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Hamilton County
Reporter

50 Cents

South-side roundabout could help traffic flow

By DON JELLISON
Reporter Editor

The City of Noblesville Wednesday evening at City Hall presented its plans for a new roundabout and improvement project in an open door meeting led by City Engineer John Beery.

About 30 interested citizens, many of whom are business owners in the area, attended the session, along with four members of the Noblesville Common Council.

The project is at the 10th Street and Greenfield Ave. intersection on the city's southside.

Cars at the intersection often are backed up during morning and evening heavy traffic periods and then during other times of day and night drivers are left waiting through five light changes.

In opening remarks, Beery talked about three common themes: 1, gateway development ; 2, beautification efforts; 3, improve traffic flow.

He included signal replacement and sidewalk improvements in the plan.

"The roundabout will replace an aging signal and reduce delay times," Beery said.

In answer to a question, Beery said a study indicated that a roundabout would improve the flow of traffic better than "smart signals."

He pointed to the improvements a roundabout has made at the Wal-Mart area and also at two other shopping areas on the east side of State Road 37.

Beery showed the audience a series of proposed intersection schematics, including sketches of streets leading into the proposed intersection and acquisition needed to do the project. (These sketches appear elsewhere in today's Hamilton County Reporter).

Beery said the intersection will be open to traffic for a majority of the project duration.

"We expect the new intersection will be more efficient and operate with less delay," Beery said.

"Disruption to traffic will occur, but it will be isolated, slight, and of short duration. At least one driveway or alley approach will be maintained and open at all times," Beery added.

The target date for the completion of the project is Nov. 1, 2015.

Beery set completion goals as follows:

- *Appraisals and land acquisition, September, 2014 to March, 2015.
- *Final design complete April 1, 2015.
- *Project bid late May of 2015.
- *Begin construction July 1, 2015.
- *Construction complete Nov. 1, 2015



Reporter photo by Brian Reddick

Noblesville City Engineer John Beery speaks with Adam Beck and Quantras Bates from the Speedway Gas Station about the proposed intersection changes.

Soup & Salad Supper to Feature
Doug Carter, ISP Superintendent

The community is cordially invited to a special Soup & Salad Supper hosted by the Hamilton County Republican Women's Club and sponsored by Commissioner Christine Altman, Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt and Senator Jim Buck. The event will feature northern Hamilton County's own, Doug Carter, Superintendent of the Indiana State Police.

The supper is set for 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 2 at the Sheridan Community Center, 300 East 6th Street, Sheridan, Ind. Cost is \$10 per person. RSVP by Friday, September 26 to: contact@gopclub.org or call/text 317-900-9900.

Riverview Health volunteer fair

The volunteer program at Riverview Health has been in existence for nearly 60 years and has helped provide special services to patients and their families. If you're looking to give back to the community through volunteering, visit the Riverview Health Volunteer Fair to find out how this opportunity might be right for you.

"Volunteering helps you to connect with the community," said Susan Beckwith, Riverview Health Manager of Volunteer Services. "Research has also proven that it's good for your health as it reduces stress and keeps you active."

The Volunteer Fair will be held from 1-4 pm on Thursday, September 25 at Riverview Health, main campus, inside entrance 9. Visitors will be able to speak with current volunteers and meet with Susan. Applications and on-site interviews will also be available.

For more information on how you can become a Riverview Health volunteer, please contact Susan Beckwith at 317.776.7236 or sbeckwith@riverview.org.



Reporter photo by Brian Reddick

Aiden Ricketts, Alex Whitted and Jake Whitted from Cub Scout troop 104 from White River Elementary were busy selling popcorn at the Old Mill Festival Saturday afternoon in downtown Noblesville.

Sheridan Chamber Announces Nominations for Annual Awards

The Sheridan Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual Awards Dinner & Casino Night presented by Riverview Health on Wednesday, September 24. The Chamber will recognize a Business of the Year and Charity of the Year, as well as awarding a Volunteer Service Award, Education Service Award, Public Service Award and a Wellness Service Award.

The nominees for the awards are:

Business of the Year: Godby Home Furnishings; Hamilton Tax & Accounting; Wallace Grain

Charity of the Year: Biddle Memorial Foundation; Gleaners Food Bank –

BackSack; United Way of Central Indiana – ReadUp!

Education Service Award: Lisa Samuels, Sheridan Community Schools; Sheridan Rotary Club; Steve Martin, Sheridan Public Library

Public Service Award: Brenda Bush, Sheridan Town Council; Dave Boone and Devin Myers, Sheridan Auxiliary Police Officers; Sheridan Fire Department

See Sheridan Chamber...Page 3

The flood that changed the Southwest Quad

EDITOR'S NOTE: Terry Coomer is a former Noblesville resident, and he wrote this article about his memories of the New Year's Eve 1990 flood that dramatically changed the Southwest Quad of Noblesville. Terry currently resides in Arkansas where he is pastor of the Hope Baptist Church and also director of For The Love of the Family Ministries.

Ah yes, I remember it well (as well as a person my age can)! I had just ended working for the Indianapolis Star as a Circulation District Manager and had taken two weeks' vacation time prior to starting work as the Circulation Director at The Noblesville Daily Ledger. Little did I know that those two weeks would not be a vacation at all! On December 31, 1990, there was the New Year's Eve Flood of Noblesville's Old South Side.

I grew up on the Old South Side at 850 South 4th Street. Every time I come back to Noblesville, I drive down and sit in front of where the old house was. I look at the tree my father and I planted when I was a small child and think about my parents and growing up there. My father was living at that address and had ended working his life time job at Rand McNally being diagnosed with pre-senile dementia. He called me in the early evening and said, "The police just came by and said to evacuate because White River is flooding!" Kim, I and our two

daughters, rushed to his home. He, of course, was very upset and did not want to leave. "I have lived here for 35 years and no flood has ever got into this house!" That was good for a person who had dementia!

He was right as far as I remembered. As a 9 year old child in 1963, I remember standing at our back door and the flood waters getting up as far as the next to the last step before coming into the house, but water never had entered the house before. According the National Weather service the December, 1990, flood was the 4th highest crest of White River to date.

We hurriedly rushed and grabbed some cement blocks my dad had. We put some furniture on blocks and packed what we could.

See Flood...Page 3



Reporter photo by Brian Reddick

Stanley and Mary Craig celebrated their 90th birthdays and 69th wedding anniversary with an open house Sunday afternoon at the Forest Park Lodge.

Atlanta New Earth Festival

Hamilton County's longest running and largest festival boasts over 600 booths of unique arts, crafts, collectibles and culinary delights.



Ivy Tech Community College Stage

Live entertainment all weekend...featuring Hunter Smith Band

September 27 & 28

Obituaries

Kenneth Lee Williams

August 15, 1965 - September 12, 2014

Kenneth Lee Williams, 49, resident of Middletown, passed away September 12, 2014 at St. Vincent's Regional Hospital in Anderson.

He was born in Anderson, August 15, 1965, the son of William Williams and Alice Laube Williams.

He was a 1983 graduate of Daleville High School and graduated from the paramedic school of St. Vincent's Hospital and was currently a Senior Firefighter/Paramedic with Noblesville Fire Department.

He attended the Middletown Church of the Nazarene, was a private pilot and also loved remote controlled airplanes. He was a member of the American Academy of Model Airplanes and loved to ride Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Survivors are his son: Dylan Williams of Daleville, 1 daughter: Madison Williams of Daleville, mother: Alice Williams of Tempe, AZ and his father: William Williams (Julian) of Anderson, 1 brother: Davy Williams (Dawn) of Muncie and 1 sister: Suzanne Williams of Tavares, FL.

A celebration of Life was held on Friday at the Middletown Church of the Nazarene, Middletown with Dr. Philip C. Rogers, Pastor Danny Barrett, and the Chaplains of Noblesville Fire Department.

Burial followed at Saunders Cemetery, East of Daleville.

Friends called at the church on Thursday.

Memorials may be made to the Hamilton County Firefighters Foundation and Celebrate Recovery of Middletown.

Online Guestbook at: www.ballardandsons.com and Facebook/Ballard & Sons: Life Celebration, Counseling, Funerals and Cremation.

The Ballard family is honored to celebrate the life of Ken Williams with family and friends.

Kathleen J. Kinkead

April 4, 1931 - September 18, 2014

Kathleen J. Kinkead, age 83, of Sheridan, passed away at Clare Bridge of Carmel on Thursday evening, September 18, 2014. Born April 4, 1931 in Lebanon, Indiana, she was the daughter of the late Roscoe and Ethel (Thompson) Brandenburg. She was a 1949 graduate of Sheridan H.S. and a graduate of Indiana Business College. On May 24, 1953, Kathleen married William "Bill" Kinkead. Bill preceded her in death on April 23, 2005. Kathleen worked as a Secretary and Bookkeeper for Biddle Screw Products of Sheridan. She also assisted her late husband Bill with their family business, Kinkead's Pure Oil, which later became Kinkead's Union 76. Kathleen and Bill both retired in 1995. Kathleen loved to travel. She loved taking trips throughout the Eastern U.S. and The Great Smokey Mountains.

Kathleen is survived by her 2 sons, David Kinkead of Sheridan and Dennis Kinkead (Kim) of Noblesville; and her 3 grandchildren, Nicholas Kinkead (Heidi), Zachary Kinkead and Jordan Kinkead, all of Noblesville. She was preceded in death by both of her parents, her husband, and 3 brothers, Lester, Lloyd and Wayne Brandenburg.

Services were held on Monday, September 22, 2014, at the Kercheval Funeral Home in Sheridan. Visitation was prior to the time of service. Burial followed at the Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan. Reverend V.J. Stover officiated. Memorial contributions may be presented to the Alzheimers Association.

Mary Jane Mihm

April 22, 1942 - September 10, 2014

Mary Jane Mihm, 72, of Noblesville, passed away on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at home. She was born on April 22, 1942 to Francis and Mary (Patton) West in Bellevue, Pennsylvania. Her parents precede her in death.

Mary was a retired secretary for various businesses, a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Cicero, as well as the Ladies of the Sacred Heart.

She is survived by her husband, Richard A. Mihm, whom she married on September 18, 1965; daughters, Linda K Crady, Lisa Marie O'Rourke, and Lori Ann (Gregory) McQueary; seven grandchildren, Emma & Maggie Crady, Erin & John O'Rourke, and Zane, Lauren & Evan McQueary; and two siblings, Michelle Hansen, and Thomas (Samantha) West.

A Memorial Mass was held on Saturday, September 20, 2014, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Cicero, with Rev. Dale W. Ehrman officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, 410 S Pearl Street, Cicero, IN 46034.

Condolences: www.randallroberts.com.



Phyllis M. Roudebush

July 5, 1936 - September 21, 2014

Phyllis M. Roudebush, 78, of Noblesville, passed away on Sunday, September 21, 2014 at Harbour Manor Care Center. She was born on July 5, 1936 to Homer and Merle (Sinders) Lewis in Lapel, Indiana.

Phyllis was a homemaker and a member of Refuge Christian Church. She and her husband owned 10th Street Grocery in Noblesville for several years and she later worked for Noblesville Schools. She loved cooking, and spending time with her family. She loved doing for others, and was always helping someone in need. She touched many people, and was always making new friends. She had a special place in her heart for children and all of her caregivers.

She is survived by her children, Sheree A. (Mark) Beasley, J.R. (Kelly) Roudebush, Dennis (Tammy) Roudebush, and grandchildren, Nicholas Roudebush, Heather Beasley, Hannah Roudebush, Molly Roudebush, and Samuel Roudebush; great-grandson, Everhett Roudebush; sister, Mary Camp; and brother, Ivan "Pete" Lewis.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by husband, Jere "Roudy" Roudebush in 1993; brothers, Robert & George Lewis; and sister, Betty Lewis.

Services will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, September 26, 2014, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan Street, in Noblesville, with Rev. Stanley R. Sutton officiating. Visitation will be Thursday, September 25, 2014 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the funeral home. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Diabetes Association, Indiana Office 8604 Allisonville Road, Suite 140 Indianapolis, IN 46250.

Condolences: www.randallroberts.com.



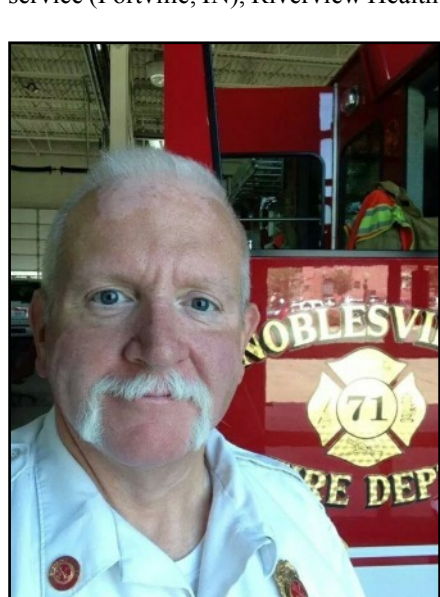
Noblesville Fire mourns loss of a brother

By BRIAN REDDICK

Friday morning the Noblesville Fire Department laid to rest firefighter paramedic Kenneth Williams at the young age of 49. Williams was a fifteen year veteran of the Noblesville Fire Department. Williams was involved in a severe motor vehicle accident near Pendleton on August 29th in which he suffered a broken sternum. He was expected to make a full recovery and be back to work within a few weeks. On September 12th Williams was found, in his home by family members, deceased from what is presumed to be complications from his accident injuries.

Williams, a 1983 graduate of Daleville High School, was a lifelong public servant to the fire and EMS service.

Earning his paramedic degree through St. Vincent Hospital, Williams started his career with the Salem Township Fire Department in Daleville, IN. Williams has also worked for Delaware County EMS, Seals Ambulance service (Fortville, IN), Riverview Health EMS and Jackson Fire Territory in Hamilton County.



Kenneth Williams
1965-2014

In 2003 Williams was promoted to Division Chief of EMS at the Noblesville Fire Department and served in that

position for ten years. In 2013 he decided to go back to working as a firefighter paramedic and was assigned to Noblesville Fire Station 77 on Olivo Road. Doing what he loved most Williams spent his last year working as a street medic and firefighter until his passing on September 12th.

Williams is survived by his two children Dylan Williams of Daleville and Madison Williams of Daleville, mother: Alice Williams of Tempe, AZ and his father: William Williams of Anderson, 1 brother: Davy Williams of Muncie and 1 sister: Suzanne Williams of Tavares, FL.

Memorials may be made to the Hamilton County Firefighters Foundation and Celebrate Recovery of Middletown.



Reporter photo by Brian Reddick

The Noblesville Fire Department laid one of its own to rest on Friday. Firefighter paramedic Kenneth Williams passed away on Sept. 12, two weeks after being injured in a motor vehicle accident. Williams was a lifelong public servant to the fire and EMS service.

Williams is survived by his two children Dylan Williams of Daleville and Madison Williams of Daleville, mother: Alice Williams of Tempe, AZ and his father: William Williams of Anderson, 1 brother: Davy Williams of Muncie and 1 sister: Suzanne Williams of Tavares, FL.

Memorials may be made to the Hamilton County Firefighters Foundation and Celebrate Recovery of Middletown.

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Flood

from Page 1

I walked down to the corner of Pleasant Street and 4th Street right in front of Jimmy Atwell's old house and was trying to look down Pleasant Street to the Water and Sewage Plant. Water was up the west edge of South Side Park. Standing there I heard this horrible noise. Then the steel sewage cover blew about 6 feet in the air and water taller than me blew out of the sewage line. Scared me to death! It blew me backwards as I was standing next to it. I am glad the steel cap went the other way! It was a tremendous amount of water and I knew then we had a real problem and we better get out of there!

I learned later that the city had closed the gates to the water coming into the sewage plant and therefore it all blew out of the sewage lines back into the South Side Park area.

New Year's Day, 1991, our family stood on top of 5th Street between Washington and Pleasant Streets and looked at a huge disaster! Water was up to the top of some houses! My Father's house had water to the top of the windows! Many families of the Old South Side were standing up there looking at all they had in the world destroyed. Many were crying and many just stood there in shock at what had happened. I looked down at my father's house and saw a good amount of smoke coming out of the chimney. I had asked a fireman earlier, "Has the gas been shut off to the area" and he said, "Yes". I then got another long time Noblesville fireman who I knew and pointed to our house. Gary Holt, our neighbor who I grew up with, and was now a heating and air conditioning man rushed and took a boat with a brave Noblesville fireman to my father's home and turned off the gas. I had to describe where the gas meter was because it was under water! So they had to find the shut off under water! No easy task! The Holt's lived two houses down from us and their home was under water as well. The fireman found a way to look into the house and told me, "The water was splashing up against the gas heater that was used to heat the house." He said, "It was a good thing we got there when we did, the heater was about to blow!" You can imagine the interest then in all the people about the gas and their homes! Finally, the gas was turned off to the area! It could have been an even bigger tragedy than it already was.

The families in our block were long time Noblesville families, Hue and Virginia Holt family, Scoolcraft family, Bob Gentry

family, the James Atwell family, and the Bradfield family lived across Pleasant Street across from the Atwell family. On the other side of the park was the Camp family. They as well as many others had lived there as long as I could remember. Across the street was Old South Side Park where all of us played ball and where I learned to play baseball by playing with the older boys. The park and the neighborhood helped me to be the 78th player taken in the free agent baseball draft of 1973 by the San Francisco Giants. It was a tough neighborhood. When the boys in the neighborhood got together to play football it was not touch football! We played tackle and it was some of the roughest football I had seen and I played for Coach Jim Belden at Noblesville High School! Anyone who remembers the Camp, Harber, Bradfield, and Netherly boys would understand what I am talking about! Let's say a few scuffles happened as well. Some of Noblesville's best athletes came from the Old South Side. Many of us were talking about memories on the hill that day of growing up in the neighborhood, the park, and the good and fun times. Interesting stories were told and people were getting reacquainted and hugging and asking about each other. We were all reunited that day by a great tragedy "in the neighborhood." It was now all under water and would never be the same again. Families were now faced with making major decisions with their lives and their homes.

After the water subsided questions were starting to be asked, like why did the sewer caps just blow off and water go 6 feet into the air? Why was this flood worse than the others where no water had gotten into the houses? What are we going to do now? People were looking to the City of Noblesville and others for help and answers.

For our family we started to clean up as many others on our block. Remember that vacation? Well, it was two weeks of grueling work! Dumpsters were set up in the park. When we were finally able to enter the house it was a devastating experience. Mud everywhere! Also fish and everything else that came from a flooded river and sewage as well! My father's chest freezer was moved two rooms into the living room! Ruined furniture, clothes, beds, and a life time of memories. Do we try to clean this up? What would work and what would not? We had to have an electrical inspection and gas inspection before anything could be turned back on and it was winter in Indiana! Cold, and we were trying to

cleanup a major mess without electricity and heat!

The Red Cross was there and I remember the 5th grade teacher at Third Ward School, Bob Harber, on the back of a truck for Red Cross and asking how were and handed me a bucket, mop, water, and cleaner along with some other items. We were taking out loads by hand and throwing things in the dumpsters. I remember carrying out the living room frozen carpet on my back and barely able to get it into the dumpster.

Finally, we were able to get the gas and electrical back on. You know the hoops that you have to go through. We were first told we would have to hire a private electrician and all kinds of people to get these things back on! Remember this was the Old South Side where many people were hard working folks and living pay check to pay check. Elderly people and some poor people as well.

A FEMA worker came in one day and ask us a few questions as were cleaning up and asked us what it was costing to do the different things and he wrote a check on the spot to help us for which we were very grateful.

The city of Noblesville was trying to help as well. They were able to obtain a federal grant to buy up the houses. The deal was they would give you reasonable value for your home based on an appraisal. The city held meetings and of course, many were upset. As the Circulation Director of the *Noblesville Daily Ledger*, the *Ledger* had a paper route in the Old South Side area. My wife, Kim, would help us collect for the paper and each month would go to the Old South Side. She got to know the people and many would cry and tell her they did not understand what was going on. Would I lose my house? Is the city going to force me to move? I have nowhere to go? I cannot move anywhere else and I am on a limited income and cannot sell the house for what the city is offering? Who do I talk to?

Kim and I went to the meetings representing my father and asked a lot of questions. We tried to help others and explain as best as we knew what was being said and what was going on. Confusion came in when the city put out a form asking questions of the residents. In the meeting it was stated, "this was a general questionnaire and would not be used as a determining factor." However, it did end up being used as a determining factor, which really did not sit well with folks.

As I remember there were three questions asked. Would you be willing to sell your house? Yes, maybe, or no. Remember, what people thought they were filling out was a general questionnaire which would not determine anything. Quite frankly, a neighbor said, "I put no, because I did not know what I was being offered for my house." Made sense to me. I answered maybe. The form was used by the city to determine the order of who would be eligible to get federal grant money for their house. People were very upset about that! So, if you answered yes, you were eligible first. However, there were other qualifications as well. So, yes first, then maybe, and then the no people. The process should have been handled differently and the city had a guy who was to handle negotiations. I had several conversations with him to keep abreast of what was happening and of course, negotiate. He was generally helpful.

The city ended up purchasing my father's home. I thought the price was low, but the house had been damaged and we would not ever be able to sell it to anyone else. Why would someone else buy it? Also, in the selling of the home the agreement between us and the city was, there would be no more housing built there and it would always be a green space. As I remember, the city purchased 44 houses in the first buy and knocked them down. Later more houses were purchased.

This experience promoted me later in 1998 as a member of the Hamilton County Leadership Academy to suggest a study on affordable housing in the city of Noblesville. I was chosen by my classmates to present that study to the Noblesville City Council.

If you drive through the Old South Side today, any other houses that were brought in there after the flood had to have a foundation that was way up off the ground. There are a few people who brought in manufactured housing and built the foundations. It was called a "hundred year flood!" This was a difficult process for all involved. The communication process between the people and the city did not go well, but the city did help a lot of people get out of their homes and into different housing. Did they cause the damage by closing the sewer gates? Probably did not help. Many families moved out of Noblesville to areas of more affordable housing. Some families stayed, but the Old South Side was never the same after the "Hundred Year Flood of New Year's Eve, 1990."

Sheridan Chamber from Page 1

Volunteer Service Award: Bill Curl; Dave Hunsucker; Steve Martin; Connie Pearson; V. J. Stover; Don Vita

Wellness Service Award: Meals on Wheels; Mary Schaffer, Sheridan Family Medicine; Sheridan Methodist Church – Food Ministries

The Business of the Year and Charity of the Year Awards will be given to organizations who have demonstrated success and had a positive impact in the community. The service awards will be presented to individuals or organizations who have made a significant, positive contribution in various specific arenas – education, public service and the health of the community. Winners will be announced at the Annual Awards Dinner on September 24.

Tickets are available for the Annual Awards Dinner & Casino Night which will be held at Palomino Ballroom, 481 S. 1200 East, Zionsville at 6 pm on September 24. Tickets are \$50 for individuals and \$90 for couples. Corporate tables of 8 with recognition are available for \$320. Sponsorship opportunities are also still available. For tickets or sponsorship details, contact the Sheridan Chamber office at 317-758-1311 or chambermail@sheridanchamber.org.

Harvest Moon Festival



Reporter photos by Brian Reddick

Above: 8 year old Tyler Hogan of Sheridan and his parents John and Pacha ride the Exciting Round up ride at the Harvest Moon Festival at Biddle Park in Sheridan.

Right: 4 year old Jackson Berbari of Carmel and his mom Nikki ride the Berry-Go-Round ride.



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Get ready for another public transportation plan

By FRED SWIFT
Are you ready for another public transportation plan? Well, Indianapolis mayor Greg Ballard supported by mayors of Carmel, Westfield and Greenwood have one for you. We haven't heard much about a mass transportation link to Indy since the legislature adjourned last spring. They passed legislation which would allow voters in central Indiana counties to decide if they want to increase their local option income taxes to pay for wider public bus routes linking all of us with downtown Indianapolis. Now, a new plan without the necessity to vote on it has been announced. Federal



money has been approved for the planning of a super bus, rapid transit route running from from Westfield on the north to Greenwood on the south through Indianapolis with limited stops. The \$1 million cost of the planning phase is being paid only by taxpayers of the cities to be served, mostly Indianapolis with Carmel and Westfield probably in for \$100,000 or so each. Unfortunately for Noblesville and Fishers this latest plan does not include them.. Instead, it's designed to serve the Westfield, Carmel to Indy route. It's called the Red Line and would provide for all-electric buses with stations to be built along the way and special bus lanes on existing roads. The Noblesville to Indy route, dubbed the Green Line, would have to wait under this newest approach.

The Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority which is controlled by Indianapolis, has decided the Red Line can be built, or at least started, to show that mass transportation can work in central Indiana. And, they want to do it without asking taxpayers to start paying up front. The eventual estimated price tag for construction is \$100 million. But, don't get excited, most of the cost would be paid by federal grants. Of course, usually these federal grants require a "local match" and what that amounts to is unknown at this time. And, of course, there's a political question. Would a Democratic administration in Washington really want to put that kind of money into central Indiana to build the first all-electric bus system in the country? Sounds almost like an April Fool story, but it's not, and you'll be hearing more about it in the media in coming days.

A Little Ignorance is Bliss

By AIMEE GEBHART
I've been feeling like Little Miss Cranky Pants for the past couple of weeks, and I think I've finally figured out why. I'm on negative information overload. I can't turn on the television, check social media, or even have a casual conversation without being inundated with bad news and nasty attitudes.



I watch the news every morning and evening, and lately it has left me with an empty heart and a head full of questions. Do I really need to see every gory detail of an athlete's domestic violence case on repeat? Do I need to know all of the heartbreaking specifics about how a celebrity died? Does it benefit me in any way to hear about all of the sick, twisted acts that people inflict upon one another? I really don't think so.

If the television isn't bad enough, my Facebook feed is always there to bring me down. I don't mind when friends post about their problems. I am very empathetic and truly care about their needs, but I am over all of the political rants, controversial online news articles, and videos of horrible beatings that people are posting. I get that they are trying to raise awareness, but good grief! Let there be somewhere safe that I can go to get the latest scoop on who is pregnant, who got married, and who is taking inebriated selfies at the Luke Bryan concert.

Even worse than some of the posts that I've seen online are the comments that people make about them. I swear someone could post a video of babies petting puppies and there would be some grumpy person who would comment about how much they hate the breed of dog featured. That comment would probably be followed by someone accusing the parents of neglect for allowing puppies to run loose around babies. And no doubt there would be a Debbie Downer ready to let us all know about the hidden dangers of puppy saliva. Unfortunately, I think that the anonymity of the internet is breeding nastiness in a lot of folks. It's easy to sit alone in your home and criticize everything you see when you don't have to be accountable for your words.

It's not that I want to bury my head in the sand and pretend like bad news doesn't exist, but sometimes I wonder if a little more ignorance would lead to a little more bliss. I need to remember that when I reach my limit for ugliness in the world, it's okay to retreat from it and recharge for a bit. So for now, I will take a little break from depressing television news and social media and fill my mind with things that make me truly happy, like my husband, my daughter, and babies playing with puppies...deadly saliva and all.

Moments with my Mom

By JANET HART LEONARD
My Mom wears a magical necklace. Whenever you push the button, handsome and strong firemen, EMS and policemen appear on her doorstep. So does her wethaired and make-upless daughter. A few weeks ago the chairman of Mom's floor invited her to a meeting. It did not go pretty. She received a chauffeured ride in the EMS carriage to the View by the River aka Riverview Health.



raised me. I only hope what is said about her can be said about me at 88. This is a chapter in my story that I want to be written slowly. I want to savor each moment with her. I laugh as she still tells me that I am cold and need to wear socks and a coat. I remind her that I don't like wearing either one, never have, never will until the nip in the air is crisp with frost. She tells me that I should to tell my boss that I need to not work so much. She tells me that I should tell my son that he works too hard. She forgets that she ran the O'Malia's Deli in Noblesville for years and she worked too much and too hard. She tells me that Chuck is the answer to her prayers. Funny how I thought he was the answer to mine. She has told me so much over my 59 years. Pretty is as Pretty does. If the macaroni and cheese isn't cheesy enough just add salt. You should always carry a hanky. Everyone needs a Sunday afternoon nap. Go to church even when you don't feel like it because you will feel better. Start your day with God's Word and your day will go better. If the leaves on the trees are turned up, it's going to rain.

You need to wear an apron when you are cooking. I could go on and on with Audreyisms. Mom sends me on the craziest grocery scavenger hunts. Lately, it has been for pickled pigs feet. I wish you all could see the look on the face of some of the young butchers in the grocery stores when I ask for them. No, I have never tried them but I have eaten breaded calf brains. Mom thinks cow tongue is disgusting. I have never figured out her critique on animal parts eating. I can't even look at Souse lunch meat. Mom says its a bit of everything like hot dogs. I say "Mom don't tell me that because I love eating hot dogs." Well I have her back home and tucked in. I have told her no more meetings with the chairman of the floor. She is happy to be home. Now if I can just find her some pickled pigs feet she will be even happier.

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Fish Of The Week



Chuck Crow, Chairman of Community Bank, with a 23 inch Walleye caught recently in Northern Manitoba.



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Technology: Pulling us together or pushing us apart?

The Sheridan High School 10th grade English class, taught by Mrs. Abigayle Linville, will produce a weekly column. A different student from the class will author each of the columns. This week's column was provided by Victoria Zetterberg. Victoria is a sophomore at Sheridan High School.

By VICTORIA ZETTERBERG
Technology has undoubtedly made life's tasks much easier. Instead of writing a letter and receiving a response days later, it is now possible to send an email and have a reply within seconds. Not only can we communicate with email, there is also the ability to video chat, text, call, and even use social media. With all of the technology we have as a society, it gives us ample free time. A task that used to take an hour can now be done in mere minutes! This spare time, the benefits of technology have created, is what allows us to relax and take up interests, but while this technology and the time it creates are beneficial, the negative aspects are starting to surface.

The amount of free time we have as a society is rather large. We don't have to work incredibly long hours during the weekday like in Japan, nor do we have to worry about carting and carrying water from streams in Africa. As Americans, we are granted plenty of time to take up interests and invest in whatever we please. For some, this is taking up a sport and for others it may mean trying to learn to paint or sew. This free time, however, can be a waste. As time goes on, more and more teens and kids are saying, "I'm bored." This statement is a clear indicator of what all of our time has given us. For a lot of adults, if you look back at your childhood, you wouldn't re-

member your eyes glued to a screen and telling your parents all about your boredom. Instead, you would be likely to see yourself out in the world, going to the park with your family or perhaps going to see a movie with your friends. Whatever the case, there wasn't a whole lot of time to be bored. Now, my generation seems to have plenty of time.

Not only is the spare time being wasted, people don't communicate cohesively anymore. For people who live in smaller, rural areas, it is easier to walk down the street and make casual conversation with almost everyone you meet. You can easily call up a friend and ask to go meet at the library or a restaurant; however, why can't people put down their phones? It has become so easy to send a text, simply sending off a meaningless message to get your point across and with social media, people have become addicted. It has become all about who has more likes, the prettiest picture, and who's talking smack. I hate to burst bubbles, but life isn't a still photo and you can't just delete what you do or say to someone in person like on the Internet. Social media is pushing us apart. Yes, it is true. People can't seem to find the time to put down the phone and just exist for a few hours without it. Just the other day, I had a friend come to my house to hang out after school and all we did was occasionally talk and glue our eyes to our screens. Everywhere I look, my generation seems to always have their head down and phone in hand. Isn't that sad? If you think about all the missed opportunities and chances, you will realize just how much you're missing out on. So, tonight I challenge you, your family, and your friends to try to exist for 24 hours without using social media because I can guarantee you will see more without it.

The Reporter invites other schools that wish to take part to submit columns by their students. Contact Publisher Jeff Jellison.

Not the Perfect Mom

"Then I heard the LORD asking, 'Whom shall I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?' I said, 'Here I am, send me.' Isaiah 6:8

By TAMAR KNOCH

It starts back at the beginning of chapter six, in the year that king Uzziah died - 740 BC. Isaiah saw the LORD. Now it doesn't mention anywhere how he got there, but he is IN the throne-room of Heaven. He describes everything he sees from the "lofty throne" to the "mighty seraphim".

The moment Isaiah realizes where he is and what he's seeing he expects death - the consequence of seeing God in person, pre-crucifixion of Christ. In an answer to his fears God alleviates them by sending an angel over to anoint Isaiah's lips with a hot coal and tells him, "See this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven." (Isaiah 6:7)

As soon as Isaiah receives that forgiveness of his guilt and sins God says, "Whom shall I send?" And right there is something too powerful for me to pass up. There is an empowerment in the acceptance and receiving of the forgiveness of your sins. There's a verse in John where Jesus says, "apart from Me you can do nothing." (15:5) Now if that verse is True, and it's in the Bible so it IS True. Then the opposite is also True. When we are a part of Jesus we can do EVERYTHING! According to Philippians 4:13, you "can do all things through [Christ] who gives [you] strength."

Isaiah 5:18 says, "What sorrow for those who drag their sins behind them with ropes made of lies." What an image!!! God has so much sorrow for those who drag their sins behind them with ropes made of lies! He

aches for those who haven't received the forgiveness of those sins through His Son Jesus. He weeps at the blood that is shed by those people whose ropes made of lies have torn and cut their flesh as those rock-heavy sins weigh them down because they haven't given them to Jesus.

And what is the lie that creates that rope most often; the lie that you're not worthy to approach the throne of Heaven. I know of a blood-stained cross with holes where nails pierced hands and feet that says otherwise. Jesus believed in your worth enough to die for your ticket into that throne room, who are we to refuse? My dear one, you have been invited to sit, not just in the throne room, but ON the Father's lap as His Beloved Child. And all you have to do is lay down the sins that so easily entangle and run into His waiting open arms and allow Him to enfold your broken soul in to His presence.

Romans 10:9-10 says that if "you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved." If you believe in your heart, then speak it with your mouth and you will be saved. It doesn't need to be wordy, it's not complicated, you need only speak His name, "Jesus, my Lord." Or you could say, "I believe in Jesus." See, not complicated or hard. Simple. As simple can be. But POWERFUL indeed!!!!

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Week 10

1

Exodus 32:1-35:19

2

Exodus 35:20-38:31

3

Exodus 39:1-40:38 &
Ezekiel 1:1-28

4

Ezekiel 2:1-7:13

5

Ezekiel 7:14-12:16

6

Ezekiel 12:17-16:34

7

No Reading

Choose natural foods over processed items

"If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world." -J.R.R. Tolkien

By SHARON MCMAHON

This week's topic relates more to the "food" aspect of Tolkien's quote that the "cheer and song" – although those are important to everyone's lives as well! In particular I am addressing this week the food

choices we make based on the nutritional value of those choices

True confession here...if you happen to run into me in the grocery store, chances are I will be surreptitiously glancing at the items in your cart. I suppose it is just a professional hazard of mine as I am both confounded and amazed often times at what I observe in others' grocery carts! Appearing most of the time are the processed, packaged foods which are so convenient to prepare...and so unhealthy when eaten on a frequent basis. We are advertised-to, mar-

keted, and frankly bombarded with these "tasty and quick options" for meal preparation. I also note that the snack aisles appear to grow every week with a plethora of yummy, salty snacks! In particular, I am concerned about children who are frequently offered these items.

Federal health statistics show that 12.3 percent of Americans 20 and older have diabetes, either diagnosed or undiagnosed. About 37 percent have pre-diabetes, a condition marked by higher-than-normal blood sugar. That's up from 27 percent a decade

ago. An analysis of 16 studies involving almost 900,000 people worldwide, published in the most recent issue of the journal Diabetologia, shows pre-diabetes not only sets the stage for diabetes but increases the risk of cancer by 15 percent. Children are being diagnosed pre-diabetic at an alarming rate in recent years.

See McMahon...Page 6

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...Until now

More prisoners headed our way

Turner resigns

It's not exactly new news.

In an Oct. 28, 2013 edition of The Reporter (the newspaper's No. 8 edition), a story was published under this headline: "There is room at the Inn ... at the Hamilton County Jail."

At that time, The Reporter reported, that the jail was about 120 prisoners under capacity. Still to be completed was the third floor of the Community Service building, which, when finished, would add space for another 250 prisoners.

Also in that article, Hamilton County Sheriff Mark Bowen talked about what the federal government (US Attorney General Eric Holder) was talking about, that being for judges to give shorter sentences for Class D felonies and for these prisoners to spend that time in a county jail instead of a federal prisons. Many federal prisons are running over capacity.

"We don't kown what will happen," Bowen, at that time, told The Reporter. "We could end up being responsible for some of those prisoners."

Good prediction, Sheriff.

That will happen, the result of a legislative change, beginning July 1, 2015. When it does happen, the days of the Hamilton County Jail being under capacity likely will be gone. The third floor to the Community Service building likely will be needed.

And, although the state will fund some of the change, local taxpayers will need to reach a little deeper in their pockets.

More jail space will be needed.

When Judge William Hughes attended the Aug. 29 meeting of the Hamilton County Commissioner, he said that the state is aware it is putting a heavy burden back on the county and there will be funding coming in the next legislative session. It will, Hughes added, probably be funding for programming as opposed to funding for building space.

Hughes also said, in response to a question from Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt, that approximately 500 people were set to state prisons on a D felon last year, and starting July 1, 2015 they will be sent to the Hamilton County Jail.

"We will have to deal with it here," Judge Hughes said.

A study currently is being conducted by the Commissioners as to where the County can find addition jail cells for short-term (probably about one year) offenders.

Commissioner Steve Dillinger told The Reporter, "It may be finishing the third floor of the Community Service building," he said.

"There is additional space at the Juvenile Center, but laws will not allow us to house together adults and juveniles."

State Rep. Eric Turner (R-Cicero) revealed Friday that he intends to resign his seat in the Indiana House following the November general election in which he is a candidate for re-election.

That resignation comes about assuming Turner wins on Nov. 4 in the 32nd House District which includes portions of north and northwest Hamilton County. His opponent in this fall's election is Robert Ashley, a Tipton Democrat who lists his occupation as a freelance journalist.

If Turner wins in the heavily Republican district, he will resign before the legislature convenes. GOP precinct committeemen in Dist. 32 will replace him. Thus far no candidates for the seat have indicated interest.

Turner, 63, is president and CEO of T-3 Investments Corporation. He was called before the House Ethics Committee earlier this year after being accused of working to foster legislation that would aid his company, but was cleared of any wrong-doing. Despite being cleared, Turner was removed from of his duties as House Speaker Pro Tempore at the end of August.

Turner says that after leaving the House of Representatives he will join a Christian based organization named EQUIP in Atlanta where he will work in leadership training with pastors and laymen.

Turner has served in the state legislature since 1994; this followed an earlier statehouse term from 1982-86.

Southwest Quad

By **DON JELLISON**
Reporter Editor

As you may have read in an earlier edition of The Hamilton County Reporter, the City of Noblesville a few days ago held a neighborhood meeting in what is being labeled the Southwest Quadrant. It's an area bordered by Maple Avenue, South 8th Street, Christian Avenue and White River.

The City's goal is to help develop a neighborhood plan for the area. It was the first of three planned meetings. The other two are scheduled for Oct. 9 and Nov. 13 at the Gathering at 6 p.m. The Gathering is a new church on 8th Street.

At the meeting, residents were asked to build two lists. 1, the strengths of the area; 2, the negatives of the area.

Strengths included:

- *Quiet neighborhood.
- *Green space.
- *Sidewalks.
- *Close to downtown.
- *Historical.
- *River access.
- *Walking.
- *Individual investments in homes and property.
- *Schools.
- *Potential for a park.

Here are some of the negatives listed:

- *Trucks flying by.
- *Odors from industries in the area.

- *Trash burning.
- *Junk yard.
- *Odors from the city's water treatment and sewer building.
- *Homeless people without places to live.

Folks also told the City they would like to see: trails along the river; a new park; adults seats in the current park; and to rid the area of the smell from the waste water plant.

The Reporter plans to stay on top of this very important effort by the City. We're planning a series of articles over the next couple months and through the next two meetings.

We will begin our series this Sunday with our "Sunday Special."

I've asked a long-time friend Terry Coomer, to help. Terry and I, down through the years, have enjoyed an interesting friendship. I coached Terry and often wrote about his baseball skills. Later in life, Terry became my boss as the publisher of the old Noblesville Times.

Terry currently resides in Arkansas where he is pastor of the Hope Baptist Church and also director of For The Love of the Family Ministries.

I asked Terry to write about his experiences of growing up in the area and then later in life helping his father survive what was labeled the "100-Year Flood" and how that led to the "flood plain" which actually today separates the Southwest Quad residents from White River.

It's an interesting and informing story that Terry has to share, which can be read in this week's Reporter.



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10/9 Spirit Art Class Answers in the Paint with Jeff 7-9 \$20

10/11 Introduction To Crystals 101 with Becky 1-4 \$55

10/11 Cranial Energy Balancing with Shirley 12-5 30min \$40

10/12 Manifesting Abundance (Law of Attraction) with Jeff 1-4 \$50

10/16 Chakra Balancing 101 Class with Jeff 7-9 \$20

10/17 NMT Healing Sessions with Cara 11-5 \$75 for 45min

10/18 Akashic Records Workshop with C.B. Bjork 1-3 \$30

10/18 Akashic Record & Tarot Readings with C.B 3-6 20min \$30

10/19 Healing with Crystals 101 with Mary 1-4 \$40

10/23 Astral Projection Class with Jeff (Free CD) 7-9 \$30

10/26 NMT Healing Sessions with Cara 11-5 \$75 for 45min

10/26 Essential Oils 101 class with Mary 1-4 \$50

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Jones debut, leads Huskies to a win

By **DON JELLISON**
Reporter Editor

For a second consecutive week, Hamilton Heights will hit the road for a Mid-Conference football game against one of the conference's basement teams. The Huskies will play at 0-5 Taylor.

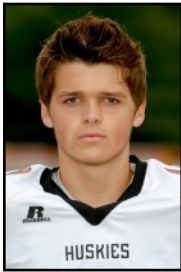
With the exception of a near-miss, 14-7 conference loss to Peru at couple of weeks ago, it has been a terrible start of the season for the Titans. Taylor has lost to North White 40-12, Tri-Central 42-6, Western 39-0 and last week to Northwestern 42-7.

The Huskies, on the other side of the coin, last Friday put on one of their best offensive shows of the year while smashing Eastern 34-8.

What Hamilton Heights coach Mitch Street viewed on the field Friday at Eastern must have been the vision he had of his offensive attack before the season started.

Ethan Jones throwing the football and Grant Weatherford catching it.

Jones, making his first start of the season, connected on 9-of-13 passes for 215 yards and three touchdowns. Weatherford, moving from quarterback to wide receiver, caught six passes good for 157 yards and three touchdowns.



Ethan Jones

All said and done, it was still another Heights win over Eastern. The Comets have never beaten the Huskies in Mid-Indiana Conference action.

Heights now is 3-2 overall and 2-1 in the conference.

The Huskies, after a scoreless first quarter, began to open up the game by scoring 14 points in the second quarter. Another 14 points in the third period turned this one into a cakewalk. Heights grabbed a 28-0 lead.

Natham Roth, a junior running back who before the night was over led Heights in rushing with 10 carries for 70

yards, put his team on the board first with a two-yard run in the second quarter.

Hamilton Heights' second touchdown was a defensive score. Cayman Lutz blocked a punt and turned it into a touchdown.

The Jones to Weatherford combination started to click in the second half. Jones fired 20 yards to Weatherford to make it a 21-0 game. Then before the third period ended, Jones hit Weatherford on a 50-yard bomb.

Cameron O'Malia kicked all four extra points for the Huskies.

Heights scored its final touchdown in the fourth quarter, and again it was the Jones-Weatherford combination. This time the TD pass covered 28 yards.

Eastern stayed with Heights in the running game, the Comets rushing for 145 yards and the Huskies for 118. But through the air, Heights finished with 256 yards and Eastern threw for only 95.

Millers get first win over Zionsville

By **RICHIE HALL**
Reporter Sports Editor

Finally, the Noblesville football team has removed its last Hoosier Crossroads Conference roadblock.

After 13 consecutive losses, Noblesville got its first ever win over the Eagles, powering past them 37-13 at the Zionsville field. The win improved the Millers to 2-1 in the HCC, and they are now 4-1 overall.

Noblesville will take a break from conference play this week - well, it's not really a break. The Millers will take on Bishop Chatard, one of Indiana's premier football programs, in a Friday night game at Lawrence North.

The Trojans, like the Millers, are also 4-1. Chatard plays in Class 4A, having moved up due to the IHSAA's success factor after being a dominant force in 3A for years. The Trojans have won 12 state titles, including consecutive 3A titles in 2010-11-12.

In its first year in 4A, Chatard was upset by New Palestine in the regional round, ending a streak of regional championships that dated back to 2001. Chatard has won 13 consecutive sectionals, the longest streak among teams.

Noblesville was also 4-1 at this time last season, but things are different now in Miller Nation.

"We're disappointed we're not 5-0," said Scheib. "Last year, we were elated to be 4-1. This year, we're not real happy being 4-1."

The always boisterous student section was out in force for Noblesville, and the

team gave it much to cheer about. There were plenty of big plays, such as the 65-yard pass play that scored the Millers' first touchdown. Brian McLean caught the throw from Luke Melloh.

Melloh scored another touchdown on his own, streaking off on a 75-yard to push Noblesville ahead 21-6 with 38 seconds left in the quarter. In between, Jarel Youree caught a 19-yard touchdown pass from Carl Hardy.

The Millers had one more big play left, and that was when Hayden Stinnett caught Melloh's pass, then ran the ball 74 yards for Noblesville's final touchdown of the night. Andrew Little's extra-point kick put the icing on the cake.

But it wasn't all flash and dash that got the Millers their points. Hardy used a good old-fashioned quarterback sneak to get Noblesville a second-quarter touchdown, taking it in from the Zionsville 1.

The defense also got involved. After a back and forth third quarter, the Millers pushed the Eagles back to their 6-yard line, then Austin Ginther tackled the Zionsville quarterback in the end zone for a safety.

"The kid that was amazing tonight was Austin Ginther," said Scheib. "He put two quarterbacks out, did an amazing job and really is starting to play some great football."

"It wasn't pretty at times, but it was physical, and I'm very proud of them."

Hardy and Melloh combined for 260 total yards passing. Hardy completed 10 of 11 throws for 111 yards, while Melloh was 7-of-10 for 149.

Youree finished the game with 119 yards in 11 carries.

Shamrocks travel to Brownsburg

By **RICHIE HALL**
Reporter Sports Editor

Everything was working for Westfield Friday night, and that led to a Hoosier Crossroads Conference win for the Shamrocks.

Westfield beat Hamilton Southeastern 34-20 at The Rock. The victory kept the 'Rocks on pace in the HCC with a 2-1 record, tied with Noblesville for second place. Overall, Westfield is 3-2.

The Shamrocks get a tough assignment for their next game, as they travel to Brownsburg on Friday. The Bulldogs are 1-1 in the conference, beating Avon 27-7 in their first HCC game, then falling to league leader Fishers 49-14 this previous week. The Orioles and Brownsburg are tied for fifth place.

Shamrocks coach Jake Gilbert said that this was Westfield's most "complete game of the season." The coach credited his team with four good quarters, saying it played well in all three phases of the game.

Westfield's rushing and passing games were in sync. The Shamrocks gained 238 rushing yards, and had 236 passing yards.

"Our best rushing game of the season," said Gilbert. "Offense was balanced tonight."

Elvin Caldwell had a big night, scoring three touchdowns. He ran in from 35 yards twice, in the first and third quarters. He also got the final word, scoring on a three-yard run in the fourth period.

While Caldwell was taking care of business on the ground, Ryan Pepiot had the air covered. Pepiot completed 17 of 24 passes for those 236 yards. But Pepiot also used his feet, sneaking the ball in from the one-yard line in the second quarter. Ben Lotfalian was Pepiot's top target, catching nine passes for 134 yards.

Nick Dowd got the Shamrocks on the board with a 38-yard field goal less than three minutes into the game. He also kicked a 32-yarder in the third quarter, and converted all four extra point attempts.

Hawks prepare for homecoming

By **DON JELLISON**
Reporter Editor

Fans who attend the North Knox at Sheridan football game in the Blackhawks' Homecoming on Saturday likely will need to keep their eyes on two players, Sheridan's Austin Hoover and North Knox's Jim Meurer. They will have the football most of the time.

Hoover, of course, is well-known to fans of the Blackhawks. The senior running back is on his way to leading Hamilton County in rushing for a third straight year.

Meurer is the same type of player for North Knox. He has carried 104 times for 923 yards and 10 touchdowns in five games.

The game will start at 5 p.m. at Larry Wright Stadium. North Knox is one of the better 1A teams from the south. The Warriors are 4-1, losing only to 2A Sullivan 26-12. They have blasted Pike Central 35-8, Eastern Greene 55-28, Wood Memorial 55-22 and North Central (Farmersburg) 48-0.

Sheridan is coming off a 42-12 Hoosier Heartland Conference win over Clinton Central.

That win was a typical Bud Wright coaching night. He took what the defense gave him.

In the first half, with Clinton Central up tight geared to stop the running of Hoover, Wright went to the air for a pair of touchdowns. After that, it was all-Hoover, running behind a Sheridan offensive line which provided plenty of blocks.

"We had a tough start, fumbling away the football twice," Wright said. "Then we started to put things together."

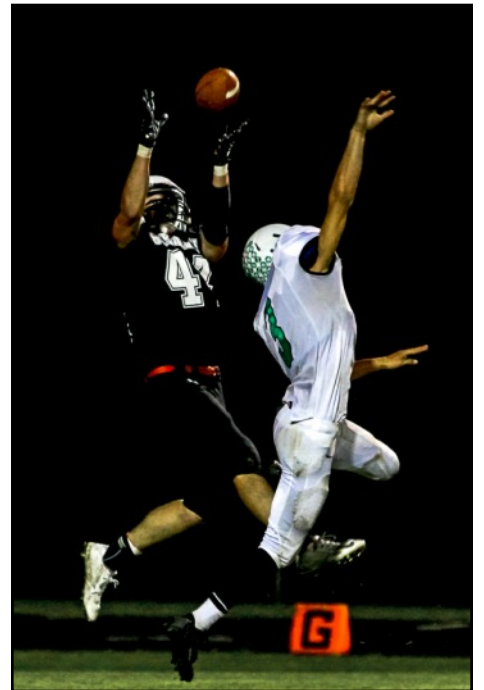
"They were up tight on defense, so we passed the football. We can pass the football," Wright said.

In the second half, Hoover, who had scored the first touchdown of the night, scored three times to put away the visiting Bulldogs.

Sheridan offensive numbers were awesome, running for 270 yards in 51 carries and hitting on 6-of-7 passes for 147 yards through the air.

The defense was good, also. Sheridan held Clinton Central to 90 yards rushing and 89 yards passing. The defense recovered two Central fumbles and intercepted one pass.

While Garrett Chesney was nearly perfect through the air, Hoover was typical Hoover on the ground. He carried 38 times and gained 254 yards.



Reporter photo by Brian Reddick

Hawks' wide receiver Robert Sizemore reels in a pass play.

The passing game was a show by the Chesney brothers. Jake caught four of Garrett's six passes for 115 yards. Jake Chesney had one TD catch and Robert Sizemore had the other.

"They were crowding us up front early in the game," Wright said. "In the second half, we just gave Hoover the ball and let him run with it."

Sheridan scored first in the game on a three-yard run by Hoover with 4:32 left in the opening quarter.

Clinton Central came back with a touchdown, but missed the PAT and still trailed, 7-6.

Sheridan ended the first half with a pair of aerial touchdowns, Garrett Chesney throwing to Jake Chesney for 35 yards and then Garrett Chesney hitting Sizemore for 28 yards.

Sheridan just pounded away on the ground in the second half. Hoover's three touchdowns came on runs of five, nine and eight yards.

The win pushed the Blackhawks to 3-2 on the year and to 2-1 in the conference.

Golden Eagles win Homestead Invitational

In a Tuesday battle of ranked county tennis teams, No. 5 Guerin Catholic beat No. 16 Fishers 4-1 on Tuesday.

The Golden Eagles swept all three singles matches, with No. 2 Wyatt Metzger and No. 3 Jacob Bratton winning in straight sets. No. 1 singles Luke Wiese needed three sets for his victory. No. 2 doubles Ben Catton and Drew Cobb also won in straight sets.

The Golden Eagles zoomed past Lawrence North 5-0 on Wednesday. Wiese won a tough three-setter at No. 1 singles, needing a 10-4 super tie-break to clinch the match. Metzger won his match 7-5, 7-6. Bratton won at No. 3 singles, Cole Hepp and Michael Kenney were victorious at No. 1 doubles, and Catton and Cobb won No. 2 doubles.

The Golden Eagles finished their week by winning the Homestead Invitational on Saturday.

The No. 5-ranked Golden Eagles scored 38 points, comfortably ahead of runner-up Yorktown's 25. Guerin won four of the five flights.

No. 2 singles Metzger and No. 3 singles Bratton both won their divisions without losing a set. No. 1 doubles Hepp and Kenney and No. 2 doubles Catton and Cobb each won super tiebreaks in the third set to claim first place in their flights. Wiese was runner-up at No. 1 singles.

Westfield edged Lawrence North 3-2 on Tuesday. The Shamrocks' doubles teams (No. 1 Charlie Warner and Vlasta Florian and No. 2 Cameron Hoffmann and Parker Phillips) both only dropped one game.

"Sam Hirshfeld won his first match for Westfield at number three singles 6-3, 6-2," said 'Rocks coach Mike Raymond. "His match clinched the team victory."

The Shamrocks placed fifth in the Hoosier Crossroads Conference tournament Saturday at Avon. Parker Kalis was second at No. 1 singles, also receiving All-Conference honors. Noblesville finished seventh.

Hamilton Heights fought hard but fell to a solid team from Peru by a score of 5-0 on Tuesday, but rebounded to beat Eastern 5-0 on Wednesday.

Singles winners were No. 1 Noah Whyde, No. 2 BJ Fowler and No. 3 Hawkins Hochstedler. Doubles winners were No. 1 Austin Sauerteig and Noah Wallace and No. 2 Reese Wills and Bryce Albright.

Hamilton Heights took down the visiting Comets of Eastern Wednesday night by a score of 5-0. The Huskies came away with straight set wins at each position against their Mid-Indiana Conference foe.



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Lady Miller runners 9th at FlashRock Invite

Cross country teams from all over the state (and even one from Illinois) raced at the FlashRock Invitational, which took place Saturday at Northview Church. A combined 53 girls teams and 50 boys teams were there. Hamilton County had five teams participating in both races. Hamilton Southeastern placed the highest in the combined standings, taking fourth in the boys and sixth in the girls. Noblesville's girls landed in the top 10 of the team standings, placing ninth. Abigail Little placed 30th; she was the top Indiana freshman in the race. Westfield finished 13th; Devon Leahy continued her good running by placing 19th. Guerin Catholic placed 18th. Megan Slamkowski placed 31st for the Golden Eagles, with Nikole Eliason 81st for the Tigers. Moving back to the boys combined standings, Westfield was sixth. The Shamrocks' Sam Henthorn had the highest place of a county athlete, finishing 14th. Noblesville was 13th and Guerin Catholic 18th. Jordan Warne finished 45th for the Millers and Kip Curtis took 49th for the Golden Eagles.

Race winner: Alexa Haff (Hinsdale Central) 17:49.8.
 Noblesville runners: 30. Abigail Little 19:17.9, 34. Abby Crouch 19:25.1, 57. Megan Line 20:01.1, 77. Susanna Sharples-Gordon 20:22.9, 101. Jaden Fleming 20:43.3, 120. Peyton Ali 21:00.0, 155. Kat Dombroski 21:21.0, 240. Paige Verboncoeur 22:49.4, 259. Cori Chatterton 23:07.1.
 Westfield runners: 19. Devon Leahy 19:05.8, 68. Gabby Dilick 20:09.3, 82. Becca Carr 20:26.0, 93. Lauren Bailey 20:37.4, 117. Molly Ruggles 20:58.9, 141. Vicky Evans 21:10.8, 142. Elizabeth Cronin 21:10.8, 153. Taylor Rogers 21:17.5, 175. Caitlyn Naghdi 21:37.9.
 Guerin Catholic runners: 31. Megan Slamkowski 19:22.8, 95. Isabel Bucklew 20:38.6, 108. Veronica Rancourt 20:47.3, 110. Mia Driscoll 20:51.3, 187. Lucia Perez 21:48.3, 238. Amanda Schafer 22:47.2, 244. Maren Fitschen 22:55.4, 250. Kate Anderson 22:58.9, 262. Hannah Sullivan 23:09.4.

Men’s amateur golf results

Despite a very windy weekend for the amateurs at Purgatory and Prairie View Golf Clubs - fine results were posted in the 11th annual Hamilton County Men's Amateur Golf Championships, which took place this weekend.

Chuck Thomas (153) exceeded fellow competitor Dave Richter's (155) score by two shots on Sunday at Prairie View, Thomas and Richter were tied after the first round at Purgatory Golf Club.

The senior division was topped by Steve Norris (156); besting Lance Archer (160) by four shots.

Full results are as follows:
 Amateur Division
 Chuck Thomas 75-78=153, Dave Richter 75-80=155, Nathan Evans 78-78=156, Tim Brown 80-78=158, Jimmy Joachim 81-78=159, Dan Marsh 78-83=161, Jim Huseman 78-85=163, David Chambers 84-79=163, Carter Angell 81-82=163, Michael Johnson 80-84=164, Andy Shilts 84-80=164, Jason Hagen 78-87=165, Christian Mauer 84 81=165, Joel Nimmons 85-80=165, Miles Sutcliffe 81-86=167, Kevin Sears 81-87=168, Chris Friedman 85-83=168, Adam Ross 82-87=169, Troy Soukop 82-87=169, Todd Thurston 85-86=171, Mike Finnegan 80-93=173, Mike Tomlin 85-88=173, Joe Stevens 94-81=175, Tony Rhode 87-91=178, Fred Boyer 87-92=179, Matthew Von Duhn 89-91=180, Travis Walton 89-91=180, Keith Turner 87-96=183, Christian Lauri 88-95=183, Jeff Hunt 94-93=187, Joe Leighty 85-105=190, Stan Chapman 99-91=190.

Senior Division
 Steve Norris 80-76=156, Lance Archer 75-85=160, John Buis 82-81=163, Steve Evans 77-87=164, Kenneth Kerrick 85-84=169, Gregory Carney 86-83=169, John Hulsey 85-85=170, Bill Paddock 85-88=173, David Caveness 88-88=176, Joe Rhodes 88-90=178, Rick Phillips 90-88=178, David DeWitte 87-95=182, Chuck Maloney 94-91=185.

Sectional Golf

By **RICHIE HALL**
Reporter Sports Editor
 Westfield's freshman golfers have been making waves all season.
 On Friday, they helped the Shamrocks make history.

The Westfield girls golf team won its first ever sectional title, claiming the Ben Davis sectional at South Grove Golf Club. The Shamrocks carded a team score of 312, edging past defending state champion Carmel by three strokes.
 "I couldn't be happier for the girls," said Westfield coach Trevor Neu. "I'm extremely happy for our senior Kaylee Purcell, who's kind of seen our program develop over the course of our four years."
 The Greyhounds finished with 315, but are still advancing to regional, as the top three teams advance. Ben Davis got the third spot with a 331. Guerin Catholic finished fourth with 346, but qualified two individuals for the regional; the top three individuals not on an advancing team also earn the right to move on.

Westfield's freshmen may be young, but keep in mind that they have been playing golf for most of their lives. For example, Henderson said she began playing when she was 4.
 "And I've done tournaments, summer tournaments throughout my life," said Henderson.

With junior tournaments so prevalent, many players know how to deal with pressure situations before high school. This is all leading up to the fact that Henderson won a three-person playoff after she, fellow Shamrock freshman Adrienne Montalone and Carmel's Alyssa Cook all found themselves on top of the leaderboard with 73s.
 Henderson drove the green on the first playoff hole, and birdied it to win medalist honors.

"She just does what she does," said Neu.
 "It was fun," said Henderson. Many golfers get nervous about a playoff, but she enjoyed it "because it was that good competition."
 Henderson and Montalone's scores (Montalone's 73 a personal best) led the way, and freshman Margaret Wentz helped out with an 80. Purcell carded an 86; she has played as an individual at regional for the Shamrocks, now she gets to play as part of a team. Morgan Baechle had an 87.

Both Singer and Baxter (who went all the way to state last year), had 78s, which assured them advancement to regional.
 "Marissa Singer and Sarah Baxter played extremely well," said GCHS coach Mark Mathews. "Seventy-eight's a good number, and they both shot 78."
 The Golden Eagles had several players who were completely new to golf on the team, and they all enjoyed it. Other Guerin sectional scores were Maggie Kroeff 95, Patricia Leonardo 95 and Dani VanBuren 102.
 "I had eight girls, and really only four of them were golfers," said Mathews. The

other players had just started playing this year, and Mathews noted that they "worked very hard." Some of the new-to-golf girls had scores in the 90's, which isn't bad at all.
 "It was a lot of fun to coach," said Mathews.
 On Saturday, Noblesville finished third and Hamilton Heights fourth at the Anderson sectional at Edgewood, with the Huskies' Caitie Gehlhausen qualifying as an individual.
 The Millers' third-place total was 329. The Millers had their five golfers finish within eight strokes of each other. Peyton Gigante tied for third by shooting a 77. Other scores were Hadley Moritz 83, Sydney Moran 84, Emily Padgett 85 and Sarah Hayes 85.
 "All in all, the kids played well," said NHS coach Mike Abbott. "The scores were consistent. Peyton had a nice day, a 77, we kind of needed that out of her."
 Abbott figured the Millers could get into the top three. Now the focus is on the regional, which will be another tough challenge.
 "We just got to do a little better next week to finish in the top three, because there's going to be a lot more good teams coming into regionals next week," said Abbott.

Last year, Gehlhausen just missed qualifying for regionals, losing the third individual place in a playoff. This year there was no doubt. Gehlhausen's score of 80 earned her the second individual spot, well ahead of Lapel's Peighton Dobbins, who took the third place with an 85. (Campbell's 76 gave her the first individual place.
 "I definitely have played better, but the goal was to make it to regionals, and I did that, so that's really all that matters," said Gehlhausen.

Huskies coach Kerry Altherr said that Gehlhausen had a good season "from start to finish," noting that she played "solid golf" after getting off to a rough start at the Crooked Stick Invitational (which got canceled due to weather).

"She got her mind right, she started thinking about being more aggressive," said Altherr. "That's kind of what it takes to advance."

As a team, Heights tied with Lapel, as both finished with 355's. The Huskies earned fourth place on the fifth-woman score. After Gehlhausen's 80, the Huskies also were consistent, with their totals ranging from 89 to 95.

"Our freshman, Sydney Lucas, turned in an 89, so I was really, really happy with that," said Altherr. My No. 5 golfer played her best round. She's a senior, Bethany Cupp. Just played her heart out."

Cupp finished with a round of 92, followed by Ashley Klopfenstein 94 and Katie Sams 95.

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Reporter photos by Kent Graham

The Noblesville High School Athletic Hall of Fame honored its Class of 2014 prior to the Millers’ football game with Westfield.

Above: The 1986-87 girls basketball team, which went undefeated at 29-0 and won the state championship.

Left: Scott Haffner (right) was one of the seven individuals inducted into the NHS Athletic Hall of Fame. Haffner was a key member of the 1984 undefeated basketball team. At left is Noblesville assistant athletic director Tony Oilar.



Rocks’ upset No. 4 Hounds

In a big all-county volleyball battle, Westfield upset Carmel, the No. 4 team in Class 4A, in five sets on Monday. The final score was 26-24, 23-25, 19-25, 25-19, 15-13. On Wednesday, the Shamrocks beat Class 3A No. 5 Muncie Central 25-12, 24-26, 25-22, 25-18. Leading the way for the Rocks was Kari Losch with 21 digs, followed by Natalie Ravenell with 13 kills. Sam Reed added 37 assists. Westfield fell to Hamilton Southeastern 25-23, 25-17, 25-16 on Thursday.

Noblesville picked up two wins, knocking off 4A No. 10 Yorktown in five sets on Monday, and beating Hamilton Heights in three sets on Tuesday. In a marathon match, the Millers defeated the Tigers 32-30, 10-25, 21-25, 25-15, 15-13. On Thursday, the Millers got an exciting four-set win over Zionsville Thursday, 25-22, 25-27, 25-22, 25-21. On Saturday, the Millers placed second at the Franklin Community Invitational. The Millers beat Greenwood 25-16, 25-21 and Decatur Central 25-15, 25-8 before falling to the host Grizzly Cubs 25-21, 25-23. Noblesville beat Seymour 23-25, 25-22, 15-11.

Sheridan dropped two three-set matches early this week. The Blackhawks lost to Tipton 25-19, 25-11, 25-19 on Monday. Sheridan fell to Clinton Prairie 25-17, 25-12, 25-20 on Tuesday. Sheridan dropped a 25-16, 25-14, 25-11 Hoosier Heartland Conference match to Carroll on Wednesday.

Hamilton Heights volleyball team toughed out a three-set win over Tri-Central on Wednesday. The Huskies won 25-12, 27-25, 25-20.

Guerin Catholic cruised past Lafayette Central Catholic 25-17, 25-18, 25-12 on Thursday.

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No. 1 1A Golden Eagles blank No. 1 2A Cathedral

Guerin Catholic started the week ranked as the No. 1 team in Class 1A boys soccer. And, Coach John Cech’s Golden Eagles Tuesday began the week playing like a No. 1 by knocking off Class 2A 9th ranked Cathedral, 3-0.

Guerin scored 22 minutes into the game on a header by David Hinkebein off a cross by Zach Garvey.

In the second half, Garvey scored a goal and Luke Bestard completed the scoring with eight minutes to go.

Guerin outshot the Irish, 19-3.

On Thursday, the Golden Eagles beat Avon, the No. 1 team in 2A, 2-0. The score was 0-0 at halftime, and Avon controlled the first 15 minutes of the second half.

Midway through the period, GC's Mason May crossed the ball in front of the Avon net. Khalid Hunter and Bestard each went for the header, but an Avon defender beat them to the ball. However, the ball glanced off the defender into the back of the goal - an own goal - resulting in a 1-0 Guerin lead.

The Golden Eagles scored their second goal with 13:23 to go, when Zach Garvey took a corner kick finding Hinkebein, who headed the ball into the Avon goal.

Andrew Kaskie was GC's Player of the Game, as he kept the score sheet clean for the sixth time in nine games. Tarcissio Trujillo recorded his fourth shutout of the season.

Guerin beat Ft. Wayne Bishop Luers 2-0 on Saturday. The Golden Eagles outshot Luers 21-2, but could only find the net twice.

The goals were scored by Bestard off an assist from Hinkebein in the first half and then in the second half May hit Hunter in stride to seal the victory.

Trujillo minded the net to record his fifth shutout of the season. Guerin Catholic has now recorded seven shutouts in its 10 games played.

In a Tuesday offensive battle, Noblesville was defeated, 5-3, by Hoosier Crossroads Conference foe Zionsville. The Eagles are ranked No. 8 in Class 2A.

Evan Blissitt, Shane Koppold and Jack Scott scored Noblesville’s goals and Sam Reister and Zach Price each had an assist. Riley Roudabush had eight saves.

The Millers fell to Cathedral 1-0 on Thursday, then rebounded to beat Yorktown 8-0 on Saturday. Blissitt scored three goals and had one assist for Coach Brian Prange’s Millers. Also scoring goals were Spencer Faulkner, Zach Price, Micah Smith and Jack Scott, while Jack Lang had two assists and Nick Kaess and Zach Sexton one each.

Westfield played Hamilton Southeastern to a 1-1 tie on Wednesday, getting its goal with 50 seconds left. The Shamrocks lost their third game of the season and first in Hoosier Crossroads Conference play, falling to No. 5 Fishers, 2-1. Mitchell Thielen scored for Coach Myron Vaughn’s Westfield team.

Hamilton Heights posted a big victory with a 3-2 win over Chatard Tuesday. The Player of the Game for Heights was Jamie Stonebraker, who stepped in from averaging 20 minutes a game and had to play all 80 minutes.

Sam Stallsmith had two goals and Collin Luckey scored once. Cameron O’Malia, Derek Thorpe and Luckey each tallied an assist. Collin Kaurich had nine saves in goal.

The Huskies fell to Northwestern 3-0 in a Thursday Mid-Indiana Conference

game. Kaurich had 10 saves for the 1A No. 13 Huskies. The Tigers are No. 9 in 1A.

On Saturday, Heights improved to 8-3 on the season by beating Mid-Indiana Conference foe Peru 2-1.

Stallsmith scored the first goal within three minutes of kickoff. Peru scored with 24:30 left in the game. About one minute later Jordan Springman and Alek Oldham completed 5-6 one touch to give and go passes up the sideline, covering about 80 yards with the final pass going to Roy Noller who then played it back in Springman who made a near post run from the sideline to put the ball in the net.

Sheridan lost to North Montgomery 5-2 on Wednesday. Evan Keel scored both goals, with Andre Gabe and Jack Waitt providing assists. On Thursday, the Blackhawks fell to Crawfordsville 6-1. Gabe scored the goal and Waitt had the assist.

GIRLS SOCCER
Sheridan extended its winning streak to five on Wednesday by defeating North Montgomery 5-0.

Starting the scoring in the first minute and ending with three goals was Payton Fleener. Also scoring for the Blackhawks were Bekah Hopper and Addison Keel.

Anchoring the defense all night were Abby Gwin and Katie Hybarger. Freshman Nixon Williams recorded the shutout.

On Friday, Sheridan fought back from a 1-0 halftime deficit to tie Crawfordsville 1-1. Fleener scored the Blackhawks' goal. Williams played fearlessly as the goalkeeper.

Noblesville played to a 0-0 draw with Zionsville on Wednesday, then took care of Brownsburg 4-1 on Saturday.

The Lady Millers outshot Brownsburg 16-3. Miller goals were scored by Isabelle Christman, Delaney Riester, Cori Cain and Hannah Lee. Karsen Rauch had two assists and Cain and Maddie Rauch one each. Mackenzie Kincaid collected two saves.

Westfield played in two backyard county battles. The Shamrocks tied with Hamilton Southeastern 1-1 on Wednesday. Aubrey Effinger scored off a corner kick 10 minutes into the game. Sara Foreman had 12 saves for the Shamrocks in goal.

On Thursday, Westfield defeated Hamilton Heights, 3-0. Effinger scored two

goals for Westfield and Kendall Miller added the third. Foreman had five saves. Playing outstanding defense for Heights were Hannah Cochran, Bri Henson, Gracie Long and Lauren Stirn.

Westfield’s Saturday game at Pike was rescheduled. Also the Brebeuf game has been rescheduled for Aug. 25 and the Noblesville game will be played on August 27.

The Huskies clinched at least a tie for the championship in the Mid-Indiana Conference by beating Northwestern 5-1. Heights can finish unbeaten in conference play by knocking off Peru on Saturday.

Coach Travis Kauffman’s Lady Huskies are 5-0 in the conference and 8-2-1 overall. They are ranked No. 8 in the state’s Class 1A poll.

Sierra Welch scored two Heights goals, while Amanda Freeman, Mariah Hooper and Abby Hardacre each added one. Freeman had two assists and Cochran and Welch one each.

Guerin Catholic, 2A's No. 14 team, cruised to a 7-1 win over Roncalli on Wednesday.

Lauren Rice scored three goals for the Golden Eagles, while Cassidy Lindley had two goals and two assists. Mallory Dillon and Brianna Shackelford each scored one goal. Dillon, Sara Osinski and Rice all had one assist. Caitlin Murray had two goalkeeper saves, and Chandler Edwards one.

On Saturday, Guerin played in the Evansville Catholic Invitational. The Golden Eagles defeated Ft. Wayne Dwenger 3-0 and defeated Evansville Memorial 3-0. Evansville Memorial is ranked No. 13 in the state, one spot ahead of Guerin.

Against Dwenger, Guerin outshot its opponent 15-3 and 10-1 on shots on goals. Lindley, Dillon and Rice scored goals and Caroline Ashton had an assist. Murray had three saves.

Against Evansville Memorial, Guerin had a 12-1 shot advantage and 4-0 with shots on goal. Lindley, Shauna McAuley and Ashton scored goals. Sara Osinski and Merrill Pogue had assists for Coach Rainford Hunter’s team.

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We are excited and proud of our intention to take the First Merchants name, but the people who serve you will not change. Although we would be a much larger company, you would see the same employees at your neighborhood banking centers, providing you with the high performing service and advice you have become accustomed to.

By combining Community Bank and First Merchants, we can bring you even more products and services while maintaining the legacy of real community banking that you expect and deserve. It is our pledge to continue to provide you with a great banking experience, delivered by the same great people you know and trust.

If you have any questions about this exciting news, please let us know. On behalf of the entire Community Bank team, we look forward to supporting your banking needs now and in the future.

Personally yours,

Charles L. Crow

Chairman & CEO, Community Bank

P.S. For additional information about First Merchants, I encourage you to visit their website at www.firstmerchants.com.



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This communication does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or a solicitation of any proxy vote or approval. The proposed merger will be submitted to Community Bancshares' shareholders for their consideration. In connection with the proposed merger, First Merchants will file with the SEC a Registration Statement on Form S-4 that will include a Proxy Statement for Community Bancshares and a Prospectus of First Merchants, as well as other relevant documents concerning the proposed transaction. SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT AND THE CORRESPONDING PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS REGARDING THE MERGER WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE SEC, TOGETHER WITH ALL AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS TO THOSE DOCUMENTS, AS THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Once filed, you may obtain a free copy of the Proxy Statement/Prospectus, when it becomes available, as well as other filings containing information about First Merchants at the SEC's Web Site (<http://www.sec.gov>). You may also obtain these documents, free of charge, by accessing First Merchants' Web site (<http://www.firstmerchants.com>) under the tab "Investors," then under the heading "Financial Information," and finally under the link "SEC Filings." Community Bancshares and its directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the shareholders of Community Bancshares in connection with the proposed Merger. Additional information regarding the interests of those participants and other persons who may be deemed participants in the transaction may be obtained by reading the Proxy Statement/Prospectus regarding the proposed merger when they become available. Free copies of this document may be obtained as described in the preceding paragraph.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document contains forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe-harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements can often, but not always, be identified by the use of words like "believe", "continue", "pattern", "estimate", "project", "intend", "anticipate", "expect" and similar expressions or future or conditional verbs such as "will", "would", "should", "could", "might", "can", "may", or similar expressions. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements relating to the expected timing and benefits of the proposed merger (the "Merger") between First Merchants Corporation ("First Merchants") and Community Bancshares, Inc. ("Community Bancshares"), including future financial and operating results, cost savings, enhanced revenues, and accretion/dilution to reported earnings that may be realized from the Merger, as well as other statements of expectations regarding the Merger, and other statements of First Merchants' goals, intentions and expectations; statements regarding the First Merchants' business plan and growth strategies; statements regarding the asset quality of First Merchants' loan and investment portfolios; and estimates of First Merchants' risks and future costs and benefits, whether with respect to the Merger or otherwise. These forward-looking statements are subject to significant risks, assumptions and uncertainties that may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in forward-looking statements, including, among other things: the risk that the businesses of the First Merchants and Community Bancshares will not be integrated successfully or such integration may be more difficult, time-consuming or costly than expected; expected revenue synergies and cost savings from the Merger may not be fully realized or realized within the expected time frame; revenues following the Merger may be lower than expected; customer and employee relationships and business operations may be disrupted by the Merger; the ability to obtain required governmental and shareholder approvals, and the ability to complete the Merger on the expected timeframe; possible changes in economic and business conditions; the existence or exacerbation of general geopolitical instability and uncertainty; the ability of First Merchants to integrate recent acquisitions and attract new customers; possible changes in monetary and fiscal policies, and laws and regulations; the effects of easing restrictions on participants in the financial services industry; the cost and other effects of legal and administrative cases; possible changes in the credit worthiness of customers and the possible impairment of collectability of loans; fluctuations in market rates of interest; competitive factors in the banking industry; changes in the banking legislation or regulatory requirements of federal and state agencies applicable to bank holding companies and banks like First Merchants' affiliate bank; continued availability of earnings and excess capital sufficient for the lawful and prudent declaration of dividends; changes in market, economic, operational, liquidity, credit and interest rate risks associated with the First Merchants' business; and other risks and factors identified in each of First Merchants' filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Neither First Merchants nor Community Bancshares undertakes any obligation to update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, relating to the matters discussed in this document. In addition, First Merchants' and Community Bancshares' past results of operations do not necessarily indicate either of their anticipated future results, whether the Merger is effectuated or not.