

**THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026**

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



**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Today: Partly sunny.  
 Tonight: Partly cloudy.



HIGH: 74 LOW: 57



# Reliving history in midair

*Commemorative Air Force uses vintage aircraft to build new memories*

By **AIDA KARIM**  
[news@readthereporter.com](mailto:news@readthereporter.com)

It's difficult to imagine today what military combat was like for pilots 80 years ago. Thanks to the Commemorative Air Force (CAF), people now have the chance to experience history and fly in aircraft as old as World War II. On Saturday, June 13, that chance came to the Indianapolis Executive Airport, 11329 State Road 32, Zionsville.

The Reporter spoke with veterans Tim Sparks, Jonathan Bess, and Kyle Hanna about their military service and what resonated with them while flying historical aircraft.

According to Sparks, he got his start in the Navy in 1976, later flying carrier planes in Desert Storm. He used a special type of aircraft, coined a prowler, meant to jam radars, TV sets, and communications.

He said, "Aviation opened up pathways for me for my entire life."

Following his service Sparks said he pursued a career with FedEx. He later retired and began working for the CAF, now flying the historically significant aircraft that veterans and other civilians have the chance to savor.

Jonathan Bess was a veteran who had the chance to fly in one of the aircraft.

Bess said he graduated from the Merchant Marine Academy



**(ABOVE LEFT)** Steve Schifman (left), bombardier and navigator, and Tim Sparks pose next to the A-6E TRAM Intruder during the late 1980s. **(ABOVE RIGHT)** Sparks in VAQ-132 "Scorpions" in November 1990 during Operation Desert Shield. Sparks was flying the lead plane in Western Saudi Arabia near the Red Sea.

Photos provided

in 2003, then went into the Air Force, retiring in April of 2024, and now flies commercial airplanes. Similar to Sparks, Bess also was a pilot in the military.

He said he chose to join the Air Force because he wanted to give back to his country.

"I had a pretty good upbringing in Minnesota, and I wanted to help the little guys, something I always fought for," Bess said. "Being deployed to Afghanistan and the Middle East was hugely impactful."

After flying in the plane, Bess said, "To fly with another veteran was really, really cool, being able to connect on common interests, so it was a blast."

Another veteran, Kyle Hanna, said he served in the



Reporter photo by Bill Miller

**The Reporter's Flying Ace Aida Karim sits on the runway before taking flight. See more photos on Pages 3 and 4.**

Army as a military policeman, experience in general, Han- stationed both overseas and stateside.

Speaking of his military See *Midair* . . . Page 3

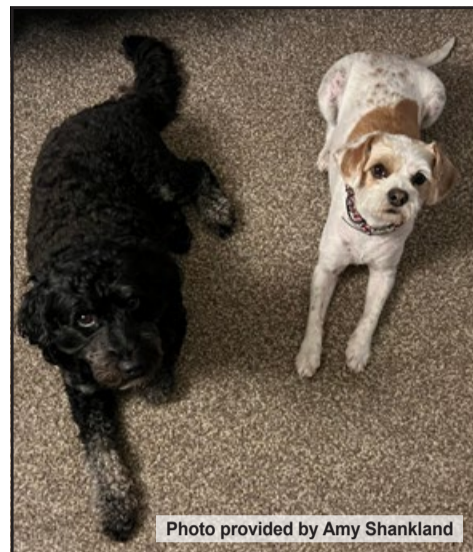


Photo provided by Amy Shankland

## Besties

If you've read my column for even a few months, you'll know how much my husband John and I love animals. Friends and family members have often compared us to "Ace Ventura" over the years. Just like Jim Carrey's character, animals seem to be drawn to us.

This may be why we're often dog sitting for people. Our own dogs, Sasha and Elli, get along well with other animals, so it's worked great.

Our latest visitor, Daisy, a delightful four-year-old Goldendoodle, is a seasoned guest in our home. However, she had never spent more than one day with Sasha, our young, energetic dog. We've often wondered if they'd play together during a longer stay. Well, last week we received our answer.

Cynthia, Greg, and their daughter Zoe dropped Daisy off on Friday evening, May 29 for a 10-day stay while they enjoyed a much-deserved vacation. Over the weekend, all three "girls" as we called them tentatively hung out together and got to know each other.

On Monday June 1, however, it was like a light switch turned on. John and I watched, grinning, as Daisy and Sasha discovered the joy of playing and racing together through the backyard. It was "game on!"

Soon, our days began with the two of them wrestling upstairs, downstairs, and outside. We heard playful yipping, growling, and barking off and on throughout the day. And the evenings were even more interesting.

As John and I prepared for bed one night, we were startled to hear what we thought was a familiar early summer sound.

"Was that thunder?" John asked. We slowly looked up at our ceiling and realized, no, it wasn't thunder – it was the sound of two rambunctious dogs racing back and forth on the carpet upstairs. We chuckled.

As the week continued, Daisy and Sasha's friendship grew. Sasha, the Queen of Drive-By Kisses, would often lick Daisy's face. The two of them would sit together on the couch. When we took walks, Daisy would pull anxiously on the leash if she drifted too far behind Sasha.

The day finally arrived for Daisy to be picked up. My heart gave a little pang when Cynthia texted, saying they'd arrive to get her around 11:00 that morning. I knew Sasha would miss her new bestie.

COLUMNIST



AMY SHANKLAND

*Perfectly Imperfect*

# Kroger celebrates Noblesville Marketplace with \$100K in donations to local charities

*Harvest Food Bank, Prevail, Boys & Girls Club among recipients*

The REPORTER

Kroger is growing again, opening another multimillion-dollar investment in central Indiana.

The grocer's newest Kroger Marketplace is now open at 14744 Union Market Drive in Noblesville after the ribbon-cutting celebration held last Friday, June 12.

"This store shows our attention to the evolving needs of our growing communities and local customers," Kroger Central Division President Mike Goodwin said. "We work hard every day to offer the best stores and best possible shopping experience. Two essential principals will drive everything we do here – and at every Kroger store. We will provide the quality you trust and the value you love."

For Kroger, this store is distinctive because it is not replacing an older building. It is brand new, marking Kroger's recognition of the vibrance in Nobles-



Photo provided by The Kroger Co.

**The Kroger Marketplace at 14744 Union Market Drive on Noblesville's east side is an entirely new building, not a redesign of an existing store.**

ville and Hamilton County. At approximately 120,000 square feet, the new store features a bright and colorful interior with an array of products that will be

instantly popular: a Murray's Cheese shop, Starbucks, a store-made popcorn café, even an apparel department. The aisles are also different in this Mar-

ketplace store, wider than usual, making shopping even more comfortable.

See *Kroger* . . . Page 2

# Westfield Library welcomes acclaimed children's authors

The REPORTER

The Westfield Washington Public Library (WWPL)



**Westfield Washington PUBLIC LIBRARY**

will welcome two acclaimed Indiana-born children's authors and illustrators this summer, offering children and their families the opportunity to hear from bestselling creators and learn about the writing and illustration process.

"We are excited to bring such talented children's authors to our community," WWPL Executive Director Sheryl Solars said. "These events give readers the chance to engage directly with authors, discover new books, and gain a deeper appreciation for storytelling."

The author series begins Friday, June 19 with Indiana native and *New York Times* bestselling author and

illustrator Troy Cummings. Known for the popular *Notebook of Doom* and *Binder of Doom* series, as well as the award-winning picture book *Can I Be Your Dog?*, Cummings will share stories from his creative journey and give a behind-the-scenes look at how imagination, humor, and illustration come together in his work. A book signing will follow the presentation.

On Wednesday, July 22, author and illustrator Rob Harrell will visit the library to discuss his path from a young artist to a successful creator. This event is open to all ages. Harrell is the author of the middle-grade novels *Popcorn, Wink, the Life of Zarf* series, and the *Batpig* graphic nov-



Photos provided

**Troy Cummings (left) and Rob Harrell (right) will each make appearances at Westfield Washington Public Library.**

el series. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a book signing following the event.

The children's author series is generously sponsored by STAR Financial Bank.

All events are free and open to the public. Registration is preferred. Additional information and registration details can be found on the Westfield Washington Public Library's [online events calendar](#).

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**Thanks for reading The Reporter!**

**KROGER**

from Page 1



Photos provided by The Kroger Co.

Kroger Central Division executives presented donations to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank Executive Director Suzanna Hobson (above left) and Prevail, Inc. Executive Director Tami Wanninger (above right). Other organizations receiving donations include the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, the Eskenazi Health Fresh for You Market, and Teacher's Treasures in Indianapolis.

"We are excited to welcome Kroger Marketplace to Noblesville's east side. This new location expands access to quality groceries and provides additional shopping options for our growing community," Mayor Chris Jensen said. "Beyond its investment in our local economy and workforce, Kroger has demonstrated a strong commitment to giving back through initiatives that support our residents, including efforts to help address food insecurity. We are grateful for Kroger's partnership and look forward to the positive impact this store will have on our community for years to come."

Kroger's investment of nearly \$40 million in Noblesville created more than 300 jobs at the new store. More stores are com-

ing. Construction projects are underway now in Zionsville and Crawfordsville. Many existing stores will be remodeled to enhance the shopping experience of their customers. Combined, 2026 is a \$200 million year for Kroger construction engineers.

"I love the opportunity to extend the Kroger brand, offer more jobs and make lives better wherever we go," Goodwin said.

Today's ribbon-cutting also enabled Kroger to further its hunger relief commitment in central Indiana, continuing its support of the Eskenazi Health Fresh for You Market, presenting \$75,000 for its operation. That donation was followed with contributions to provide meals at the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville and to Prevail, which

serves victims of abuse and crime. Kroger then presented gift cards to support the educational services of Teacher's Treasures in Indianapolis. Altogether, Kroger's charitable contributions last Friday exceeded \$100,000.

The opening ceremony ended with a major food donation to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank (HCHFB). Members of the Noblesville High School football team helped load \$10,000 in high-demand products for struggling families in the area.

Finally, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz presented proclamations to Kroger leaders for their generosity and for their investment in this growing corridor of Hamilton County.

"We are incredibly grateful to Kroger for

their generous donation of \$10,000 worth of food to Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank," HCHFB Executive Director Suzanna Hobson said. "This incredible support directly strengthens our mission to fight hunger within Hamilton County by providing healthy, nutritious food to our neighbors that are food insecure."

Kroger's donations in Noblesville represent the latest boost to the **Zero Hunger | Zero Waste plan**, the grocer's commitment to eliminate hunger in the communities it serves.

Since the plan's inception in 2017, Kroger has given more than \$1 billion to hunger relief services across the United States and has had a role in the delivery of nearly four billion meals to families in need.

**BESTIES**

from Page 1

John and I loved seeing the joyful reunion between

Daisy, her mama, and Zoe. After they left, we watched

Sasha carefully and tried to give her extra attention. She was a bit lost.

We'll bring Daisy and Sasha together often, as Cynthia and Greg are part of "Our Gang," our group of friends who meet at one of our houses once a month for dinner. And I'm sure Daisy will visit us again this fall during the holidays.

My animal-loving heart

enjoyed seeing this new friendship and the happiness it gives these pups. We look forward to the "besties" reuniting later this year!

*Amy Shankland is an empty-nester, writer, and fundraising professional living in Noblesville with her husband John and two dogs. You can reach her via email at [amys@greenavenue.info](mailto:amys@greenavenue.info).*

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camaraderie he carried with his fellow soldiers is unlike any other connection he's ever had.

"It was intense, going through the things you did with those people you were in a unit with," Hanna said, "Getting back to civilian life, it just isn't the same."

Having the opportunity to fly the vintage aircraft, Hanna said he was reminded of his grandfather who served the military during World War II.

"To go up in these aircraft and hear the sounds, smell the engines and fuel, it makes you step back and look at the young boys that flew these aircraft back in the 1940s and know what they had to endure," Hanna told The Reporter.

Coming from a family with a long military history, Hanna said the experience was particularly special for him.

He said, "It's unmatched. The emotional grasp of it is hard to decipher or or tell someone how it feels."

You can learn about CAF and sign up for their newsletter to keep track of when they will be back in Hamilton County online at [CommemorativeAirForce.org](http://CommemorativeAirForce.org).



Reporter photos by Bill Miller

On Saturday, June 13, The Reporter was there when CAF took members of the public into the skies over Hamilton County to get a small taste of what our WWII pilots went through during training. The public event took place at the Indianapolis Executive Airport, 11329 State Road 32, Zionsville.

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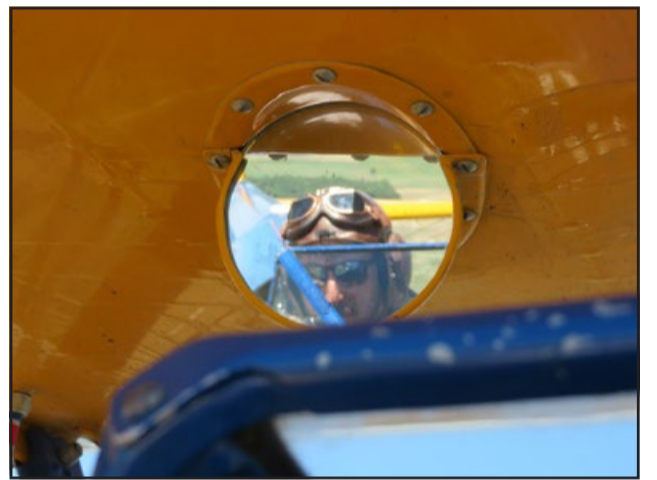
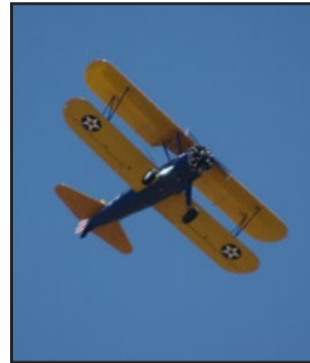
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# Barnstorming 101, Reporter style

On Friday, June 12, CAF was kind enough to let The Reporter's own intrepid intern Aida Karim and star shooter Bill Miller get a preview of what the public would have the opportunity to experience during Barnstorming Days on Saturday. Our media preview took place at the Sheridan Airport, 27045 Jerkwater Road. (Reporter photos by Bill Miller)



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# Entire Indiana Congressional delegation supports Indiana National Guard's bid for F-35A Mission

Submitted by Office of U.S. Senator Todd Young

On Wednesday, June 17, the Indiana Congressional delegation sent a letter to U.S. Air Force Secretary Dr. Troy Meink urging the Air Force to consider the Indiana Air National Guard's 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne as a future basing location for the F-35A fighter aircraft.

The letter was led by Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Congressman Marlin Stutzman (R-Ind.-3). In addition to Young and Stutzman, the letter was signed by Senator Jim Banks (R-Ind.) and Representatives Frank Mrvan (D-Ind.-1), Rudy Yakym (R-Ind.-2), Jim Baird (R-Ind.-4), Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-5), Jefferson Shreve (R-Ind.-6), André Carson (D-Ind.-7), Mark Messmer (R-Ind.-8), and Erin Houchin (R-Ind.-9).

Full text of the letter appears below.

Dear Secretary Meink,  
We write today in support of the Indiana National Guard's eligibility for an upcoming F-35A basing decision. The Indiana National Guard has long supported critical air missions throughout the world, namely at the 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Because of their current operational capabilities, demonstrated excellence, and strong recruiting and community support, the 122nd has all the tools

needed to succeed in any F-35 mission.

Currently, the 122nd hosts the F-16, having completed their conversion from the A-10 earlier this year. During the conversion, the Wing exceeded Initial Operational Criteria in both aircraft available and airmen trained, in addition to meeting conversion timelines and other requirements. This successful conversion enabled the 122nd Fighter Wing to immediately assume active operational taskings, proving their ability to adapt, train, and overcome the immense challenges of modernizing combat capabilities. This record of operational excellence demonstrates the ability for a seamless transition to the F-35A, maximizing the Air Force's return on critical defense investments.

Since converting to F-16s, the 122nd Fighter Wing has continued to showcase their superiority, supporting training and combat missions throughout the world. Through the State Partnership Program, the National Guardsmen of the 122nd have conducted ongoing training operations with our Slovakian counterparts and continue to grow a relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Indiana's burgeoning strategic partnership with the KSA – a future operator of the F-35 platform – remains significant for future CENTCOM partnerships. This

alignment underscores the strategic necessity of equipping Indiana and the 122nd Fighter Wing with the F-35, further strengthening an already compelling case for the unit's modernization.

The bond between the State of Indiana, City of Fort Wayne and the 122nd Fighter Wing is unmatched. These entities do not merely co-exist with the Blacksnakes – they aggressively champion them. The fierce, unwavering community support translates into an environment where the wing can recruit and retain elite talent from a local population deeply dedicated to national service. The state and community have consistently demonstrated their willingness to advocate for the wing, ensuring that the 122nd enjoys a secure, welcoming, and world-class home for its airmen and their families.

This strong relationship is represented most evidently by strong recruiting and retention numbers, especially through periods of low recruiting numbers nationwide. The 122nd is currently manned at 108% with a retention rate of over 90%. The unit has a strong track record, maintaining a manning rate over 100% for decades, that will ensure proper manpower for a F-35 conversion and beyond.

The value of this transition also extends beyond the proud heritage of the

122nd Fighter Wing. Indiana has grown to serve as a central hub for American uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) dominance. Driven by the state's FAA-designated test site, advanced manufacturing capabilities, and world-class military training infrastructure, Indiana has positioned itself as the Midwest's premier center for high-tech innovation and modern warfare capabilities. As the country continues to combat the national security challenges of the future, this FAA test site will be able to combine the work being done through by academia, private industry, and the federal government to rapidly integrate and field advanced technologies. This test site will not just work to integrate new systems already being developed, but help identify novel solutions to national security challenges of the future.

We remain committed to supporting the Indiana National Guard as they identify ways to fulfill for this important mission. We respectfully urge you to consider our request and support the stationing of these future F-35 units at the 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to working with you to discuss this opportunity and other Air Force and Air National Guard modernization priorities.

## S&P reaffirms Carmel's 'AA' bond rating

The REPORTER

Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam announced on Wednesday, June 17, that

ratings currently given to any similarly sized city in the state.

"The rating illustrates our commitment to improving the overall financial health of Carmel," Mayor Finkam said.



Finkam

In its assessment, S&P Global Ratings credited Carmel's robust local economy, praising "the city's economic strength, coupled with disciplined management."

The affirmation from S&P is among the highest

tail giants like Amazon and Nvidia, as well as Berkshire Hathaway.



Photo provided

## Hamilton East Public Library seeks local business partners for library card sign-up month campaign

The REPORTER

Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) is inviting local businesses to participate in its annual "Show Your Library Card & Save" campaign, a community-wide initiative that celebrates National Library Card Sign-Up Month while connecting residents with local businesses.

Taking place throughout September, the campaign encourages community members to sign up for a library card – or rediscover the one they already have – and visit participating businesses to redeem special offers available exclusively to HEPL cardholders.

Now entering its third year, the campaign has proven to be a successful partnership between the library and local businesses.

"Library Card Sign-Up Month is an opportunity to celebrate one of the most valuable cards in your wallet while also supporting the businesses that help our community thrive," HEPL Director of Marketing and Communications Kelsey Sweet said. "We're excited to partner with local businesses to encourage library use, strengthen community connections, and drive residents to explore what Hamilton County has to offer."

Businesses that participate create a special offer for library cardholders during

September. In return, HEPL promotes participating businesses through its website, social media channels, email newsletters, and other campaign materials. Offers can include discounts, free items with purchase, special promotions, or other incentives determined by the participating business.

Local businesses interested in participating can learn more and submit an offer at [this link](#).

To be included in the printed Discover Guide, businesses should submit their offers by June 22. Offers received by Aug. 10 will still be included in the campaign's digital promotions.

**About Hamilton East Public Library**

Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) serves the communities of Fishers and Noblesville, Indiana, providing access to resources, experiences, and spaces that inspire lifelong learning, creativity, and community connection. In addition to offering storytimes, programs, and special events, HEPL is committed to supporting local residents through initiatives and community-driven partnerships. Through programs, outreach, and collaborative efforts, HEPL connects people of all ages to stories, ideas, and opportunities that enrich their lives and strengthen the community they share.

## INDOT seeks public comment on Statewide Transportation Improvement Program amendment

The REPORTER

You can review the proposed amendments in INDOT's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) G26-29 and G26-30 at [this link](#). The public comment period is open through Tuesday, June 23.

To access the project list, scroll to the bottom of the page and find the link under the heading "Draft

STIP Documents." The link to the comment form is just below the amendment link.

Please share your comments by using [this form](#), emailing to [draftstip@indot.in.gov](mailto:draftstip@indot.in.gov), or mailing to: INDOT Attn: Cat Seely, Planning Public Outreach Manager 100 N. Senate Ave., IGCN 758-TE Indianapolis, IN 46204

Check out [this map](#) to

view current and future INDOT construction projects in your area of interest.

**What is the STIP?**

The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is Indiana's four planning and construction document that lists all projects, and project phases, expected to be funded within five years with federal funds as well as state-funded proj-

ects that has been deemed Regionally Significant. It is prepared in cooperation with local government entities throughout Indiana, including Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs).

See *INDOT*... Page 7



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## Lawn care app GreenPal launches in Noblesville

The REPORTER

GreenPal, a Nashville, Tenn.-based app that connects homeowners with local lawn care professionals, has launched its service in Noblesville.

The app allows homeowners to enter their address, lawn details, and preferred service date. Local, pre-screened lawn care professionals review the property using Google aerial imagery and Google Street View, then submit competitive bids. Homeowners can compare pricing, read reviews, and se-

lect the provider they want to work with.

After each completed service, the lawn care professional uploads a time-stamped photo through the app so homeowners can confirm the work before payment is processed. "After launching in more than 250 markets, we are excited to help homeowners in Noblesville find reliable, local lawn care professionals," GreenPal Co-Founder Gene Caballero said.

For more information, [click here](#).

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Thank you, Hamilton County!

# Harvest Happenings Don't miss the final weekend of *Descendants* at The Cat

Latest updates from Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank

## Submitted

Hamilton County Harvest (HCH) Food Bank serves as a crucial hub in the fight against food insecurity in Hamilton County, bringing together grocery stores, local farmers, donors, and volunteers to support an array of local food banks. You can learn more and donate online at [hchfoodbank.org](http://hchfoodbank.org).

**Help "Meat the Need"**  
You can help provide healthy protein to neighbors in need.

For the past 10 years, HCH's Meating the Need program has helped Hamilton County families put healthy, farm-fresh protein on the table. Local 4-H youth raise the beef and pork that go directly to county food pantries, supporting both farmers and neighbors in need.

As Meating the Need kickstarted its protein distributions 10 years ago, HCH has seen the increased necessity in providing more healthy protein year-round. In 2026, the impact is growing. New partnerships will allow HCH to add chicken and fish, expanding access to nutritious protein all year long. Every dollar you give becomes real food – ground beef, pork, chicken, and fish – on plates across Hamilton County.

Please join in this mission to provide Hamilton County families with healthy meals, today and throughout the year. Every dollar helps! [Click here](#) to donate today and any time.

**Save fresh food from farmers markets**  
Volunteers are needed to transport fresh food from local farmers markets to HCH's warehouse in Cicero.

In this role, volunteers will be guided through the process of picking up food at the locations and delivering the produce to the HCH



Photo provided

**County-wide, about 16,000 pounds of food were donated during this year's Pack the Cruiser.**

warehouse in Cicero. Once at the warehouse, donated produce will be unloaded, weighed, logged in, then put away.

The three markets volunteers currently pick up from are:

- **Fishers Farmers Market.** This market takes place on Saturdays at the Nickel Plate Amphitheater in downtown Fishers and features free yoga, a dog-friendly atmosphere and more than 90 vendors.

- **Noblesville Farmers Market.** This market takes place on Saturdays at the Federal Hill Commons, and highlights include live music and dozens of vendors with a wide variety of products to shop.

- **Carmel Farmers Market.** This market takes place Saturdays at Carter Green, with more than 80 local vendors and live music.

You are welcome to

enjoy the markets before picking up the produce, and bring family members along with you. Any type of vehicle can work for this role. Because this activity requires training, HCH prefers volunteers who can commit to help at least three times through the season.

[Click here](#) to learn more and sign up.

**Thank you to all who packed the cruiser**

Pack the Cruiser was a huge success this year. Thank you to everyone who donated time, gift cards or food to this very important food drive.

County-wide, about 16,000 pounds of food were donated and more than \$6,500 was donated in cash or gift card donations.

Every bit helps, and all of it is appreciated. Stay tuned for other donation opportunities coming up throughout the summer.

## The REPORTER

Get ready to celebrate Prince Ben's upcoming coronation with a fantastic surprise from Queen Belle and King Beast.

Carmel Community Players invites families for the Kids Night (June 18) performance of *Descendants: The Musical*. Kids aged 14 and under can grab tickets for just \$8. You can snag this awesome deal [online](#) or right at the door. Hurry, tickets are flying fast!

*Descendants* is a brand-new musical based on the popular Disney Channel Original Movie franchise, jam-packed with comedy, adventure, Disney characters, and hit songs from all three films.

Ben, the beloved son of King Beast and Belle, is about to be crowned as King of Auradon and he has a radical idea. He de-



Photo by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com

cidates to invite four trouble-making offspring of the most wicked villains to take their places as students at Auradon Prep. Mal, Evie, Jay and Carlos – the children of Maleficent, Grimhilde, Jafar, and Cruella De Vil – come to Auradon with an evil plan of their own. They have been tasked with stealing the Fairy Godmother's magic

wand and restoring their parents to power.

However, will they go through with the plan? Or do they have the potential to learn to be good?

Performances are on for tonight, June 18 and Friday, June 19 at 7:30 p.m., and for Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21 at 2:30 p.m. Get your tickets now at [this link](#).

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## INDOT

The STIP identifies the funding and the scheduling of transportation projects and programs by fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). It includes all state and local transportation projects funded with federal highway and/or federal transit funding along with 100-percent state-funded transportation projects (including highway, passenger rail, freight, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian, and projects in the national parks).

The STIP is the culmination of INDOT's and the MPO's planning processes and translates the objectives set forth in INDOT's long-range transportation plans, the Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP) and Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP), asset lifecycle strategies, and Asset Teams' business rules into committed projects for the upcoming four-year period. The STIP is developed on a two-year cycle, amended monthly, and must be approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

### Why is it being amended?

Periodically, changes are made to a project's scope, cost, and year of proposed construction. Changes are made with either amendment or an administrative modification to the STIP.

Major changes to the STIP require an amendment with a public comment period. Examples are:

- Adding a new project or phase that was not included in the current STIP
- A significant increase or decrease in project cost
- A change in project scope

### What is an Administrative Modification?

Minor changes to the STIP can be made with an Administrative Modification. Examples are:

- A designation number change (this identifies what year the project was accepted into the production schedule)
- A change in project schedule whereas the timing of activities is modified to occur within an adjusted timeframe (within the four-year funding period)

Administrative modi-

from Page 6

fications are not required to be presented for public comment and are not approved by FHWA and FTA.

### Why is this important?

The STIP must be fiscally constrained. Only projects for which construction and operating funds are available are included. If a project is not included in a STIP, it is not eligible to receive federal funding.

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# 7<sup>th</sup> annual Juneteenth Jubilee returns to Conner Prairie

## Submitted

Fishers High School's Fishers Black Leaders Club (FBL), with support from Fishers Arts Council and Conner Prairie, will present the seventh Juneteenth Jubilee at Conner Prairie from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 19.

This free-to-the-public annual student-managed event features Black-owned businesses, visual artists, culinary artists, community resources, as well as talented performing artists. Thank you to title sponsor, MIB-OR Realtor Association, for making this event possible.

Entertainment sponsors, Accent Coatings and Mays Chemical, help bring to the stage national touring artist B.I.G.S.T.E.V.E 513, local recording artist Skypp, spoken word artist Angela Barnes, along with returning Jubilee favorites: Erick Oneal Fisher and Deezy Not Nice. DJ Mr. Kinetik serves as the emcee for the event to keep the celebration moving. The Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by J. Rosamond Johnson and James Weldon Johnson, will be performed live by Abigail Ngene at 5:20 p.m.

Juneteenth Jubilee has been created and organized by students from Fishers High School's FBL club since 2020, and this is the fourth year it will be held at Conner Prairie. Last year more than 2,000 individuals enjoyed the Jubilee with their families. Juneteenth is



an important celebration for the students of FBL at Fishers High School.

"Juneteenth marks the celebration of freedom for many African American people," said Gianna Fowler, one of the student organizers. "It celebrates liberty and independence."

Sondos Mertami sees how history is shared through the day.

"Juneteenth is important to the Fishers community," Mertami said, "because it brings people together and raises awareness of the holiday allowing people to learn about the history behind it!"

This year's Jubilee includes a variety of activities for all ages, including an interactive drum circle with Joyful Noyze, face painting, bounce houses, and yard games – all for free. Vendors offer a wide selection

of items from jewelry to baked goods, bodycare to clothing, art, and more.

"There's a little bit of everything," Fowler said, "and this is a great opportunity for the community to come together."

Conner Prairie will also provide semi-guided tours to select areas during the event. Community resources and nonprofits at the event include Fishers Health Department, Hamilton East Public Library, Fishers PRIDE, and the Institute for Quality Education.

"Conner Prairie is proud to work alongside of the Fishers High School Fishers Black Leaders and the Fishers Arts Council for another exciting Juneteenth Jubilee," said Ryan Spencer, Vice President and Chief Programs Officer at Conner Prairie. "Uplift-

ing talented students in our community while celebrating Juneteenth with our African-American community is a privilege and joy."

Fishers Arts Council Executive Director Les Reinhardt said, "Having the opportunity to work for these incredible student leaders is an inspiration. We are proud to support these students and the amazing event they create for the community year after year. They decide what will be offered, coordinate with the vendors and entertainment, create educational materials, partner with businesses, and fundraise. It's truly amazing to see the power of what our youth can make happen in Fishers."

The arts council has been working with the FBL Club students on the event every year since they were first invited back in 2022.

## STAR Financial Bank partners with High School Hustle to support student entrepreneurs

### Submitted

STAR Financial Bank and High School Hustle have announced a new partnership, with STAR serving as the organization's official bank sponsor in support of its mission to help high school students develop real-world entrepreneurial skills and launch their own businesses.

Based in Indianapolis, High School Hustle is a non-profit entrepreneurship program that equips students with hands-on business experience while still in high school. Through mentorship, startup funding, and practical learning opportunities, students are encouraged to create and grow businesses that solve problems, serve their communities, and generate revenue.

As part of the partnership, STAR is supporting High School Hustle programming and helping provide prize funding for participating student entrepreneurs. The initiative aligns with STAR's ongoing commitment to financial education and workforce development, while helping expand access to entrepreneurial opportunities for students across Indiana.

"At STAR, we believe empowering young people with practical financial and business skills can create lasting impact for both students and the communities they serve," said Scott Bove, EVP of Capital Markets & Commercial Banking at STAR. "High School Hustle

gives students the opportunity to think creatively, take initiative, and gain valuable real-world experience at an early age. We are proud to support a program that encourages innovation, confidence, and entrepreneurship among Indiana students."

Founded in 2022 by entrepreneurs Scott Lingle and Peter SerVaas, High School Hustle was created to help students learn how to start and grow businesses before graduating high school. Students participate in mentorship sessions throughout the school year, receive seed funding to launch their ideas, and operate their businesses over the summer while learning lessons in customer service, problem-solving, leadership, and financial responsibility.

Student businesses vary widely and have included lawn care services, car detailing, thrift reselling, cleaning services, creative ventures, and technology-based concepts. The program emphasizes hands-on learning and practical experience rather than traditional classroom instruction.

"STAR Financial Bank's partnership helps us accelerate the next generation of purposeful entrepreneurs and gives our students an Indiana institution that believes in their first real hustle," said Hunter Beale, Executive Director at High School Hustle.

For more information about High School Hustle, visit [highschoolhustle.org](https://highschoolhustle.org).



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

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# Recognizing Noblesville's hometown heroes

**The REPORTER**

Noblesville Professional Fire Fighters Local 4416 and the Noblesville Fire Department held the 14th annual Awards and Recognition Banquet last Friday, June 12 at the Riverview Health Arena at Innovation Mile.

The event recognized the dedication and bravery of Noblesville's fire fighters and paramedics, their exceptional service to the community, and their outstanding performance on the job.

This year's award recipients include:

- **Fire Fighter of the Year:** FF/EMT John Sage
- **Officer of the Year:** Executive Officer Spencer Morris
- **EMS Provider of the Year:** FF/Paramedic Jonathan Rawlings
- **The Chief Kenneth L. Gilliam Leadership Award:** Deputy Chief Mur-

ry Dixon

• **Excellence in Training:** FF/Paramedic Joe Bertka

• **Meritorious Service:** FF/EMT Kyle Vergon

• **Letters of Commendation:** Captain Colin Fogarty, Lieutenant Eric Harris, EMS Duty Officer Josh Gates, Engineer Jack Swift, Engineer Ben Asbury, FF/EMT Zack Flowers, FF/EMT Cort Christy, FF/PM Chris Poynter, FF/EMT Logan Kinsey.

Thank you to Mayor Chris Jensen, Deputy Mayor Matt Light, Councilman Dave Johnson, Noblesville Firefighter Merit Commission member Sarah Russell Goddard, Noblesville Police Chief Brad Arnold, Professional Fire Fighters Union of Indiana President Tony Murray, and other esteemed guests who were in attendance for the event.



(ABOVE LEFT) Firefighter/EMT John Sage is the Fire Fighter of the Year. (ABOVE RIGHT) Executive Officer Spencer Morris is the Officer of the Year.

Photos provided



(ABOVE LEFT) Firefighter/Paramedic Jonathan Rawlings was named EMS Provider of the Year. (ABOVE RIGHT) Noblesville Deputy Fire Chief Murry Dixon was presented with the Chief Kenneth L. Gilliam Leadership Award.

Photos provided



(FROM TOP) Hamilton County Fire Fighters Local 4416 President Jim Butts, Professional Fire Fighters Union of Indiana President Tony Murray, and Local 4416 Noblesville District Vice President Travis Lee.

Photos provided



(ABOVE LEFT) Firefighter/Paramedic Joe Bertka was awarded with Excellence in Training. (ABOVE RIGHT) Firefighter/EMT Kyle Vergon was recognized for Meritorious Service.

Photos provided



Letters of Commendation were awarded to nine firefighters, including Captain Colin Fogarty (above left) and Engineer Ben Asbury (above right).

Photos provided



(FROM LEFT) Noblesville Fire Training Division Chief Joe Scheumann, Noblesville Fire Assistant Chief of Operations Uriah Eddingfield, and Mayor Chris Jensen.

Photos provided

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



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# Indiana State Fair announces final wave of Hoosier Lottery Free Stage 'Always a Hit' concerts

## The REPORTER

On Wednesday, June 17, the Indiana State Fair unveiled the third and final wave of its 2026 list of scheduled concerts as a part of the Hoosier Lottery Free Stage schedule. The Fair is set for Aug. 7 to 23 (closed on Mondays).

The Hoosier Lottery Free Stage has become a summertime staple for concert goers and music lovers. The lineup each year consists of some of music's most legendary and diverse acts and this year is no exception. All shows at the Hoosier Lottery Free Stage are free with paid fair admission and seating is first-come, first-served. All shows start at 7:30 p.m., unless noted otherwise.

Discount tickets can be purchased for the 2026 Indiana State Fair at [indianastatefair.com](http://indianastatefair.com).



Photos & graphics provided

(From left to right, top to bottom) See Clayton Anderson (Aug. 11), Bret Michaels (Aug. 12), DJ Golden Hour: A Tribute to Demon Hunters (Aug. 15), Los Sementales de Nuevo Leon (Aug. 18), and Sammy Kershaw & Craig Morgan (Aug. 20) at this year's Indiana State Fair.

Concerts for the 2026 Hoosier Lottery Free Stage at the Indiana State Fair include:

- The Beach Boys – Friday, Aug. 7 (Opening Day)

- TUSK: The Classic Fleetwood Mac Tribute – Saturday, Aug. 8
- Josiah Queen – Sunday, Aug. 9
- Clayton Anderson – Tuesday, Aug. 11
- Bret Michaels – Wednesday, Aug. 12
- Busta Rhymes – Thursday, Aug. 13
- Grand Funk Railroad – Friday, Aug. 14
- DJ Golden Hour: A Tribute to Demon Hunters – Saturday, Aug. 15
- Trace Adkins – Sunday, Aug. 16
- Los Sementales De Nuevo Leon – Tuesday, Aug. 18
- Happy Together Tour – Wednesday, Aug. 19
- Gene Simmons – Thursday, Aug. 20
- Sammy Kershaw & Craig Morgan – Friday, Aug. 21
- Don McLean – Saturday, Aug. 22
- Tasha Cobbs Leonard – Sunday, Aug. 23

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

### Vows

*"If a woman living with her husband makes a vow or obligates herself by a pledge under oath and her husband hears about it but says nothing to her and does not forbid her, then all her vows or the pledges by which she obligated herself will stand. But if her husband nullifies them when he hears about them, then none of the vows or pledges that came from her lips will stand. Her husband has nullified them, and the Lord will release her: Her husband may confirm or nullify any vow she makes or any sworn pledge to deny herself. But if her husband says nothing to her about it from day to day, then he confirms all her vows or the pledges binding on her. He confirms them by saying nothing to her when he hears about them. If, however, he nullifies them some time after he hears about them, then he must bear the consequences of her wrongdoing."*

*These are the regulations the Lord gave Moses concerning relationships between a man and his wife, and between a father and his young daughter still living at home.*

Numbers 30:10-16 (NIV)

## Angela Marie Fenoglio

August 3, 1971 – June 12, 2026

Angela Marie Fenoglio, 54, Westfield, died Friday, June 12, 2026. She was born in Kokomo on August 3, 1971, to Marshall "Al" and Kathy Sue (Teter) Brown.



Angela was a strong worker, staying focused on her tasks as she worked with government contracts and financial details from her home office. She was an avid reader, enjoying multiple books each month, staying up to date with the most recent novels. Her friendships were important to Angela. She was always willing to attend movies at a moment's notice. Her best friend was her sister, Beth with whom she had a strong bond. Angela's nephew Nate received a lot of attention and he loved the homemade "goodies" from her. She definitely enjoyed spoiling him as he grew up. She was a firm believer in God and her faith.

She is survived by her sister, Beth Brown of Frankfort, and her nephew, Nathaniel McGrath of Frankfort. Her parents and a sister, Shelly Brown, preceded her in death.

Funeral services will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, June 22 at Young-Nichols Funeral Home, 216 W. Jefferson St., Tipton. Pastor Toph Elkins will preside. Visitation at the funeral home will be from 5 p.m. Monday until service time. Burial at Sharpville Cemetery will occur at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 681405, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Online condolences for Angela's family may be left on her obituary page at [young-nichols.com](http://young-nichols.com).

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### Meeting Notices

The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District Board and the Hamilton County Solid Waste Advisory Committee will meet in a joint session at noon on Monday, June 22, 2026, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

Each year, the Hamilton County Reporter requests government entities to notify us of public meetings as their Open Door Law notification under I.C. 5-14-1.5-5. The Reporter publishes these notices as a public service in our Tuesday through Friday digital editions. Meeting notices for Open Door Law compliance can be sent to [PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com).

### The Reporter's policy on obituaries

The Hamilton County Reporter does not charge families for publishing obituary notices in our pages. Every obituary appearing in online editions Wednesday through Saturday also appears in our Monday print editions. In order to continue to offer this as a community service, we ask that obituaries not exceed 500 words. The limitations of space may not allow for longer ones to appear in print.

Submit obituaries under 500 words online at [ReadTheReporter.com/obitform](http://ReadTheReporter.com/obitform).

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# REPORTER SPORTS THURSDAY

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

## Boys Golf

# Rocks triumph at rainy state meet

*Westfield holds off Center Grove; Kutchma claims individual title*

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

**CARMEL** – Once the formalities of the medal ceremonies were finished at the IHSAA boys golf state finals at Prairie View Golf Club, the state champion Westfield team jumped into the pond located near the ninth green.

The Shamrocks were wet already, since the last holes of the state meet were played in the rain. But Westfield persevered through the rain and tough competition to defend its state title.

The Rocks held off Center Grove by one stroke, 592 to 593, to secure not only back-to-back state championships, but also their fifth in program history. Guerin Catholic was in the mix as well and placed a close third with 596.

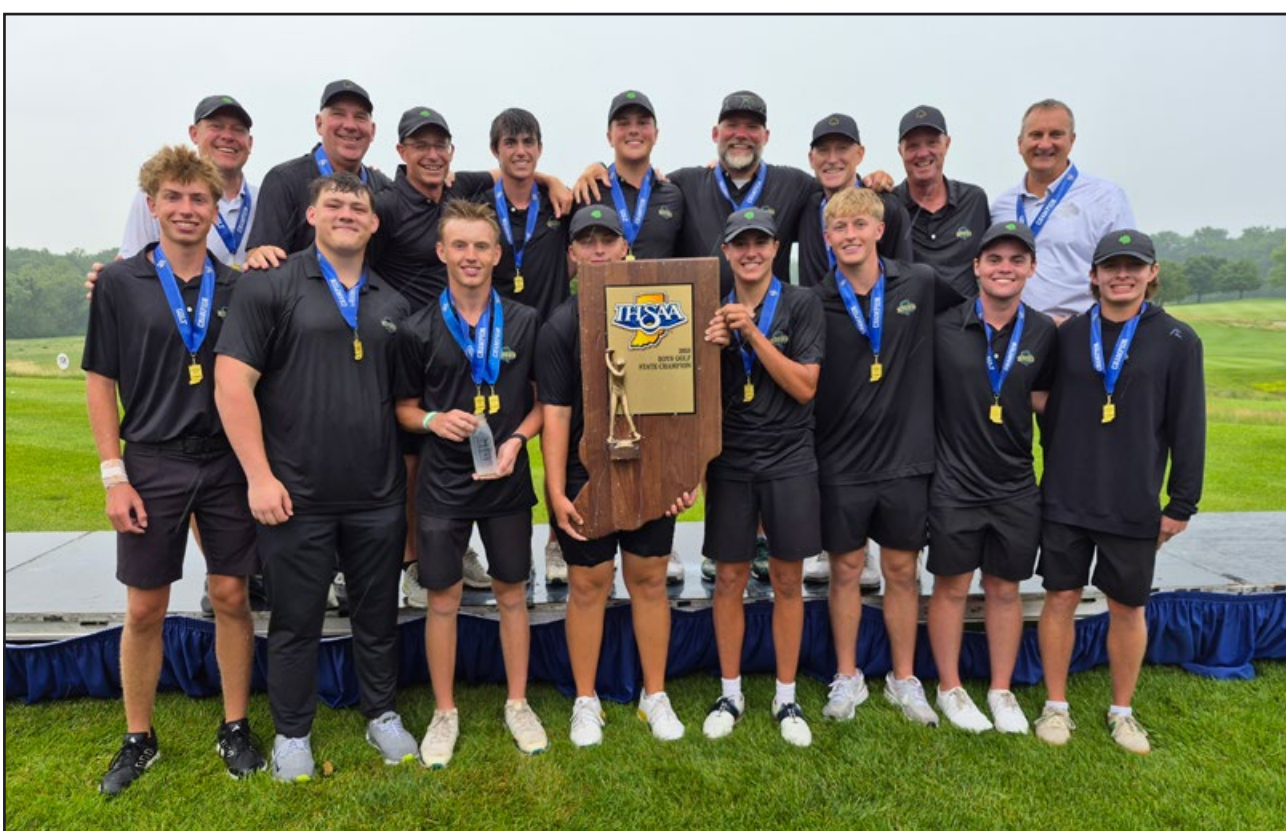
In addition, Hudson Kutchma won medalist honors for Westfield, beat-

ing the Golden Eagles' Eli Wessel in a two-hole playoff. The Shamrocks' Will Harvey (who was there cheering on his alma mater), was the medalist last year. This marks only the third time in tournament history where a team defended both team and individual titles: Shortridge did so in 1949 and 1950, while Anderson had back-to-back sweeps in 1952 and 1953.

"We started off hot," said Westfield coach Josh Bryant. "You could see it on the bus, the confidence. A lot of those guys had done the same thing the year before."

Three Shamrocks were also players on last year's state team: Kutchma, Mitchell Keene and Ryan Cesare. Junior Brayden Worthington played on Westfield's state runner-up team his freshman year.

See *Triumph*... Page 12



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

The Westfield boys golf team defended its state championship Wednesday at Prairie View Golf Club. The Shamrocks edged out Center Grove by one stroke, 592-593. Westfield's Hudson Kutchma won individual honors in a playoff.

# County teams all finish strong

*GC reaches podium, Royals take 5<sup>th</sup>, Millers finish 6<sup>th</sup>*

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

**CARMEL** – As usual, Hamilton County teams had a major presence at the IHSAA boys golf state finals this week at Prairie View Golf Club.

All four local qualifying teams finished in the top six, with Westfield defending its state championship (see related story). One of the Shamrocks' fellow county teams gave them a run: Guerin Catholic placed third with a score of 596, just four strokes away from the top.

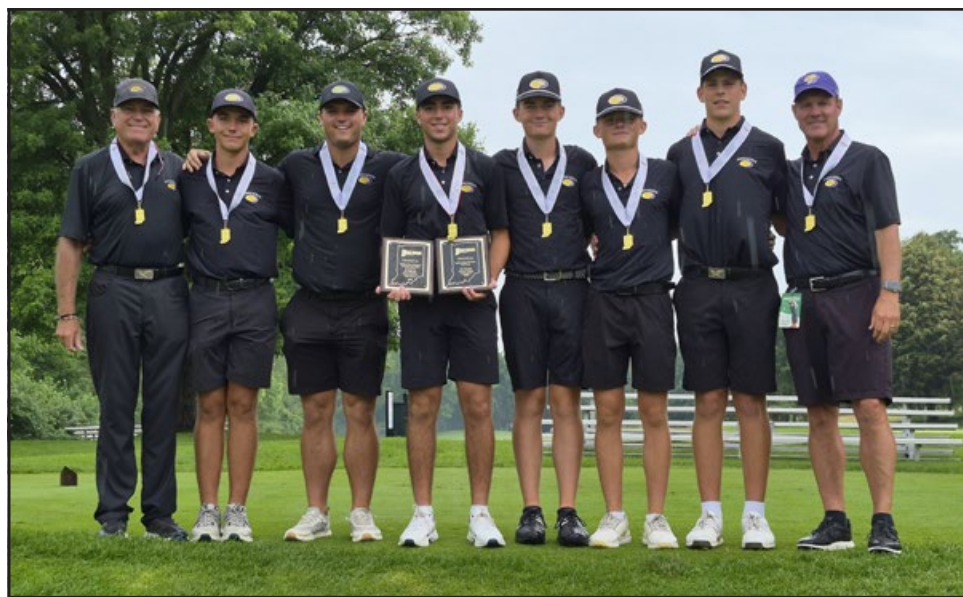
The Golden Eagles were led by senior Eli Wessel, who was the low man for the second round. Wessel scored a three-under par 69, which elevated him to a tie with Westfield's Hudson Kutchma for the overall lowest score.

Both men totaled 142 for their two-day score, so a playoff was needed to determine the individual champion. Kutchma won the playoff in two holes, so Wessel finished second. But he was pleased with the day, considering how much ground he had to make up just to get into that position.

"I was five back going into today. At one point, I was seven back," said Wessel. While things didn't go the way he wanted on the 18th hole and in the playoff, Wessel called the day a "great experience."

"Super proud of the way I played today and extremely proud of the boys for battling," said Wessel. He finished the day with six birdies and was named to the All-State team.

Junior Brady Wagner made one birdie during his second-day round of 77, as did junior Andrew Williamson, who scored 74 on Wednesday. Two freshmen were also in the GC lineup: Myles Ray totaled 75 and



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Guerin Catholic's team finished in third place. Eli Wessel finished as individual runner-up.

Cooper Howard scored 78, including an eagle on the third hole. Ray also drained two birdies.

"It was a great tournament today," said Guerin Catholic coach Mark Mathews. "We didn't play as well as we should have yesterday and we came really close to winning this thing, so we're good about it."

### Royals take fifth

Castle finished fourth with a two-day score of 600. Hamilton Southeastern was next, as the Royals totaled 608 to place fifth.

Senior Mattingly Upchurch finished with a Wednesday score of 74, making two birdies along the way. Junior Dane Starnes scored 75 on Wednesday with one birdie to his credit. Both players were named to the All-State team.

Freshman Zach Kinzer carded 76, as did junior Brody Colburn, who made three birdies. Senior Blake Babb scored 84, including one birdie.

### Marucci leads Millers

Senior Tyler Marucci was Noblesville's leader, finishing tied for fifth individually with a two-day total of 145.

Marucci finished with

a 73 for his second round, making one birdie along the way. He was named to the All-State team.

"It was a battle out there," said Marucci. "I played well on the front nine, got 34, and then stalled out in the back nine, but the back nine played pretty tough today. But one of my goals this year was to get All-State, which I did, so I'm pretty proud of myself

for that."

The Millers scored 610 to place sixth as a team. Jackson Mahan scored 75 for his second round, draining an eagle on the 13th hole in addition to making two birdies.

Freshman JT Kelley totaled 80, draining four birdies. Sophomore Luke Decker also scored 80, making one birdie, while senior Dustin Turpin totaled 82.

**Team scores:** Westfield 295-297=592, Center Grove 291-302=593, Guerin Catholic 301-295=596, Castle 297-303=600, Hamilton Southeastern 307-301=608, Noblesville 302-308=610, Homestead 311-301=612, Pendleton Heights 303-311=614, Brownsburg 327-300=627, Trinity Academy at Greenlawn 321-309-630, Bloomington South 318-314=632, Franklin Community 322-310=632, Elkhart 316-317=633, Warsaw 313-327=640, Plymouth 326-321=647, Floyd Central 338-318=656, South Bend St. Joseph 327-330=657, Evansville Memorial 347-324=671.

**Top 10 individuals:** 1. Hudson Kutchma, Westfield 68-74=142, won in playoff, 2. Eli Wessel, Guerin Catholic 73-69=142, 3. Alexander Cook, Castle 68-75=143, 4. Drew Carlson, Center Grove 68-76=144, T5. Tyler Marucci, Noblesville 72-73=145; Caden Baker, Homestead 73-72=145; Max Steiner, Zionsville 74-71=145; Johnny Leaman, Cathedral 73-72=145, T9. Colton Watson, Bloomington South 71-75=146; Nathan Springer, Center Grove 74-72=146.

**Other Westfield scores:** Brayden Worthington 75-74=149, Ryan Cesare 74-76=150, Mitchell Keene 78-73=151, Keaton Knott 81-79=160.

**Other Guerin Catholic scores:** Brady Wagner 73-77=150, Myles Ray 76-75=151, Andrew Williamson 80-74=154, Cooper Howard 79-78=157.

**Southeastern scores:** Mattingly Upchurch 75-74=159, Zach Kinzer 74-76=150, Brody Colburn 79-76=155, Dane Starnes 81-75=156, Blake Babb 79-84=163.

**Other Noblesville scores:** Jackson Mahan 74-75=149, JT Kelley 76-80=156, Dustin Turpin 80-82=162, Luke Decker 80 (second day), Vaughn Twilla 81 (first day).

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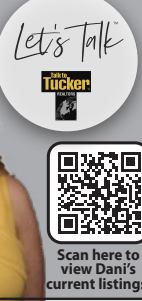


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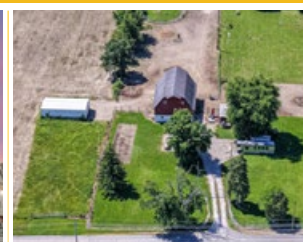
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# SPORTS SCHEDULE

**Friday, June 19**

**BASEBALL**

Class 3A state championship  
Guerin Catholic vs. Andean, 4:30 p.m.

Please email schedule changes or corrections to [sports@readthereporter.com](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).

## Several track athletes competing in Nike Nationals

### The REPORTER

Several Hamilton County track & field athletes have made the trip to Eugene, Ore. this week to compete in the Nike Outdoor Nationals and USATF U20 Championships.

The meets take place at Hayward Field on the campus of the University of Oregon. Action begins today and runs through Monday. Live timing for the meets are available at [this link](#).

Hamilton Southeastern has athletes competing in four events. Incoming senior Anissa Lammie will run in the Girls 400 Championship on Saturday, the event she won at the IHSAA state meet on Friday, June 5.

Meanwhile, recent graduate Chloe Senefeld is competing in the Girls 400 Hurdles Championship on Sunday. Both are slated to compete today in the Mixed 4x400 relay Championship, along with Kallen Hoeft and Jaxon Wanza.

Liam Powers, another recent HSE graduate, will run in the Boys 2 Mile Championship on Saturday, then race in the Boys 1 Mile Emerging Elite event Sunday afternoon.

At the Nike Nationals, Championship events are for athletes who meet qualifying standards, while Emerging Elite events are

for athletes who post strong results but are just shy of those standards.

Guerin Catholic graduate Amelia Smith is the IH-SAA state champion in pole vault and she is competing in that event twice. Smith will first take part in the U20 pole vault on Thursday, then compete in the Championship pole vault on Saturday. (The U20 event is hosted by USA Track & Field and is separate from the Nike Nationals.)

Fishers graduate Konrad Hayden is competing in the Boys High Jump Championship, which takes place on Saturday.

Carmel graduate Kaitlyn Oshimura is running in two races: she will compete in the Girls 800 Championship on Friday and Girls 1 Mile Emerging Elite on Sunday.

Carmel graduate Cooper Szotek will run in the Boys 800 Emerging Elite. Norah Chase, Ellie Cooley and Amyla Holder are competing in the Girls Discus Emerging Elite, with Chase and Holder also participating in the Girls Shot Put Emerging Elite.

*NOTE - If any other Hamilton County athletes are competing at the NIKE Nationals and USATF U20 championships, please email [sports@readthereporter.com](mailto:sports@readthereporter.com).*

# HCC honors Coaches of the Year

### The REPORTER

Hamilton County is well-represented on this year's Hoosier Crossroads Conference Spring 2026 Coaches of the Year list.

In fact, two sports named co-Coaches of the Year. In baseball, Nobles-

ville's Justin Keever and Hamilton Southeastern's Kory Seitz were both selected for the honor. In Unified Track, Fishers' Patrick Schooley and Southeastern's Dan Moosbrugger both received Coach of the Year awards.

As for the other sports: Westfield's Josh Bryant was named as the boys golf Coach of the Year, with Noblesville's Deke Bullard receiving that honor in softball. Westfield's Trudy Coler was named the girls tennis Coach of the Year

and Fishers' Jordan Guler received the award in boys volleyball.

Two coaches from Brownsburg rounded out the Coach of the Year list: Casey Popenfoose for boys track & field and Julie Waggoner for girls track & field.

## 2026 AC Golf Classic raises new record \$630,000

By ANTHONY CALHOUN  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

For the fourth straight year, the AC Golf Classic set a new record in money raised for Teachers' Treasures with \$630,000.

The AC Golf Classic has raised over \$4 million for inner-city youth and education since its inception.

**Celebrities** from across the Indiana sports world participated in the event at Carmel's Woodland Country Club and had wonderful times.

"The Teachers' Treasures thing, just watching some of the videos that they show before we get on the golf course is huge," Colts head coach Shane Steichen said.

"Just to change lives and impact lives and young kids to get the education that they need to help them out with the supplies that they

need, I think it goes a long way in their development as young children. Then they become young men and young women, so it's pretty impressive."

"It's wonderful to be here," former Pacers forward and college basketball analyst Clark Kellogg said. "Glorious day. Obviously, AC and I are dear friends and go way back. So I try to make this event because of what it means to him, to Teachers' Treasures, to the folks that are part of the family of Teachers' Treasures. It's a great community event as well."

"We know the impact that teachers make and just what AC has done to run this and to get those funds and to be able just to improve that and to improve education," Purdue men's basketball head coach Matt Painter said. "With our situation

with Name, image, and Likeness (NIL) and all the things that go on, education is still the most important piece and you can't lose that."

"He's [AC] a great man and he's a guy that really has dedicated himself to this town and this community and Teachers' Treasures and everything that they've done as well," IndyCar driver Graham Rahal said. "To give back to these kids, it's super important to me."

"I think just his heart and his passion and I think the Teachers' Treasures, watching that they're doing and the passion behind it and the heart behind it," Christian music singer/songwriter Jeremy Camp said. "AC got choked up after the video and I was like, that's who that guy is. That's his heart."

"Seriously, he's a good buddy and I appreciate him," actor Drew Pow-

ell said about WISH-TV Sports Director Anthony Calhoun. "He's got such a big heart, but also Teachers' Treasures, what a great organization. My mom was a teacher. I have so much of an affinity for teachers. The reason I'm in my dream career is because of a teacher."

**Teachers' Treasures** is a non-profit that supplies school supplies for teachers' classrooms. Their mission statement is "Teachers' Treasures works to ensure teachers, educators, and students have access to free, vital resources for classroom success."

Cooke Financial Group with its celebrity guest Colts head coach Shane Steichen won the AC Golf Classic.

*This story was originally published by WISH-TV at [wishtv.com/sports/golf/2026-ac-golf-classic-raises-new-record-630000](http://wishtv.com/sports/golf/2026-ac-golf-classic-raises-new-record-630000).*

## TRIUMPH

"No question, those guys leaned on the experience," said Bryant.

"Our team chemistry is amazing," said Kutchma. "Our seniors just really take care of everybody and teach all the underclassmen what to do."

Kutchma and Cesare delivered on the 18th hole. Playing No. 2 for the Shamrocks, Kutchma made the edge of the green on the par-five 18th in two strokes. He sent a long putt near the hole, then drained a birdie that pushed Westfield ahead, followed by a fist pump.

"I told myself to just two-putt, just to make birdie, and that's pretty much it," said Kutchma.

"We thought we were down one," said Bryant. "We may have been even. It's hard to say on the leaderboard, but we thought we were down one and we told Huddy, 'You've got a good number, go for it.' He gets a beautiful shot, ends up swinging the leaderboard our way."

Cesare finished things off with a par that kept the Shamrocks in front, and Westfield's first celebration was on. It was back to

business minutes later, as Kutchma and Wessel were off to the first tee to begin the individual playoff.

Kutchma bested Wessel on the second green, which was getting so wet that workers had to clear away ponds of water just to make the green playable. But Kutchma took it in stride, saying the experience was like "going out there, having fun with friends and playing in the rain."

Kutchma scored 74 during his second round, making three birdies in the second round, including the big one on the 18th hole.

*from Page 11*

Worthington scored 74, including three birdies.

Cesare made one birdie on his way to a Wednesday score of 76. Both he and Kutchma were named to the All-State team at the conclusion of the meet.

Keene scored 73 on the second day, improving five strokes from the first day. Keene drained five birdies during the second round. Sophomore Keaton Knott totaled 79, making three second-round birdies.

Westfield finished in the top two at state for the fifth consecutive year and for the ninth time since 2013.



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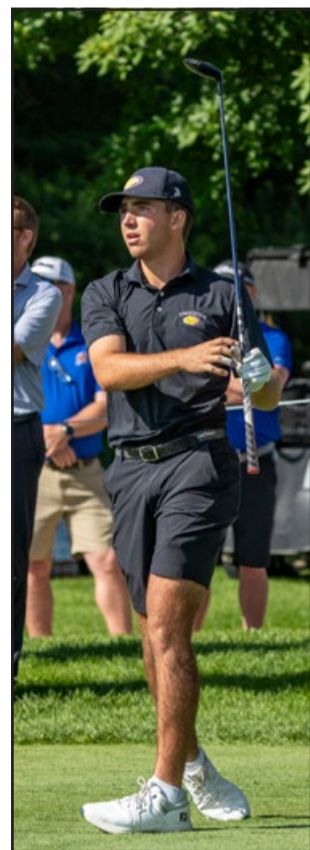
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Reporter photos by Julie Brown  
(ABOVE LEFT) Westfield's Hudson Kutchma won individual medalist honors, was named to the All-State team and made a crucial birdie on the 18th hole that helped the Shamrocks clinch the team championship. (ABOVE CENTER) Westfield's Ryan Cesare made par on the 18th hole to seal the Shamrocks' state win. He was named to the All-State team. (ABOVE RIGHT) Guerin Catholic's Eli Wessel was the individual runner-up and helped the Golden Eagles finish third. He was named to the All-State team.



Reporter photos by Julie Brown  
Hamilton Southeastern's Dane Starnes (above left) and Mattingly Upchurch (above center) were named to the All-State team. (ABOVE RIGHT) Noblesville's Tyler Marucci tied for fifth individually and was named to the All-State team.