



addressUSA
Find Out What Your Home Is Worth
 Call Today for an Expert Valuation and Make Your Next Move
888-438-0750
 Mon-Sun: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Educators honored



Central High School Principal Andrew Freeman is announced the 2026 Outstanding Principal of the Year Wednesday April 8. MACABE BROWN/COURIER & PRESS

Vanderburgh 'outstanding educator' awards chosen

Jon Webb
 Evansville Courier & Press
 USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE — Andy Freeman thought he'd be picking out paint samples. The principal at Central High School had been in a meeting a staffer Wednesday morning when they told him he'd have to hoof it down to the gym to endure the menial task. *I don't have time to pick out paint samples*, he told them.

But instead, when he walked through the door, he was engulfed with a wave of love and support. Students, teachers, staff and Freeman's own wife and kids secretly gathered in the gym to scream and cheer as Freeman was named Outstanding Building Principal of the Year: part of the annual Vanderburgh County Outstanding Educators Awards presented by the University of Evansville, Liberty Federal Credit Union and the Courier & Press.

"I didn't think I'd be doing this,"

Freeman said. "... You guys got me good." Three others were feted with surprise ceremonies Wednesday morning, too: Holly Carey, a fourth-grade teacher at McCutchanville Elementary who was named Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year; Stefanie Simmons, a science teacher at Corpus Christi School who took Outstanding Middle School Teacher of the Year; and North High School's Maren Smith, who won

See AWARDS, Page 2A

Former daycare owner facing new counts

Prosecutors add child molestation charges

Houston Harwood
 Evansville Courier & Press
 USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE — A former Evansville daycare owner who previously pleaded guilty to child molestation now stands accused of sexually abusing three additional children while he operated the facility between 2012 and 2016. Vanderburgh County prosecutors on Wednesday filed four counts of child molesting against the former childcare provider, 80-year-old Millard Phillip Johnson. Deputies first took Johnson into custody Monday afternoon. He is currently being held at the Vanderburgh County jail on a \$200,000 bond. The charges come after investigators in late March became aware of additional allegations concerning Johnson's time operating the home daycare on Evansville's far West Side, according to legal filings. Three children described suffering sexual abuse while under Johnson's care years earlier when they were between the ages of 2 and 9 years old. They aren't the first children who spent time at Johnson's daycare to come forward with an account of sexual abuse. In 2016, a 4-year-old girl told her parents and later investigators that Johnson had touched her inappropriately on several occasions, prompting prosecutors to charge him with two counts of child molesting.

See CHARGES, Page 3A

City of Evansville and former fire chief settle civil lawsuit

Sarah Loesch
 Evansville Courier & Press
 USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE — The civil suit former Evansville Fire Department Chief Paul Anslinger filed against the city has been dismissed following a settlement between the parties, according to court records. On April 1, Anslinger and the city filed a joint stipulation of dismissal with

prejudice of all claims within the case originally filed last fall. Anslinger claimed the city owed him money from unpaid vacation time following his resignation. Anslinger retired in 2024 shortly after receiving a formal notice of discipline from the city. He was later arrested and currently faces a criminal case in Vanderburgh County Circuit Court stemming from allegations of theft from EFD and official misconduct.

According to the filing for dismissal, the city and Anslinger reached a settlement agreement that fully resolves the civil suit. Vanderburgh County Superior Court Judge Mary Margaret Lloyd granted the dismissal officially the next day. The terms of the settlement are not readily available via court records. The Courier & Press has filed a public records request for the settlement. Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry's

office said it had no comment on the matter at this time. What did the civil suit ask for? Anslinger was suing the city for unpaid earned wages and liquidated damages totaling more than \$30,000. In the civil complaint, Anslinger stated the city owed him for 240 hours of

See LAWSUIT, Page 2A



TRUCK MONTH
 EXPRESSWAY
 PRICE IS THE BEST PRICE!
 NEW 2026 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW CAB 4X4 \$39,850!
 NEW 2026 GMC SIERRA CREW CAB 4X4 \$39,850
 OR 25% OFF MSRP (T5487C)
 EXPRESSWAY GMC
 MT. VERNON, INDIANA
 Intersection of the Lloyd Expressway and I169 Bypass, Mt. Vernon, Indiana
812-762-4007
 ExpresswayChevrolet.com
 PRICE EXCLUDES TAX, TITLE AND \$250 DOC FEE. DEALER RETAINS APPLICABLE REBATES, OWNER LOYALTY AND COSTCO AS WELL AS TRADE ASSIST AND RESIDENTIAL RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. EXCLUDES PREVIOUS OFFERS. PHOTOS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS. EC-43716020

Subscriber-only eNewspaper
 The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to 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 182 | No. 81
 Subscribe 800-288-3100
 ©2026 \$3.49



6 97822 01100 2