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MLB DRAFT

White Sox pick Weingartner

Hermits star chosen in sixth round Sunday in Philly

MICHAEL MCGARRY
Staff Writer

Alex Weingartner received a text from his agent Ben Simon on Sunday afternoon. “Are you ready?” it read. Weingartner wasn’t sure exactly what



Weingartner

it meant. A few seconds later, the recent St. Augustine Prep graduate did. The Chicago White Sox selected Weingartner in the sixth round with the 166th overall pick in the MLB Draft. Weingartner was watching the draft online in his Berlin home with his family

when the text arrived. “I heard my name get called,” Weingartner said. “Then it made sense why he texted me that. There were a lot of emotions. It was definitely a breath of fresh air. The buildup (to the draft) is definitely crazy.” A pitcher/outfielder, Weingartner led the Hermits to the South Jersey

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Eagles legend inspires in OC

MICHAEL BAUTISTA
Staff Writer

OCEAN CITY — Brian Dawkins says faith, not football, changed his life. The Pro Football Hall of Famer told worshippers Sunday at the Ocean City Tabernacle that his greatest victory wasn’t on the football field, but through his faith in Jesus Christ. Faith followers and fans of Dawkins gathered inside the church for Dawkins’ appearances during the nonprofit’s 8:30 a.m. traditional and 10:30 contemporary worship services, where the former Philadelphia Eagles safety shared his personal testimony, reflecting on his upbringing, NFL career, struggles with mental health and the role faith has played throughout his life. Opening his remarks with a “Hallelujah!” Dawkins explained why he has made a point of publicly giving God credit during some of his career, including after the Eagles’ NFC Championship victory and during his 2018 Pro Football Hall of Fame induction. “Everything that I have done in my life that has been successful, I didn’t give myself that ability,” said the 52-year-old Dawkins. “God gave it to me.” Throughout his testimony, Dawkins repeatedly reminded attendees that football was only part of his identity. “Football is what I did,” Dawkins said. “It’s not who I am.” Instead, Dawkins described himself as an “inspirational speaker” rather than a motivational speaker, noting that motivation pushes people, while inspiration “breathes life into” them. He encouraged attendees to recognize their own God-given abilities and use them to serve others in their communities.

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Lindsey Graham, key GOP senator, dies at 71

AKANKSHA KHUSHI, THOMAS DERPINGHAUS AND TIM REID
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican who went from a vocal critic of Donald Trump to one of his most loyal allies after Trump became president, has died, his office announced on Sunday. He was 71. The South Carolina lawmaker died after a “brief and sudden illness,” his office posted on X. U.S. media said emergency personnel responded to a call for cardiac arrest Saturday night at his Capitol Hill home in Washington. The contest to succeed Graham will not impact the broader fight for control of the Senate in November between Republicans and Democrats, as South Carolina is a reliably Republican state. However, his death robs Trump of a dependable Senate vote as the president seeks to push his agenda in the closely divided Senate. “He’s a tough one to lose,” Trump told NBC’s “Meet the Press” program. “He was great. He was unique in every way.” Another senior Republican in the upper chamber — Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky — remains hospitalized for undisclosed health problems. Speaking on CNN’s “State of the



Graham

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COMIC BRINGS TRAMCAR TO LIFE



PROVIDED

Michael Jasorka, right, and his wife Katie with their son Graham, riding in a Sightseer-decorated stroller Jasorka made for last year’s Wildwood Baby Parade.

LOGAN MONTELEONE
For The Press

WILDWOOD — Watch the tramcar, please. No, not like that. Not as in “move out of the way.” As in, it’s time to view the Sightseer Tramcar as its own spectacle, according to cartoonist Michael Jasorka, who is publishing a graphic novel next month about the tramcar’s role as an iconic part of Wildwoods culture. “This (book) is a chronicle of the Wildwoods’ Sightseer Tramcar, which is one of the nation’s longest-running trackless trains that’s been operating since 1949,” Jasorka said of “Flag Me Down: The Story of Wildwood’s Tramcar.” “It’s the 78-year chronicle that’s never been told.” Jasorka, who grew up in Warren County in North Jersey, comes from generations of Wildwood vacationers. The artist, a Rowan University graduate and current resident

of Brooklyn, New York, has self-published three previous graphic novels about Wildwood’s history. “I just fell in love with (Wildwood) because it felt like being transported to another place,” Jasorka said, noting the neon colors and distinct street signs. “Coming down Pacific (Avenue) and experiencing those themes as someone who’s so visual like myself, it was always just a mesmerizing kind of experience coming to Wildwood.” Though books cannot shout at pedestrians, Jasorka has worked to create visual art that captures the vibrant scenes of the Boardwalk throughout its history in the 60-page, full-color graphic novel.

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