

THE HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Your Hometown Newspaper

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Showers and storms.
Tonight: Scattered early evening showers, then clearing.

HIGH: 80 LOW: 58



HSE Schools celebrates three Teachers of the Year

Submitted by Hamilton Southeastern Schools

Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) Schools is recognizing the educators selected as 2025-26 Teachers of the Year for their schools and programs.

Each year, HSE's 22 schools and three district programs select a Teacher of the Year to honor educators who make a lasting difference for students, colleagues, and school communities. These honorees represent more than 1,200 educators across the district and were selected for their dedication to students, commitment to learning and the positive impact they make each day.

"These teachers represent the very best of what happens in our classrooms every day," Superintendent Dr. Matt Kegley said. "They build relationships, challenge students to think deeply and create learning environments where students feel supported, capable and ready to grow. Being selected by your school community is a tremendous honor, and I am proud to celebrate each of this year's recipients."

District and building administrators helped surprise the level finalists at their schools, and a special assembly was held last Thursday, May 21 at Riverside Junior High to announce the

2026 HSE District Teacher of the Year.

Meet the Honorees

Get to know this year's finalists through short video spotlights that showcase their passion for teaching and the difference they make every day.

• **Elementary Finalist: Casey Ochieng**, ENL teacher, Brooks School Elementary

• **Intermediate/Junior High Finalist & HSE District Teacher of the Year: Jordan Teeple**, seventh-grade math teacher, Riverside Junior High School

• **High School Finalist: Lindsay Mahan**, Social Studies teacher, Hamilton Southeastern High School

Teeple will now represent HSE Schools in the Indiana Teacher of the Year competition. He also received a \$1,000 award from the Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation in recognition of his achievement.

Congratulations to all 2025-26 building-level and program Teachers of the Year. Their dedication, passion, and care continue to make a difference across HSE Schools.

• **BSE:** Casey Ochieng, ENL Teacher

• **CRE:** Elizabeth James, 3rd Grade Teacher

See *HSE* . . . Page 2



Photos provided by HSE Schools

This year's Teachers of the Year are (from top) Casey Ochieng, Brooks School Elementary; Jordan Teeple, Riverside Junior High School; and Lindsay Mahan, Hamilton Southeastern High School.

Triggering scenarios

Recently, I was at a restaurant and went to use the restroom. I was in my wheelchair. Things were going smoothly, someone held the door for me, so I did not have to make my way in like a bull ramming a wall, the accessible stall was big enough for my wheelchair, life was good.

After exiting the stall, I went to wash my hands. There were about eight teenage girls standing at the sinks talking. As soon as they saw me, they looked as if they saw someone with a horrible, contagious disease. The room became painfully silent as I half smiled and said, "excuse me." They did not smile back. They collectively moved as a big unit as far away from me as they could, continuing to stare at me. I truly could not understand what about me would justify such a dramatic reaction.

As many times as things like this have happened to me, it never becomes less awkward. I will never get used to being looked at that way. As if I have the plague. If you know you know.

As they continued to stare at me, still silent, I went to reach for the soap. The dispenser was not even close to being in reach from my wheelchair. Ugh! This did not help my frustration. I just wanted to wash my hands and get out of that room.

As I continued to struggle to reach the soap, they finally got tired of the show and stepped over my wheels on my chair so they could exit the bathroom. I heard a few giggles as they finally exited the tiny space.

To be clear, I do not hold any ill will towards these girls. My sadness comes from the exhaustion of these same types of instances throughout my lifetime, and the continued lack of accessibility. Even in newly renovated spaces.

See *Triggering* . . . Page 2

COLUMNIST



AMY SHINNEMAN
Disability in the City

Sheridan Community Schools awards Teacher of the Year

Submitted by Sheridan Community Schools

On Tuesday, May 19, Sheridan Community Schools (SCS) named Ryan Kelleher as Teacher of the Year. He works as both a high school science teacher and corporation instructional coach serving K-12 teachers.

As one of the nominators stated, "Mr. Kelleher is not only a fantastic teacher but a wonderful human being. He always treats everyone around him with kindness and respect."

Kelleher is currently teaching Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, and Honors Biology, where he inspires curiosity in his classroom via hands-on learning through experiments and real-world experiences that

put learning into practice. In his instructional coaching role, he also helps to support and empower young and veteran teachers alike in making their classrooms better every day.

"I am incredibly honored to be recognized," Kelleher said. "There are so many deserving and talented educators who are making a difference in the lives of our students every day."

SCS is grateful for his dedication, leadership, and commitment to helping students and staff succeed. Sheridan is lucky to have him. His commitment and service are a true reflection of what it means to support a school community, making him more than deserving of being named the 2026 Teacher of the Year.



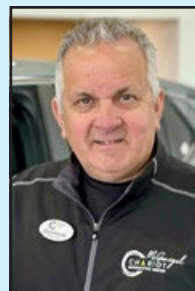
Graphic provided by Allison Waitt

Chariot: several decades of riding the charity road

The REPORTER

National Automotive Dealer Day was on May 19. It is a day that recognizes the vital role local dealerships play in driving economic growth, creating jobs, and supporting their communities.

The Reporter spoke with Kokomo Platform Manager Steve Parrott from Chariot Automotive Group about Chariot's ongoing work to give back to the communities where their dealerships are located.



Parrott

Chariot stands out as a strong example of that impact. With a customer-first approach and deep community ties, Chariot represents the modern dealership, blending innovation with a genuine commitment to local service.

Parrott is responsible for streamlining operations at Chariot's Button, McGonigal, and Academy dealerships and has been involved in community events like monthly blood drives at rotating dealerships.

"Our motto is 'Driven to Serve,' and we encourage our employees to serve at the charity of their choice," Parrott told The Reporter. "When they do that, they can be paid up to 16 hours a year. They can do it in four-hour increments or eight-hour increments, but we pay them to go out and serve at a charity of their choice 16 hours a year."

A full list of places Chariot employees have donated their time to is included in today's edition.

Also, on Thursday, May 14, Button Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Kokomo partnered with the Red Cross to host a community blood drive at the dealership. Held from 2 to 6 p.m., the event brought community members together to help support local hospitals and patients in need through lifesaving blood donations.

See *Chariot* . . . Page 2

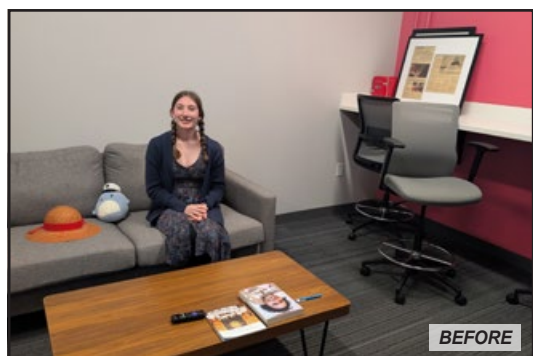
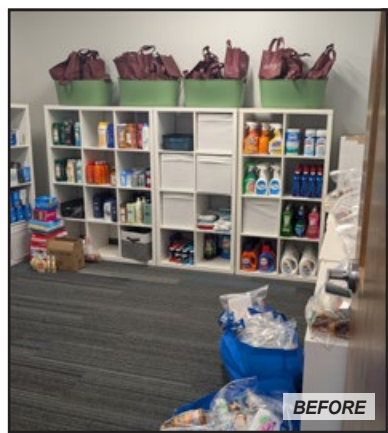
Girl Scout leads foster youth initiative during Foster Care Awareness Month

Submitted by Cynthia Holladay
For The Reporter

May is recognized nationally as Foster Care Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the needs of children and young adults in foster care and recognizing the importance of community support.

Fishers High School junior and Girl Scout Sophie Holladay, 17, marked this month by celebrating the completion of her Girl Scout Gold Award project, completed in partnership with Foster Success, an organization focused on supporting older youth transitioning out of foster care.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn and recognizes leadership through sustainable community impact projects. Holladay has been volunteering in the foster care community through Girl Scouts since she was 13 years old and has focused most



Photos provided

Sophie Holladay's Girl Scout project focused on reworking and expanding Foster Success's Basic Needs Pantry (top) as well as creating a more welcoming environment in the organization's youth lounge (above). What an improvement! Great work, Sophie!

See *Foster* . . . Page 2

HSE

from Page 1

- **DCE:** Kelly Hogan, 2nd Grade Teacher
- **FCE:** Chloe Diedam, FOCUS Teacher
- **FES:** Lisa Harvey, 3rd Grade Teacher
- **GES:** Kelli Caughman, Kindergarten Teacher
- **HPE:** Brandy Wilkinson, 2nd Grade Teacher
- **HRE:** Karissa Mayol, P.E. Teacher
- **LRE:** Jennifer Skinner, 2nd Grade Teacher
- **NBE:** Audrey Gundersen, 4th Grade Teacher
- **SCE:** Chelsea Elmore, Kindergarten
- **SES:** Kelly Wolf, 3rd Grade Teacher
- **TCE:** Liza Borgert, Kindergarten
- **FCI:** Ashley McConnell, 5th Grade Teacher

- **RSI:** Becky Holman, FIATS Teacher
- **SCI:** Jodi Whalen, 5th Grade Teacher
- **HJJ:** Jill Mockler, 5th Grade Teacher; and Michelle Huston, Language Arts Teacher
- **FCJ:** Brittany Potts, 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher
- **FJH:** Adam Brown, Science Teacher
- **RJH:** Jordan Teeple, Math Teacher
- **HHS:** Jenifer Young, ENL Teacher; and Lindsay Mahan, Social Studies Teacher
- **FHS:** Alisa Vaughn, Math Teacher; and Taylor Meador, ENL Teacher
- **PRE:** Megan McGee
- **FOCUS:** Andrea Marine

TRIGGERING

from Page 1

Each time something like this happens, it triggers memories of these same types of scenarios. It feels heavy and defeating. My dignity pulverized. I often wonder, *Why do I even leave my house?*

Life ebbs and flows. After that same defeating encounter, I ran into a lady as I was exiting the bathroom. She was as kind as she could be.

One act of kindness can ease the pain of a difficult experience. It does not wipe it away, but it helps to ease the sting. Like a salve smeared over a wound.

It was hard to put on a happy face as I tried to enjoy the rest of my evening. No one in my party knew what had taken place in that bathroom. Even if I tried to explain, I knew that would not ease my pain. Plus, who wants to bring everyone down with a sad story when we are supposed to be enjoying the evening?

The truth of it all is I just wanted to use the restroom and wash my hands. This should not be some sort of traumatic experience. This

restroom was clearly newly renovated and while they got a lot of accessibility features right, they seemed to overlook that a person in a wheelchair would need to wash their hands. It is so important to include people with disabilities in discussion for these types of renovations. Just because something checks a box of “accessible” does not always mean it is functional.

I have reached out to the restaurant to make the simple suggestion that they have a bottle of soap within reach so that a person in a wheelchair can have the luxury of a good old-fashioned hand washing before enjoying their meal.

Until next time ...
Amy Shinneman is a former National Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, disability blogger, freelance writer, wife, and mom of two boys. She is the recipient of the Reporter's Winter 2025 Ink-Stained Wretch award. You can find her blog at humblycourageous.com and reach her on Instagram @ashinneman.

CHARIOT

from Page 1

The Automotive Technician Education Pathway (ATEP) program was founded at the Academy dealership, and gives high school students hands-on learning opportunities before they graduate and college credit toward an Ivy Tech degree.

“One of the things we are most proud of is that program,” Parrott said. “We have current technicians that will start off in our quick lane express and have brought them into full line technicians.”

Through Chariot’s ATEP program, high school juniors and seniors get an opportunity to learn in a classroom and through hands-on experience in the service drive of a car dealership. Students are able to earn college credit toward an automotive degree with Ivy Tech Community College Kokomo. The program works around students’ school schedules and helps them get credit for paid work.

Travis Lee, a Chariot ATEP program member, received the Postsecondary Student Award from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education’s Indiana Awards for Excellence Program.

The Indiana Awards for Excellence Program highlights the outstanding achievements of Career and Technical Education (CTE) students, programs, partnerships and career advisory programs around the state. The Postsecondary Student award is given to a student striving to achieve in high scholastic competence, has shown reliability and interpersonal skills, demonstrated leadership and documented outstanding ability to perform career and technical skills or tasks.

Parrott told The Reporter he’s very proud of the number of employees who have worked for Chariot a significant portion of their careers.

“We have a plethora of employees that have



Photos provided by Chariot Automotive Group

(ABOVE) Travis Lee, a Chariot ATEP program member, received the Postsecondary Student Award from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education’s Indiana Awards for Excellence Program. (BELOW) Jamie Hansen, Sales Manager at Button Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Kokomo, participated in the blood drive held May 14.

served the company over 20 years,” Parrott said. “Our longest-standing employee outside of the family would be a technician who’s working on 43 years.”

Chariot CEO Rex Gingerich and Vice President Lisa Hern see Chariot as a family business because, for them, it is. Their father, Ivan Gingerich, started working with the company that evolved into Chariot Automotive over 70 years ago.

“Ivan Gingerich, who got involved in 1954, helped build this business based on referrals, repeats, and relationships,” Parrott said. “He wrote handwritten notes to customers. That’s just a true testament to him and what his forward thinking was back in the 50s by handwriting notes to customers for birthdays, car anniversaries, and other things.”

At their locations in Kokomo, Tipton, and Lafayette, Chariot employs over 300 people. Chariot Automotive Group is a family-owned automotive dealership network headquartered in Kokomo. Chariot serves the transportation needs of its communities



Organizations where Chariot has donated time or resources

- Kokomo Rescue Mission – Red Ribbon Christmas & Back to School Drive
- Food Finders
- Habitat for Humanity
- United Way
- Buddy Bags
- Kokomo Urban Outreach – holiday lights
- Crossroads Community Church
- Family Service Association – domestic violence shelter
- Kokomo Rescue Mission – Thanksgiving meal delivery
- Kokomo Career Center – student uniforms
- Safety Seat

with passion, commitment, and integrity.

Learn more online at DriveChariot.com.

FOSTER

from Page 1

of her advocacy work on improving opportunities and support systems for youth aging out of foster care.

The project, titled “Youth Lounge and Basic Needs Pantry,” focused on creating a welcoming youth lounge and expanding Foster Success’s Basic Needs Pantry to better serve older foster youth. The completed lounge offers a safe, supportive environment where young people can study, socialize, access resources, and connect with services that help them transition successfully into adulthood. The pantry has been enhanced with increased storage capacity and dedicated space for volunteers to assemble care packages for foster youth across Indiana and nationwide.

The pantry expansion involved Holladay coordinating volunteers, securing donations and discounted materials for shelving systems, and partnering with professional organizers from The Simple Life to create a functional, sustainable system.

“We believe that organized, intentional spaces can remove barriers and make it easier for people

to access what they need,” said Caitlyn Klatt of The Simple Life. “Being part of a project that supports foster youth in such a practical, lasting way was incredibly meaningful to us.”

Furnishing the lounge with comfortable seating, games, study areas, and technology involved collaborating with interior designer Sheila Hawes to thoughtfully design the space and recruiting volunteers from New Hope Presbyterian Church to bring the vision to life.

“I wanted this project to be more than just a room or pantry. I wanted foster youth to feel seen, supported, and connected to opportunities that can change their future,” Holladay said. “During Foster Care Awareness Month, I hope it encourages others to better understand and support older foster youth.”

Foster Success celebrated Foster Care Awareness Month by hosting a community open house called “Breaking Down Barriers” on May 7 at its downtown Indianapolis office. The event invited community members to tour the space, learn about the challenges

older foster youth face, and explore programs supporting education, housing stability, workforce readiness, and health and wellness.

The open house underscored the importance of creating spaces where foster youth feel supported, connected, and empowered. Leaders at Foster Success emphasized that strong community support and access to resources can have a lasting impact on young people navigating adulthood without traditional family support systems.

“Older foster youth are often the forgotten population, and too often we expect them to navigate adulthood on their own,” said Travis Tester, Chief Development and Communications Officer at Foster Success. “Spaces like this help them feel supported, connected, and part of a community that’s truly rallying behind them.”

Through her Gold Award project, Holladay demonstrated how youth-led service and advocacy can create meaningful, lasting change for youth in the community.

Learn more about Foster Success at fostersuccess.org.

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www.basilewestfieldplayhouse.org



MOON MARKET BLUE MOON

Fri., May 29 | 3-9 PM

Strawtown Koteewi Park

12308 Strawtown Ave., Noblesville, IN 46060

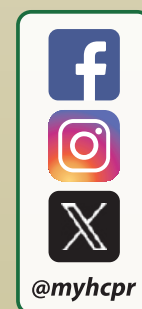
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Hamilton Heights' Mitch Street recognized as IASP District 5 Assistant Principal of the Year

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corp.

Hamilton Heights School Corporation announces that Hamilton Heights High School Assistant Principal Mitch Street has been named the District 5 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP). District 5 encompasses Boone, Hamilton, Howard, Madison, Miami, and Tipton counties.

This distinguished honor recognizes exemplary leadership, dedication to student success, and outstanding service within Indiana's public schools.

Street brings nearly two decades of educational experience – and a deep, personal connection to Hamilton Heights – to his role. He began his career at Heights in 2008 as a Social Studies teacher and quickly became known for his ability to mentor and inspire students both in the classroom and on the field.

After serving as Assistant Varsity Football Coach and later Head Coach, he transitioned to Dean of Students in 2014, spending the next decade strengthening relationships, supporting students, and contributing to a positive, student-centered

school culture. Now serving as Assistant Principal, Street remains deeply committed to the place where he built his career, raised his family, and found a community he is proud to serve.

"Mitch is an exceptional leader whose integrity, compassion, and commitment to students set him apart," Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood said. "He has been highly successful at Hamilton Heights as a head coach, dean of students, and now assistant principal. He is absolutely the right person to be in this role at exactly the right time, and we are incredibly proud to see his work recognized at the state level."

HHHS Principal Whitney Gray added, "Mitch is more than deserving of this honor, and I could not do what I do without his support. His attention to detail is so impressive, and everything he does is done in a first-class manner. He puts kids first in all that he does and makes it a priority to build a rapport with our students. I am so grateful for



Street

his leadership and couldn't ask for a better assistant principal."

Street holds a Bachelor of Social Science Education from Olivet Nazarene University and a master's in educational leadership from the American College of Education. Reflecting on the honor, Street shared his gratitude for the community that has shaped his career, noting that he is humbled by the recognition and thankful to work alongside such dedicated educators and remarkable students.

Street's leadership is marked by steadiness, integrity, and a deep belief in empowering both students and staff. He is committed to fostering a school environment where students can explore their interests, discover their strengths, and prepare for life beyond high school.

From the District Assistant High School Principal winners, one is chosen as the State High School Assistant Principal of the Year. The state level winner will be announced at the award celebration at the IASP Fall Professionals Conference.

AG Rokita unveils office's new, patriotic America 250 seal

Submitted by Office of AG Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita released on Tuesday, May 26 the official Indiana Attorney General's America 250 seal, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

"It is an incredible honor to serve as Indiana's Attorney General during this historic milestone, so we wanted to do something meaningful to recognize it," AG Rokita said. "The timeless values that forged our country – self-governance, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness – are the very ideals our office fights tirelessly to defend every single day. This 'America 250' seal is a visual reminder of that daily mission and our un-

wavering commitment to ensuring that our sacred, God-given rights are maintained."

The new circular seal features a blindfolded Lady Justice holding the scales high against a waving American flag backdrop. The bold "250 YEARS" sits prominently in the center, encircled by the words "Indiana Attorney General" and "America's 250th Anniversary."

"The blindfold on Lady Justice in this seal is not just



Rokita

symbolism, it's an anti-DEI statement of truth," Rokita added. "She doesn't care what color you are. She doesn't care if you're a man or a woman. She doesn't care how rich or poor you are. True

justice must be completely impartial – blind to politics, power, special interests, or identity. As we mark 250 years of American liberty, our office

will continue to defend that principle against government overreach, radical ideologies, and those who seek to divide us. This anniversary is not just a celebration – it is a call to every Hoosier to actively renew and protect the Republic our founders entrusted to us."

Click here to watch AG Rokita unveil the seal and describe its meaning.



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When we celebrate our graduates, we celebrate the strength of Indiana's public schools

In February, our nation celebrated Public Schools Week, a time dedicated to recognizing the essential role public schools play in shaping the lives of young people and strengthening the communities they call home.



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Hamilton Heights Superintendent

Yet public schools deserve more recognition than a single week can provide. Strong public schools prepare students academically, socially, and emotionally. They nurture curiosity, build confidence, and help young people discover who they are and what they can become. They serve as gathering places, support networks, and hubs of connection. And they are instrumental to our country's future.

Public education is one of Indiana's greatest assets. But great schools don't happen by accident. Their success is made possible thanks to the exceptional caliber of our teachers, administrators, and staff – the people who greet our students each morning, who guide their learning, who care for their wellbeing, and who create the conditions for every child to grow.

Across our district, we see the results of that partnership every day through strong academic growth across all grade levels. At the high school, 95.2 percent of seniors grad-

uated, 225 students earned dual credit, and more than 100 students participated in off campus CTE or work based learning, with juniors showing a 33 point PSAT to SAT gain. At the middle school, over 92 percent of eighth graders earn multiple high school credits, all grades scored above the state average on ILEARN, and every student engages in immersive real world learning. At the elementary school, early literacy is accelerating across all grades – including third-grade fluency rising from 67 percent to 95 percent – supported by strong SEL practices and hands on learning experiences. Together, these achievements reflect the collective strength of Hamilton Heights and our shared commitment to ensuring every student thrives.

As this school year draws to a close, we are reminded of what this work is all about: preparing students who will thrive after graduation. Each graduate represents years of effort from teachers, families, bus drivers, food service workers, custodians, counselors, and countless others who supported them along the way. Our graduates are Indiana's future workforce, future leaders, and future community members. When we celebrate our graduates, we celebrate the

strength of Indiana's public schools and the promise they hold for our state.

For me, this work carries personal meaning. I am a proud graduate of Hamilton Heights, and the experiences I had in our public

schools shaped the trajectory of my life. The teachers, coaches, and mentors who invested in me helped spark a calling that led to a lifelong career in public education. I am one of countless examples of how a strong

public school can change the direction of a young person's life, and I am grateful every day to serve the same community that invested in me and continues to inspire me.

When we invest in pub-

lic education, we invest in Indiana's future, and that is a commitment worth celebrating every day.

Dr. Derek Arrowood serves as the superintendent of Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

HAMILTON COUNTY HARVEST FOOD BANK
www.HCHFoodBank.org

Working Together With You to Feed Hamilton County

Hamilton County food pantries feed over 32,000 food insecure friends and neighbors in our community.

Connect With Us

Summer Market
Sunday, Jun. 14th, 11 AM - 5 PM
Hamilton County Fairgrounds

Suggested Items to Donate:		
Canned Chicken and/or Tuna	Chef Boyardee with meat cans	Helper Mixes
Canned Meat Stews or Chunky Meat Soups	Cereal Boxes -i.e. Cheerios, Chex preferred	Mac and Cheese Individual Cups or Boxes
Canned Fruits	Peanut Butter and Jelly -small jars preferred	Individual Packed Fruit and/or Applesauce Cups
Pancake Mix/Syrup/Oatmeal packs	Pasta Sauce -cans preferred/Pasta Boxes	Granola Bars or Microwave Popcorn

ON-LINE ONLY PUBLIC AUCTION

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Personal Property

BIDDING OPENS: Saturday, May 23rd @ Noon
SOFT CLOSE BEGINS: Saturday, June 6th @ 6pm
PREVIEW DATES: Thursday, June 4th from Noon - 6pm
PICK-UP DAYS: Monday, June 8th from Noon - 6pm
Tuesday, June 9th from Noon - 6pm

Morgan Dollars, Coins, Currency, Pocket Watches, Vtg. Aviator Military Case w/ Charts & Maps, Signs, Advertising; Thermometers, Longaberger, Cast Iron, Uranium Glass & Jadeite; Sports Trading Cards, Firemen Decanters & Collectibles, Gamewell Fire Alarm, Furniture & Household; Linens & Soft Goods, Pyrex, Canning Jars, Large Collection of Crocks, Coca-Cola Toys & Collectibles; Marbles, Toys, Barbie Dolls, Lead Soldiers, Cameras, Cute Outdoor Decor, Home Health Care Items; Storage Crates & Totes, Animal Crates, Coleman, Ant. Keystone Clothes Wringer, Lightning Rods; Stainless Stand-Alone Sink, Meat Saw/Grinder, Golf Clubs, Bags

& Balls, Fishing Poles, Decoys; Boat Motors, Coolers, Sporting Goods, BB Guns, Bicycles, Snow Sleds, Biotech Compound Bow; Riding Mowers, Push Mowers, JD Yard Cart, Wheelbarrows, Live Traps, Traffic Cones; Food-Grade Metal Barrels, Black Cherry Lumber, 1-Bottom Plows, Tomato Cages, Planter Pots; Wooden Cable/Wire Spools, Hand & Power Tools, Yard & Garden Tools, Fasteners & Box Lots, Tool Boxes; Generators, Air Compressor, 30-Ton Press, Side-Mount 50-Gallon Fuel Tanks; Hydraulic Hose Crimper, with Pump & Dies, Safety Switches, Welder, Jackhammer, Concrete Saw; Hitches, Binders, Electrical, MORE!

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Step into a world of wonder during Magic of the Square

Submitted by **Joshua Glassburn-Ruby**
Noblesville Main Street

Let's team up for a fantasy-filled First Friday in historic downtown Noblesville on June 5, featuring:

Magicians, music, vendors, whimsical surprises, and our own Magic of the Square "Wizards & Wonders Costume Contest" for attendees, shoppers, and visitors of the square, all for a chance that one of them may earn the title of "Most Enchanting of All!"

Though the costume contest may be for visitors of the square, who doesn't enjoy a good excuse to dress up? Please do not hesitate to bust out your very own mystical attire ... I am certain some of us here at Noblesville Main Street will be doing the same! Let's get creative together!

Stay tuned to the NMS social media pages, as more details on activities and attrac-

tions will be shared very soon.

As we prepare for this magical evening, we would love to include your business in the event's promotions. Whether you are planning extended hours, a special sale, live music, a featured menu item, themed activities, or something creative and unique, we want to help share it with the community!

Submitting your information helps ensure your business is included in First Friday promotions across social media, event listings, and community communications. If you could, please take a moment to complete **this short Google Form** so we can highlight your participation.

Thank you so much for everything you do to make historic downtown Noblesville such an amazing and magical place to visit! We look forward to working with all of you and continuing to support the success of our First Fridays together.

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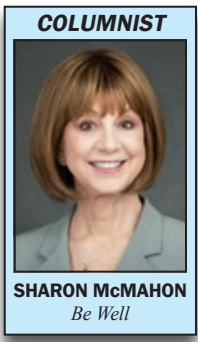
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Sharon's summer series starts with handy hydration hints

"Have a drink of water, everlastin' livin' water ..." — "Have a Drink of Water" by Johnny Cash, recorded late 1970s, re-released 2006

The calendar informs us that summer is nearly here, but from my viewpoint one would never know it! However, given that we will probably be in the throes of summer heat before long, I embark on my three-part "summer series" of suggestions and ideas which may make for a healthier, happier season!

I believe this is also a good time to remind my readers that I am not a licensed health professional and therefore cannot specify information relating to prescriptions, medical tests, or health-related medical issues. In addition to my executive position in non-profit management (retired and rewired!), I have long been certified in personal training, yoga, balance and flexibility, as well as nutrition and wellness.



COLUMNIST

SHARON McMAHON
Be Well

Today's column, part one of this series, relates to a very important matter: hydration.

I find both for myself and for most other people it is not a topic to which we give much thought or planning. It is, however, vital and necessary to our overall physical and mental health. Lack of proper hydration is often barely noticeable and usually gives us little warning while causing imperceptible changes and issues for our health.

Did you know that when you begin to feel thirsty that you are already dehydrated? Many of us wait until we actually feel thirsty to drink our water. That becomes almost "too little, too late" as the saying goes. If you are thirsty, you're already mildly dehydrated, and that can cause signs of dehydration like headache, fatigue, dizziness, and more.

Dehydration can contribute to life-threatening illnesses like heatstroke.¹ When

you aren't properly hydrated, your body's natural response is thirst. You should respond to thirst *right away* by drinking fluids, preferably water.

You can usually treat mild dehydration by drinking more fluids. But dehydration isn't always easy to spot. Oftentimes the elderly forget to drink water, and a baby will not be able to tell you they are thirsty.

If a loved one has a moderate to severe case of dehydration, you should seek medical help right away.²

It is helpful to remember that up to 78 percent of your body is made of water. Your brain is 73 percent water as well as your heart. Your lungs are 83 percent water and your bones are about 31 percent water.³ *Water is life!*

Of course, it is possible any time of year to become dehydrated, although we tend to perspire more in the warm months and spend more time outdoors. Alcohol consumption can also affect hydration. Using the best quality of water is advised, with filtered water or water with electrolytes being the standard.³

(My personal opinion is to avoid if possible water in plastic containers if you have other options.) I like to use my Brita water filter and pitcher most of the time.

Given the information I have shared with you here, please take note that any water consumption for your needs may be directed by your physician as requiring either more or less depending on any medical conditions or medications. A standard recommendation for water consumption is 64 to 80 ounces daily, with various guidelines depending on your lifestyle, exercise, age, and any other conditions you may have.

As always, I suggest you do your own research as well.

^{1,2} clevelandclinic.org

³ mayoclinic.org

Sharon McMahon, CNWC

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

Nearly half of all property assessment appeals are successful for homeowners, I-Team 8 finds

By KARA KENNEY
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Many homeowners throughout central Indiana are suffering from sticker shock after receiving their property tax bill in the mail.

Many homeowners saw an increase in their property's assessed value.

If you do not agree with your assessed value, you can pay your bill or you can fight back.

I-Team 8 surveyed county assessors, including Boone, Delaware, Hancock, Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson, and Marion counties.

I-Team 8's Kara Kenney found that, on average 48 percent of appeals were successful for the homeowner, which means they received a reduction in assessed value.

"We want to fix that mistake or make that property assessed at what it's truly worth," said Joseph O'Connor, Marion County

Assessor.

O'Connor said only 2 to 3 percent of Marion County homeowners file appeals.

"We don't look at them as a bad thing," O'Connor said. "I mean, it's vital to our industry because it gives us the information that we need to do the job accurately and uniformly and equitably."

In 2024, 7,744 homeowners filed appeals in Marion County; 3,097 or 40 percent were successful for the homeowner.

O'Connor explained why so many homeowners are seeing an increase in assessed value.

"I think we've seen a national phenomenon of rising residential home prices, really starting in about 2017," O'Connor said. "The median assessed value in Marion County over the last four years has increased over 25 percent."

Homeowners can file an appeal online, which typically prompts an infor-

mal meeting (also called a preliminary conference) with the assessor's office where a staffer goes over your property records with you.

"We are tasked from the legislature with valuing all properties at 100 percent market value," O'Connor said. "I think there's kind of a misconception that the assessor may have to come a little under market value. Not really."

Many homeowners do not realize the bill they're paying does not correspond with the current housing market.

"We use the 12 months of preceding sales, so really this bill in your hand is representing a 2024 real estate market," O'Connor said.

Homeowners can also appeal through the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals.

"It's a local board, and they're going to hear your case and rule one way or the other," O'Connor said.

Do's & don'ts for filing an appeal

• Make sure it is filed timely by June 15.

• Stay engaged in the process. Ask questions about how they arrived at your value. Make sure the property record card is viewed and explained, if needed.

• Be prepared to submit evidence supporting your value.

• Don't assume they know everything about your property or your neighbors.

• You don't need an attorney or representation to go through a successful appeal.

Ways to file an appeal

You may submit your appeal online or in person at any assessor's office location.

This story was originally published by WISH-TV at wishtv.com/news/i-team-8/nearly-half-of-property-assessment-appeals-are-successful-for-homeowners-i-team-8-finds.

Letter to the Editor

Fishers reader calls on Governor Braun to halt expanded bobcat hunting

Dear Editor:

At the May 19 public hearing on Indiana's proposal to allow 400 bobcats to be trapped and trophy hunted each year (a 60 percent increase from last year), the message from residents was crystal clear. Of all the speakers, nearly 90 percent opposed the proposal.

What other issues these days have that much united opposition from Hoosiers?

Landowners described how bobcats safeguard their property by keeping rodent populations in check. Wildlife experts cautioned that such aggressive quotas could actually eliminate bobcats from the state within a decade. Residents shared their hope that future generations might still encounter Indiana's only native wildcat in the wild.

The hearing's overwhelming opposition reflects broader public sentiment: statewide polling shows roughly seven in 10 Hoosiers are against recreational bobcat trapping. Despite this, state officials appear determined to prioritize the interests of a tiny fraction of the population over scientific evidence and the public's voice.

Governor Braun could halt this misguided expansion. Hoosiers have made their position unmistakable; it's time their leaders listened.

Brian Sherer
Fishers

Letter to the Editor

Shaffer takes a look at this year's Palladium schedule

Dear Editor:

The great mausoleum of music, the Carmel Palladium, announced its 70 performing acts for the 2026-27 season.

Among the recognizable stars are:

- Dionne Warwick, 85,
- Art Garfunkel, 81,
- Gladys Knight, 82;
- Mikey Dolenz, 81;
- Harry Connick, Jr., 58;
- John Malkovich, 72, and
- Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, 73.

The remaining 63 acts feature either has-been or never-was persons, groups, or non-descriptors.

The Center for the Performing Arts building still has a \$50 million payoff on bonds issued in 2005. Average ticket sales over the last five years have been \$3 million.

But the show must go on — aided by walkers and Rollators.

Bill Shaffer
Carmel

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to News@ReadTheReporter.com. Please include your phone number and city of residence. The Reporter will publish one letter per person per week.

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Prevail's 2026 Spring Fashion Show raises \$80K to support survivors of crime & abuse

Submitted

Prevail held its largest Spring Fashion Show to date on Friday, May 8 at the Ritz Charles in Carmel, welcoming more than 450 attendees for an inspiring afternoon of fashion, community, and impact. The event raised more than \$80,000 to support survivors of crime and abuse through Prevail's essential services and programs.

The annual fundraiser brought together local businesses, community leaders, and supporters to celebrate resilience while raising critical funds for survivors across Hamilton County and surrounding communities.

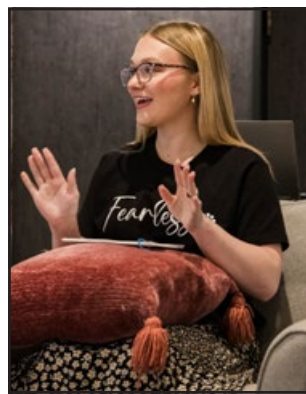
"2026 marks a historic milestone for Prevail as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary," Executive Director Tami Wanninger said. "For four decades, Prevail has been a place of hope, healing, and empowerment for survivors in our community. The progress we celebrate has only been possible because of our supporters, people who continue to stand alongside survivors and ensure help is always there when it's needed most."

This year's event was proudly presented by Gaylor Electric, the event's Premier Sponsor.

"Our company's support is important to me because I believe the work done by Prevail truly is changing the world one person at a time," CEO Chuck Goodrich said. "Prevail is community juggernaut for positive change."

Attendees enjoyed shopping from 10 local vendors, each donating a portion of their proceeds back to Prevail. Featured vendors included AH Collection, Bash Boutique, Fringe & Form, Jill Duzan Jewelry, Juler's Row, Linden Tree, Love Links by Rae, Tangerine Cards & Gifts, The Field - Women's Provisions, and Vintage Revival.

Held the Friday before Mother's Day, the event



Photos provided by Prevail, Inc. (TOP LEFT & CENTER) Sabrina Simmons and her daughter Brooklyn Johnson were the featured speakers at Prevail's Fashion Show. (TOP RIGHT) The Fashion Show serves not only as a celebration of style and beauty, but as an opportunity for the community to support the work Prevail does to help survivors of crime and abuse. (ABOVE) Thank you to the Event Committee for once again making an incredible fundraiser come to fruition.

carried special meaning as attendees heard from survivor speakers Brooklyn Johnson and her mother, Sabrina Simmons. At age 9, after attending a body safety class at school, Brooklyn courageously disclosed that she had been molested by her then-stepfather. From that moment forward, both Brooklyn and Sabrina's lives changed forever. Their conversation centered on how healing happens through honesty, fearlessness, and unwavering support.

"After experiencing sexual abuse, too many victims sit in silence. It is a very lonely place to be," Simmons said. "Brooklyn and I choose to share our story in hopes of breaking the stigma around child sexual abuse, to aid the community in prevention and education, and to ensure that nobody feels alone in their healing

journey." The event's co-chairs, Christi Crosser and Laurie Dyer, also reflected on why supporting Prevail's mission is so important to the community.

"We are proud to work with Prevail as community members in Noblesville," Crosser and Dyer said. "We believe in their mission to support survivors of crime and abuse. We believe in empowering individuals to heal and become the best they can be. Many friends and friends of friends have used the services of Prevail. Without the help of Prevail, we wouldn't have so many success stories. This event celebrates that success while still raising much needed funds to continue the good work that Prevail provides daily."

For those who were unable to attend but would

still like to support Prevail's mission, gifts can be made online at prevailinc.org/donate.

Community members can also support Prevail by shopping at EVEREVE Clay Terrace on May 30 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., where 15 percent of purchases will be donated back to Prevail.

About Prevail

Prevail is a non-profit organization based in Noblesville dedicated to offering crisis intervention and restorative support services for those who have experienced crime and abuse, free of charge, in a confidential, supportive, non-judgmental environment that is meant to empower those served. Since the beginning, Prevail has been committed to empowering survivors and fostering a safe community free of violence. For more information, visit prevailinc.org.

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INternHC aims to connect interns with career options

The REPORTER

Westfield Washington Township, in partnership with Invest Hamilton County and the Westfield Chamber of Commerce, is launching the Hamilton County Intern Collaborative, also known as INternHC, a new workforce initiative designed to attract, connect, and retain talent across Hamilton County.

INternHC was created to help recent high school graduates and current college interns build meaningful connections with peers, local employers, and the community. Through career-focused programming and place-based experiences, the initiative aims to encourage emerging talent to live, work, and thrive in Hamilton County long-term.

“Creating opportunities for students to connect with local businesses and the broader community is an investment in the future of our workforce,” Westfield Washington Township Trustee Jamie Goetz Mills said. “We are proud to launch this initiative here in Westfield.”

INternHC will hold a kickoff from 4 to 6 p.m. Aug. 4 at Shamrock Station, 333 W. Hoover St., Westfield, for recent Hamilton County high school graduates, ages 18 and older, who completed an internship during the school year, as well as current college interns who live and/or work



Goetz Mills



Albright



Thibideau



in Hamilton County.

Attendees can expect networking opportunities with peers and young professionals, connections to future internship opportunities throughout Hamilton County, additional career readiness resources, activities, and more.

“Investing in workforce development means creating intentional opportunities for students and emerging professionals to connect, grow, and build their future right here in Hamilton County,” Westfield Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Courtney Albright said. “By helping interns gain real-world meaningful experience and relationships within our business community, we are strengthening the talent pipeline and positioning our region for long-term economic success.”

This year’s event lays the groundwork for the full-scale INternHC program, expected to launch next summer, which will include a full season of program-

ming focused on career development, professional networking, community engagement, and showcasing the unique opportunities Hamilton County offers.

“Workforce development doesn’t happen in a silo but rather when employers, educators, and community partners align around a shared goal. INternHC is a perfect example of that alignment in action,” Invest Hamilton County President and CEO Mike Thibideau said. “By connecting interns and recent graduates with local opportunities and each other, we’re building the kind of community ties that turn a summer job into a career and a career into a lifetime in Hamilton County.”

Registration for the event will open later this summer. For more information, visit internhc.com.

Employers interested in supporting the initiative and/or participating in the event are encouraged to complete this interest form at tinyurl.com/internhc-biz26.

David Turk files to run for HSE School Board District 3

Submitted

David Turk, a Fishers resident, real estate developer, and father of three, officially filed on Tuesday, May 19 to run for Hamilton Southeastern School Board District 3. A Hamilton County native and proud HSE parent, Turk is running to give back to the schools that changed his family’s life.

Turk grew up in Hamilton County and attended Noblesville High School before earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Purdue University, where he also met his wife, Rachel. In the fall of 2021, the Turks made a deliberate decision to move their family to Fishers, specifically for the Hamilton Southeastern school system.

The Turks have three children, Lore, James, and Lyon, all currently enrolled at Brooks School Elementary. Their son James is blind, and the family has seen firsthand how HSE’s special education programs can open doors for kids with unique needs. Turk’s mother was a public school teacher, and her influence shaped his deep respect for the educators who show up for students every day.

“HSE has done something extraordinary for our son James,” Turk said. “The teachers and staff in this district have gone above and beyond to make sure every kid has the chance to thrive. My mom was an Indiana public school teacher. I know how much these educators give. I am running to protect those programs, keep the best teachers in HSE, and be responsible stewards of the resources that families and taxpayers trust us with.”

Turk’s campaign is centered on three core priorities: protecting and strengthening HSE’s special



Photo provided

needs and special education programs, keeping talented teachers in the district, and ensuring smart, responsible budgeting that reflects the trust families place in their school board.

A real estate developer by profession, Turk brings practical experience managing complex projects and budgets, as well as a personal stake in the future of Hamilton Southeastern schools. He and Rachel are active members of the Fishers community.

For more information about David Turk’s campaign for HSE School Board District 3, visit turkforhse.com or email david@turkforhse.com.

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White River Family Cruise
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NickelPlateExpress.com/railbike-rides

If The Mad Tap is rockin' don't bother knockin'



Reporter photos

Last Saturday, May 23, The Mad Tap, 134 E. Madison St., Tipton, welcomed Second Chance as the first band of the year to play outside on the big stage. A large crowd gathered for good food and great music, and to give a heart-felt send-off to local musical favorite Jeremy – if you know, you know. Keep up to speed with everything going on at The Mad Tap by following their [Facebook page](#) or going to [themadtap.com](#).



Photo by Mike Lee Productions

Clay Terrace Concert Series returns June 18

Submitted

Clay Terrace is bringing the music back this summer with the return of its annual Concert Series, kicking off Thursday, June 18. Running every Thursday evening through July 9, the free outdoor series is a summertime staple for Carmel and the surrounding communities.

This year's lineup is as diverse as ever, from nostalgic throwbacks to high-energy funk and everything in between, with something for every age and musical taste.

"This series has become a summer ritual for so many families, friends and neighbors, and we're excited to keep that tradition going," said Jim Brennan, General

Manager at Clay Terrace. "Watching the community come together on the lawn each week is what this series is all about, and we can't wait to do it again."

Each evening begins with a pre-show performance at 6 p.m., followed by the headlining act on the main stage from 7 to 9 p.m. Upland Brewing returns as this year's bar provider, and guests can also enjoy food vendors, face painting, and a nearby play area, making it a full night out for the whole family.

2026 Concert Lineup

- June 18: Endless Summer Band
- June 25: Big 80's
- July 2: Toy Factory
- July 9: My Yellow

Rickshaw

A rain makeup date has been scheduled for July 16.

The Concert Series is free to attend and open to all ages. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets. Well-behaved, leashed pets are welcome. Before the show, make a night of it – shop and dine with our retailers and restaurants and browse the full directory at [clayterrace.com](#).

For full event details, visit [clayterrace.com/events](#).

Wayne-Fall Lions Club

Fish Fry

Saturday, May 30

Serving 4 Thru 7 PM

We are Serving Cod Fish -
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Our Club is located at 11940 East 191st
Street at Deshane Ave and Victory Chapel
Road .

We will have limited tables setup in our yard, bring your lawn chairs, or a blanket and have a picnic, or "tailgate" in your car/truck. We have a VERY large yard . The Club will be open with inside seating.

We now can accept credit/debt cards!



"Meating" the Need with Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank

Submitted

This partnership between the Hamilton County Harvest (HCH) Food Bank and 4-H beef, dairy, and swine project members will help HCH purchase and process beef and dairy cattle and swine animals at the Hamilton County 4-H Livestock Auction, this year set for July 21.

Nineteen 4-H members have designated their animals towards "Meating" the Need.

"Meating" the Need started in 2016 as a pilot program to provide needed protein for local food pantries. 2025's program provided 5,500 pounds of meat that supplied local food pantries all across Hamilton County.

"Meating" the Need has highlighted the need to

provide protein year-round. HCH Food Bank regularly now provides protein to the county's pantries throughout the year. Your monetary donations are needed to make this happen.

How to help "Meat" the Need in 2026

Any donation amount is appreciated; if you donate \$250 or more by June 15, you will be recognized on the 4-H Fair Barn Banner, and in local press.

Donate by making a check payable to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank with "Meating the Need" in the memo line. Send it to:

*Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank
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You can also donate online at [this link](#). Thank you!

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

THE SECOND CENSUS

The descendants of Naphtali by their clans were: through Jahzeel, the Jahzeelite clan; through Guni, the Gunite clan; through Jezer, the Jezerite clan; through Shillem, the Shillemite clan.

These were the clans of Naphtali; those numbered were 45,400.

The total number of the men of Israel was 601,730.

The Lord said to Moses, "The land is to be allotted to them as an inheritance based on the number of names. To a larger group give a larger inheritance, and to a smaller group a smaller one; each is to receive its inheritance according to the number of those listed. Be sure that the land is distributed by lot. What each group inherits will be according to the names for its ancestral tribe. Each inheritance is to be distributed by lot among the larger and smaller groups."

These were the Levites who were counted by their clans: through Gershon, the Gershonite clan; through Kohath, the Kohathite clan; through Merari, the Merarite clan.

These also were Levite clans: the Libnite clan, the Hebronite clan, the Mahlite clan, the Mushite clan, the Korahite clan.

(Kohath was the forefather of Amram; the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, a descendant of Levi, who was born to the Levites in Egypt. To Amram she bore Aaron, Moses and their sister Miriam. Aaron was the father of Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. But Nadab and Abihu died when they made an offering before the Lord with unauthorized fire.)

All the male Levites a month old or more numbered 23,000. They were not counted along with the other Israelites because they received no inheritance among them.

These are the ones counted by Moses and Eleazar the priest when they counted the Israelites on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho. Not one of them was among those counted by Moses and Aaron the priest when they counted the Israelites in the Desert of Sinai. For the Lord had told those Israelites they would surely die in the wilderness, and not one of them was left except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

Numbers 26:48-65 (NIV)

Georgia JoAnn Taylor

July 4, 1936 – May 24, 2026

Georgia JoAnn Taylor, 89, Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, May 24, 2026, at St. Vincent Carmel Hospital. She was born on July 4, 1936, to George and Juanita (Stum) Reveal in Noblesville.



JoAnn was a 1954 graduate of Noblesville High School. For 50 years, she worked for the Noblesville Moose Lodge. Along with working, JoAnn took pride in being a mother and caregiver to her own mother and daughter throughout her life.

She is survived by her son, Rick (Sandy) Taylor; daughter, Terry Taylor; brothers, Jeff Reveal and Rodney (Anita) Reveal; three granddaughters, Amanda (Matt) Rozzoni, Brooke Taylor, and Tara Brashear; two great-grandsons, Angelo and Marco Rozzoni; niece, Cresta (Chris) Clawson; and her great-nephew, Cade Clawson.

In addition to her parents, JoAnn was preceded in death by her husband, Bud Taylor; and her sister-in-law, Wretha Reveal.

A private family graveside service will be held at a later date.

JoAnn's memory will live on in the hearts who knew her and loved her.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mooseheart Child City & School, C/O Moose Charities Inc, 155 S. International Drive, Mooseheart, IL 60539 (moosecharities.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Zelma Mae Hunt (Pickett)

July 28, 1934 – May 24, 2026

Zelma Mae Hunt (Pickett), 91, Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, May 24, 2026.



Zelma was born on July 28, 1934, in Knoxville, Tenn. She was adopted in 1938 by Bernard and Mary Pickett of Noblesville, where she was lovingly raised and grew into a vibrant young woman. She graduated from Noblesville High School in 1952.

An enthusiastic cheerleader, Zelma cheered for three years alongside her twin sister Velma and the Lockridge twins, Phyllis and Betty. In April 1953, Zelma and Velma shared a beautiful double wedding at the First Methodist Church in Noblesville – the first double wedding ever held at the church.

Zelma worked at the Army Finance Center in Indianapolis, at Pickett's Cafeteria in Westfield (owned by her parents), and later at Aero Drapery in Westfield.

Everyone who met Zelma knew her as a kind and generous person. She was a devoted member of Calvary Baptist Church on 9th Street in Noblesville. Zelma loved music and cherished time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She enjoyed participating in Card Club with close friends, and later in life, she and Bob retired to Venice, Fla., where they happily attended the many social events at the clubhouse where they lived. After returning to Noblesville, she looked forward to regular gatherings with dear friends at the Jim Dandy Restaurant, caring for her beloved pets, and enjoying her favorite television programs. She was dearly loved and will be deeply missed.

Zelma is survived by her sons, Robert K. "Keith" (Renee) Hunt Jr. of Indianapolis, Bernard R. "Bernie" (Jessica) Hunt of Bloomington, Ill., David A. (Sandralee) Hunt of Colorado Springs, Col., and her daughter, Mary M. Hunt. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Robert K. "Bob" Hunt, Sr.; her twin sister, Velma Fae Barker; her sisters, Eva Marie Davis and Dorothy Phyllis Cinnamon; and her brothers, Paris B. Pickett and Emmert Shipley.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, June 5, 2026, at Lincoln Memory Gardens Cemetery in Whites-town, Ind., with Reverend Richard Bell officiating. A private family visitation will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Friday June 5, 2026, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. David Dwyer and also to Karissa, Cheyenne, and Hannah of Enlight Hospice for their attention and care for Zelma.

Memorial contributions may be made in Zelma's honor to Calvary Baptist Church, 197 S. 9th St., Noblesville, IN 46060.

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REPORTER SPORTS WEDNESDAY

Sports Editor Richie Hall | Sports@ReadTheReporter.com | Twitter @Richie_Hall

CARMEL, FISHERS, GUERIN CATHOLIC, HAMILTON HEIGHTS, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN, NOBLESVILLE, SHERIDAN, UNIVERSITY, WESTFIELD

Girls Tennis

Rocks advance to regional final

By **RICHIE HALL**

sports@readthereporter.com

NOBLESVILLE — Westfield wasted no time in making a return trip to the regional final.

The No. 10-ranked Shamrocks took care of business in the semifinals of the Noblesville regional on Tuesday, beating Alexandria 5-0. Westfield earned a date with No. 15 Delta this afternoon to play for the regional championship.

“I think we’re playing well going into the tournament and the girls are excited,” said Rocks coach Trudy Coler.

Westfield only allowed five games across their five matches, including 6-0, 6-0 shutouts for No. 1 singles Isla Harvey and No. 2 singles Sloane Seyferth. No. 3 singles Alexis Halliburton won her match 6-0, 6-1.

The Shamrocks’ doubles were equally dominant. No. 1 Jenna Berry and Bella Rivera cruised to a 6-0, 6-2 victory, while No. 2 Kendall Omer and Rayna Roy were 6-1, 6-1 winners.



(ABOVE LEFT) Westfield No. 2 singles Sloane Seyferth won her match 6-0, 6-0 during the Shamrocks’ regional semifinal victory over Alexandria on Tuesday. (ABOVE RIGHT) Westfield coach Trudy Coler (far left) talks with her team after its win.

Reporter photos by Richie Hall

“In the tournament, you’ve got to be aggressive and play good tennis,” said Coler. “Every team that we play, we don’t take anything for granted. We just come out and play our games and play hard.”

Delta won the other semifinal 5-0 over Jay County. The Eagles were just as dominant: No. 1 sin-

gles Sophia Crabtree won her match 6-1, 6-1, then Delta won the other four matches 6-0, 6-0. Westfield did not play the Eagles during the regular season.

Coler said when it comes to playing an opponent her team hasn’t seen yet, the players have to sum up their opponents during warm-up time.

“You really have to figure out your game plan in those early games of playing someone,” said Coler. “It’s really no different than in season when we play. When we go out in our dual matches, you’re trying to figure out things pretty quickly on the court and trying to figure out your game plan.”

Carmel, Fishers reach finals

The Carmel and Fishers tennis teams also advanced to regional finals on Tuesday.

The regional host and No. 3-ranked Greyhounds beat Crawfordsville 5-0 and will take on No. 4 Park Tudor in the championship today. The No. 14 Tigers defeated New Castle 4-1 and

play regional host Mt. Vernon in their championship.

Buttrick wins

University’s Laurel Buttrick won her first-round match at the Carmel individual sectional on Tuesday.

Buttrick beat Southmont’s Maggie Gilliland 6-0, 6-0 and will play Brebeuf Jesuit’s Chloe Wondowski in her next match.

Track & Field

Carmel defends regional championship

Hamilton County qualifies many athletes to state meet

The REPORTER

The Carmel girls track & field team defended its championship Tuesday at the Lafayette Jefferson regional.

The Greyhounds scored 116 points, winning four events and qualifying numerous athletes to the IH-SAA state finals, which take place Saturday, June 5 at North Central.

Carmel’s individual victories all came from their distance runners. The Greyhounds began the meet with a win in the 4x800 relay. Sadie Foley won the 1600 run and finished second in the 800 run to her teammate Kaitlyn Oshimura. Annabel Pollert won the 3200 run.

Hamilton Southeastern totaled 78 points to place second. The Royals won the most individual events with five, including the 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Kaleah McCarter zoomed to victory in the 100 dash, while Anissa Lammie won the 400 dash. Chloe Senefeld won a very fast 300 hurdles race; in fact the top six finishers in that event all ran under the state standard, which automatically qualifies them for the state meet.

Other county winners included Noblesville’s Ainsley Meinerding, who claimed the long jump. Her teammate Rylan Bell gave the Millers a 1-2 finish in that event. Meinerding qualified for state in three individual events, also taking second in both the 100 dash and 200 dash.

Fishers’ Zinnia Pineda won the 200 dash, while Mia Tobias qualified for state in both the shot put (second place) and discus (third place).

Guerin Catholic’s Amelia Smith finished first in the pole vault.

Westfield’s Katelyn Eblen advanced to state in both hurdles events, while Hamilton Heights’ Waverly Woolever qualified in the 300 hurdles and the high jump.

Top 10 team scores and a list of regional qualifiers now follow. The top three in each event automatically qualify for state, along with anyone who betters the state standard that finished outside the top three. Those results are listed below.

See *Defend* . . . Page 12



Photo provided

The Carmel girls track team defended its Lafayette Jefferson regional championship on Tuesday, scoring 116 points.

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Softball

Rocks, Millers reach Sectional 8 title game

The REPORTER

The Westfield and Noblesville teams won semifinal matches at Zionsville on Tuesday to advance to the championship game of Sectional 8.

The Shamrocks went first and prevailed in a tense nine-inning game over Carmel, 10-9. Both teams got on the board with one

run in the second inning: Chloe Junkersfeld led off the inning with a home run for the Greyhounds. In the bottom of the second, Westfield's Annika Lawrence scored after Dylan Todd hit a sacrifice fly.

Junkersfeld struck again in the third inning, blasting a right field double to score Jayden Kleiner and Emily

Proctor. Kleiner then blasted a two-run homer in the fifth inning, also bringing in Riley Petrites and giving Carmel a 5-1 lead.

But the Rocks struck back in the bottom of the fifth. Reese Mahannah cracked a home run, also scoring Makayla Watson and Sofia Easterhaus. Westfield tied the game at 5-5 in the

sixth inning when Easterhaus singled Watson home.

The contest stayed tied at the end of the regulation seventh inning after both teams scored twice. Carmel went first: Winni Owens singled in Petrites, then Ellie Goddard scored. The Shamrocks answered: Carlyne

See Title . . . Page 13

Huskies easily win sectional opener

By CRAIG ADKINS

For The Reporter

The Hamilton Heights softball team headed to Connersville in Class 3A Sectional 24 to face New Castle in the second game of the first round.

The Huskies scored early and often on their way to an 11-1 win over the Trojans.

Heather Crays got it started with a double and scored on Hannah Dent's liner to right to go up 1-0 early. Dent scored two batters later on Kamryn Rhoton's homer to center for 3-0.

Melanee Forrester laced a double to center in the third, scoring Rhoton and Ellie Engle to push it to 5-0.

Lily Cash plated Forrester for 6-0 through three.

McKenzie Jackson drove in Crays in the fourth on a sacrifice fly. Rhoton grounded out to score Dent for an 8-0 count.

Heights' second sac fly was by Cash for a 9-0 advantage.

New Castle got its lone run on a solo home run in the sixth.

Heights ended it in six with two more runs.

Crays and Cash each threw six frames, combining for 14 K's and a walk. Forrester, Dent, Rhoton and Cash all had multi-hit nights.

The Huskies (12-7) play Connersville (13-7) in the second semifinal tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Baseball

Rocks finish HCC play with victory

The REPORTER

The Westfield baseball team finally finished Hoosier Crossroads Conference play on Tuesday, beating Brownsburg 5-4 in a home game.

The Bulldogs scored a run in the top of the first inning before the Shamrocks put up three runs in the bottom of the first. The Shamrocks loaded the bases, then Nick Fero scored when Aiden Grabowski drew a walk. Beck Jordan got home on a wild pitch and Lincoln Hoffman followed him home by scoring on a Kasen Jessup sacrifice fly.

Brownsburg doubled in a run in the top of the fourth inning, but Westfield responded again in the bottom of the inning. Andrew Noble blasted a double to left field, scoring Gabe Garcia and Maddox Novotney.

The Bulldogs scored a run in the fifth inning, then threatened after adding another run in the seventh inning, but Noble caught a pop fly to finish the game. He had two hits for the

Rocks, with Jordan getting the other hit.

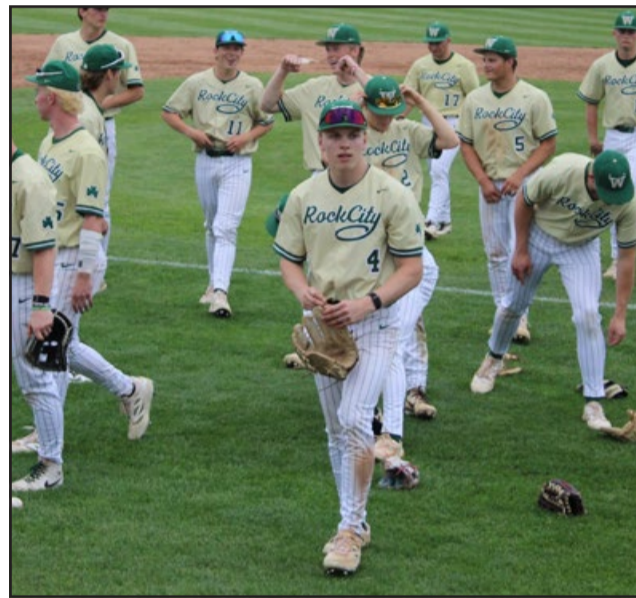
Westfield used seven pitchers in the game. Evan Govert pitched the first inning and got the win. Clayton Walther and James Kovacs both threw two strikeouts in one inning.

The Shamrocks finished HCC play 10-4, good for second place. Westfield is 16-10-1 overall and plays Fishers Friday in Sectional 8 at Noblesville.

Sheridan completed its regular season with a 4-3 home victory over Indy Genesis HomeSchool on Tuesday.

The Blackhawks scored two runs in the second inning. Walker McWhorter led off with a single, then Crew Spencer came in to run for him. Jake Hall later batted Spencer in with a single, then was sent home by Cesar Cuautle's single.

Sheridan added two more runs in the fourth. Hall singled in Austin Hinshaw, then scored on a Levi Gellert



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Westfield's Andrew Noble (4) hit a two-run double for the Shamrocks during their 5-4 Hoosier Crossroads Conference win over Brownsburg on Tuesday.

single. Indy Genesis tried to come back, scoring a run in the sixth inning and two in the seventh; but Hall threw a strikeout to end the game.

Braelan Bochner was perfect at the plate, hitting 3-for-3 including a double. He also pitched two innings, striking out four. Gellert and

Tanner Dawson both pitched two innings with two strikeouts, while Hall closed the game with two strikeouts in the seventh.

The Blackhawks are 12-11 and host Sectional 39 starting tonight. Sheridan plays Tipton Thursday in a first-round game.

DEFEND

Top 10 team scores: Carmel 116, Hamilton Southeastern 78, Westfield 56, Harrison 54, Noblesville 54, Fishers 49, Hamilton Heights 35, Western 30, Northwestern 28, Guerin Catholic 24.

State qualifiers from the regional

4x800 relay: 1. Carmel 9:16.40, 2. Hamilton Southeastern 9:19.37, 3. Westfield 9:22.25.

100 hurdles: 1. Zoie Scheiffer (NW) 14.82, 2. Jhazlyn McKay (Kokomo) 14.90, 3. Katelyn Eblen (W) 15.04.

100 dash: 1. Kaleah Mc-

Carter (HSE) 12.18, 2. Ainsley Meinerding (N) 12.38, 3. Aftin Griffin (Lewis Cass) 12.55.

1600 run: 1. Sadie Foley (C) 4:58.69, 2. Larkin Taylor (C) 4:59.20, 3. Kaitlyn Manfra (H) 5:01.44.

4x100 relay: 1. Hamilton Southeastern 47.78, 2. Fishers 47.88, 3. Carmel 49.17.

400 dash: 1. Anissa Lamie (HSE) 54.73, 2. Norah Reiger (HH) 55.47, 3. Gabriela Grande Rosas (C) 56.12.

300 hurdles: 1. Chloe Senefeld (HSE) 41.91, 2. Giyanna Thornton (Kokomo) 44.19, 3. Eblen (W) 44.57, 4.

Devyn Day (F) 44.64, 5. Jenna Rhodes (W) 45.00, 6. Waverly Woolever (HH) 45.00.

800 run: 1. Kaitlyn Osimura (C) 2:11.09, 2. Foley (C) 2:12.06, 3. Ashley Caplinger (Faith Christian) 2:12.48.

200 dash: 1. Zinnia Pineda (F) 24.86, 2. Meinerding (N) 24.98, 3. LeBraya Warren (W) 25.29.

3200 run: 1. Annabel Polert (C) 10:30.35, 2. Zoe Gebhart (HSE) 10:41.06, 3. Allie Bushey (HH) 10:42.97.

4x400 relay: 1. Hamilton Southeastern 3:48.56, 2. Carmel 3:53.66, 3. Hamilton

Heights 3:54.45.

Discus: 1. Ellyse Walden (Western) 145-9, 2. Eva Stokes (Harrison) 140-11, 3. Mia Tobias (F) 149-10, 4. Ellie Cooley (C) 139-9, 5. Sophia Zarate (Benton Central) 138-2, 6. Amelia Kring (N) 134-0.

Shot put: 1. Walden (Western) 48-8.5, 2. Tobias (F) 43-0, 3. Stokes (H) 42-9, 4. Audrey Alexander (West Lafayette) 41-8.5.

Long jump: 1. Meinerding (N) 18-4, 2. Rylan Bell (N) 17-4.25, 3. Bryella Lefforge (NW) 17-1.5.

High jump: 1. Makayla Ketterer (H) 5-5, 2. Olivia Dahlenburg (North White) 5-5, 3. Woolever (HH) 5-4.

Pole vault: 1. Amelia Smith (GC) 13-1.5, 2. Emma Baker (NW) 12-3, 3. Ella Jenkins (W) 12-0.

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Boys Golf

Millers win at Fox Prairie

The REPORTER

The Noblesville boys golf team won a three-team meet at Fox Prairie on Tuesday.

The Millers tied with Hamilton Southeastern; both teams scored 285 with Noblesville winning on the fifth-man score. Fishers was third with 293.

Tyler Marucci led the Millers with 69, followed by Dustin Turpin with 71, Vaughn Twilla with 72 and Luke Decker with 73.

The Tigers' Tommy Klinker was the meet medalist with 67. Southeastern scores were not available at press time.

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Basketball

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Wednesday, May 27

BASEBALL

Sectional 8 at Noblesville

Hamilton Southeastern vs. Carmel, 5:30 p.m.
Zionsville vs. Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.

Sectional 24 at Jay County

Connersville vs. New Castle, 5:30 p.m.
Yorktown vs. Jay County, 8 p.m.

Sectional 25 at Crawfordsville

Brebeuf Jesuit vs. Tri-West, 6 p.m.

Sectional 39 at Sheridan

Frankton vs. Elwood, 5 p.m.
Lapel vs. Taylor, 7:30 p.m.

Sectional 42 at Park Tudor

Covenant Christian vs. Cardinal Ritter, 6 p.m.

GOLF

Guerin Catholic, Hamilton Southeastern, Westfield at Hoosier Heartland Invitational, 8:30 a.m. at Eagle Pointe GC
Westfield vs. Pendleton Heights, 4:30 p.m. at Fall Creek Country Club

SOFTBALL

Sectional 24 at Connersville

Yorktown vs. Jay County, 5:30 p.m.
Connersville vs. Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.

Sectional 39 at Tipton

Frankton vs. Sheridan, 5:30 p.m.
Elwood vs. Lapel, 7 p.m.

TENNIS REGIONALS

At Noblesville

Championship: Westfield vs. Delta, 4:45 p.m.

At Mt. Vernon

Championship: Fishers vs. Mt. Vernon, 5 p.m.

At Carmel

Championship: Carmel vs. Park Tudor, 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, May 28

BASEBALL

Sectional 24 at Jay County

Wednesday winners, 5:30 p.m.
Delta vs. Hamilton Heights, 8 p.m.

Sectional 25 at Crawfordsville

Frankfort vs. Crawfordsville, 5:30 p.m.
Danville vs. Guerin Catholic, 7:45 p.m.

Sectional 39 at Sheridan

Wednesday winners, 5 p.m.
Sheridan vs. Tipton, 7:30 p.m.

GOLF

Westfield at Rock Hollow Invitational, 9 a.m.
Noblesville vs. Tipton, 4:30 p.m. at Fox Prairie
Sheridan vs. Hamilton Heights and Lapel, 4:30 p.m. at Cool Lake

SOFTBALL

Sectional 8 at Zionsville

Championship: Westfield vs. Noblesville, 6 p.m.

Sectional 24 at Connersville

Championship, 6 p.m.

Sectional 39 at Tipton

Championship, 6 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Boys sectional, 6 p.m. at Lafayette Jefferson

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

The REPORTER

Young basketball fans across Indiana can now sign up for the 2026 Jr. Hoops clinics and summer camps, presented by the Indiana Pacers and Indiana Fever and cared for by Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at Ascension St. Vincent.

The **Jr. Hoops Tour** will once again bring free, single-day clinics to youth ages 8 to 14 at multiple locations across Indiana this summer. Each clinic provides opportunities for participants to learn the fundamentals of the game, while emphasizing sportsmanship, respect, teamwork, and healthy living.

"We know summer is all about kids staying active, trying new things and making memories with friends, and basketball is such a fun way

to bring all of that together," Pacers Sports & Entertainment Associate Director of Community Engagement Richie Smith said. "Whether it's a free clinic or a week at camp, we want kids to have a chance to learn the game and have a great experience."

Participants of all skill levels will benefit from small-group instruction and can expect a free T-shirt and headband, prizes and giveaways, complimentary lunch, fun games, and potential visits from Pacers & Fever personalities.

Boys and girls ages 7 to 15 can also sign up for Jr. Hoops Summer Camps, which are paid, week-long sessions of basketball training focused on individual skill development, with instruction provided by The

National Basketball Academy. The experience also includes an end-of-camp awards ceremony and a personalized player evaluation completed by their coach. Campers will also receive a ticket to a Pacers home game during the 2026-27 season.

Local 2026 Jr. Hoops Tour Free Clinics

Monday, July 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pacers Athletic Center, 200 E. 186th St., Westfield. Max 100 registrations. Lunch provided.

Questions about clinics? Contact Richie Smith at community@pacers.com.

Local 2026 Jr. Hoops Basketball Summer Camps

June 15 to 19 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Fishers United Methodist Church,

9691 E. 116th St.

June 22 to 26 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, 1700 Conner St.

July 13 to 17 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Fishers United Methodist Church, 9691 E. 116th St.

July 20 to 24 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at River-view Health Arena at Innovation Mile, 14157 CJ Way, Noblesville

Questions about camps? Contact Rosemary Skripsky at rskripsky@thebasketballacademy.com or Brice Buels at bbuels@pacers.com.

All locations, times and the number of open registrations for clinics and camps are available at Pacers.com/JrHoops or FeverBasketball.com/JrHoops.

TITLE

from Page 12

Schrock singled in Mahannah and Lawrence, and it was on to extra innings.

The Greyhounds scored twice in the top of the ninth. Petrites went home on Junkersfeld's sacrifice fly, then Kleiner scored on a wild pitch.

Todd hit a one-out double for Westfield in the bottom of the ninth, then scored on Sydney Jordan's double. Watson singled Jordan over to third base and advanced to second base.

Easterhaus hit a sacrifice fly to bring in Jordan and tie the game and move Watson to third. Mahannah came up next and laid down a bunt that scored Watson and gave the Shamrocks the win.

Watson totaled four hits. Mariana Lopez smacked a triple and Alyssa Ayers counted a double among her two hits. Both of Todd's two hits were doubles, with Easterhaus and Mahannah each had two hits.

Starting pitcher Mac Delph threw 4.2 innings, tossing nine strikeouts. Olivia Sampia pitched the other 4.1 innings and struck out four. Westfield is now 15-10-1.

Junkersfeld was a perfect 3-for-3 at the plate. Petrites hit a double. Chelsea Bennett pitched a complete game for Carmel, which finished its season 12-13.

Millers score early

Noblesville got on top of its semifinal game right away, scoring in the top of the first inning. Maggie Kern singled in Reese Newsom.

Haley Schatko smacked a solo home run in the third inning to put the Millers up 2-0.

Noblesville added another run in the fifth inning: Newsom hit a one-out double, advanced to third base on a wild pitch, then scored when Schatko hit a sacrifice bunt. Kern got on base with a single and eventually scored on Lilly Brown's double.

Southeastern rallied in the seventh inning. Kaitlyn Burdick led off with a double, then Ella Sicilia came in to run for her. Tori Bricker doubled Sicilia home, then later scored on Addy Richmond's single. But the Millers got the third out to clinch the win.

Kern was flawless on offense, going 3-for-3. Newsom and Brown both had two hits. Addison Retzinger pitched a complete game, striking out nine. Noblesville is 19-6 for the season.

Southeastern's Lilly Palmer had two hits, including a double. Grace Swedarsky, a Virginia Tech commit, pitched five innings, striking out six. The Royals finished their season 18-5.

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