



# Memorial pitcher Fisher picked in 2025 MLB Draft

SPORTS, 1B

# Evansville COURIER & PRESS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025 | COURIERPRESS.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE VANDERBURGH SCHOOL CORP.

# New superintendent runs action-packed first meeting

Thomas B. Langhorne  
Evansville Courier & Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE — A new era in Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. leadership began on July 14, and Mike Duckworth had a ringside seat for it. Duckworth, a longtime school board member, sat inches away from Superintendent Darla Hoover, just to her left, during her first board meeting running the show. Hoover, already a 24-year EVSC employee when she was named

to succeed Dr. David Smith in May, ran the meeting seamlessly, Duckworth said afterward. Hoover was EVSC’s chief of schools and instructional core, a job centered around students, teachers and content, before she succeeded Smith on July 1. “I think her knowledge of the personnel, her knowledge of the programs, her knowledge of all the educational opportunities here for our students — it just showed tonight,” Duckworth said. See HOOVER, Page 2A



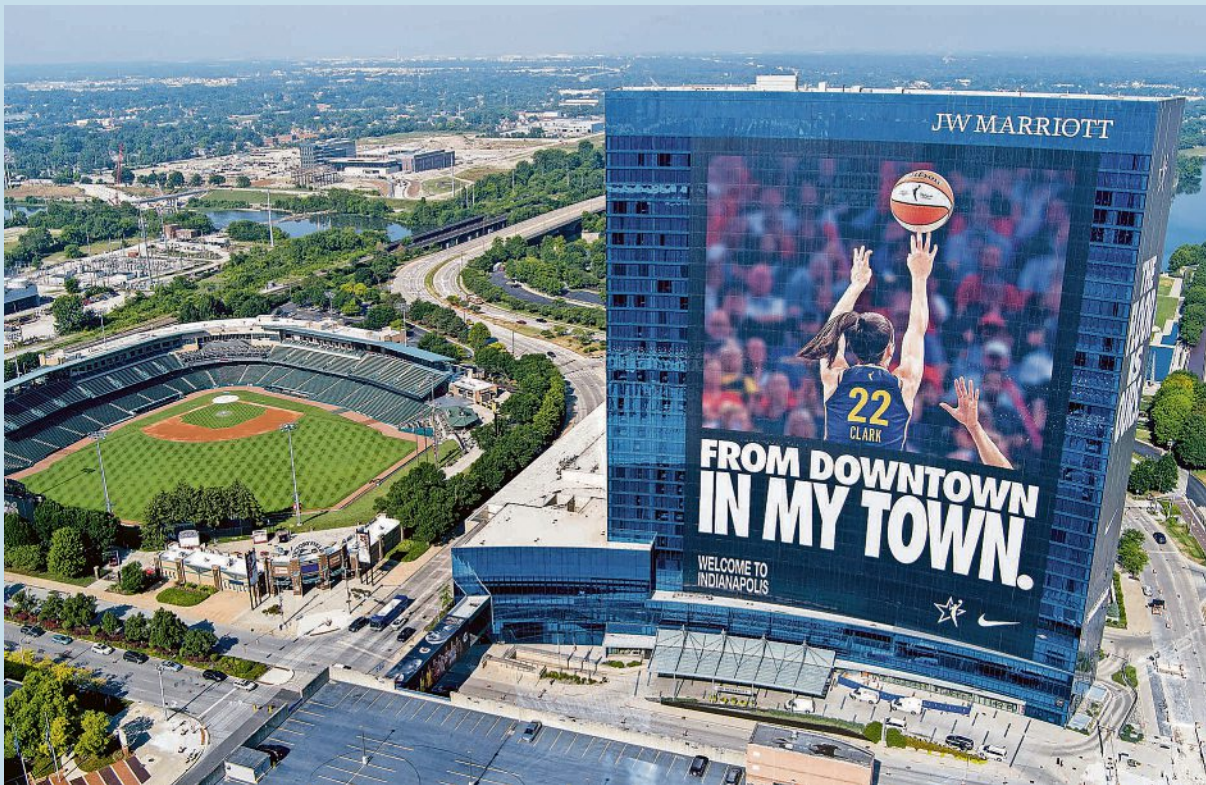
New Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. Superintendent Darla Hoover speaks with an attendee at the May 19 school board meeting. THOMAS B. LANGHORNE/EVANSVILLE COURIER & PRESS

# Fire forces relocating alternative school

Houston Harwood  
Evansville Courier & Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

In the wake of a fire damaging Warrick County’s primary alternative education facility on Saturday, officials said they were exploring “multiple options” to relocate affected students and staff for the upcoming school year. Fire crews were alerted to the blaze at the Warrick Education Center just after 12:30 p.m. Saturday. The 27,000-square-foot building, located at 3199 Indiana 261 in Newburgh, was vacant. The authorities did not report any injuries. “Firefighters used defensive positions to stop the fire from spreading to the north, east and south parts of the overall building,” the Ohio Township Fire Department said in a statement. “The fire was controlled at approximately 2 p.m. with crews remaining on scene for overhaul and salvage operations.” For nearly two decades, the Warrick Education Center served as the county school corporation’s primary alternative education facility for students at risk of dropping out of classes or who faced expulsion from their middle school or high school. The Warrick Education Center also offered adult basic education and high school equivalency test preparation, computer literacy courses and English as a second language classes. Warrick County School Corp. Superintendent Abbie Redmon said in a statement Monday that officials were “in the process of finalizing new locations within the district” for the alternative programs in the upcoming school year. Students are scheduled to return to class Aug. 6.

“The WCSC will notify families with final decisions on locations by mid-week,” Redmon said. “The WCSC is grateful we have multiple options within the district for relocation and are confident our alternative programs and PK classrooms will proceed with no disruption other than a new location.” The WCSC was also discussing where to relocate itinerant staff offices that were damaged in the fire. For now, the property is “off limits” to the public, officials said. The cause of the destructive, two-alarm fire is still under investigation. Ohio Township Fire Department Chief Scott Foreman said roughly a quarter of the Warrick Education Center’s square footage was a “total loss.” In a statement Saturday evening, the WCSC thanked the community members who dialed 911 to report the blaze and the fire crews who worked through wind, rain and thunder to extinguish it. “We are fortunate to live in a community that cares about one another, watches out for one another and pulls together in times of emergency,” the WCSC stated. Houston Harwood can be reached at [houston.harwood@courierpress.com](mailto:houston.harwood@courierpress.com).



A graphic featuring Indiana Fever’s Caitlin Clark adorns the JW Marriott hotel on July 8, ahead of the WNBA All-Star weekend in Indianapolis. MAX GERSH/INDYSTAR

# Indy’s summer economy is typically very slow

## WNBA All-Star Game has changed that

Alysa Guffey  
Indianapolis Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

Streets downtown have been ceremoniously renamed after WNBA teams. Hotels are nearly sold out. Caitlin Clark’s shooting form adorns the sky-blue JW Marriott hotel. It’s a sign: The WNBA All-Star Game is coming to town — for the first time ever — and Indianapolis leaders, restaurant owners and residents are prepping for what they hope will be a healthy infusion to the local summer economy. On July 18 and 19, all eyes in the sports world will focus on Indianapolis, the city that has arguably catapulted professional women’s basketball into the national spotlight and brought a fervor to the sport not seen before in the league’s nearly 30-year history. Though the city predicts 70,000 visitors next weekend, the possible economic impact remains

See ECONOMY, Page 2A



Nehemiah Talifarro, 11, dribbles a basketball during a youth basketball clinic following the unveiling of a new WNBA All-Star Legacy Court on July 10 at Al E. Polin Park in Indianapolis. The WNBA All-Star Game is coming to town July 18-19. CHRISTINE TANNOUS/INDYSTAR

### Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [courierpress.com/enewspaper](http://courierpress.com/enewspaper) or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 181 | No. 162  
Subscribe 800-288-3100  
©2025 \$3.49

