "Best Representation of the Written Word," in memory of her daughter, Jordan D. Snider.

The award for Best in Show went to Ava Difilippo (Fishers High School) for her painting titled "Metamorphosis."

The evening's other big winner was Grace Gutwein, (Hamilton Southeastern High School) for her poem titled "Addiction and Dry Shampoo," receiving the Jor-



Photos provided by Fishers Arts Council

(ABOVE) The 2026 FAC Scholarship Winners with John Lee of STAR Bank and Erica Foreman, the Board Vice President of the Fishers Arts Council. (BELOW) Grace Gutwein (left) won this year's Jordan D. Snider award for Best Representation of the Written Word, which was presented by Catherine Snider, Jordan's mother.

dan D. Snider award for Best Representation of the Written Word. Gutwein gave a reading of her winning poem, as well as another poem of hers, during the ceremony. Eighty-eight students participated in the exhibit offering 129 pieces of 2D and 3D art, along with seven poetry-based submissions.

The artwork will remain on exhibit through Saturday, May 16 at the Art Gallery at City Hall inside the Fishers Municipal Center and the Fishers Art Center, 1 Municipal Drive, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon during the Fishers Farmers' Market.

Scholarship sponsors

- STAR Bank: Best in Show; 1st Place awards for Drawing, Photography, 3D Art; 2nd Place for Painting
- Catherine Snider: Jordan D. Snider Award
- Four Day Ray Brewing: 3rd Place awards in each visual arts category
- Boomerang Development: 2nd Place awards for Drawing and Digital Art
- Laura & Ed Villanyi: 1st Place award for Painting
- The Goddard School (Brooks School Road): 1st Place award for Digital Art
- Schoolhouse 7 Cafe: 2nd Place award for Pho-

tography

- Fishers Dental Care: 2nd Place award for 3D Art
- Tom & Connie Rich: Honorable Mention awards for visual arts

Complete list of winners

- Best in Show: Ava Difilippo (FHS)
- Jordan D. Snider Award for Best Representation of the Written Word: Grace Gutwein (HSEHS)

Drawing

- 1st Place: Nat Harris (FHS)
- 2nd Place: Katherine Lee (HSEHS)
- 3rd Place: Rebecca Aime Castillo Salazar (FHS)

Painting

- 1st Place: Kayla Langley (HSEHS)
- 2nd Place: Corina Davidhizar (FHS)
- 3rd Place: Lilly Howard (HSEHS)
- Honorable Mention: Nat Harris (FHS)
- Honorable Mention: Lindsey Antisdell (FHS)

Photography

- 1st Place: Logan Dawson (FHS)
- 2nd Place: Nick Daw-



- son (FHS)
- 3rd Place: Emma Sealand (FHS)
- Honorable Mention: Muhammad Hadi Jehangir (HSEHS)
- Digital Art**
- 1st Place: Andrew Rine (FHS)
- 2nd Place: Adam Dodge (HSEHS)
- 3rd Place: Ava Difilippo (FHS)
- 3D Art**
- 1st Place: Caden Baird (HSEHS)
- 2nd Place: Molly Clarke (FHS)
- 3rd Place: Liam Ward (HSEHS)
- Honorable Mention: Nico Suriano (HSEHS)
- Honorable Mention: Ava Difilippo (FHS)

Ronald Messersmith

July 1, 1941 – May 9, 2026

Ronald "Ron" Messersmith, 84, Westfield, passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Maple Park Village in Westfield. He was born on July 1, 1941, to Harry and Janet (Hill) Messersmith in Castleton, Ind.

Ronald was a plumber for L. E. Isley and Sons for over 40 years before his retirement. He was a member of Eagle Creek Church and HSTA. Ronald enjoyed motorcycles and was a trap shooting champion. Most of all he loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his son, Charles Messersmith; daughter, Paula Myers; grandchildren, Andrew (Angelica) Messersmith, Benjamin (Taylor) Messersmith, Cory Myers, Hannah Myers, and Samantha Myers; and great-grandchildren, Nessa, Madilyn, and Wyatt Messersmith.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Jo Anne Louise Messersmith.

Visitation and services were held Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Eagle Creek Evangelical Friends Church, 18325 Eagletown Road, Westfield, with Pastor Markus Dennis officiating. Burial was at Eagletown Cemetery in Westfield.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Dorothy Ann (Beckett) Hirschfeld

October 28, 1933 – May 14, 2026

Dorothy Ann (Beckett) Hirschfeld, 92, Noblesville, was welcomed into God's loving embrace on May 14, 2026.

Born October 28, 1933, in Akron Ohio, she grew up in St. Marys, Ohio, on Grand Lake St. Marys. She was a high school cheerleader. As a mom, when she wasn't taking her kids to music, ballet, art lessons, and swim team, she liked golf, played tennis, loved bowling, and at 85 years old could still throw a strike. Most importantly she was faithful and helped lead Creative Living Bible Study. She was a member of Beta Beta Latreian philanthropic club and enjoyed the annual Taster's Luncheon. She was a member of Harbour Trees Golf Club and The Dunes Golf and Tennis on Sanibel. She volunteered at Riverview Hospital, and she was an avid reader herself and also read books to school children through the iREAD program. She was an early supporter of the recent renovation of the St. Marys Theater and Grand Opera House. She loved traveling, and one of her favorite trips was to the Holy Land. Later in life, often with four generations of her family, she enjoyed nature walks at the family cabin.

Dorothy and Stanley married in 1954. They celebrated 71 amazing years of marriage. Dorothy is survived by her husband Stanley, daughter Nancy Brownlee (Dan), son Jon (Kim), son Tom (Amy Evans), eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and sisters Helen Dershem and Pat Briggs. Preceding her in death were her parents, Raymond and Dorothy (Simmons) Beckett, her brothers Jim, Dick, Don, Ed, and Jack, along with sister Janet (Beckett) Spencer.

Later in life, she split her time between Sanibel Island and Noblesville, but wherever she lived it was always near water. In Florida, the warmth of winter and beach life were idyllic and she loved when her children and grandchildren visited over spring break, but Indiana was always home. In Indiana she loved watching the hummingbirds, tending to her beautiful flowers, and the sunrise over the lake. She was a kind soul, was loved dearly, and is already missed by all of us.

Visitation and Service Schedule for Dorothy are set for 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 22 at Randall and Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. A. additional visitation from 10 to 11 a.m. with service from 11 a.m. to noon will be held Saturday, May 23 at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument Street, Noblesville, followed by a celebration lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. Burial will take place at 1:45 p.m. at Hamilton Memorial Park, Westfield.

Memorial contributions can be made to Noblesville First United Methodist Church or charity of your choice.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



Donald Boles

November 21, 1941 – May 10, 2026

Donald Boles, 84, Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, May 10, 2026, at his home. He was born on November 21, 1941, to Roscoe and Janie (Coston) Boles in Crab Orchard, Tenn.

Don worked as a carpenter. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed fishing and camping. Don also loved music, especially bluegrass and old country.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Boles; daughter, Lisa (Craig) Louks; grandchildren, Nicole (Troy) Furst, Justin (Beth) Davis, Keegan (Jon) Hall, Ty Louks, Maxine (Josh)

Boles, Grant Boles, Adam Staton, Heather (Phil) Matthews, and Chase Jones; 18 great-grandchildren; and his sister, Joyce Poe.

In addition to his parents, Don was preceded in death by his children, Donna Davis and Chris Boles; sisters, Nettie Sue Eadens, Rita J. Boles, Louise Spures, Helen Wheeler, and Fay Cloud; and his brothers, Arnold Boles and Gary Boles.

Visitation and services were held Thursday, May 14, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Dr. Richard Schenck officiated. Burial was at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



Sue Ann Essig

July 23, 1934 – May 9, 2026

Sue Ann Essig, 91, Noblesville, passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at her home. She was born on July 23, 1934, to Frank and Helen (Booth) Reed in Noblesville.

Sue Ann was a lifelong resident of Noblesville and was very active in her community for many years. After high school she attended Ball State University where she received her degree in Elementary Education. She returned to Noblesville and began teaching first grade and continued teaching until she started her family in the early 1960s.

While raising her two sons, she also worked at her husband's family business, the Mitee Handy Hardware stores. She was instrumental in helping to open a secondary shop: The Corner Annex, where she spent a lot of hours working and managing operations. She held other several jobs over the years, including retail sales for Southwest Style and L.S. Ayers where she was the lead salesperson for the Liz Claiborne line and the Tommy Hilfiger line for many years. She was a member of Noblesville First United Methodist Church with her family and was actively involved in Tri Kappa for many years.

Sue Ann loved the beach and spent a lot of time in Florida with her family when they were younger and then later took trips with her friends to Florida and to the Holland, Michigan area where they would vacation and explore the shores and enjoy the local shops and restaurants. She never came back from the beach without bringing shells back that she discovered on her beach walks. She was an avid reader and loved planting and tending to her plants and flowers. She was blessed with a large group of ladies that played cards and had lunches together for many years.

She is survived by her sons, Tim and Jake (Jennifer) Essig; and grandchildren, Samuel, Emily, and Luke Essig.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Essig and her brother, Patrick Reed.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



Edward L. Dawson

August 13, 1964 – April 26, 2026

Edward L. Dawson was born in Beech Grove, Ind., to Thomas and Donna Dawson on August 13, 1964. He passed away April 26, 2026, at home surrounded by family after a brief but fierce battle with ALS that baffled doctors for over five months and was not officially diagnosed until five days before his passing.

Ed graduated from Perry Meridian High School in 1982, where he was a scrappy, enthusiastic, skilled wrestler. His love for and participation in many sports continued throughout his life.

Ed obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business from Indiana University in Indianapolis, working his way through school and sacrificing much to earn his degree. Ed was baptized into Christ in 1983 and made Jesus the Lord of his life, which was evident for all of his days.

In 1987 Ed married Nancy Bailey, and they began their adventure together. Their daughters Lindsay Heigerick and Erica Chacon have been a constant source of joy in their lives. Ed was so happy to finally be able to talk all things sports when his sons-in-law joined the family, and he loved them deeply. He absolutely adored his three grandsons and was grieved that he would be leaving them too soon.

Ed and Nancy served in the full-time ministry for 37 years in the International Churches of Christ. During their years in the ministry, they served in Indianapolis, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Chicago. They also loved working with the European Missions Society, with a special focus in Ukraine.

After retiring from ministry in 2024, Ed used his entrepreneurial mind to focus on his own business-selling aerospace engineering and precision industrial tooling. He and Nancy were planning to move to Georgia May 1st to live near their children, but God had other plans.

We are grateful for the amazing life Ed lived, dedicated to Jesus as Lord in everything. We are so thankful for the depth of his love, for his fun-loving spirit and humor, for his uncompromising conviction with the Bible as his standard above all else, and for the legacy of wisdom and love that he has left us. Ed excelled at bringing people into his life and loving people deeply. He will be greatly missed. Though we wish we could have had many more years of life together, we are surrendered and know that God loves us all more than we can fathom.

Ed is survived by his wife Nancy, who is so thankful for the wonderful life they built together for 38 years, and his two amazing daughters, Lindsay (Sam) Heigerick of Woodstock, Ga., and Erica (Peter) Chacon of Atlanta, Ga. Ed delighted in his family, and especially his three grandsons, Nolan Heigerick (6), Liam Heigerick (3), and Crews Chacon (4 months). Ed is also survived by his two sisters, Deborah (Mark Gilpin) Dawson and Tina (Ted) Alexander. He is preceded in death by his father, Thomas Dawson, his mother, Donna Dawson, and his brother, Glenn Brown (Janet).

A celebration of Ed's life and legacy will be held Sunday, June 7, 2026, at 3 p.m. at Zionsville Community High School in Zionsville. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m., and you may enter through Door 1. We would love for you to join us as we remember all that God has done throughout Ed's life and reflect on the faith and love he wholeheartedly lived out.

Due to venue logistics, we kindly ask that you please do not send or bring flowers or plants to the Celebration of Life. Your love is gift enough!

Condolences: randallroberts.com



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Track & Field

Carmel wins close boys county meet

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

NOBLESVILLE – The Hamilton County boys track & field meet came down to the last event – in fact, the last leg of the event.

Carmel was battling Hamilton Southeastern and Westfield for the team championship and a fourth-place finish in the 4x400 relay helped the Greyhounds stay on top of the point standings at the meet, which took place Thursday, May 14 at Guerin Catholic.

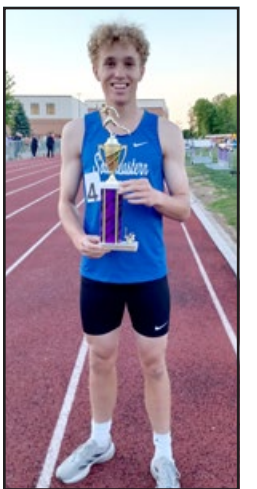
The discuss and shot put events hadn't been entered into the standings yet, but

once they were, Carmel could celebrate. The Greyhounds scored 128 points to win the team trophy, just ahead of the Royals and the Shamrocks, who tied for second place with 124 points.

Hounds coach Brian Hamlett credited his team's depth for helping Carmel to come through.

"We had guys we didn't know we'd be counting on early on in the season," said Hamlett. "Guys that are down on the roster are going to have to come up and score points when they're

See *Close . . . Page B2*



(ABOVE LEFT) The Carmel boys track & field team won a close Hamilton County championship Thursday, May 14 at Guerin Catholic. The Greyhounds scored 128 points to edge out Hamilton Southeastern and Westfield, who tied for second with 124 points each. (ABOVE RIGHT) Hamilton Southeastern's Sam Long won the high point award after sweeping the 110 and 300 hurdles.

Reporter photos by Richie Hall

Hounds dominate, many records fall

County athletes combine to set eight new marks

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

CARMEL – The record book at next year's Hamilton County girls track & field meet is going to look dramatically different than the book at this year's meet.

That's because there were eight new record set at this year's meet, which took place Tuesday, May 12 at Carmel Stadium. New marks were set in every type of race, from distance to sprints, from hurdles to field events.

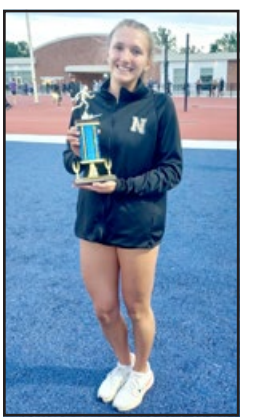
The Greyhounds won the meet, scoring 153.5 team points. Carmel enters the post-season next week as it tries to defend its state championship and Greyhounds head coach Aaron McRill

said the county meet was a preparation for next Tuesday's sectional.

"There were a few things we needed to see that we got to tonight," said McRill. "We'll finalize things tonight to get that sectional roster in by the morning."

Carmel won four events, all in new meet record time. Sadie Foley claimed the 1600 run in 4 minutes, 46.15 seconds, a time that ranks her third in the state and 28th across the nation. Larkin Taylor won the 800 run, clocking in at 2:11.86.

Annabel Pollert kept the new record parade going, claiming the 3200 in 10:23.26, a top 100 time in the country. The Hounds finished the meet with a victory in the 4x400 relay; Katelyn



(ABOVE LEFT) The Carmel girls track & field team won the Hamilton County meet on Tuesday, May 12. The Greyhounds scored 153.5 team points and won four events, all in new meet record time. (ABOVE RIGHT) Noblesville's Ainsley Meinerding won the high point award. The Millers senior claimed three events, including the long jump in a new record of 19 feet, 2.5 inches.

Reporter photos by Richie Hall

Oshimura, Elise Maurer, Kalinda Lee and Gabriela Grande Rosas won in a time of 3:53.11. "We're really excited about the tournament," said

McRill. Westfield was the team runner-up, scoring 100.5 points. Jenna Rhodes won the 100 hurdles for the Shamrocks and Ella Jenkins

finished a very close second in the pole vault. She and Guerin Catholic's Amelia Smith cleared 13 feet; Smith won the event on fewer misses. That 13-foot perfor-

mance is the best vault in the state and set a new county record. Noblesville placed third

See *Records . . . Page B2*



The Noblesville Millers won the Hamilton County Unified Track meet Wednesday, May 13 at Carmel Stadium.

Millers win Unified Track county meet

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

CARMEL – Wednesday, May 13 was cool and windy at Carmel Stadium, but nothing could stop the spirit of the Hamilton County Unified Track meet.

Athletes from all across the county put on a show at the annual meet. All of the participants had reason to cheer afterwards, including those from Noblesville. The Millers won the team championship (team scores were not available at press time.)

Noblesville swept both the girls and boys 4x100 relays to finish the meet.

"It's pretty exciting and I love these guys," said Millers assistant coach

Mitch Bonar, who was filling in for head coach Matt Johnston. "They work so hard. They work always to be their best and they work the team first always."

"I remember when it first started a few years ago. I never expected it to be this big. It's beautiful that the whole county does it and I can't wait to see what happens next year."

Heat winners in the mixed 100 dash were Carmel's Ayden Kostelac in Heat 1 Hamilton Southeastern's Grace Gerstner in Heat 2 and Noblesville's Carsten Shidler in Heat 3. In the mixed 400 dash, Carmel's Maryn Piper was the winner of Heat 1, Fishers' Carter Schmidt was victorious in Heat 2 and

Fishers' Aaron Schooley won Heat 3.

Westfield's Gianna Padilla was the Flight 1 winner of the long jump, while Noblesville won the other two flights: Paul Schutte

was first in Flight 2 and Kuljeet Mehra won Flight 3. In the shot put, Ethan Oshimura won Flight 1, George Moser was first in Flight 2 and Cohen Davis was the Flight 3 winner.

Tennis

Guerin Catholic, University win all-county battles

The REPORTER

The Guerin Catholic and University tennis teams each won all-county battles on Tuesday, May 12.

The Golden Eagles defeated Fishers 4-1. Cece Phillips was a 6-1, 6-0 winner at No. 2 singles, while Anna Kolb took the No. 3 singles match 6-1, 6-2.

In doubles, No. 1 Abby Quigley and Grace Docktor won their match 6-0, 6-1, while No. 2 Maddy Hood and Courtney Bassi scored a 6-0, 6-0 shutout.

No. 1 singles Allie Briggs won the Tigers' match 6-3, 6-2.

Meanwhile, University traveled to Noblesville and

won that dual match 4-1.

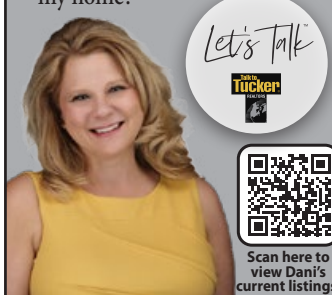
No. 1 singles Laurel Buttrick and No. 2 singles Duygu Arseven both claimed 6-0, 6-0 shutouts; Buttrick is now 16-3 for the season. No. 3 singles Sruti Alturi won her match 6-1, 6-0.

The teams split the doubles: the Trailblazers' No. 1 team of Sarah Coleman and Lauren Quinto were victorious, while the Millers' Mia Teachnor and Lucy Augspurger won the No. 2 match. (Scores were not available.)

Thanks for reading!

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Correction

Fishers' Konrad Hayden, the high jump champion at the Hamilton County boys track & field meet, was misidentified in The Reporter's Friday, May 15 edition. The Reporter regrets the error.

Men's Basketball

Helping Boom players "achieve their dreams"

Chris Defendis joins Noblesville's G League team as president of business operations

By RICHIE HALL sports@readthereporter.com

Take a look at the resume of Chris Defendis, and you'll see he has worked for some well-known brands: AT&T, HBO, Warner Bros., the WWE have all been stops on his career journey.

"I have a history of working at best-in-class brands," said Defendis. That bodes well for the Noblesville Boom, which hired the Westfield resident to become the team's president of business operations on April 27.

"It's fantastic," said Defendis, 48. He noted that on his first day at the job, the team had a town hall downtown, "so I was able to meet the entire PSE&E [Pacers Sports & Entertainment] family. Some players from the [Indiana] Fever joined to do a little Q&A. Everyone's been very accommodating, helping

me to do a soft landing as I enter the organization."

The Boom is the NBA G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers, a team that has been a staple in Indianapolis for over half a century. The Pacers have showcased basketball at a high level throughout that time.

The success is great, but it also means tickets are hard to come by. Defendis said it's sometimes "very difficult, given the demand to attend a Pacers game," for young people to get close to the action.

"The Arena is a beautiful, modern arena without a bad seat in the house," said Defendis. "We want to extend the opportunities to the organizations and really work with those organizations to have opportunities to attend Boom games and experience that level of basketball up close, but also transition them to become Pacers fans

over the course of their life."

Defendis said his priority is to extend the awareness of the Boom into Noblesville's neighboring communities. That includes Kokomo, the north side of Indianapolis – "anywhere within 15 to 20 to 45 minutes away," he said.

"I think this is a great, family-friendly and affordable alternative," said Defendis. "It's high-quality basketball in a state that takes basketball very seriously."

Defendis graduated from the University of Dayton in 2000, noting that he was the 14th member of his family to do so – "it's definitely a family legacy," he said. After working for AT&T for a year, he spent 21 years at HBO, working his way up from



Defendis

account executive to hold various positions at the network and its parent companies.

Defendis worked at the WWE in 2023, then the next year joined Xtreme One Entertainment, where he helped relaunch the company and its flagship property, Xtreme Fighting Championships. The mandate was to make the organization "the premier global development platform for next-generation MMA athletes," Defendis said on his LinkedIn page.

"What we were trying to do was give opportunities to those athletes to fulfill their dreams and make it to the UFC," said Defendis. He wants to continue that with his work at the Boom, giving opportunities to those ath-

letes to achieve their dreams while making the experience "phenomenal for those players by filling the stands with fans and making sure the community knows and cares about them."

Defendis knows about how to care for athletes.

His son is a baseball player on the Westfield High School baseball team, while his daughter cheers for the Shamrocks. Defendis previously served on the board of Westfield Youth Sports and was a youth baseball coach for several years.

Softball

Fast start leads Tigers to victory

The REPORTER

Fishers started fast on Monday, May 11 and that led the host Tigers to a 7-5 all-county win over Carmel.

Fishers scored three runs in the first inning. Frankie Jackson singled in Cate Summerfield and Kennedy Shockley, then Adrienne Cook stole home plate. Saylor Roberts tripped in Summerfield for a second-inning run.

The Greyhounds got on the board in the third inning. Riley Petrites led off with a double, then Jayden Kleiner doubled her home before scoring herself on an error.

Carmel tied the game in the top of the fifth inning. Kleiner got home on Chloe Junkersfeld's RBI groundout, then Winni Owens singled in Ellie Goddard. But Fishers moved ahead in the bottom of the fifth: Cook slammed a three-run home run, also scoring Summerfield and Shockley.

The Hounds scored one run in the sixth inning. Megan Pike got home on Kleiner's RBI fielder's choice.

Summerfield, Shockley, Cook and Jackson all totaled two hits. Joni Oliver got the pitching win.

Kleiner had two doubles during a 3-for-4 night. Owens had two hits. Chelsea Bennett struck out four in 5.1 innings.

home on a wild pitch, then Dylan Todd scored after Sofia Easterhaus reached on an error.

The Royals loaded the bases in the seventh inning, then Jaycee McCarter sent a grand slam into center field. Lilly Palmer, Richmond and Kaleah McCarter also scored.

Richmond was 3-for-4 at the plate. Haleigh Seitz hit a double. Kaleah McCarter pitched five innings for the win, striking out eight.

Easterhaus and Annika Lawrence had two hits for Westfield, with Mariana Lopez and Makayla Watson each hitting a double.

Sheridan rallied to win a 7-6 home Hoosier Heartland Conference game over Tri-Central on Monday, May 11.

The Blackhawks scored two runs in the second inning. Ellie Eaton doubled in Anna Rusk, then Amiyah Doss batted in Eaton. Makenzey Terry hit a triple in the fifth inning, then scored on Rusk's RBI groundout.

The Trojans led 6-3 in the top of the sixth, but Sheridan scored four runs in the bottom of the inning. Doss doubled in Abby Dallas, then Hayleigh Kemp smacked a two-run double to score Doss and Adria

Jump. Kemp later scored on a wild pitch.

Doss had a perfect night, hitting 4-for-4. Eaton and Dallas both had two hits.

Starting pitcher Jump threw seven strikeouts in five innings, while Norah Adams pitched the last two innings and got the win.

WESTFIELD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Westfield City Council, being the governing body of the City of Westfield, will conduct a public hearing on Monday, June 8, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana, and in a virtual format viewable at https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofWestfieldIN, to receive and hear remonstrances and objections from all persons interested in or affected by the proposed 100% voluntary annexations. Ord. 26-31: The Lakes at Ironstone Annexation; The proposed voluntary annexation consists of eight (8) parcels approximately 237.6 acres +/-.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Westfield-Washington Township Advisory Plan Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 1, 2026, at Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana, or in a virtual format viewable at https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofWestfieldIN, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and reviewing and acting on the following petitions: 2606-PUD-08 Northpoint Planned Unit Development (PUD), Amendment VII; West side of East Street, generally south of East 202nd Street and north of Bastian Court, Northpoint 2 Land, LLC by Clark Quinn Moses Scott & Grahn requests to amend Buffer Yard standards on 13.58 acres +/- in the Northpoint Planned Unit Development (PUD) District.

FISHERS

CITY OF FISHERS ADVISORY PLAN COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SUBMIT COMMENTS BY GOING TO: https://fishersin.gov/how-do-i/ View the list of board members at FishersIN.gov/PlanCommission NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Fishers Advisory Plan Commission at 6:00 PM on June 3, 2026, at Fishers Municipal Center Theater, 1 Municipal Drive, Fishers, IN 46038. REQUEST: At that hearing, the public will be invited to offer comments on the following: Request to Approve Amendments to Chapter 32 (Impact Fee Advisory Committee), Chapter 96 (Parks and Recreation), and Chapter 156 (Administration Permits and Fees) of the City of Fishers Code of Ordinances.

COURT NOTICES

29D02-2605-EU-000213 IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT STATE OF INDIANA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FRANK E. ADAMS II NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION In the Hamilton County Superior Court Notice is hereby given that CHARITY ADAMS was, on May 11, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of FRANK E. ADAMS, II, deceased, who died October 10, 2023.

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF: MARGARET S. DELUCIA, DECEASED NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of May, 2026, John P. DeLucia was appointed personal representative of the Estate of Margaret S. DeLucia, deceased, who died on the 20th day of April, 2026.

COURT NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF HAMILTON In The Hamilton Superior Court Probate Division CAUSE NO. 29D02-2605-EU-000207 IN RE THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF: MARGARET S. DELUCIA, DECEASED NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of May, 2026, John P. DeLucia was appointed personal representative of the Estate of Margaret S. DeLucia, deceased, who died on the 20th day of April, 2026.

SHERIFF SALES

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Superior Court of Hamilton County, Indiana, in Cause No. 29D02-2510-PL-011326, wherein The Villas at Geist Owners Association, Inc., was Plaintiff, and George Montgomery was the Defendant, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost. I will expose a public sale to the highest bidder, on the 18th day of June, 2026 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. of said day, at the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, 18100 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, IN 46060, fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Hamilton County, Indiana.

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF HAMILTON COUNTY) COUNTY OF HAMILTON) NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA) CAUSE NO. 29D06-2511-MF-012818

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE By virtue of an Order of Sale, directed to me from the Clerk of the Hamilton Circuit Court and pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered on 04/17/2026, I will expose to public sale to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the office of the Sheriff of Hamilton County, in Hamilton County, Indiana, located at 18100 Cumberland Rd., Noblesville, IN 46060 on June 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Local Time, the fee simple title together with the rents, profits, issues and income or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, interest, costs and accruing costs of the following described real estate located in Hamilton County, Indiana, to-wit:

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Superior Court of Hamilton County, Indiana, in Cause No. 29D02-2308-MF-007312 wherein U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Bungalow Series IV Trust was Plaintiff, and Charles R. Simmons and, were Defendants, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost. I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 18th day of June, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 18100 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, IN 46060 the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Hamilton County, Indiana.

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Superior Court of Hamilton County, Indiana, in Cause No. 29D02-2308-MF-007312 wherein U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Bungalow Series IV Trust was Plaintiff, and Charles R. Simmons and, were Defendants, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost. I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 18th day of June, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 18100 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, IN 46060 the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Hamilton County, Indiana.

Boys Lacrosse

Girls Lacrosse



Photo by Mike Navarro

The Guerin Catholic boys lacrosse team clinched the Circle City Conference championship on Tuesday, May 12 with an 18-1 win over Brebeuf Jesuit.

Guerin Catholic clinches conference title

The REPORTER

The Guerin Catholic boys lacrosse team clinched the Circle City Conference championship with an 18-1 win over Brebeuf Jesuit on Tuesday, May 12.

Gavin Soucie scored six goals for the Golden Eagles, while Vincent Elliott added five goals and dished out three assists. Chris Giedd and J.B. Ford both scored two goals, with Ford handing out five assists. Ethan Lehtinen, Henry Kerr and Timothy Galvin completed the scoring with one goal each.

The Golden Eagles finished the regular season 9-7. ***

Westfield beat Center Grove 10-5 on Wednesday, May 13, finishing the regu-

lar season 10-7.

Sophomore Daniel Sherman scored four goals, with senior Jake Norris and sophomore Finnigan Smyth adding two goals each. Smyth also made two assists. Tyler Hamilton and Sam Meyers both scored one goal.

Norris and junior Marrison McCray both collected five ground balls. ***

Noblesville dropped its regular-season finale 17-5 to Cathedral at home on Wednesday, May 13.

Geoffrey Stapert and Hayden McCaslin both scored two goals for the Millers, with McCaslin handing out two assists. Charlie Boe added one goal and one assist. Senior Oliver



Ott led the ground balls with five, while Nikolas Zourdos collected four ground balls.

Noblesville finished its regular season 6-10. ***

In other Wednesday,

May 13 regular-season finales, Fishers beat Franklin Community 14-3 to complete its regular season 8-8. Carmel lost to Culver Academies 12-10, finishing its regular season 14-2.



Photo by Mike Navarro

Guerin Catholic's Ella Capofari was one of seven different Golden Eagles players to score a goal during GC's state quarterfinal victory over Culver Academies on Thursday, May 14.

Golden Eagles easily win quarterfinal

By RICHIE HALL
sports@readthereporter.com

NOBLESVILLE – The Guerin Catholic girls lacrosse team easily moved into the semifinals of the Indiana Girls Lacrosse playoffs with a 19-7 quarterfinal win over Culver Academies Thursday, May 14 at the Golden Eagles' field.

Guerin Catholic never trailed, leading 6-0 after one quarter. Seven different players scored for the Golden Eagles, led by Caroline Ford's six goals and eight assists. Claire Flannagan was next with five goals and one assist.

"We had beaten them before and felt that if we got out to a nice quick lead, it might deflate their spirit a little bit," said GC coach Joe Bellflower. "We've played really good the last

several weeks, and we're jumping on teams early, which is something I like."

Natalie Laughon added three goals, while Lucy Esposito added two goals. Adele Cline, Ella Capofari and Maggie Scott each scored one goal.

"Defensively, we're really solid, as we always have been," said Bellflower. "But offensively, we're just moving the ball really well."

The Golden Eagles improved to 15-4 after the victory. Guerin Catholic will play in the INGLA semifinals this Saturday, May 23 at Zionsville. The Golden Eagles will play the winner of the Saturday, May 17 quarterfinal between Carmel and Westfield. (Results were too late for press time and will appear in The Reporter's Tuesday, May 19 edition.)



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