

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny.
Tonight: Mostly clear.



HIGH: 76 LOW: 56



Carmel Fire & Dads team up to make learning fun

By **RENEE BUTTS**
Carmel Fire Department
Public Education Officer

The Carmel Fire Department recently held its annual Firefighter For A Day Camp (FF4DC). Since its inception in 2013, FF4DC has become a beloved summer tradition in our community, with registration filling up in less than an hour each year.

Since moving to the Dads' Club Aletto Fieldhouse in 2023, the camp has found an ideal home. Throughout the day, campers rotate through six interactive stations where firefighters, Hamilton County dispatchers and volunteers teach them about fire safety, emergency response and the physical demands of the job. Through hands on activities, the children get a firsthand look at the strength, teamwork, and endurance required to serve as a firefighter – all while having fun alongside the men and women who protect our community.

Campers also enjoy an



Photos provided by Carmel Fire Department

The Carmel Dads' Club Aletto Fieldhouse is the perfect place for Carmel Fire Department's annual Firefighter For A Day Camp. Thanks, Dads!

equipment parade, partake in a tasty lunch before wrapping up the event with an exciting waterball tournament that ends the day with plenty of friendly competition and laughter.

The camp remains free for all participants thanks to the generous support of Carmel Clay Township and our food sponsors: Chick-Fil-A, Market District, and Texas Roadhouse.

A special thank you goes to the many volunteers who help make this event possible. We truly couldn't do it without their dedication, support, and enthusiasm.

U.S. is failing to prepare for next pandemic

My February 2026 column expressed concern that President Trump, through a January 2025 executive order, withdrew the United States from the World Health Organization. I argued that this was a poorly considered, irresponsible, and dangerous decision.



RICHARD D. FELDMAN, M.D.
State of Our Health

This withdrawal isolates the United States and hinders communication with the international health community. It impedes coordinated global planning and response to pandemics and infectious disease outbreaks and diminishes the operational capacity of the WHO through reductions in funding and experienced personnel. The WHO is struggling.

Now, with the reemergence of a high-consequence infectious disease on the world stage – Ebola – we are reminded of the potential adverse consequences of these actions.

The Ebola outbreak in Central Africa is a wake-up call to the ramifications of the U.S. retreat from global health leadership. The WHO has declared the outbreak a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern." Recall that during the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak, some cases reached the United States. Ebola has a high fatality rate, and for this particular strain there is no vaccine or specific treatment. It's highly infectious, spreading through contact with bodily fluids.

See Next Pandemic . . . Page 2



Photos provided by HSE Schools

Classroom grants are something everyone can get excited about, and that's why Hallett Sports Foundation has committed \$1 million over 10 years to support students and teachers within Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

Hallett Sports Foundation commits \$1 million to Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation

Submitted

The Hallett Sports Foundation has announced a long-term commitment to invest in the future of local education through a \$1 million pledge to the Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation (HSEF).

The commitment is structured as a minimum contribution of \$100,000 annually over the next 10 years, with annual funding levels generated through fundraising initiatives led by the Indy Fuel hockey team and Fishers Freight indoor football

team. These efforts will include a portion of ticket proceeds from selected Indy Fuel and Fishers Freight home games, along with additional in-game fundraising initiatives and community engagement activities.

This long-term investment reflects the Hallett Sports Foundation's dedication to creating sustained impact and expanding opportunities for students, educators, and families throughout the Hamilton Southeastern community.

The funding will support



HSEF's mission to strengthen educational programming, create innovative opportunities, and enhance initiatives that contribute to student success across Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

"We believe meaningful change is created through long-

term commitment and community participation," Hallett Sports CEO Sean Hallett said. "This pledge creates an opportunity for fans, partners, and supporters to directly contribute to

See HSE . . . Page 2

Noblesville Schools Education Foundation's 2025-26 Classroom Grant Program awards nearly \$100K

Submitted

The Noblesville Schools Education Foundation (NSEF) announces the success of its 2025-2026 Classroom Grant Program, awarding \$97,813 to 74 Noblesville educators, staff, and students across all 10 Noblesville Schools.

These grants empower educators, staff, and students to implement innovative initiatives that enhance learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. The funded projects support a wide range of priorities, including mental health and wellness, STEM education, arts enrichment and collaboration, and expanded access to opportunities for all students.

One example of an NSEF grant was at Hazel Dell Elementary, where second-grade teachers Chrystal Turner, Raquel Boos, Emily Betz, and Barb Horsfield received \$400 to enrich their Core Knowledge Lan-



Photos provided by Noblesville Schools

Funds support projects including mental health and wellness, STEM education, arts enrichment and collaboration, and expanded access to opportunities for all students.

guage Arts (CKLA) medical and nutrition unit. The grant helped transform classroom learning into an interactive experience, allowing students to dress as doctors and rotate through hands-on stations that reinforced key concepts related to body systems, healthy nutrition choices, and overall wellness.



Another impactful grant was led by Erin Brattain, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, who received \$5,645 to install

an on-site hydroponic garden. The garden will produce fresh

See Noblesville . . . Page 2



WISH-TV photo

Jackson Massillamany (right) is no stranger to politics. His father, Mario Massillamany (left) is the chairman of the Hamilton County Republican Party, and his mother, Amy Massillamany, serves on the Hamilton County Council. See photos from the convention on Page 3.

Hamilton County teen was youngest delegate at Indiana GOP convention

By **GARRETT BERGQUIST**
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A Hamilton County teen last Friday said he was excited for his first convention as a voting delegate.

Jackson Massillamany, who just turned 18 and graduated from high school in May, is no stranger to politics. His father, Mario, is the chair of the Hamilton County Republican Party and his mother, Amy, serves on the Hamilton County Council.

Jackson said he signed up to be a delegate at last weekend's Indiana Republican Party convention in Fort Wayne after Mario asked if he was interested.

"It's kinda cool to see how this is done and what my dad actually does," he said. "At first, I wasn't really excited for it, but I'm here now and I'm having a blast."

Mario Massillamany, who is a contributor to All INdiana Politics, said Jackson is the youngest delegate at the convention. He said he has been taking Jackson along to party functions ever since he was an infant.

"It's a great opportunity for him to get more active and involved in politics, and I think we need to try and get the younger generations involved in

See Delegate . . . Page 2

NEXT PANDEMIC

Fortunately, Ebola still has relatively low pandemic potential because it does not spread through respiratory transmission, as do influenza and COVID-19. Eventually, the world will face another virulent, highly infectious respiratory virus that will present a far more perilous situation.

Withdrawal from the WHO, reduced health infrastructure support for affected countries, and decreased or eliminated support for other international health agencies hinder the global response to the Ebola outbreak. These actions create funding and operational shortfalls for frontline organizations.

Two agencies deserve special mention.

The closure of the U.S. Agency for International Development, a critical leader in global health cri-

ses, was particularly devastating because of the loss of infrastructure and essential functions it provided, including funding, technical expertise, and on-the-ground staff.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the nation's lead agency for international health efforts, previously worked closely with the WHO. The CDC has also sustained severe cuts, with approximately 25 percent of its workforce eliminated, including infectious disease and outbreak response experts who were fired, resigned, or retired.

America's pullback from international health engagement will likely have serious consequences for global health security. It significantly weakens coordinated disease surveillance, contact tracing, staffing of isolation facili-

ties, establishment of safe and adequate clinical care, deployment of existing vaccines, research and development of new vaccines and treatments, acquisition and distribution of medications and medical supplies, deployment of diagnostic testing, worldwide humanitarian relief, identification of emerging infectious diseases, and rapid responses to pandemics and major disease outbreaks.

It's true that the United States has done more than its fair share to support global health efforts. However, we are one of the world's richest nations and its most powerful. America has a long history of serving world humanity. Moreover, investing in international health makes our own country safer; a health threat anywhere can become a health threat everywhere.

HSE

from Page 1

In the past, America helped ensure that many outbreaks never became global crises. Today, we are no longer the world's leader in global health security, and we have lost international respect and credibility. The administration appears more focused on keeping Ebola from our shores through travel restrictions and mandatory quarantines for exposed U.S. residents in Kenya than on outbreak control at its source.

There will be a next pandemic. The rest of the world is stepping up coordination with the WHO, while America shoots itself in the foot.

Richard D. Feldman, M.D. is an Indianapolis family physician and former Indiana State Health Commissioner who served in the administration of Governor Frank O'Bannon.

educational impact through experiences that bring our community together. We are excited to support the Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation and invest in opportunities that will benefit students for years to come."

This commitment aligns with the Hallett Sports Foundation's mission to strengthen communities through strategic investments in education, youth development, and programs that create lasting outcomes.

"We are incredibly grateful for this transformational commitment," HSEF Executive Director Justin Hirnisey said. "A partnership built around sustained community engagement and long-term support creates meaningful opportunities for our students and schools."

Additional details regarding designated games,

from Page 1

fundraising initiatives, and annual allocations will be announced jointly by the Hallett Sports Foundation and the Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation.

About Hallett Sports Foundation

The Hallett Sports Foundation supports initiatives that expand opportunity and create lasting community impact through investments in education, youth development, and programs that strengthen future generations.

About Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation

The Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation supports educational excellence by investing in innovative programs, expanding access to opportunities, and enriching the student experience across Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

DELEGATE

our political process," he said. "I think this is a great opportunity for him to come here, have a good experience and then go back and talk to his friends about why it's important to get involved."

Jackson was one of 1,800 delegates tasked

with picking a nominee for secretary of state. It was a closely watched race. Current Secretary of State Diego Morales, who sought a second term, has faced numerous controversies since he took office. Knox County Clerk David Shelton and conservative activist and

2024 gubernatorial candidate Jamie Reitenour ran against Morales for months. Last month, Max Engling, a staffer for Sen. Jim Banks and a 2024 congressional candidate, joined the race at the last minute with Banks' backing.

Engling won the nomination, and in November will have to face Bayh family scion Beau Bayh, a Democrat, along with Libertarian Lauri Shillings and, potentially, former Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, who is running as an independent under the Lincoln Party label.

Mario said he told Jackson to keep his eyes and ears open and to meet with all of the weekend's candidates.

Both Massillamanys said the key to getting young people to vote and to get politically involved is to, first, encourage them to register to vote and, second, to elevate more young

people who are in politics.

"I feel like many people are scared to be involved in politics because nobody else younger does it," Jackson said. "So, like, me and other people my age, being able to reach out to others to try and get involved, I feel like, is the best way for people my age to get involved."

Delegates to the 2026 Indiana Republican Party convention made their selections last Saturday, June 20. Besides secretary of state candidates, they chose nominees for state treasurer and state comptroller. The current occupants of those offices, Daniel Elliott and Elise Nieshalla, respectively, are running for second terms and are unopposed.

This story was originally published by WISHTV at wishtv.com/news/election/hamilton-county-teen-is-youngest-delegate-at-indiana-2026-republican-convention.

NOBLESVILLE

from Page 1

fruits and vegetables for school salad bars, supporting a "farm-to-tray" approach that enhances both the nutritional value and flavor of student meals. In addition to improving meal quality, the project will provide students with hands-on learning opportunities focused on sustainability, nutrition, and STEM concepts through real-world food production.

Noblesville Schools educators, staff, and students are encouraged to apply for NSEF grants throughout the year. Impact Grants, which provide funding of more than \$500, are offered during two application cycles each school year: one in the fall at the start of the school year and another in the spring following winter break. Mini Grants, which provide funding of \$500 or less, are available year-round and are reviewed and awarded on a monthly ba-

sis. All grant applications are evaluated by the NSEF Grant Committee, whose members carefully review each proposal and provide feedback and recommendations as part of the selection process.

Through this investment, NSEF continues its commitment to fostering creativity, innovation, and educational excellence throughout Noblesville Schools.

About the Noblesville Schools Education Foundation

The Noblesville Schools Education Foundation was created in 1987 to support Noblesville Schools by investing in academic excellence. NSEF is governed by a volunteer board of directors who give their time and energy to accelerate the Foundation's mission of funding grants, awarding scholarships, and expanding resources for Noblesville Schools.



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Max Engling secures Secretary of State nomination at Indiana GOP Convention

The REPORTER

Republicans from across Indiana gathered this past weekend in Fort Wayne for the party's state convention. The purpose of the convention is to select candidates for statewide offices that aren't subject to the primary election process. A total of 1,789 delegates, drawing from Indiana's 92 counties, were elected in the May primary to attend the convention.

This year, State Treasurer Dan Elliott and State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla

were unopposed in their bids for reelection.

However, Max Engling of Hamilton County was able to unseat incumbent Secretary of State Diego Morales after two rounds of voting, with Morales finishing a distant third behind Knox County Clerk David Shelton.

Engling will now face Democrat Beau Bayh, Libertarian Lauri Shillings, and a likely independent bid by former Republican Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard in the Nov. 3 general election.



Reporter photos

Due its large population, Hamilton County's delegates dominated the convention.

Statement from Max Engling

Following Max Engling's GOP Convention Victory, he released this statement:

Thank you for placing your trust in me as your Republican nominee for Secretary of State.

Whether you voted for me or another candidate, I ask that we come together as one team as we head into the fall campaign. I am grateful for your support, your engagement, and your commitment to our party and our state.

I pledge to work hard every day to defend conservative values, protect election integrity, and hold the line for Indiana Republicans.

Now it's time to unite, rally together, and defeat Democrat Beau Bayh this November.

Thank you again for this honor. Let's get to work.



Photos provided by Emily Pearson

Max Engling's supporters were out in full-force to get him nominated for the Secretary of State race.

Statement from Mario Massillamany

Hamilton County Republican Party Chairman Mario Massillamany released this statement after Max Engling won nomination at the party's convention:

I am proud to congratulate Max Engling on winning the Republican nomination for Indiana Secretary of State. Max earned this victory, and Hamilton County Republicans are squarely behind him heading into November.

This race matters. The Secretary of State is the chief election officer of Indiana; not a stepping stone, not a consolation prize, and not a platform to rehabilitate a family name.

Beau Bayh has no business running for this office. He's a Democrat legacy candidate with no relevant experience. His name is borrowed. His qualifications are nonexistent. Hoosiers see through it.

Greg Ballard was disqualified before this race even started. Not by his opponents, but by his own campaign. Submitting fraudulent petition signatures to gain ballot access is a fundamental disqualifier for someone seeking to oversee Indiana's elections. You don't get to cheat your way onto the ballot and then ask voters to trust you with their ballots. Our call for a full investigation and prosecution of those responsible still stands.

And on Friday, Ballard's campaign announced it was fined \$450 by the Indiana Election Division for filing two finance reports late; fines they won't contest. The man who wanted to run Indiana's elections couldn't file his own campaign's paperwork on time. That's not a smear. It's his campaign's own statement.

Max Engling is competent, credible, and committed to election integrity. He earned this nomination, and he will earn this election.

Let's get to work.



Statement from Beau Bayh

Democrat Beau Bayh released the following statement after the GOP convention:

Hoosiers are ready for a change in the Secretary of State's office. They are tired of the corruption, insider dealing, and waste of taxpayer money that Max Engling and the political insiders pulling his strings have enabled for years.

I will continue to work to earn the votes of all Hoosiers and will be the Secretary of State for all Hoosiers.

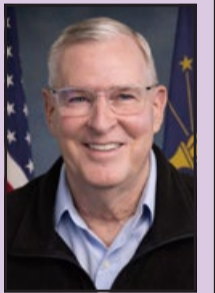


Statement from Greg Ballard

Independent candidate for Indiana Secretary of State Greg Ballard issued the following statement after the GOP convention:

It didn't matter who the Republicans nominated today. There are more independents in Indiana than Republicans or Democrats, and this November they will finally have a true independent to vote for.

I'm pleased to announce my campaign has confirmed that we've turned in at least 52,501 signatures and I am confident I will be on the ballot this fall.



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Cool Creek Park turns into disco dance party with Disco-Licious

Submitted

Bell bottoms, platform shoes, and plenty of dancing filled Cool Creek Park as Disco-Licious brought the sounds of the disco era to the Cool Creek Summer Concert Series last Friday, June 19.

Guests arrived early to enjoy a beautiful summer evening, gathering with family and friends before the band took the stage. Once the music began, the lawn quickly transformed into a dance floor as audience members sang along to disco favorites and celebrated the unforgettable hits of the 1970s.

Featuring talented musicians and energetic performers, Disco-Licious delivered crowd favorites made famous by artists such as the Bee Gees, Donna Summer, KC and the Sunshine Band, and many others.

The evening showcased the community spirit that has made the Cool Creek Summer Concert Series a longtime tradition in Hamil-

ton County. Whether guests came dressed in their disco best or simply enjoyed the music from a lawn chair, attendees experienced a fun-filled night of entertainment and nostalgia.

The 2026 Cool Creek Summer Concert Series continues throughout the summer. The next concert is the America 250 celebration with Mellencougar on July 10. Tickets are \$5 for adults, and children 12 and under are free. Gates open at 6 p.m. and music begins at 7 p.m. For tickets and concert information, visit myhamiltoncountyparks.com.

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation thanks the sponsors who make the concert series possible: Grand Appliance, Hamilton County Tourism, Butler Fairman & Seufert (BF&S), IU Health, Etica Group, Envoy, Community First Bank of Indiana, Fredericks, Lowe's, the Coxhall Guild, Academy Sports + Outdoors, and Renewal by Andersen.



Photos provided by Hamilton County Parks & Recreation



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East District Office: (765) 639-0671

www.spartz.house.gov

HSHC to hold Saturday Safety Microchip Match to prevent lost pets this Fourth of July

The REPORTER

On Saturday, June 27, the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) will hold its exclusive Saturday Safety Microchip Match event, with discounted microchips offered from 9 to 11 a.m.

All microchip procedures will be reduced to just \$25 when participants make a \$25 donation to HSHC's June Matching Campaign. Plus, if you're one of the first 10 individuals to stop by, the humane society will give you one microchip for free.

The shelter hopes to use this event to rally the community and promote pet safety in preparation for the Fourth of July holiday. HSHC urges community members to make an early action plan to keep their pets calm during fireworks shows, and make sure your ID tags and microchips are up to date.

"Fireworks may be fun for us, but they can be terrifying for our pets, and with the holiday just around the corner, now is the time to take early action," HSHC Community Engagement Manager Emma Nobbe said.



Photo provided by HSHC

"For community members who haven't microchipped their pets, we hope this event will give them the opportunity to keep their pet extra safe this Fourth of July."

The Fourth of July is often one of the busiest days for a shelter to take in lost animals, but microchipping can provide permanent, tamper-proof identification that significantly increases your chances of being reunited with a lost pet. Now is the time to begin preparing your home for the Fourth of July, and if you haven't microchipped your pet, stop by the Humane Society for Hamilton County at 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, on Saturday, June 27, to keep your pet safe over the holiday weekend.

For more information, please visit HamiltonHumane.com.

Westfield Lions add nine new members in June

Club also donates \$1,500 to Hamilton County Coats for Kids

By JEFF LARRISON
Westfield Lions Club

As Lions Clubs International's fiscal year comes to a close on June 30, the Westfield Lions Club welcomed nine new members during its June 18 meeting. The additions bring the club's membership to 86, an all-time high in its 95-year history.

The new members include Ron and Michele Himler, Chris and Loretta Hirsch, Charlie Reynolds, Jane Carlson, David Greenbaum, Ronald Chapman, and Russ Davis. During the meeting, the club also received an application from Gary Klein, who will be inducted in July.

Lion Jeff Kozicki of the Noblesville Lions Club conducted the induction ceremony for the new members and also installed the club's officers for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Lion Gary Smith will serve as president, with Lion Chris Bluto as first vice president and Lion Steve Hall as second vice president.

Following the inductions, the club unveiled its new eyeglasses collection box, which will be located at the Westfield Lions Community Center, 1101



Photos provided by Westfield Lions Club

(ABOVE) The new Westfield Lions Club members and their sponsors pose for a photo. They include Ron and Michele Himler, Chris and Loretta Hirsch, Charlie Reynolds, Jane Carlson, David Greenbaum, Ronald Chapman, and Russ Davis. (RIGHT) New Westfield Lion Charlie Reynolds shows off the Club's eyeglass donation box.

E. 169th St. Supporting vision-related causes has been a cornerstone of Lions service since 1925, when Helen Keller challenged Lions to become the "Knights of the Blind."

Lions Clubs around the world collect used eyeglasses that are cleaned, refurbished, and distributed to people in need. The Westfield Lions' new collection box was built by newly inducted Lion Charlie Reynolds, with assistance from

Lions Judy Waldroup and Loretta Hirsch.

Additional eyeglasses collection boxes in Westfield are located at Walmart, Busby Eye Care, Prather Optometry, and the Westfield Public Library.

The final item of business during the meeting was the approval of a \$1,500 donation to the Hamilton County Coats for Kids program. The donation was made possible through proceeds from the club's semi-



annual poker tournament. The Westfield Lions Club has served the Westfield community since 1930. For more information about the club or membership opportunities, visit WestfieldLions.org.

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Volunteers with the Clay Township Military Library and Museum were on hand to educate the public on the organization's mission.



Photos provided

Stories were both preserved and shared at history fair

By JON BALDWIN
Clay Township Military Library & Museum

On behalf of the Clay Township Military Library and Museum, I'm pleased to share that our participation in Hamilton East Public Library's Sharing Our Story: Local History Fair on June 20 was a real success.

The fair welcomed approximately 60 attendees throughout the afternoon, with about 55 people checking in to receive a passport, 45 tote bag prizes redeemed (meaning at least 45 visitors spoke with every exhibitor), and 38 raffle entries submitted for the grand prize.

Our volunteers had meaningful conversations with many visitors about Hamilton County's military history and the people behind the uniforms, photos, and artifacts on our table. One especially moving moment came when a visitor

entrusted us with a folder of documents about her father's World War II and post-war service – materials lovingly collected by her mother over many years. This kind of family preservation is exactly why our museum exists: to ensure that the service and sacrifice of our veterans are remembered, not forgotten, and that their stories live on in our community.

The fair also featured a keynote program on storytelling that drew roughly 40 to 45 attendees, and the feedback shared with organizers was very positive. Some visitors discovered the event during a regular library visit, others came specifically to learn about local history or their new community, and a few attended after seeing coverage on local news – proof that local history still captures attention when people see it in action.

The day gave us a chance to reconnect with several of

our local partners in history, including the Hamilton County Historical Society, Sheridan Historical Society, Westfield Preservation Alliance, Conner Prairie, Roberts Settlement, Westfield Washington Historical Society, Fishers Historical Society, Hamilton County Parks and Recreation, the Jonathan Jennings and Horseshoe Prairie chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Carmel Clay Historical Society. We're grateful to Hamilton East Public Library for hosting an event that brought so many local history organizations – and neighbors – together under one roof.

As we continue revitalizing the Clay Township Military Library and Museum, we also welcome new volunteers who share our interest in local military history. Whether you enjoy talking with visitors, helping with displays, working

with documents and photographs, or supporting behind-the-scenes projects, there is a place for your time and talents in this work; if you are interested, simply reply to this email and we will follow up with you.

Several visitors asked if this would become an annual event; if it does, we plan to be there and will keep you informed.

Most importantly, your stories and your support are at the heart of our progress. If you or a family member has a connection to military service and would like to share documents, photographs, artifacts, or memories, we would be honored to hear from you. Every story from Hamilton County helps future generations better understand the people behind the service.

Thank you for standing with us as we preserve and share Hamilton County's military story.

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Westfield PD launches Citizens on Patrol program

Submitted by City of Westfield

The Westfield Police Department (WPD) has launched its new Citizens on Patrol (COP) program, a community-focused initiative designed to strengthen public safety through resident engagement, visibility, and proactive crime prevention.

The COP program empowers trained civilian volunteers to serve as additional eyes and ears throughout the community. Volunteers patrol trails, parks, public spaces, and community events, helping identify suspicious activity, report safety concerns, and provide a visible presence that supports crime prevention efforts.

The program creates meaningful opportunities for residents to partner with law enforcement while fostering trust, communication, and transparency between the police department and the community. By assisting with routine patrols and non-enforcement responsibilities, COP members help sworn officers focus on more complex law enforcement duties.

“Public safety is strongest when it is a shared responsibility between law enforcement and the community we serve,” Westfield Police Chief Shawn Keen. “Our Citizens on Patrol volunteers are dedicated residents who have stepped forward to support Westfield in a meaningful way. Their visibility throughout our parks, trails, and community events will help us strengthen neighborhood connections, identify concerns more quickly, and continue building the trust that is essential to ef-



Photo provided by City of Westfield

The inaugural members of Westfield new Citizens on Patrol program are Gary Scher, Kerri Mills, Scott Pyle, Michelle Bruce, and Seth Elliott.

fective policing.”

COP members are trained volunteers who are not sworn law enforcement officers. They do not conduct enforcement activities, make arrests, or carry weapons. Instead, they serve as observers and ambassadors, reporting concerns and assisting with community engagement efforts.

To be eligible for the program, participants must first complete the Westfield Police Department’s Citizens Police Academy. The academy is offered annually each fall, with applications accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

The inaugural COP members are:

- Gary Scher
- Kerri Mills
- Scott Pyle
- Michelle Bruce
- Seth Elliott

Program members have completed initial training that includes CPR, AED, de-escalation techniques, and police radio operations using the WPD dispatch channel.

Residents may see COP members walking trails, monitoring parks, assisting at community events, supporting pedestrian safety efforts during special events such as the July 4 Freedom Parade, and helping identify safety concerns throughout the city. Patrols are conducted on foot and by golf

cart, with volunteers working alongside department personnel and maintaining communication with on-duty supervisors.

The COP program reflects WPD’s ongoing commitment to community policing and collaborative public safety initiatives that connect residents and law enforcement.

Residents interested in learning more about the Citizens Police Academy and future volunteer opportunities are encouraged to visit westfieldin.gov/police.

Applications and additional information can be found at westfieldin.gov/citizensacademy.

Reserve your table to Center Celebration 2026

The REPORTER

Planning is well underway for the **Center Celebration 2026** presented by Ice Miller, featuring performances from Michael Feinstein and The Bacon Brothers, on Saturday, Sept. 19.

A limited number of tables are still available. The Center Celebration 2026 will be an unforgettable evening showcasing how our lives are transformed through meaningful arts experiences. **Reserve your table today.**

The Center Celebration

2026 is hosted by Artistic Director Michael Feinstein and headlined by The Bacon Brothers, featuring Michael and Kevin Bacon, with proceeds supporting Allied Solutions Center’s arts and educational programming.

The black-tie evening will begin with the First Merchants Bank Red Carpet Arrival and Cocktail Reception, followed by an elegant dinner and live auction in the concert hall and after-parties with live music, dancing, drinks, and late-night food in two themed rooms.

Three local students graduate from Iowa State

The REPORTER

Nearly 4,900 graduates received degrees from Iowa State University this spring.

Three of those graduates are from Hamilton County. They are:

- **Ella Pauline Case of Fishers**, who received a Bachelor of Science, Biology, Cum Laude
- **Isabelle Woodward**

of Carmel, who received a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship and a Bachelor of Science in Event Management, both Cum Laude

- **Adam Zeitlin of Carmel**, who received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Magna Cum Laude; and a Master of Business Administration

Local nonprofit receives \$5K Lilly Scholar Network grant

The REPORTER

The Lilly Scholars Network (LSN) has awarded 14 organizations around the state a total of \$51,350 in grant funding through the LSN Lead Forward Community Grants (LFCG) program. These grants will support a wide range of community-driven projects led by Lilly Endowment Community Scholars in partnership with local nonprofit organizations.

In Hamilton County, **A Kid Again Indiana** has received a \$5,000 grant for its Capes and Crowns Adventure project. The program

provides a cost-free, joy-filled experience for children with life-threatening conditions and their families, fostering connection and resilience.

The Scholar Partner is Narman Satsangi, the 2021 Lilly Scholar for Johnson County.

LSN, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. and guidance from Indiana Humanities, empowers Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to actively engage in the civic life of their Indiana communities across the state and address various needs to make a positive impact.

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Caesars Entertainment partnership expands unrestricted support for local nonprofits

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Community Foundation announces that Caesars Entertainment has contributed \$10,000 to the Foundation's unrestricted endowment through a new partnership for both organizations. With Lilly Endowment's GIFT IX matching initiative, this gift will grow to a total impact of \$30,000.

This investment comes at a time when Hamilton County continues to evolve and experience both new opportunities and emerging needs. Through Lilly Endowment's two-to-one match contributions to HCCF's endowments – like Caesars Entertainment's – are amplified, allowing today's generosity to create longer lasting support for our community.

"At Harrah's Hoosier Park and Caesars Entertainment as a whole, we are deeply committed to strengthening the communities we call home, and this partnership represents another meaningful step in that mission," said Colin Skidmore, Caesars Entertainment's SVP and General Manager. "By working together, we can create lasting impact for local families, support important initiatives, and enhance the overall quality of life across the region. We're proud to align with an organization that shares our values and dedication to



giving back."

Unrestricted endowment funds are among the most powerful tools available to meet those needs. Because they are not limited to a single purpose, these funds allow the Foundation to respond where support is needed most, whether that is by helping a nonprofit expand mental health services, increasing access to education, or addressing food insecurity. Over time, these resources help organizations remain stable, responsive, and prepared for the future.

"As Hamilton County continues to grow, new partnerships like this help ensure that opportunities and resources grow alongside it," said Danielle Stiles-Polk, president of Hamilton County Community Foundation. "By investing in HCCF, Caesars Entertainment has reinforced our ability to support more local nonprofits sustainably."

People and organizations interested in strengthening local nonprofits and expanding access to critical resources across Hamilton County can learn more and contribute at hamilton-countycf.org/donate.

Riverview Health raises awareness during Hernia Awareness Month

The REPORTER

Riverview Health recognizes Hernia Awareness Month by raising awareness about the signs, symptoms, and treatment options for hernias, while encouraging individuals to seek medical evaluation for persistent abdominal discomfort.

Hernias are a common medical condition that occurs when an internal organ or tissue pushes through a weak spot in muscle or surrounding tissue. They can develop in different areas of the body, most commonly in the abdomen or groin. While some hernias may initially cause mild symptoms, they can worsen over time and may require surgical intervention when left untreated.

Depending on the type of hernia, symptoms that may indicate the need for medical evaluation include:

- A noticeable bulge or swelling in the abdomen or groin
- Pain or discomfort, especially when lifting, bending, or coughing
- A feeling of heaviness or pressure in the abdomen
- Persistent heartburn or reflux symptoms
- Difficulty swallowing or the sensation of food getting stuck

"Awareness is key when it comes to hernia care,"



Photos provided by Riverview Health

said Dr. Carly Thoma-Perry, board-certified general surgeon at Riverview Health. "Many people downplay or do not recognize symptoms, but timely evaluation and treatment can help prevent complications and improve quality of life."

With emerging technologies such as the DaVinci 5 surgical robots, Riverview Health offers a comprehensive solution for hernia patients. Dr. John Martin, board-certified general surgeon at Riverview Health, shared, "Today, our team is able to perform advanced

hernia repair procedures locally using robotic-assisted technology, allowing for greater precision while minimizing disruption to surrounding tissue."

By combining advanced technology, highly skilled professionals, and a collaborative approach to patient care, Riverview Health is setting a new standard for hernia repair surgery in the community. A recent patient who underwent robotic-assisted hernia repair shared her appreciation for the reassurance provided by the care team, stating, "I didn't

have a worry at all, I knew I was in good hands. I would recommend it to everybody, and I wouldn't go anywhere else."

Learn more about the patient's experience at riverview.org/hernia.

Community members are encouraged to speak with their primary care provider or schedule a consultation with a Riverview Health specialist if they are experiencing symptoms or have concerns about hernias. For more information, visit riverview.org/surgery or call (317) 773-0760.

1942 comedy was less tight, but no less entertaining than modern fare

Noël Coward's 1942 comic play *Present Laughter*, currently playing at Epilogue Players' Alabama Street playhouse, brings the noted actor/playwright's famous mix of wit and class to the



KEN KLINGEMEIER
A Seat on the Aisle

fore. Sharply directed and shaped by Catherine Mabley, the dated script finds a new life as performed by her outstanding cast.

Coward described the play as "a very light comedy ... written with the sensible object of providing me with a bravura part." Depicting himself as Garry Essendine, a rather self-possessed comedic actor preparing for a dreaded touring engagement in Africa – he is the central focus in a circle of dotting fans, relations, and hangers on.

Essendine's highbrow persona is offset with comic effect by the pile of chaotic events which unfold at his home including various overnight female guests, an eager and wild-eyed young playwright, two theatre associates who are sharing one of their wives, his own ex-wife whom he has never divorced, a quirky set of house attendants, plus his own views on life as it

should be. Only his secretary of 17 years seems to have her feet firmly on the ground, to Essendine's great benefit.

Brandon Wentz masterfully handles the lead role, offering a measured gentleman possessing both nuance and broad over-reaction. It's a pithy role and Wentz molds it very much as I might presume Coward might have envisioned.

There are a variety of supporting roles – some down-to-earth, some broadly drawn. Danielle Blair does a solid job as Essendine's secretary, Monica, making her the stable center of the action, while Veronique Duprey does admirable work as his helpful not-ex-wife, Liz. His agent, Morris and producer, Hugo show a bit less stability as they wander into assorted temptations – robustly played by Gregory Roberts and David Shaul, respectively.

Hugo's open-minded wife Joanna, played with one of a measure of abandon by Shaun Ancelet, is one of the temptations, as is young Miss Daphne Stillington, whom Breanna Helms



Photo by Rob Slaven / IndyGhostLight.com
Joanna (Shaun Ancelet) attempts to 'influence' Garry Essendine (Brandon Wentz).

adroitly brings to a light boil in a simmering portrayal. Ryan Moskalick covers the broadest character with a delightfully bazaar twist as he navigates playwright Roland Maule through his odd paces, and Cathie Morgan is sufficiently posh in her role as Daphne's aunt, Lady Saltburn.

Essendine's valet, Fred, is crisply offered by Jim Gryga, and Katherine LaTour has great fun being housekeeper Miss Erickson, rounding out the cast.

Costumes by Curt Pickard are period and precisely on the mark and, I'd say, are a good part of the enjoyment. A wonderful set designed by Andy and Melody Burnett matches

up well with Michael Beason's lighting design and the set decoration by a crew of thoughtful designers.

Bottom line: Plays in the 1940s were written far less "tightly" than they are in our times, but Noël Coward is well-known for his extravagance and it shows here. This is enjoyable entertainment, and it was great to see something from his catalog that I was not familiar with.

Present Laughter continues at Epilogue Players through June 28. For more information about dates, times, and reservations go to epilogueplayers.com.

Read more great play reviews from *A Seat on the Aisle* at asota.wordpress.com.

FISHERS

CITY OF FISHERS CITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CASE ANX-26-2

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SUBMIT COMMENTS BY GOING TO: <https://fishersin.gov/how-do-i/>

View the list of board members at FishersIN.gov/CityCouncil
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the City of Fishers City Council at 7:00 PM on July 20, 2026, at Fishers Municipal Center Theater, 1 Municipal Drive, Fishers, IN 46038.

REQUEST: At that hearing, the public will be invited to offer comments on the following request ("Proposal"): ANX-26-2 - Request to approve a voluntary annexation of 11.54 acres known as the Buckhaven property. Subject site is generally located north of E 131 Street with a common address of 11798 & 11842 E 131st Street.

LOCATION: 11798 & 11842 E 131ST ST, FISHERS, IN 46038
The case file about this project is available for public review in the office of the Department of Planning and Zoning, located at Fishers Municipal Center, 1 Municipal Drive, Fishers, IN 46038. The meeting agenda with room location details and case related information will be posted on the City's website forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting specified above. If you have specific questions or want to provide written contacts to the case planner directly, please contact:

City of Fishers Community and Economic Development
planning@fishersin.gov
(317) 595-3155
www.FishersIN.gov/notice
Petitioner: Pulte Homes of Indiana

R8144 6/23/26, 6/29/26

CITY OF FISHERS CITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CASE ANX-26-3

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SUBMIT COMMENTS BY GOING TO: <https://fishersin.gov/how-do-i/>

View the list of board members at FishersIN.gov/CityCouncil
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the City of Fishers City Council at 7:00 PM on Monday, July 20, 2026, at Fishers Municipal Center Theater, 1 Municipal Drive, Fishers, IN 46038.

REQUEST: At that hearing, the public will be invited to offer comments on the following request ("Proposal"): ANX-26-3 - Request to approve a voluntary annexation of 1 acre, known as the Brooks property. Subject site has a common address of 13518 Promise Rd, Fishers, IN.

LOCATION: 13518 PROMISE RD, FISHERS, IN 46038
The case file about this project is available for public review in the office of the Department of Planning and Zoning, located at Fishers Municipal Center, 1 Municipal Drive, Fishers, IN 46038. The meeting agenda with room location details and case related information will be posted on the City's website forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting specified above. If you have specific questions or want to provide written contacts to the case planner directly, please contact:

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Hoosier hero Major Nicholas Dockery receives Medal of Honor

Submitted by Office of U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz

Last Thursday, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz joined President Donald Trump at the White House as Ret. U.S. Army Major Nicholas Dockery received the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military decoration.

"Any nation is judged by how it honors the heroes who put their lives on the line for our freedom," Rep. Spartz said. "It has been my privilege to play a small part in helping recognize Nick's extraordinary service and sacrifice. His courage under fire, unwavering commitment to his fellow soldiers, and devotion to our country embody the very best of America."

Major Nicholas Dockery, born in Indianapolis, has dedicated his life to serving our nation. He enlisted in the Indiana National Guard before graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and later serving as a Green Beret and Special Forces officer. Throughout his distinguished military career, he earned two Silver Stars, two Purple Hearts,



Photos provided by Office of U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz
(LEFT) Ret. U.S. Army Major Nicholas Dockery took a moment for a photo with Congresswoman Victoria Spartz. (RIGHT) President Trump bestows the Medal of Honor upon Major Dockery.

three Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit, the Soldier's Medal, the Ninger Award for Valor, the MacArthur Leadership Award, and the Military Times Soldier of the Year Award.

The Medal of Honor recognizes Major Dockery's extraordinary heroism during a fierce battle in Af-

ghanistan on Oct. 2, 2012. While serving as a platoon leader, he repeatedly crossed open ground under intense enemy fire to rally and reinforce his soldiers. After learning that one soldier was wounded and another had been captured while unconscious, Dockery fought through ene-

my fire, killed two Taliban fighters attempting to drag the soldier away, administered lifesaving aid, and helped direct supporting aircraft that ultimately saved the lives of his team.

His actions went above and beyond the call of duty, exemplifying the highest traditions of military service.

STAR Financial Bank listed among Forbes' Best-In-State Banks in Indiana

The REPORTER

STAR Financial Bank has been recognized by Forbes as one of Indiana's Best-In-State Banks for 2026, highlighting the bank's continued commitment to community-focused service, innovation, and customer satisfaction.

The recognition comes at a time of strong performance across the U.S. banking industry. According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the first quarter of 2026 saw banks earn \$70.6 billion, an increase of 5.8 percent from the previous quarter, despite ongoing economic challenges such as inflation, rising interest rates and tighter credit conditions.

For the eighth consecutive year, Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista to identify the top banks in each state. The ranking is based on feedback from approximately 26,000 U.S. residents, who evaluated financial institutions on trust, customer

service, digital tools, financial advice, and fee transparency. The study also incorporated more than 500,000 publicly available customer reviews collected between February 2022 and March 2025, with survey results accounting for 80 percent of each institution's score and reviews contributing the remaining 20 percent.

"This recognition from Forbes highlights STAR's strength in blending legacy with innovation while delivering meaningful value to customers across Indiana," STAR Financial Group President Kristin Marcuccilli Green said. "It reinforces our focus on putting people first and creating a community banking experience that is both personal and forward-thinking."

For more than 80 years, STAR has served communities across Indiana, growing to nearly \$3 billion in assets and operating 37 banking centers throughout central and northeast In-



Photo illustration provided by STAR Financial Bank

diana. As a family-owned community bank, STAR combines personalized, relationship-driven service with modern banking technology to meet customers wherever they are, whether in person, online or through innovative tools like its Interactive Teller Machine, Orbi.

"At STAR, we believe banking should feel personal, accessible and rooted in trust," STAR Financial Bank President Kevin Wright said. "This recognition reinforces the strong relationships we've built with our customers and

communities, and it motivates us to continue raising the bar."

Beyond banking services, STAR remains deeply invested in the communities it serves through grants, sponsorships and volunteer initiatives focused on education, the arts and economic development. Employees are encouraged to actively engage in local organizations, reinforcing the bank's role as a true community partner.

For more information about STAR Financial Bank, visit starfinancial.com.

Community News

Quilt Connection Guild invites you to 'Chain of Quilts' show

The Quilt Connection Guild will host "A Chain of Quilts" show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 24, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 25 at Calvary Lutheran Church, 6111 Shelby St., Indianapolis.

There will be quilt demonstrations both days, along with quilts on display, handmade goods, quilt vendors appetizing refreshments, and fun.

Admission is \$8.

Carmel High School Class of 1976 Reunion

Submitted by Sharon Kibbe

The planning committee for our 50th class reunion is busy searching far and wide for classmates we've lost touch with.

If you have not yet connected via our private Facebook page, or if you know of classmates not active on social media, please contact carmelin1976.50threunion@gmail.com so we can send details about the Sept. 18 and 19 reunion weekend.

We have loads of fun in store, including two gatherings, lots of time to reconnect, and a one-hour tour of our old CHS stomping grounds. We are looking forward to celebrating with everyone!

Coffee Hour for Veterans

Attention Veterans in northern Hamilton County ...

From 9 to 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month, Veterans and the general public are welcome to get together at Remnant Coffee Shop, 101 W. Main St. (266th Street), Arcadia.

Come get to know other Veterans in the area. Tea drinkers are welcome.

Indiana Orthopedic Institute awarded Advanced Joint Replacement with Distinction Certification

The REPORTER

Indiana Orthopedic Institute (IO) has earned Advanced Joint Replacement with Distinction Certification from the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC).

Certification by ACHC reflects Indiana Orthopedic Institute's dedication and commitment to meeting standards that facilitate higher levels of performance and patient care.

ACHC is a nonprofit organization that has stood as a symbol of quality and excellence since 1986. Certification is a process through which healthcare organizations demonstrate compliance with national standards.

"We're honored to earn this important certification with distinction from ACHC because it is a reflection of how we strive to treat patients every day at Indiana Orthopedic Institute," said Dr. Michael

Meneghini, founder and CEO of IOI. "Our guiding force is to treat patients as we would members of our family, and that means putting the patient first in every judgment and detail of care. Thank you to our dedicated surgeons and entire care team and staff for earning this distinction."

Indiana Orthopedic Institute has locations in Noblesville, Terre Haute, Fort Wayne, as well as clinics in Greenwood and Brazil, Ind.

Visit indianaortho.com or call (317) 620-0232 for more information.

About the Accreditation Commission for Health Care

ACHC is ISO 9001:2015 certified and holds CMS deeming authority for Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Home Health, Hospice, DMEPOS, Acute Care Hospitals, Critical Access Hospitals, and Clinical Laboratories.

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Hamilton County Reporter

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

VENGEANCE ON THE MIDIANITES

"Have you allowed all the women to live?" he asked them. "They were the ones who followed Balaam's advice and enticed the Israelites to be unfaithful to the Lord in the Peor incident, so that a plague struck the Lord's people. Now kill all the boys. And kill every woman who has slept with a man, but save for yourselves every girl who has never slept with a man.

"Anyone who has killed someone or touched someone who was killed must stay outside the camp seven days. On the third and seventh days you must purify yourselves and your captives. Purify every garment as well as everything made of leather, goat hair or wood."

Then Eleazar the priest said to the soldiers who had gone into battle, "This is what is required by the law that the Lord gave Moses: Gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, lead and anything else that can withstand fire must be put through the fire, and then it will be clean. But it must also be purified with the water of cleansing. And whatever cannot withstand fire must be put through that water. On the seventh day wash your clothes and you will be clean. Then you may come into the camp."

DIVIDING THE SPOILS

The Lord said to Moses, "You and Eleazar the priest and the family heads of the community are to count all the people and animals that were captured. Divide the spoils equally between the soldiers who took part in the battle and the rest of the community. From the soldiers who fought in the battle, set apart as tribute for the Lord one out of every five hundred, whether people, cattle, donkeys or sheep. Take this tribute from their half share and give it to Eleazar the priest as the Lord's part. From the Israelites' half, select one out of every fifty, whether people, cattle, donkeys, sheep or other animals. Give them to the Levites, who are responsible for the care of the Lord's tabernacle." So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the Lord commanded Moses.

The plunder remaining from the spoils that the soldiers took was 675,000 sheep, 72,000 cattle, 61,000 donkeys and 32,000 women who had never slept with a man.

The half share of those who fought in the battle was: 337,500 sheep, of which the tribute for the Lord was 675; 36,000 cattle, of which the tribute for the Lord was 72; 30,500 donkeys, of which the tribute for the Lord was 61; 16,000 people, of whom the tribute for the Lord was 32.

Moses gave the tribute to Eleazar the priest as the Lord's part, as the Lord commanded Moses.

Numbers 31:15-41 (NIV)

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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.

Meeting Notices

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold a Budget and Finance Committee meeting at 7:30 a.m. Friday, June 26, 2026, at 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

The Noblesville PACE (Parks, Arts, Community Engagement) Council Committee meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, June 26, 2026, has been canceled.

The Noblesville Board of Public Works and Safety will meet in an executive session at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 23, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(7) For discussion of records classified as confidential by state or federal statute.

A list of each appointed officer's name, their appointing authority, and term dates is available at noblesville.in.gov/447/Boards-Commission.

A second executive session will follow at 8:45 a.m. for the same reason.

The Noblesville Common Council will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, 2026, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

Finally, the regular meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St.

A live stream of the meeting will be available at youtube.com/@CityofNoblesville and also streamed at youtube.com/@HamiltonCountyTelevision.

A live stream of the meeting will be available at youtube.com/@CityofNoblesville.

A list of each appointed officer's name, their appointing authority, and term dates is available at noblesville.in.gov/447/Boards-Commissions.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE DEADLINE

4 p.m. Friday

for Monday publication

PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com

Dan Schwinghammer

July 2, 1944 – June 17, 2026

Dan Schwinghammer, 81, Westfield, passed away on June 17, 2026. He was born, July 2, 1944, in St. Cloud, Minn., to Willard and Bernice (Henkemeyer) Schwinghammer.



He grew up on the family dairy farm and attended Crosier seminary, Onamia, Minn. He then continued his education receiving a Bachelor's degree at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn., and his Master's degree at Spaulding University, Louisville, Ky.

Dan was married to Judy Knettel on June 10, 1967. One month after their marriage, Dan was drafted into the Army and attended U.S. Office Candidate School at Ft. Sill, Okla., and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. Immediately thereafter, he was assigned to Field Artillery Officer duty in Korea.

After his tour on active duty, Dan continued his military service with the U.S. Army Reserve for a cumulative total of 37 years and retired as a Colonel. Units that he commanded during this time period included C Battery 4/76 Field Artillery (Korea); 212th Supply and Service Battalion (Jeffersonville, Ind.); 123rd Support Group (Indianapolis); Eighth U.S. Army Augmentation Command (Korea/Indianapolis); 6035 Garrison Support Unit (Indianapolis). He also commanded Military Intelligence units that supported varied intelligence agencies.

Dan was employed by the Department of Defense for over 30 years. He served as Command Executive Officer for the Army Reserve and also as a logistics instructor for the Armor School at Ft. Knox, KY. He received the Legion of Merit for exemplary military service and also Distinguished Civilian Service Award for duty with the Department of Defense.

Dan and Judy treasured their time together and spent their retirement focusing on family. They found solace in cultivating beauty in the flower garden under Judy's guidance, enjoyed working on fitness together (especially swimming), baking sourdough bread, and cooking healthy meals. Their most precious times were interacting with their daughters and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. The activities were varied and extensive to include hiking, board games, cribbage, Mexican train, Old Maid, wood working, and sharing time together.

He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, and who was a loyal companion and supported him faithfully throughout his military career. He is also survived by two loving daughters, Caren (James) Roach and Kristen (Adam) Carroll; six grandchildren, Brittany (Stephen) Slaton, Brooke, Ashley, and John (Savannah) Bock, and Ally and Avery Carroll; two great-grandchildren, Sophie Bock, and Theodore Lucas; siblings, Bob (Joan), William (Cindy), Tim, Ruth (Chuck), Loren (Kari), Paul (Barb), Charles, David (Michele), Tom (Kim), Jerry (Lia), and Joan.

In addition to his parents, Dan was preceded in death by his brothers, Tom, Jim, Roger, Peter, and Johnny; sisters, Mary and Margaret.

A private family service with Military Honors will be held in Marion National Cemetery.

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

Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

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Contact Information

Email
News@ReadTheReporter.com

Web Address
ReadTheReporter.com

Publisher Stu Clampitt
765-365-2316

Subscription Inquiries
Subscribe@ReadTheReporter.com
765-585-9519

Advertising & Public Notices
Ads@ReadTheReporter.com
765-365-2316

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

Mailing Address
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REPORTER SPORTS TUESDAY

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

Baseball State Championship



Photo by Joshua Herd

The Guerin Catholic baseball team leaps over the dugout after the Golden Eagles clinched the IHSAA Class 3A state championship Friday, June 19 at Victory Field.

'The guys kept me going every day:' Schrage reflects on Golden Eagles win

By RICHARD TORRES
For The Reporter

INDIANAPOLIS — Dave Schrage had no idea if Guerin Catholic would hire him when he applied two years ago.

As a collegiate baseball coach of nearly 40 years, the veteran skipper with stints at Butler, South Dakota State and Notre Dame, among others, wasn't worried about his job experience.

His health was most concerning.

"I interviewed for the job and had a heart attack a week after, so I was in the hospital," Schrage explained. "I told [principal] Ryan Davis, I don't know how this affects my candidacy, but I'm about to go in for heart surgery, and I didn't hear from him."

Diagnosed with a blockage that required heart surgery, Schrage initially believed the Golden Eagles' position and perhaps his time in the sport he's coached since the 1980s were over.

Then, a week after surgery, he got a call from both Guerin Catholic for a follow-up and toward something bigger than any career opportunity.

"I coached for 38 years in college, retired, and I thought I was done," Schrage said. "I live five minutes from Guerin, and when I interviewed, the principal said, 'Hey, I don't care if we win a game, but if our kids don't know how to get to heaven when they leave, you're not doing your job, and I said, 'Well, I'm the man for the job then.'"

On Friday, June 19 inside Victory Field, Schrage achieved his goals, as his Golden Eagles hoisted their first-ever baseball state championship trophy in program history.

A calming presence in the dugout and between the lines, Schrage inspired his players through faith and a litany of hardball knowledge, which led to a historic 9-3 victory against defending Class 3A state champion Andean in Indianapolis.

"I just felt like I was meant to be at Guerin for a reason," Schrage said. "I had two stents put in ... I didn't think I was getting the job at all, so when I did, I was like, OK, there's a reason I'm getting this. I remember our first practice, thinking to myself, 'Wow.



Photos by Joshua Herd

(ABOVE) Guerin Catholic coach Dave Schrage accepts congratulations after the Golden Eagles' victory. (BELOW LEFT) Ben Canada had two hits and scored two runs for Guerin Catholic. (BELOW RIGHT) Tate Troxell threw 12 strikeouts in six innings.

We're good. We got some talent."

The team's talent shined with a 28-3-1 finish as state champions, only one season after Guerin won its first-ever sectional title in 2025.

"I don't know how many years he's been coaching. I'm sure it's been 40-plus years now, but the way he coached us, so calm and relaxed. He knew that we had a group of veterans on our team," GC senior third baseman Nolan Ratliff said. "What we needed was a calm, collected coach that believed in us."

All Schrage needed was a call.

"The guys kept me going every day," Schrage said. "Makes you have something to get up for every day, to be around these kids and try to mold them. They're great kids."

Top Ten Performance

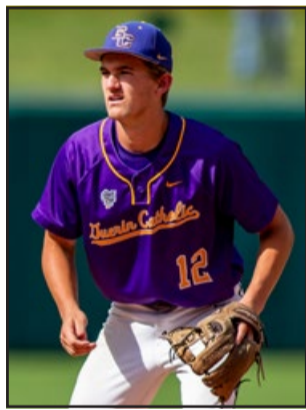
Tate Troxell had no words.

Once Guerin Catholic's senior ace stepped onto the mound inside Victory Field, the Alabama recruit admittedly felt the magnitude: the MiLB Triple-A venue, the lively crowds, being in the IHSAA 3A state finals.

But there were no nerves. Just focus.

"This was my first time pitching here. It was crazy," Troxell said. "I can't even express how I felt, but after we got out of the first, and we were able to put those runs up early, it made me a whole lot more confident."

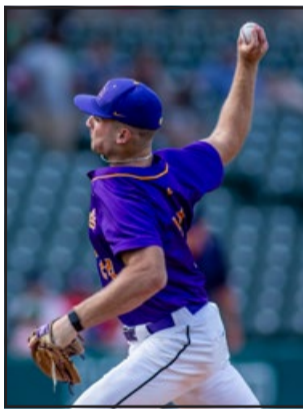
Troxell was dominant. The right-hander dealt 6.0 innings of four-hit baseball with 12 strikeouts and one



earned run.

"Tate's a dog," Ratliff said. "You always know when Tate's on the mound, the other team's not scoring runs. When he's on, he's on. I can't wait to watch him at Alabama because he's an absolute stud."

Troxell went 1-for-2 at the plate with two walks, but he earned ESPN Top 10 recognition on TV the next day for his web gem.



With one out in the bottom of the fourth, Troxell controlled a 1-2 count against Andean's Miller Stalbaum before the outfielder connected for a bouncing comebacker.

Troxell gloved the grounder with an instinctive behind-the-back stab, barely completing his pitching delivery. His fancy glove-work assisted the putout at first base.



Graphic courtesy HSE Athletics

HSE's Julie Alano inducted into Hall of Fame

The REPORTER

Hamilton Southeastern girls track & field coach Julie Alano has been inducted into the Indiana Track & Field and Cross Country Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2026.

The annual Hall of Fame Ceremony recognizes and preserves the most outstanding performances, record-breaking achievements, and exceptional accomplishments of the selected Indiana athletes and coaches from across the state.

Alano has been the Royals' head coach since 2006. Since she began, Southeastern has won 13 sectional championships, 10 regional titles and seven top-five finishes at the IHSAA state meet. The Royals won the state championship in 2018 and were state runners-up in 2017 and 2025.

Many of Alano's relay teams have placed high in postseason national meets. In 2025, her Sprint Medley and Mixed 1,600 relay won the Nike Outdoor Nationals in Eugene, Ore.

Alano also coached the cross country team for seven years with seven IHSAA sectional wins and six semi-state appearances. She has served the IATCCC since

State champions

During Julie Alano's tenure as Hamilton Southeastern head coach, the Royals have won 10 individual state championships. They are listed here.

2009: Portia Bailey, 100 hurdles; Paige Smith, discus.

2017: 4x100 relay (Olivia Burgess, Tierra Sydnor, Mia Mackenzie, Camille Christopher); Kennedy Drish, pole vault.

2018: 4x400 relay (Olivia Burgess, Mya Hammons, Annice McFarland, Tierra Sydnor); Kennedy Drish, pole vault.

2019: Kennedy Drish, pole vault. **2025:** 4x400 relay (Addison Smith, Chloe Senefeld, Ciara Kepner, Anissa Lammie).

2026: Anissa Lammie, 400 dash; 4x400 relay (Cianna Cunningham, Anissa Lammie, Kaleah McCarter, Chloe Senefeld).

2001 in several areas — president, secretary for 15 years and director of the annual coaching clinic eight years.

HSE Athletics said in a news release on its website that Alano has helped shape and develop "the women of HSE Track & Field and Indiana track & field as a whole through her leadership, dedication, and commitment to student-athletes, families and coaches."

"We are proud to celebrate Coach Alano as a member of the 2026 Indiana Track & Field and Cross Country Hall of Fame Class!"

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Baseball State Championship

How the “Kailsino” helped with team chemistry

By **RICHARD TORRES**
For The Reporter

INDIANAPOLIS — Guerin Catholic made its first-ever appearance at the IHSAA baseball state finals this past weekend, but once the Golden Eagles walked onto Victory Field, they didn't look the part.

Instead, a program with only two sectional titles in its 22 years of IHSAA membership mirrored the poise most college teams would exude.

And it netted Guerin's first baseball state championship.

Undoubtedly influenced by their veteran skipper, Dave Schrage, who coached in the collegiate ranks for 38 years, the Golden Eagles' Class 3A championship mojo also stemmed from talent, and more notably, countless team cookouts, card games and pool parties.

“I think our swagger comes from team chemistry,” said GC senior third baseman Nolan Ratcliff. “We have a house that we call the Kailsino. It's where we swim. Where we can be boys. We do all the bro things. I think the team chemistry that we built at the Kailsino was huge.”

Kailsino is team-speak for junior catcher Carson Kail's house, a place the family opened to the Golden Eagles' players. A haven where baseball was a backdrop compared to being a teenager.

“That's our go-to spot usually on Saturdays. We all just hang out and have a great time,” GC senior ace Tate Troxell said. “That's our catcher's house. His last name is Kail, so we call it the Kailsino.”

A play on the word “casino,” the team coined the house a playground to unwind with video games, food, entertainment and fun.

Everything they needed to stay loose and connected, while a cohesive senior group kept the group locked in.

“The team chemistry on

this team has been great. We had a similar team last year, but when we came into this year, we knew we were going to win state,” GC junior second baseman Ben Canada said. “We were really close last year, and we didn't lose any starters. So, going into this year, we were like, we're going to be No. 1.”

The Kailsino played a role in Guerin Catholic's (28-3-1) forward trajectory after getting no-hit by Jasper, 5-0, in the 2025 semi-state to conclude a 19-13 season.

Their camaraderie on and off the field resulted in a 9-3 state finals victory against a storied program, Andean (31-4), which had won nine state titles in 13 appearances since 2003.

The nine runs scored against Andean at Victory Field matched the total number surrendered by the Fighting 59ers during the state tournament leading up to the state finals. Guerin Catholic scored all nine through the first four innings. The Golden Eagles had eight hits overall — with doubles by Ratcliff (2-for-3, 4 RBI) and Canada (2-for-4) and an RBI triple by senior outfielder Grant Beard (1-for-5).

Ratcliff's four RBI tied a 3A state finals championship record.

“It's phenomenal. When we seniors came to this program, we had no sectionals. I believe we had one conference, but no sectionals, no regionals. We knew when we came to this program, we were going to turn it around,” Ratcliff said. “Our goal was to get this state championship.”

Gremelspacher earns Mental Attitude Award

A mainstay at first base, GC senior Luke Gremelspacher made his presence known at Victory Field with his defense, and by the end of the 3A baseball state championship, he was recognized by the IHSAA.

Named the LV Phillips Mental Attitude Award recip-

The Guerin Catholic season by the numbers

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

INDIANAPOLIS — Guerin Catholic was already firmly in control of the Class 3A baseball state championship game, leading Andean 6-1 after three innings.

But just to be sure, Nolan Ratcliff stepped up in the top of the fourth.

With two outs and the bases loaded, Ratcliff smacked a double that landed just fair down the left field line. Three runs scored for the Golden Eagles, increasing their lead to 9-1.

Ratcliff already had one RBI to his credit: he was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the third inning. As a result, the George Mason commit finished the game with four RBIs, tying a record in a Class 3A state championship game.

Ratcliff now shares the record with Jasper's Brad Eckerle (1998) and Crawfordsville's Chris Minks (2011). Jasper's Matt Mauck (1996) and Carmel's Aaron Piening (1997) both drove in four runs at state during the single-class era.

Five over .300

As a team, the Golden Eagles totaled eight hits in the title game. Guerin Catholic made consistent hitting its trademark throughout its 28-3-1 season, with five GC players batting over .300 for the year.

“Just knowing that one through nine can hit is a huge confidence boost,” said Ratcliff.

Junior Carson Kail led

the hitting at .416, with senior Ian Taylor not far behind at .412. Taylor hit nine home runs during the season. Another junior, Ben Canada, hit .382 and led the team in doubles with 18.

Canada spoke highly of the seniors after the 3A championship game.

“When I got the opportunity to start last year, they brought me under their wing,” said Canada. “I actually had a jersey when I was a freshman, so I was at the games and watched them play as sophomores. I took notes and learned from what they did.”

Flawless pitchers

Three more of those seniors proved to be dominant as part of Guerin Catholic's pitching staff. In fact, none of the Golden Eagles' pitchers officially had a loss on the season. Tate Troxell, an Alabama commit, finished 9-0, while LV Phillips Mental Attitude Award winner Luke Gremelspacher, an Indiana Wesleyan commit, finished 6-0. Harrison Haq was 4-0 for the season.

Troxell threw 12 strikeouts in the state championship game and finished with 100 for the season.

Gremelspacher became the fourth Hamilton County baseball player to win the Mental Attitude Award. Fishers' Matt Wolff was the first, receiving the Class 4A award in 2018. University's Ryan Williams won the Class 1A award the next day, then the Trailblazers' Nate Shatkowski received the 1A award in 2019.

ient, Gremelspacher became the first in GC baseball history to earn the distinction.

“Winning the state championship right now is the best thing. All the seniors, we

knew we were going to get it done,” Gremelspacher said. “This was the year, and it's an amazing way to go out.”

Gremelspacher pitched 0.1 innings in relief with a strikeout, but his highlight was turning a double play in the bottom of the third with one out and two runners on base.

With Guerin ahead 6-1, Gremelspacher snared a line drive and tagged first base to get both Tate Troxell and the Golden Eagles out of a potential jam.

“As soon as the ball was hit to me, I knew that the runner was off, so I had to get back,” Gremelspacher said. “Anything to help the team out.”

See photos from Joshua Herd of the state championship game on Page 13.

Track & Field

County athletes shine at Nike Nationals

The REPORTER

Hamilton County's track & field stars got a chance to shine on a national level this past weekend, competing at the Nike Nationals in Eugene, Ore.

Hamilton Southeastern's Chloe Senefeld had the highest finish among local athletes, sprinting to second place in the Girls 400 Hurdles Championship race on Sunday, June 21. Senefeld is a recent graduate of HSE.

Senefeld's time was 59.27 seconds, just 0.06 seconds behind the winner, Anna Schneider of GLS Speed in Washington State. Schneider's time was 59.21 seconds. Both times were World U20 standards.

On Saturday, June 21, Southeastern's Anissa Lammie finished sixth in the Girls 400 Championship race. The incoming Royals senior and IHSAA 400 dash state champion clocked in at 54.54 seconds, hitting a World U20 standard.

Senefeld and Lammie joined Kallen Hoef and Jaxson Wanza to place second in the Mixed 4x400, which took place Thursday, June 18. The Royals team finished in a time of 3:30.01. Coastal Georgia Track Club won the race in 3:28.14.

In other events ...

• Fishers' Konrad Hayden finished 11th in the Boys High Jump Champi-

onship, with a best jump of 6 feet, 8.75 inches.

• Liam Powers competed in the Boys 2 Mile Championship. He placed 37th in a time of 9 minutes, 9.08 seconds.

• Guerin Catholic's Amelia Smith competed in the Girls Pole Vault Championship, clearing 11 feet, 3 inches for 34th place.

• Carmel's Kaitlyn Oshimura ran in the Girls 800 Championship on Friday, June 19. She placed 39th in a time of 2:12.43.

In addition, county athletes competed in Emerging Elite events. 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.

Oshimura placed fourth in the Girls 1 Mile Emerging Elite, finishing in 4:55.64.

Carmel's throwers made an impact in those events. Ellie Cooley placed sixth in the Girls Discus Emerging Elite with a top throw of 129 feet, 8 inches. Norah Chase finished 38th with a best throw of 115 feet, 5 inches and placed 43rd in the Girls Shot Put Emerging Elite at 36 feet, 1.5 inches.

Powers placed 52nd in the Boys 1 Mile Emerging Elite, clocking in at 4:21.39.



Senefeld

Boys Golf

Westfield's Knott leads Day 1 of Boys State Juniors

The REPORTER

Less than a week after winning the IHSAA state championship, Westfield boys golfers are making another impact on Indiana golf.

Keaton Knott, who just finished his sophomore season for the Shamrocks, is on top of the leaderboard after the first day of the IGF Boys State Junior Championship, which began Monday at Ackerman-Allen Course at Purdue University.

Knott scored a three-under par 68 for the first round of stroke play, making three birdies along the way. His Westfield teammate, individual state champion and recent graduate Hudson Kutchma, is tied for 11th with 73, including three birdies.

Two other county golfers are in the top five. Eli Wessel, a recent Guerin Catholic graduate, is tied for third with an even par 71. Wessel made four birdies on Monday. Fishers' Dane

Starnes, who just finished his junior season for Hamilton Southeastern, is tied for fifth with 72; he made three birdies.

Play continues today with the second round of stroke play, after which the top 64 will advance to match play. That part of the tournament begins on Wednesday.

Here is a list of Hamilton County scores.

1. Keaton Knott, Westfield 68, T3. Eli Wessel, Indianapolis (Guerin Catholic) 71, T5. Dane Starnes, Fishers 72, T11. Hudson Kutchma, Westfield 73, T14. Luke Decker, Noblesville 74; Tommy Klinker, Fishers 74, T22. Mattingly Upchurch, Fishers 75; Gavin Davis, Fishers 75; Myles Ray, Noblesville 75; Will Donovan, Fishers 75, T33. Tyler Marucci, Noblesville 76; Vaughn Twilla, Noblesville 76; Max Huffman, Carmel 76, T41. Brody Colburn, Fishers 77; Jude Kaufman, Westfield 77, T51. Jack Armstrong, Carmel 78; Keaton Chapman, Westfield 78; Owen Schuitema, Carmel 78, T62. Patrick Wolf, Carmel 79, T70. Ryan Cesare, Westfield 80, T88. Blake Hoffman, Carmel 82, 100. Andrew Williamson, Noblesville 84, T103. Sam Oliver, Fishers 86, 110. Austin Zimmer, Fishers 95.

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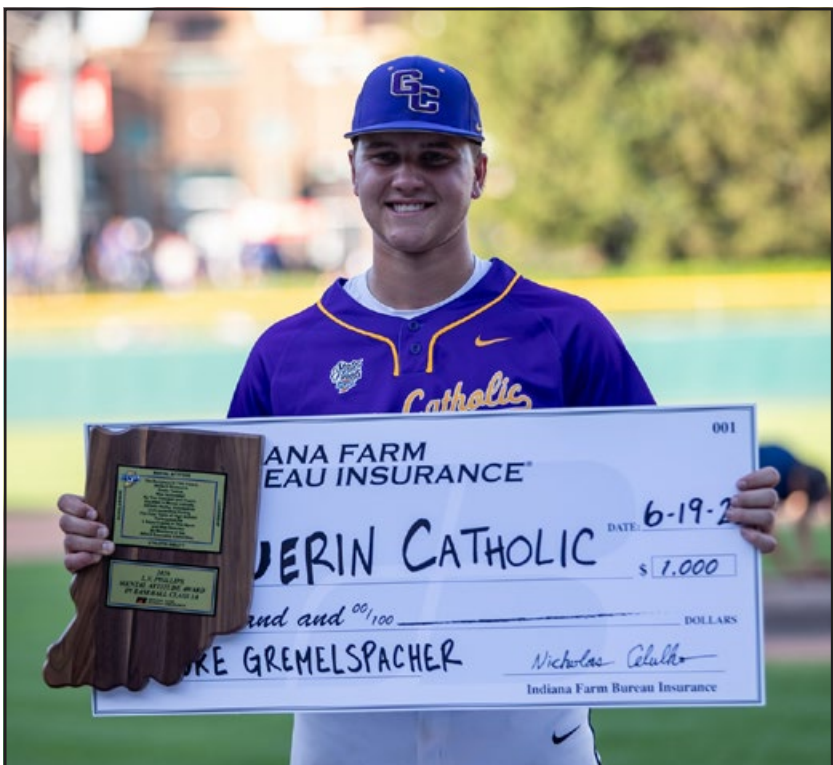
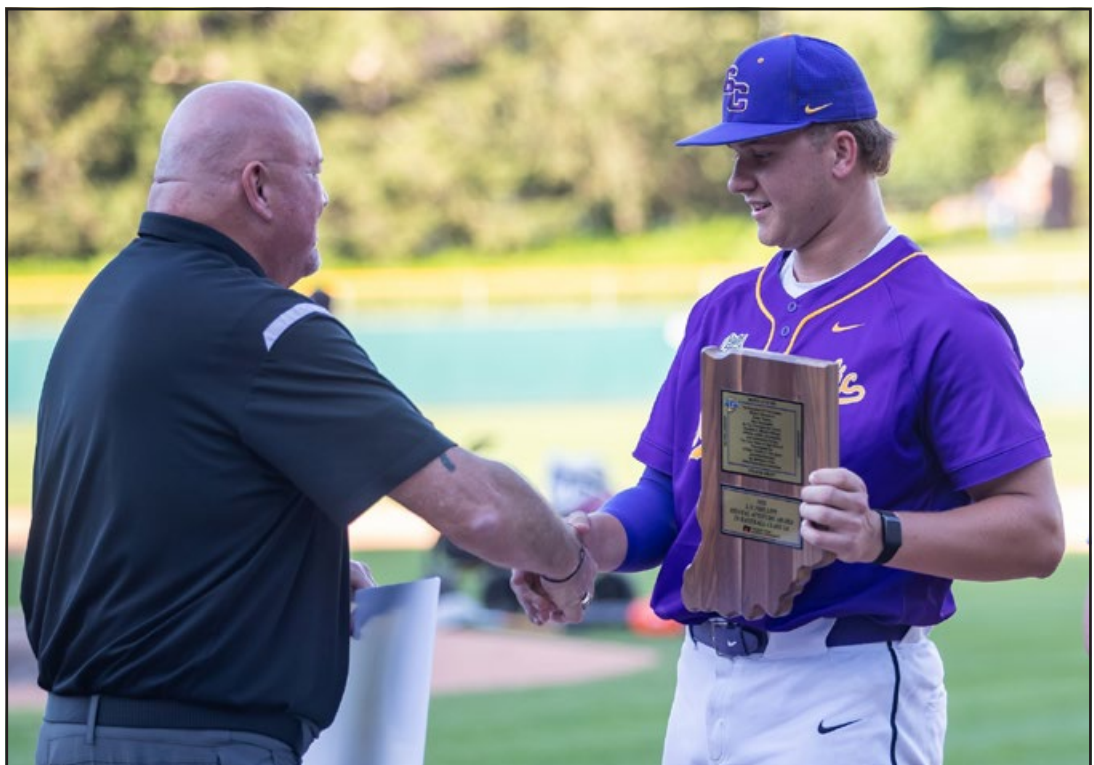
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Snapshots from Baseball State Championship



Photos by Joshua Herd

Congratulations, Golden Eagles!