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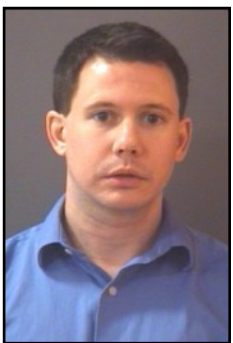


Hamilton County Reporter

50 Cents

Noblesville teacher charged with 11 felonies

Police have charged former Noblesville High School teacher Michael Andrew Douce with 11 felonies for allegedly having sexual relationships with two female students. The Hamilton County Prosecutor's office on Thursday filed the charges in Hamilton County Superior 1.



Douce

Charges against Michael Douce, age 31, include one count of burglary, two counts of class C felony child seduction, two counts of level 5 felony child seduction, one count of level 5 felony child exploitation, two counts of class C felony child seduction, two counts of level 6 felony child seduction, one count level 6 felony dissemination of matter harmful to minors and two misdemeanor counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Separate news releases issued by the Noblesville Police Department and the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office indicated an arrest warrant had been issued,

however Douce was allowed to surrender himself to the Hamilton County Jail. Hamilton County Deputy Prosecutor Matt Kestian stated, "Surrendering himself is for everyone's benefit and it is appropriate in this case." Kestian's statement was made after his office filed a probable cause affidavit that indicated Douce sent a text message to one of the female victims that partially stated, "If I am labeled as a pedophile and a sexual predator...I don't plan on being alive for very long." Court documents indicate school officials and police first became aware of the incidents surrounding the case when the mother of one of the victims notified Noblesville High School Principal Jeff Bryant that she had found nude pictures of Douce on her daughter's cell phone. Documents indicate Bryant took possession of the student's cell phone and notified Noblesville Police Department. Police later found numerous nude photos and sexually explicit text messages, allegedly sent by Douce, on both female students' phones. Both teenagers indicated Douce had sexual contact with them inside Noblesville High School. The contact on school property

"We learned today of the arrest warrant for Mr. Michael Douce. Consistent with our Dec 19th public statement, Mr. Douce's employment with Noblesville Schools has officially been terminated for inappropriate conduct. We removed Mr. Douce from student contact as soon as we become aware of this situation in December, and have provided counseling services for all students in his class. Having first brought this matter to the attention of Noblesville Police, we worked aggressively during their investigation, and appreciate their dedication during this time. We are angry with Mr. Douce for violating our trust, and more importantly the trust of his students. We are saddened for the victims impacted by his actions, and our thoughts go out to them and their families."

Noblesville Schools

Sheriff's office searches for hit-and-run suspect

Hamilton County Sheriff's deputies are asking the public for assistance in locating a car that fled the scene of an accident at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evening. According to a crash report, the hit-and-run accident occurred on Mule Barn Road at 216th Street, just south of Sheridan in the western part of the county. A gray Honda Odyssey van traveling north on Mule Barn was struck when a passenger car going southbound crossed the center line and struck it. The passenger car continued south on Mule Barn without stopping. The driver of the Honda van was unable to provide a good description of the vehicle that left the scene other than it was a small passenger car. No one was hurt in the crash but the vehicle that left the scene may have damage on the driver's side. Anyone who may have information on this incident is encouraged to contact Deputy Needham at 317-773-1872 or through Hamilton County Communications at 317-773-1282.

Cara Culp is moving on

By DON JELLISON
Reporter Editor

Cara Culp is giving up what she considers to have been the greatest job in the world to accept an even greater challenge. That is being a mother. An instant mother, if you will. Cara and husband Aaron are about to adopt a child. The Manager of Public Affairs for the City of Noblesville, Culp about a week ago informed Noblesville Mayor John Ditslear of her decision. "I owe a lot to Mayor Ditslear and to former Mayor Dennis Redick, who hired me 12 ½ years ago," Culp said. "Mayor Redick hired me and when Mayor Ditslear was elected, he kept me in the position." What Culp has done for all those years is to serve as Communication Director and Public Affairs Director for the City. Culp working at City Hall, soon after she was employed, led to her marriage of Aaron Culp, a Noblesville attorney.

Reporter photo by Brian Reddick

Noblesville public affairs manager Cara Culp leaves her job to take on motherhood.

See CULP...Page 3

Deputy injured

A Hamilton County Sheriff deputy was injured during the rescue of a suicidal subject early Thursday morning. Deputies Patrick Clennon and Eric Gilbert along with Sgt. Chris Jones were dispatched to the 500 block of Arthur Drive in the Home Place area of southern Hamilton County shortly after 2:30 a.m. in reference to a possibly armed suicidal subject who was threatening to burn down a garage while he was inside. When the officers arrived at the scene, they observed smoke and the glow of a fire from inside the garage. The officers forced entry into the garage and found an unconscious male who had to be carried out of the garage where medics could treat him. During the rescue, Deputy Clennon inhaled a large amount of smoke and was having difficulty breathing. He was taken to the hospital where he was treated and later released. The other two officers were not injured. The male subject was also taken to the hospital in stable condition due to the quick action of the three deputies.



Deputy Clennon

Arcadia is "Trash Talking"

By DON JELLISON
Reporter Editor

An overflow crowd showed up Monday at the Arcadia Town Council meeting to do a little "trash talking." In this situation of "trash talking" the subject was trash. Currently, Arcadia residents are allowed to use different trash hauling companies to dispose of their trash, or other methods to dispose of trash. Each resident is on his or her own. Recently, the Town of Arcadia asked for bids. Three companies

responded, Republic, Manifold and a company out of New Castle. Manifold doesn't recycle its pick up. The company out of New Castle and Manifold do not provide tote pickup containers. Republic's does provide totes and Republic submitted a bid of \$18.50 a month, based on the 510 residents in Arcadia. "Our crowd (on Monday) was large and expressed different opinions," Board Member Glen Shrock told The Hamilton County Reporter. "One woman said her Constitutional Rights would be denied if she was not allowed to choose her own trash pickup company. Others said their Rights would be denied if Arcadia isn't provided with a clean town. "Some people would save money if the Town would accept the bid from Republic for town-wide pickup," Shrock said. "Some would not."

One who would save money in the plan would be Bill Cook, who at the Monday meeting was reelected Town Board President. Cook currently is paying over \$100 a month, having made his individual choice, and should Town selects Republic bid's of \$18.50 (based on 510 residents) Cook would be among those with considerable savings. Because of that, Cook has announced that he will abstain from voting when the Town Board votes at the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, January 20 at 10 a.m. The Board usually meets on the third Monday in each month, but in January that Monday, January 19, is Martin Luther King Day, an official government holiday.



Photo provided

Sgt. Billy Adams recently graduated from the IMPD Leadership Academy. It is four week graduate level police leadership course put on by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. Pictured, from left to right, is Chief Rick Hite (IMPD), Sgt. Adams, Chief Joel Rush (WPD), and Director Troy Riggs (Indianapolis Director of Public Safety). Sgt. Adams stated, "By attending the program, my goal is to enforce the role of leadership within our police department as well as our police department's leadership role within the community."



Obituaries

Dan Richardson

December 8, 1930 - December 14, 2014

Dan Richardson, 84, passed away peacefully at his home in Miramar Beach, Florida December 14, 2014, with his family and friends by his side.

He was born on December 8, 1930, to Jack and Ruth (Zile) Richardson in Sulphur Springs and moved to Lapel as a child with his family. Dan graduated from Lapel High School in 1948 and married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Anderson, in 1950. He served four years with the USAF in Korea and then was stationed at Craig Field in Selma, Alabama. He and his wife raised their children in Lapel and owned and operated Lapel Hardware. After falling in love with the beach, they moved to Destin, Florida and purchased Ace Hardware of Destin which they operated with their children until their retirement in 1995.

Dan was a 32nd degree Mason, Scottish Rite, Shriner, and Past-Commander of Lapel American Legion Post 212. He was an original contributor to Friends of the Destin Fishing Fleet, which he was so proud to be a part of, and served on the Board of Directors of the Destin Chamber of Commerce.

Dan was preceded in death by his loving wife of 60 years, his son, Jack Mitchell Richardson, his parents, and his sister, Frances Lou Richardson.

He is survived by his son, Michael (Robin) and daughter, Mitzi, both of Destin, Florida; a brother, Thomas (Leora Jane) of Lapel; four grandchildren, Shawna Anderson (Erik), Jason Anderson (Ashley), Maegan Glidden (Ben), Jessica Richardson; six great-grandchildren; one niece; two nephews; his lifelong friend and companion, Charlene Woodward; and a close family friend, Lynn Shoemaker.

A memorial service was held Saturday, January 10, 2015, at the Scott E. Hersberger Funeral Home, with Pastor Dawn Cuthbert officiating. Private burial was at Brookside Cemetery, Lapel.

Visitation was Saturday, January 10, 2015, at Scott E. Hersberger Funeral Home, Lapel.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to The Philanthropy Department BH-240, Oschner Healthcare, 1514 Jefferson Hwy., New Orleans, Louisiana 70121.

Patricia ‘Pat’ A. Pouch

July 30, 1942 - January 5, 2015

Patricia ‘Pat’ A. Pouch, 72, of Noblesville, passed away on Monday, January 5, 2015 at Riverwalk Village in Noblesville. She was born on July 30, 1942 to Arthur and Jean (Hines) Smith in Noblesville, Indiana.



Pat had been a cashier at Kenley's Grocery Store on South 10th St. in Noblesville for 21 years, and later at Lobill Foods, also in Noblesville, for six years. She was a member of White River Christian Church in Noblesville and was a member of the 1961 class of Noblesville High School. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who loved taking photos, especially of her family. She had a passion for collecting decor items, and loved having a seasonal flower garden. In her youth, she loved to skate at Rainbo Roller Rink in Noblesville. In 1998, Pat and Ron made a cherished trip to Hawaii for their

40th wedding anniversary.

Pat is survived by her loving husband of 56 years, Ron Pouch; daughter, Debbie Pouch; sons, Mark (Terri) Pouch and Tom (Angie) Pouch; grandchildren, Michael (Erika) Pouch, Ashley Phipps, Colton Pouch, Kristen Pouch, Garrett Pouch and Jessie Pouch and great-grandchildren, Maddy, Abby and Cara Pouch.

Services were held on Friday, January 9, 2015, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home in Noblesville, with Pastor Tim Brock officiating. Visitation was Thursday, January 8, 2015 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, Noblesville; with additional visitation beginning on Friday immediately prior to the service. Burial was at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to White River Christian Church, 1685 North 10th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060.

Condolences: www.randallroberts.com.

Evelyn Cooper

March 28, 1940 - January 10, 2015

Evelyn Cooper, 74, of Sheridan, passed away on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at her home. She was born on March 28, 1940 to Millard and Clara Jackson in Harlan, Kentucky.



Evelyn worked for Standard Locknut for over 30 years before retiring and was a member of Trinity House of Worship for many years. After retiring, Evelyn enjoyed traveling, but most of her time was spent with her family, whom she loved dearly, and her dog, Buttons.

She is survived by her daughters, Connie (David) Miracle and Sharon Cooper; daughter-in-law, Stacie Cooper; grandchildren, Amber Cooper, Garland (Danielle) Cooper Jr., Megan Cooper, Maya Cobb, and Holly Cooper; and four great-grand-

sons.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jimmy Q. Cooper; son, Garland Odell Cooper; great-granddaughter, Rylie Joy Owens; two sisters and one brother.

Services will be held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, in Fishers, with Pastor Alfred Parks officiating. Visitation was Monday, January 12, 2015 at the funeral home. Burial will be at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association 50 East 91st Street, Suite 100 Indianapolis, IN 46240.

Condolences: www.randallroberts.com.

Lucille Nicholson

August 17, 1929 - January 5, 2015

Lucille Nicholson, age 85, of Sheridan, passed away peacefully at home on Monday morning, January 5, 2015. Born August 17, 1929 in Clinton County, Indiana, Lucille was the daughter of the late Curtis C. and Mammie Flossie (Gray) Wallace. She was a 1948 graduate of Sheridan High School. Lucille worked for Riverview Hospital as a phlebotomist and a lab technician for over 40 years, “retiring” for the 4th time about 10 years ago. Lucille loved to cook and bake and was an avid gardener. She loved getting out and working in her flower beds, but the thing she loved the most was being a mother and grandmother.

Lucille is survived by her son, Mike Nicholson (Penny) of Greenfield, Indiana; her daughters, Vickie Lynn Hillock (Dean) of Sheridan, Marcie Anne Durbin of Sheridan and Janice Kay Atkins of Florida; 3 grandsons, Brett Hillock, Brad Durbin and Ryan Nicholson; 3 granddaughters, Megan (Hillock) Burtron (Brad), Ashley (Durbin) Cook (Mike) and Kelsey Atkins; 6 great grandchildren; and her sister, Mary Jean Barrick (Bud) of Sheridan.

She was preceded in death by her parents; 4 brothers; and 4 sisters.

Services were held on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at Kercheval Funeral Home in Sheridan, with visitation prior to the time of service. Reverend V.J. Stover officiated. Committal Services occurred on Friday, January 9, 2015 at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan. Memorial contributions may be presented to the Alzheimer’s Association

James Edward Estridge

June 6, 1927 - January 3, 2015

James Edward Estridge, 87, of Carmel, passed away on Saturday, January 3, 2015 at his home. He was born on June 6, 1927 to Elmer and Hannah (Houser) Estridge in Dayton, Ohio.

Jim's family moved to the Indianapolis area in the early 1930's. He began working when he was young, helping out on milk routes, dairy farms, and also working with his father in his five grocery stores. As he grew into adulthood, he continued working in his dad's stores and also drove a school bus for Carmel Clay Schools from 1951 to 1978. He became a used car dealer and also opened his own grocery store in Jolietville, Indiana. He then went on to work for Union State Bank, where he worked for 15 years; then worked for his brother at Paul Estridge Company for 10 years. Jim proudly served his country in the United States Army.

He is survived by his loving wife, Lou Ann Estridge; children, Ed Estridge, Peggy Estridge Latta, John (Kelly) Estridge, and Carla (Habib) Azar; brother, Donald E. Estridge; grandchildren, Amber & Christine Latta, Chloe Bass, Diana Smith, Colton & Cody Estridge, and Habib Azar Jr.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brother, Paul E. Estridge, Sr.

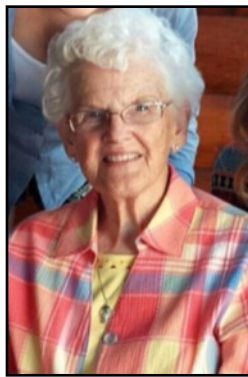
Services were held on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, in Noblesville, with visitation prior to the time of service. Brad Smith officiated. Burial was at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to Humane Society for Hamilton County 1721 Pleasant Street, Suite B Noblesville, IN 46060.

Winona “Winnie” Maye (Quigg) Lyon

August 26, 1928 - January 3, 2015

Winona “Winnie” Maye (Quigg) Lyon, 86, of Sheridan passed very peacefully on



Saturday January 3rd around 10: 00 AM at St Vincent Carmel Hospital. She was born at home in Smartsburg, IN on August 26th 1928 to her parents Halfred L. Quigg and Emma Faye (Conrad) Quigg. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister’s Wilma G. (Clyde) Patton, Wilberta F. “Batie” (Daryl “Barney”) Olin and brother Francis K. (Ruth) Quigg, Daughter-in-law Vickey L. (Stevens) Lyon and Son-in-law Mike O. Cannon.

She married Myron “Marney” N. Lyon on February 27th 1949 in Elkhart, IN and were married 55 years before his death on Nov 5th, 2004.

She is lovingly remembered by a son Alan N. (Suzanne) Lyon, and daughters Elaine L. Cannon and Andrea F. (Elston) Sayers.

Grandchildren Kimberly L. (Silas) DeVaney, Lorinda K. (Nick) Christy, Trista C. Sayers, Torie E. Sayers

Great Grandchildren Cortlan N. Christy, Faith V. DeVaney, Madalinn J. Christy, Josephine M. DeVaney, Silas S. DeVaney IV.

Winnie had 8 step grandchildren; 2 of whom she had a special bond with; Angela Cannon (Thomas McLean) and their children Miles and Kathryn, and Valerie (Sayers) Hood and her children Noah and Eli.

She had 19 Step Great Grandchildren.

Along with her family Winnie cherished many other friends and considered so many part of her family. Winnie was a member of the Sheridan First United Methodist Church and served her beloved church and community in many ways over the years.

She was also a very active farm wife where she cooked many meals and helped to transport the farmers from place to place.

Winnie loved to watch her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in their activities and is arguably one of Sheridan’s biggest sports fans.

Daily, Winnie would pick up her friends and have coffee at the DQ or the Midwest Grill. Winnie’s kind, generous disposition and general smile will be missed by many. The holidays were always very special to Winnie bringing friends and family together.

If you would like to send a gift in memory of Winnie, please consider flowers, a donation to the First United Methodist Church of Sheridan or a contribution to the Lyon/Cannon memorial thru CICF 515 E. Main St. Suite 100 Carmel, IN. 46032. A funeral service was held on Thursday January 8, 2015 at Sheridan First United Methodist Church, Sheridan, where friends and family were invited to gather prior to the time of services. A committal service was held on Friday January 9, 2015 at Sheridan First United Methodist Church, Burial followed at Crownview Cemetery. Pastor Carol Fritz officiated Winnie’s Services. Online condolences made be made at fisherfunerals.com. Fisher Family Funeral Services have been entrusted with Mrs. Lyon’s arrangements.



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Wilma F. Hoffer

CULP

From Page 1

September 28, 1923 - January 8, 2015

Wilma F. Hoffer, 91, of Noblesville, passed away on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at Riverview Health in Noblesville. She was born on September 28, 1923 to Frank and Perlin (Rex) Troxel in Mulberry, Indiana. Her parents preceded her in death.

Wilma married Max Hoffer on July 3, 1942. For 13 years, she worked as an office supervisor for the L.M. Berry Company in Warsaw, retiring in 1977. Wilma and Max lived at Palestine Lake, IN for 38 years before moving to Lake Placid, FL in 1988. They moved to Noblesville in 2005 to be near family. Wilma enjoyed reading, fishing, and painting.

She is survived by her husband, Max Hoffer; daughters, Janis (Stanley) Sutton, and Kristine (Kim) Akers; three grandchildren, Angela Sutton, Greg (Heather) Sutton, and Kevin (Lisa) Akers; and four great-grandchildren, Makenzie & Makayla Sutton, and Caleb & Bradley Akers.

Services will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, in Noblesville, with Rev. Stanley R. Sutton officiating. Visitation was Monday, January 12, 2015, and also 1 hour prior to the service Tuesday at the funeral home. Inurnment will be at Oakwood Cemetery in Warsaw at a later date.

Condolences: www.randallroberts.com.



“We both were graduates of Noblesville High School, but really didn’t know each other that well,” Cara recalled. “I was attending a conference in Indianapolis and Aaron was there, too. We talked and started dating.”

Now, the Culps will become parents of an adopted child. Cara said things are happening quickly.

“Most couples have nine months to get ready for a child, but it can happen to us at any time,” Cara explained. “Once we get the match, our case worker has told us it could be one day or even as little as one hour until the baby comes to us

“We have a lot to do, turning a storage room into a child’s bedroom. We’ve asked for a child up to age three.”

Culp said what she has enjoyed most working for the City is the people she works with and the people she has met.

“The people have been wonderful,” she said. “All who work here really care about Noblesville. The spirit comes through.”

The special events Culp has led have been the big challenges. She carries away lots of memories of Fourth of July celebrations.

“Weather is always a concern,” Cara said. “We can’t do anything about the weather. One year we were postponed for about an hour, but we’ve never been completely rained out.”

Her job as communication director also has been a challenge.

“A couple of times we had big floods on the south side,” Cara said. “It was a challenge getting the information and then getting information to those who needed it.

“The snow storms have been difficult, too.”

Now, the Culps face an exciting road ahead.

“It (the adoption) is so close,” Cara said. “Once we get our certification, it could be any day, any hour.”

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TRASH

From Page 1

Should Cook not vote at that meeting, then the other two Town Council members of the three-member board, who will be voting are Shrock and Maurice St. Louis.

Should a tie vote occur, then Clerk Treasurer Betty Shields will break the tie.

In the next election for Town Board members, the primary in 2015, Shrock has said he will not run for election. Cook has not announced his decision.

Tina Snodgrass

Century 21

Smarter Bolder Faster

Tinasnodgrass@aol.com



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When:
Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Time:
6-7 pm

Location:
Riverview Health
395 Westfield Rd., Noblesville
Krieg DeVault Conference Room
(Lower level of Women's Pavilion)

riverview.org

Every day is a brand new opportunity

By SHARON MCMAHON
“Don’t regret the past or dread the future...” Lady Mary Crawley, Downton Abbey, Season 5

As a devoted fan of Downton Abbey, I noted this quote in the recent season premiere of the popular PBS show. Since I am not one of those “resolutionists” who base their New Year’s resolutions on lamenting what was not accomplished in the prior year, and also find

that worrying about the future is the ultimate waste of time, this quote resonated with me and, hopefully, with you as well.

First, the ubiquitous “Past” – 2014. Too many lattes? Fast food? Pizza with extra cheese? Craft beers? White bread? (Please everyone, I hope not!) You get the picture, but so what? Thankfully, due to time and, *ahem*, digestion those things are gone! Finished! Fini! Terminado! Just as the sun comes up every day, you have a brand new, shiny opportunity to make good nutrition choices as they relate to your personal consumption and to assist your family members to do the same.

I totally get the early-January blitz (reminds me of all those election-year ads!) by the media to get in shape NOW! It would seem by their desperate (and aggressive)

advertising that it is now-or-never...buy their “nutrition/diet” drinks, frozen meals, club memberships, books, DVD’s, whatever the media moguls decide YOU need to change your life for the better. *Hmmm*. While I would not single out any of those mentioned promotions as negative, I encourage you to use support in your health and fitness goals. I also suggest that there is no “quick fix” to become more fit, energetic, and healthy. (We are also going to try to look younger and organize those closets, right?) Good luck with that! Seriously, you are the one in charge of the decisions to make 2015 a year in which you become the best you can be. One suggestion I will make is to consider working with a personal trainer in both fitness and in nutrition coaching – a credentialed professional who can address your specific issues and become an accountability partner for you.

On to the Future – 2015, so many possibilities; though for some it is a time of concern, possibly worry, over potential health issues which may require medical attention. Obviously every year that we age brings on more of this potential, as that is the nature of life. However, we can have some control over that process, by living well, incorporating nutrition, activity, spirituality, intellectual pursuits, charitable works, social interaction (no, I do not mean social media) and of course, rest. Both worry and dread are changeable. If you

suffer from those types of feelings and cannot work it out on your own, I encourage you to seek counsel from a professional or to talk with someone with whom you can share and discuss those issues. Many workplaces, churches, and synagogues have professionals aligned with them or can provide referrals. It is my personal opinion that people who are constantly linked to social media and 24-hour news cycles share a greater risk of anxiety.

One thing of which we can be certain: the sun will rise again tomorrow – a new day, a new opportunity to eat more nutritionally, to move more, to balance our lives in a way which will provide us with better health and well-being. I enjoy the opportunity to connect with you in this publication and look forward to sharing my knowledge in fitness and nutrition topics with you in 2015. Bear with me in practicing my Scottish-heritage Gaelic on you, my readers; *Guma slàn dhut* in 2015!

Sharon McMahon, CNWC
FlexAbility4u@aol.com

The opinions expressed in this article are not intended to replace advice of your personal physician or licensed health professional. Please consult your physician for any issues you may have related to nutrition or fitness activity.

My mission... find my inner core

By JANET HART LEONARD
Well I had not used those muscles in a long time, not sure if I ever did.



On Friday morning I walked into the doors of LA Fitness. It was a first for me. A gym membership. And so another bucket list item is checked off.

Chuck seems to be holding the pen to my bucket list. First the air balloon ride, then the combine ride, learning to play golf and so on...check...check...check, over the past year and a half. My husband says that working out keeps him in shape for the golf course. He does Yoga and uses the machines to strengthen his inner core.

I was not sure what to expect. I was given a tour by a sweet young gal who looked about 20 and was about a size 0. She smiled when I told her that it had been years since I had been on a treadmill. That was probably obvious when I asked her how to turn it on.

I walked at a 2.8 speed for 30 minutes. I kept it simple. I didn't plug in a iPod. I did not set up my heart rate, weight, calories burned or incline %. I just walked. The gal to my left plugged in and set everything. It looked like mission control. The guy to my right was running at 5.5 at a 20% incline and looked like he had been doing so most of his life.

The one thing I did have going for me was a cute outfit. Yellow and gray and black and my first ever sports bra. The top even had the thumb holes in the cuff. I may not have looked like an athlete but my outfit gave a great pretense.

Chuck had me try a machine that stretched my back. He smiled when I put my feet where I was suppose to put my knees. I think this is going to take awhile to learn but I am determined to get fit, strengthen my inner core, eat healthier, drink more water and live a healthier lifestyle...even if it about kills me.

Next week I meet with my personal trainer. Chuck says he or she will introduce me to machines that will strengthen my inner core. I'm sure that those muscles have never been used. I'm not even sure where they are.

When I took my first air balloon ride there were pictures as well as my ride on the combine and my first golf adventure. So what about the gym...no way! What I look like at the gym will stay at the gym.

Hopefully in a few months you will see less of me. I'm not making any promises to myself or Chuck or my trainer but I'll be sure to let you know how my inner core is doing. That is, if I find where it is.

Surviving the Polar Vortex

By BRIAN BRAGG
As we take the polar bear plunge into the



depths of winter, not only do we have to be concerned about keeping our bodies warm, but we also need to take precautions for our homes. Indiana homes are especially susceptible to the cold weather with snowfalls along with periods of melting and then freezing, and then melting and then freezing....etc. This freezing and thawing can inflict considerable damage to our homes.

So, here are some tips and steps that you can take to protect your home from these periods of freezing and melting temperatures.

Keep sidewalks and entrances to your home free from snow and ice.

Watch for ice dams near gutter downspouts. Keep gutters free of leaves and debris so melting snow and ice can flow

freely. Ice dams can cause water to build up and seep into your house.

Keep the house heated to a minimum of 65 degrees. The temperature inside the walls where the pipes are located is substantially colder than the walls themselves. A temperature lower than 65 degrees will not keep the inside walls from freezing.

Identify the location for the main water shutoff in your home. Find out how it works in case you have to use it.

Open hot and cold faucets enough to let them drip slowly. Keeping water moving within the pipes will prevent freezing.

If you own a swimming pool and temperatures are expected to dip below freezing, run the pool pump at night to keep the water flowing through the pipes.

If you haven't already, make sure all hoses are disconnected from outside spigots.

If your garage is attached to your house, keep the garage doors closed. The

door leading to the house is probably not as well-insulated as an exterior door.

If ice forms on tree limbs, watch for dead, damaged or dangerous branches that could break and fall because of ice, snow or wind and damage your house, a car, or injure someone walking near your property.

If you use fireplaces, wood stoves and electric heaters, watch them closely and make sure they are working properly.

Remember to close the flue in your fireplace when you're not using it.

If you have to leave your home on a trip, ask a neighbor to check the house regularly. If there is a problem with frozen pipes or water leakage, attending to it quickly could mean far less damage.

If you plan to be away for an extended period of time (or if temperatures are expected to remain below freezing), have the water system, including pool plumbing, have the water system drained by a professional to keep pipes from freezing or bursting.

See SURVIVING...Page 5



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SURVIVING From Page 4

If the worst has occurred and you have a problem with your home related to the winter weather, here are some other helpful suggestions.

If you discover that pipes are frozen, don't wait for them to burst. Take measures to thaw them immediately, or call a plumber for assistance.

If your pipes burst, first turn off the water and then mop up spills. You don't want the water to do more damage than it already has.

Call your agent or company as soon as you can. An insurance adjuster doesn't need to see the spill before you take action. However, he or she will want to inspect any damaged items.

Make temporary repairs and take other steps to protect your property from further damage. Remove any carpet or furniture that can be further damaged from seepage.

Make a list of the damaged articles.

Save the receipts for what you spend—including additional living expenses if you must leave your home until repairs are completed—and submit them to your insurance company for reimbursement.

A standard homeowner's policies will cover most of the kinds of damage that result from a freeze. For example, if house pipes freeze and burst or if ice forms in gutters and causes water to back up under roof shingles and seep into the house. You would also be covered if the weight of snow or ice damages your house.

However, most policies do not cover backups in sewers and drains or flood

damage, which can also happen in winter. To be covered for flooding, you need a policy from the National Flood Insurance Program, while coverage for sewers and drains is generally offered as an endorsement to a standard homeowner's insurance policy.

If your home suffers water damage, it is important to make sure that it is properly dried and repaired to prevent any potential problem with mold. Remember, mold cannot survive without moisture.

Check with your agent or company so you'll be sure what your policy covers.

Felony Lane Gang operating in Westfield

FLG is not a gang, but rather and organized network of criminals throughout the United States. The group originates in the Fort Lauderdale area. In most cases, a "handler" or group leader recruits drug addicts, prostitutes, or the homeless. They rent cars, then travel as a group throughout the United States breaking into vehicles. Suspects will conduct surveillance of the lot, then target females that leave purses inside of their vehicles. Once observed the suspects gain entry into the vehicle (often times by breaking the window) and take the purse. The suspects then employ the recruited individuals to cash stolen checks, make fraudulent purchases with credit cards, and commit identity fraud; this often happens within hours after the initial theft. The suspects will use wigs and other adornments to make themselves look more like the victim (as they appear in their driver's license photograph) while perpetrating these crimes.

Since 2010, the Westfield area has experienced more than 60 FLG related incidents that have resulted in tens of thousands of dollars in property and financial loss; these vehicle break-ins took place at local fitness centers, daycares, and sports complexes.

See FLG...Page 8

Finals feelings

By ANTONIO CARABALLO

It's after Winter Break and it's time for students to start returning to school. Before students got to leave for Winter Break, they had to take one last round of tests, known as finals. Finals get every kid worrying about where his or her grade is currently at and how much he or she actually knows from the semester. Nine out of ten of my friends hate finals. This year for finals, we had to take them over two days instead of three. We took periods second, fourth, and sixth on Thursday and took first, third, fifth, and seventh on Friday. All ten out of ten of my friends didn't like the change. During the break, teachers usually start putting in the grades from finals. Most of my friends try to distract themselves over break with activities and vacations so they don't worry about their final grades. Most people don't even attempt to see how they did until they get back to school for the next semester.

I noticed that most of my friends felt terrible and worried about finals. They did everything they could do to get in last-minute studying. Most of them were studying the same two classes. Most of my friends were studying History and Spanish because almost everyone agreed that those two were the hardest finals. I asked most of them when they started studying and most said about a week or two before finals. Well, they got back their finals grades and felt pretty good about how they did. Everyone I knew felt good about how they did on finals and that they worried way too much.

I was one of those people. I got so worried about finals and how I was going to do on them. But, I got my final results back and was surprised on how well I did. Most of my friends have their classes changed around for the second semester. They usually only have one class changing, but their schedule has to change to work around getting that class in. Most of my friends picked up either Health class or Weight Training. I ended up getting Digital Citizenship and dropping Nutrition and Wellness. Because of that change, my last three classes had to be moved around. Now that the first semester of finals is over and the next semester is here, my friends and I would like to give you a tip. Finals are a test at the end of the semester over everything you learned prior, so if you do your homework and pay attention, then with a little review, you should be set for finals.

Sheridan High School's student column is produced by Mrs. Linville's 10th grade English class. The column, produced weekly, is sponsored by Bragg Insurance Sheridan, Indiana

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Huskies fall with last-second basket

Hamilton Heights played one of Kentucky's best teams on Saturday as part of the 2015 Indiana-Kentucky Challenge Cup, which took place at New Castle's famed gym.

The Huskies were beaten on a last-second basket by Wayne County, which won 67-66. Heights led 39-34 at halftime, but Wayne outscored the Huskies 22-15 in the third quarter.

Jadon White had a huge game, scoring 30 points on 13-of-18 shooting. Grant Weatherford scored 19 points and pulled nine rebounds, while Hunter Crist added 13 points. Kurry Miller grabbed eight boards.

Blackhawks stopped by 2nd quarter run by FC

Sheridan was outscored 11-4 in the second quarter, and that started a run for Fountain Central that carried the Mustangs to a 58-47 win over the Blackhawks on Saturday.

Sheridan's 16-14 lead after the first quarter turned into a 25-20 deficit at halftime, and FC extended that lead to 37-27 after three quarters.

Brock Kitchel scored 19 points, with Jacob Chesney adding 11 and Garrett Chesney scoring 10. Chris Roberts pulled down 10 rebounds. Kitchel also had four steals.

Millers top Bearcats, 50-45

**By DON JELLISON
Reporter Editor**

Good basketball teams find ways to win. Noblesville, after playing three quarters of solid basketball in The Mill Saturday evening and still not being able to separate from a good Muncie Central opponent, took over in the fourth quarter and pulled out a 50-45 victory over the Bearcats.

"We played real well," said Noblesville mentor Brian McCauley. "Muncie Central is a good team. If you don't believe that, ask Fishers. They went into Fishers and beat them by four points."

One of Noblesville's three losses this season has been to Fishers.

"Muncie Central has lots of quickness and good shooters," McCauley continued.

"Our kids played hard and they played smart. Our offense got better in the second half. We missed some shots, but for 32 minutes we played well on offense."

What most enabled the Millers to move away in the fourth quarter was Noblesville's ability to get to the free throw line. Noblesville was 11-of-15 shooting free throws in the fourth quarter. Sean Wilson hit 5-of-6.

Also in the fourth quarter, John Kiser notched a half-dozen points.

"Kiser's shots weren't falling, but he finished with 12 points and led us with seven rebounds," McCauley talked about the 6-5 junior.

Wilson led Noblesville in scoring with 14 points and also in double figures was Joey Brewer with 11 points.

"Wilson's 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter was a game changer," said McCauley. "It gave us a one point (33-32) lead entering the fourth quarter. It's always better playing with the lead."

Noblesville led Muncie 13-10 after one quarter, but the Bearcats went to halftime with a 20-18 advantage.

After Wilson drilled the 3-pointer to end the third frame, Noblesville never again trailed. Brewer and Kiser opened the fourth frame with back-to-back buckets. With 2:36 left in the game, Noblesville went up 39-34 on two free throws by Kiser.

Noblesville twice led by seven point advantages, 45-38 and 47-40, both leads coming off two free throws by Wilson.

The Millers' biggest lead in the game was 50-42 when Joey Herron canned two charity shots with 18.9 seconds left. Muncie Central closed the game with a 3-pointer.

The Millers shot well, going 15-of-31 overall. They were 6-of-15 from 3-point territory and 14-of-20 at the line.

Noblesville gained a 24-23 advantage on the boards, even though 6-8 hefty junior center Donald Allen pulled 10 rebounds for the Bearcats.

"The (slow) pace of the game allowed Allen to play a lot," McCauley said.

"I was proud of our team balance tonight," McCauley continued. "We got a couple of key rebounds and we were able to



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Noblesville's David Cory was 2 for 2 at the line Friday against Muncie Central.

strip the ball away from them a couple of times on rebounds."

Muncie Central outscored Noblesville 13-6 on second chance points, but the difference in the game came on free throw shooting. The Bearcats were seven of only eight trips to the line.

Noblesville not only broke a three-game Muncie Central win string, allowing the Bearcats just 45 points was the first time in three games Muncie has been under 70 points.

Lady Huskies get big MIC win over Maconaquah



Hamilton Heights got a nice win on Saturday, overwhelming Mid-Indiana Conference rival Maconaquah 80-45 at the Husky Dome.

The Huskies outscored the Braves in all four quarters, leading 39-17 at halftime. Four different players reached double figures: Ashton Runner scored 18 points, Bri Henson had 16, Caitlyn Hays added 15 (making 5-of-5 three-point attempts) and Kayla Kirtley added 14.

"This was a nice win for our young team," said Heights coach Scott Fernung. "We did a great job with our tempo and playing team ball."

Kirtley grabbed nine rebounds, with Ana Collar getting seven. Lexi Branham dished out four assists. Kirtley made five steals, with Collar getting four.

Hamilton Heights 80, Maconaquah 45					
	Heights (80)	FG	FT	TP	PF
	Audrie Catron	0-0	0-0	0	0
	Caitlyn Hays	5-12	0-0	15	0
	Kayla Kirtley	5-13	4-4	14	1
	Lexi Branham	0-4	0-0	0	3
	Bri Henson	7-9	2-3	16	0
	Ashton Runner	8-16	2-3	18	3
	Logan Wiley	0-0	0-0	0	1
	Amy Griffey	2-4	2-2	6	2
	Ana Collar	1-4	1-2	3	3
	Taylor Boyd	4-10	0-0	8	3
	Totals	32-72	11-14	80	16
	Score by Quarters				
	Maconaquah	6	11	20	8 - 45
	Heights	17	22	23	18 - 80
	Heights 3-point shooting (5-9) Hays 5-8, Branham 0-1.				
	Heights rebounds (35) Kirtley 9, Collar 7, Griffey 5, Hays 4, Boyd 4, Branham 3, Runner 2, Wiley 1.				

Reporter photo by Brian Reddick

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Tough to win at Mt. Vernon?

Lady Millers unload, 78-49



Brian Reddick/File photo

Becca Bergman had 11 points and 5 rebounds against Mt. Vernon.

It always has been hard for opposing teams to win at Mt. Vernon. Saturday afternoon, Noblesville made a trip to Fortville look like a cakewalk. Coach Donna Keck's now 14-1 powerhouse poured in 31 points in the first quarter; led 46-21 at halftime and never looked back while rolling to a 78-49 victory over the Lady Marauders. The Lady Millers hit 30-of-65 shots from the field and were 9-of-16 from 3-point range in a steaming display of shooting. Four different Noblesville players scored in double figures, led by 21 points from Alexis Shannon. Katelyn O'Reilly notched 15 points and Becca Bergman and Brooke Herron each added 11. Nine different Millers scored. Noblesville also had a strong afternoon on the boards, gaining a 42-35 rebounding advantage. O'Reilly had eight rebounds to lead the way and Erin Wood yanked six. Cori Cain, Kayleigh Herron and Bergman each dished out four of Noblesville's 23 assists.

Noblesville	FG	FT	TP	PF
Cori Cain	2-5	0-0	4	2
Kayleigh Herron	0-6	0-0	0	1
Becca Bergman	4-6	0-0	11	2
Haley Conway	1-1	0-0	2	0
Rachel Shipman	0-2	0-0	0	1
Alexis Shannon	8-13	4-5	21	1
Brooke Herron	4-7	0-0	11	2
Emily Kiser	2-4	3-4	7	1
Audrey DeFoe	0-1	0-0	0	0
Katelyn O'Reilly	6-10	2-3	15	3
Erin Wood	2-7	0-0	4	4
Sam Salmon	1-3	0-0	3	0
Totals	30-65	9-12	78	17

Score by Quarters:				
Noblesville	31	15	20	12 – 78
Mt. Vernon	15	6	16	12 – 49

Shamrocks defeat Greenfield

Playing in The Rock on Saturday afternoon, Westfield finished strong and defeated Greenfield Central, 54-46. The Lady Shamrocks broke open what was a close game by outscoring the Tigers 11-5 in the fourth quarter. Greenfield Central led by two, 17-15, after one period. Westfield went to halftime with a 31-29 edge and then carried a 43-39 advantage into the fourth period. Leading the way for Coach Shane Sumpter's squad was Allison VanDyke with 20 points. Also in double figures, with 14 points, was Maddy Grennes. Westfield shot 19-of-47 overall, but was just 5-of-19 from 3-point range. The Shamrocks stuck in 11-of-13 charity shots. The winners had a strong afternoon on the boards outrebounding Greenfield 35-25. Haliegh Reinoehl led the board work with 10 rebounds and Grennes pulled eight. Abby Reeder dished out four assists. Westfield was charged with only six fouls and the Shamrocks turned over the ball just six times.

Golden Eagles fall to New Pal

Guerin Catholic played yet another Class 4A team close on Saturday, battling New Palestine before falling 51-44 at the Eagles Nest. The Golden Eagles fell behind 16-8 after the first quarter, but cut the Dragons' lead to 27-24 at halftime. New Pal held Guerin to five points in the third quarter, and were able to hang on from there. Annemarie Augustinovicz scored 15 points, while Sarah Yount hit four 3-pointers to score 12 points.

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HCC swim meet

Westfield's Emily Verbrugge can call herself a champion, as she triumphed in the breaststroke at Saturday's Hoosier Crossroads Conference swim meet at Fishers. Verbrugge won the event in a time of 1:08.26. It was the first time she had ever won a blue ribbon in a conference meet. "Feels great, feels exciting," she said. In the team standings, Noblesville placed fourth and Westfield sixth. The Millers' Alyssa Conley had a nice meet with a second place finish in the 500 free and a third place ribbon in the 50 free. The Millers' 200 free relay squad of Conley, Julie Kaess, Samantha Cripe and Emily Christophersen also placed third. In a very tough boys meet, Noblesville's Luke Conner had the Millers' highest finish with a second-place effort in the breaststroke. Westfield had a pair of fourth places: Jordan Loeser in diving, and the medley relay team of Tab Kenney, Joey Niederberger, Matt Carr and Christopher Kenney.

GIRLS MEET
Team scores: Hamilton Southeastern 421.5, Zionsville 407, Fishers 406, Noblesville 263, Avon 193, Westfield 185.5, Brownsburg 155.
200 medley relay: 4. Westfield (Molly Ruggles, Emily Verbrugge, Carly Ruggles, Madeline Steele) 1:55.62, 5. Noblesville (Kate Holtkamp, Amy Hayes, Alexa Akers, Samantha Cripe) 1:56.37.
200 freestyle: T4. Zoe Williams (W) 2:00.04, 9. Julie Kaess (N) 2:02.22, 12. Taylor Parrish (N) 2:02.96, 15. Emma Oleson (W) 2:03.99, 17. Anne Marie Yeakey (N) 2:05.62, 20. Ilsa Blansette (W) 2:14.57.
200 individual medley: 4. Verbrugge (W) 2:13.18, 7. Emily Christophersen (N) 2:16.20, 12. Cripe (N) 2:20.50, 15. Brianna McBride (N) 2:24.33, 16. C. Ruggles (W) 2:26.78.
50 freestyle: 3. Alyssa Conley (N) 24.45, T9. Lydia Conner (N) 26.40, 11. Sophie Carmosino (N) 26.67, 12. M. Steele (W) 26.94, 14. Jessica Steele (W) 27.25, 17. Ariel Brooks (W) 27.43.
One-meter diving: 8. Julia Stelts (W) 243.75.
100 butterfly: T5. Christophersen (N) 1:00.33; Holtkamp (N) 1:00.33, 8. Akers (N) 1:00.83, 13. M. Ruggles (W) 1:03.37, 14. C. Ruggles (W) 1:05.63, 19. Sydney Ruggles (W) 1:09.78.
100 freestyle: T6. Williams (W) 55.27, 11. Kaess (N) 56.24, 13. Carmosino (N) 58.05, 15. Conner (N) 58.29, 16. Brooks (W) 1:00.47, 18. Tori Coy (W) 1:01.68.
500 freestyle: 2. Conley (N) 5:09.43, 7. Parrish (N) 5:21.68, 13. Oleson (W) 5:31.88, 14. Yeakey (N) 5:32.64, 17. Blansette (W) 5:47.69, 19. Julia Hawkins (W) 5:49.45.
200 freestyle relay: 3. Noblesville (Conley, Kaess, Cripe, Christophersen) 1:42.076. Westfield (Williams, M. Steele, J. Steele, Brooks) 1:46.65.
100 backstroke: T10. M. Ruggles (W) 1:03.84, 13. Holtkamp (N) 1:05.52, 15. Ak-

ers (N) 1:07.04, 16. McBride (N) 1:07.13, 18. Hawkins (W) 1:08.42, 19. J. Steele (W) 1:08.82.
100 breaststroke: 1. Verbrugge (W) 1:08.26, 8. Hayes (N) 1:11.02, 11. Josie Griffin (N) 1:14.10, 13. Cripe (N) 1:14.58, 16. M. Steele (W) 1:16.77, 18. S. Ruggles (W) 1:19.94.
400 freestyle relay: 4. Noblesville (Conley, Kaess, Parrish, Christophersen) 3:44.87, 6. Westfield (Williams, Oleson, C. Ruggles, Verbrugge) 3:52.77.

BOYS MEET
Team scores: Zionsville 347.5, Avon 347, Hamilton Southeastern 332, Fishers 328, Brownsburg 268.5, Noblesville 215, Westfield 199.
200 medley relay: 4. Westfield (Tab Kenney, Joey Niederberger, Matt Carr, Christopher Kenney) 1:40.60, 7. Noblesville (Jake Seyfried, Luke Conner, Kyle Haflich, Drew Sarabyn) 1:44.23.
200 freestyle: 6. Nathan Olberding (N) 1:48.53, T16. C. Kenney (W) 1:57.49; Alex Hand (W) 1:57.49, 19. Cam Todd (W) 2:00.27, 20. Aaron Helms (N) 2:00.45, 21. Chandler Parrish (N) 2:03.22.
200 individual medley: 9. Conner (N) 2:02.47, 12. Niederberger (W) 2:05.45, 13. Justin Ogle (N) 2:08.89, 15. Collin Kinkhead (N) 2:12.34, 20. Nick Brauer (W) 2:16.32, 21. Lucas Irvine (W) 2:20.62.
50 freestyle: 6. T. Kenney (W) 22.81, 9. Isaac Johnston (N) 22.93, 10. Carr (W) 23.12, 17. Adam Kurek (W) 24.26, 20. Daniel Isaacs (N) 24.97, 21. Noah Rockwell (N) 26.66.
One-meter diving: 4. Jordan Loeser (W) 407.15, 6. Trevor Crupi (W) 348.35, 7. Ben Higgins (W) 339.95, 10. Richard Skaggs (N) 282.55, 16. Dakota McQueary (N) 164.10.
100 butterfly: 5. Carr (W) 54.64, 11. Haflich (N) 57.60, 18. Jack Thompson (N) 59.25, 19. Nick Brauer (W) 1:00.43, 20. Irvine (W) 1:01.72, 21. Jakob Janson (N) 1:01.77.
100 freestyle: 5. Olberding (N) 49.04, 6. Johnston (N) 50.27, 7. C. Kenney (W) 50.45, 19. Ethan Moe (W) 54.43, 20. Todd (W) 54.88, 21. Thompson (N) 56.89.
500 freestyle 11. Sarabyn (N) 5:06.24, 13. Seyfried (N) 5:08.56, 18. Aaron Helms (N) 5:27.84, 19. Kory Lutz (W) 5:37.75, 20. Chris Lisle (W) 5:56.81, 21. Davis Patrick (W) 6:04.48.
200 freestyle relay: 5. Westfield (T. Kenney, Carr, C. Kenney, Kurek) 1:32.15, 6. Noblesville (Johnston, Ogle, Sarabyn, Olberding) 1:32.39.
100 backstroke: 5. Seyfried (N) 56.61, 7. T. Kenney (W) 57.88, 10. Haflich (N) 58.98, 11. Moe (W) 59.00, 13. Liam Aranda (HSE) 59.41, 16. Kinkhead (N) 1:00.10, 18. Kurek (W) 1:01.51.
100 breaststroke: 2. Conner (N) 1:00.36, 7. Ogle (N) 1:02.09, 10. Niederberger (W) 1:03.28, 18. Sarabyn (N) 1:06.98, 20. Hand (W) 1:09.41, 21. Xavier Drudge (W) 1:14.43.
400 freestyle relay: 6. Noblesville (Johnston, Seyfried, Conner, Olberding) 3:25.17, 7. Westfield (Moe, Kurek, Hand, Niederberger) 3:36.61.



Photo by Bret Richardson

Westfield's Emily Verbrugge won the Hoosier Crossroads Conference championship in the breaststroke.

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Best cities for young families in Indiana

It's something that those of us who live up in Hamilton County already knew. But it's nice to have it validated by an independent study.

The financial Web site NerdWallet released a study this week that focused on the best cities for young families in Indiana. Hamilton County has four cities in the top 11, including the top two: Fishers in first and Westfield second.

"Building a community and connecting families is my goal for Westfield," said Westfield Mayor Andy Cook. "Being recognized for something city employees and community members work so hard to achieve is rewarding on so many levels. Westfield's trail system, school district and our sense of community is why families are locating to Westfield."

Carmel is ranked sixth in the study, while Noblesville is No. 11.

"NerdWallet crunched the data for the second year in a row to help people find the "Best Cities for Young Families," said Kamran Rosen, who wrote the article about the study that appears on NerdWallet.com.

Here's what Rosen had to say about the three cities in the top six:

FISHERS: "Residents in Fishers will find highly rated schools balanced with

recreational activities. Families can watch free movies in the fall, go to a "Glow in the Park" party in the Nickel Plate District and check out the annual pumpkin festival. With a median home value of \$209,700, housing costs are slightly above Indiana's average, but our data found Fishers is worth the investment for families focused on quality of life."

WESTFIELD: "This family friendly community, which has the highest percentage of families with children in the state, is within commuting distance of Indianapolis. In Westfield, family income has grown to just over \$100,000 in the past 15 years."

CARMEL: "There's no shortage of positive developments in Carmel — one of the fastest-growing cities in the state. Young families here will find company: 35% of residents have children. The Meridian

Corridor provides job opportunities for working parents, who have seen the median family income grow by a third in the past 15 years. Home values — at a median of \$297,300 — are the second highest in the state, so buying a house here can present a challenge for families who want to move to Carmel."

Noblesville just missed the top 10, but not by much: The No. 10 city, Plainfield had a NerdWallet score of 64.67, while Noblesville scored 64.37.

Rosen said the following factors went into determining the list:

"Home affordability. We looked at median home value and selected monthly homeowner costs to prioritize affordable communities.

Prosperity and growth. Looking at current and past family incomes, we calculated the income of residents, as well

as the projected long-term growth of each city.

Quality of education. We looked at ratings from GreatSchools to find the best schools for young families.

Family friendliness. This year, we added a new component to our methodology — the percentage of families with school-age children and the poverty rate for young children. This measure helps determine if an area is not only affordable for families, but if it is also a healthy one for children."

NerdWallet's study was based on data for 109 places in Indiana with a population of over 5,000. That excluded the smaller cities in the county (Sheridan, Cicero, Arcadia, Atlanta).

4H enrollment now open

Indiana 4-H enrollment is now open in Hamilton County through January 15, 2015. 4-H is a premier source of enjoyable, educational programs to help young people reach their full potential. Plus, new for 2015, enrollment is easier than ever with the 4-H Online system, <https://in.4honline.com>.

Indiana 4-H is the state's largest youth development program for grades 3-12, reaching over 200,000 youth in all 92 counties. 4-H Youth Development Educators in each Purdue Extension county office coordinate local activities.

In Hamilton County, approved adult volunteers teach young people specific skills related to a wide variety of subjects through hands-on, experiential learning. Youth also develop leadership and citizenship skills by participating in one of nearly 40 organized 4-H Clubs. Subjects include: science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); agriculture; citizenship; healthy living; art; consumer and family sciences; and more. In 2013, a Tufts University study showed that 4-H members also excel in positive youth development areas compared to peers, including:

- Four times more likely to contribute to their communities (grades 7-12)
- Two times more likely to make healthier choices (grade 7)
- Two times more likely to be civically active (grades 8-12)

Now, the new 4-H Online system makes it even more convenient to offer enrollment, event registration, calendars, and secure payment online.

Youth may be enrolled in Hamilton County 4-H by January 15, 2015 online at <https://in.4honline.com> or by visiting the Hamilton County Purdue Extension office, Noblesville from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The \$25 fee per child includes all Indiana 4-H program fees.

For more information about specific 4-H projects in Hamilton County or about the 4-H Program in in general, contact the Purdue Extension Service at (317) 776-0854 or visit our website at: www.extension.purdue.edu/hamilton. Click on the Youth Tab.

MUNICIPAL PRIMARY CANDIDATE FILINGS

NAME/OFFICE/PARTY FILING DATE

- Brian Poindexter, Carmel City Court Judge (R) 1-7-15
Laura D. Campbell, Carmel Common Council, District NW (R) 1-8-15
Carol Schleif, Carmel Common Council, District SW 1-9-15
John Ditslear, Mayor of Noblesville (R) 1-7-15
Greg Caldwell, Noblesville City Court Judge (R) 1-9-15
Roy Johnson, Noblesville Common Council, District 1 (R) 1-7-15
Christopher Jensen, Noblesville Common Council, District 2 (R) 1-7-15
Rick Taylor, Noblesville Common Council, District 3 (R) 1-7-15
Stephen Wood, Noblesville Common Council, District 4 (R) 1-7-15
Gregory P. O'Connor, Noblesville Common Council, District 5 (R) 1-7-15
Megan Wiles, Noblesville Common Council, District 6 (R) 1-7-15
Jeff Zeckel, Noblesville Common Council, At Large (R) 1-7-15
Dave Johnson, Noblesville Common Council, At Large (R) 1-7-15
Ray Ade, Noblesville Common Council, At Large (R) 1-7-15
Brian K. Ayer, Noblesville Common Council, At Large (R) 1-7-15
Scott Fadness, Mayor of Fishers (R) 1-8-15
Daniel E. Henke, Fishers City Court Judge (R) 1-8-15
John Weingardt, Fishers City Council, SC District (R) 1-7-15
David C. George, Fishers City Council, SW District (R) 1-7-15
Pete Peterson, Fishers City Council, SE District (R) 1-7-15
Brad DeReamer, Fishers City Council, NE District (R) 1-7-15
Stuart F. Easley, Fishers City Council, NE District (R) 1-7-15
Selina Stoller, Fishers City Council, NW District (R) 1-7-15
Eric C. Moeller, Fishers City Council, NC District (R) 1-7-15
Rich Block, Fishers City Council, At Large (R) 1-9-15
Cecilia Coble, Fishers City Council, At Large (R) 1-9-15
Todd Zimmerman, Fishers City Council, At Large (R) 1-7-15
Jan Unger, Cicero Town Clerk-Treasurer (D) 1-7-15
Craig Penwell, Cicero Town Council, District 1 (R) 1-7-15
Rusty Miller, Cicero Town Council, District 2 (R) 1-7-15
Andy Cook, Mayor of Westfield (R) 1-9-15
Cindy Gossard, Westfield City Clerk-Treasurer (R) 1-8-15
Bob Smith, Westfield City Council, District 3 (R) 1-8-15
Jim Ake, Westfield City Council, At Large (R) 1-9-15

FLG

From Page 5

As a result of subsequent criminal investigations, the Westfield Police Department has arrested and/or filed criminal charges against 10 individuals in association with these incidents (in many cases each individual was responsible for multiple incidences).

Although the Westfield Police Department does and will continue to proactively address the local FLG problem with plain clothes surveillance and the vigorous investigation of reported incidents, we also ask the public to take the following precautions steps to prevent these crimes:

1. Do not leave purses or valuable personal property (firearms, prescription medicine, electronics, handbags, wallets, etc...) inside of parked vehicles.
2. If you do have valuables or recent purchases in your vehicle, and cannot take them with you, do not leave them in plain view. Store them in the trunk or out of public sight.
3. Always lock your vehicle, whether it is parked in a garage or in your driveway or at a business.
4. Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running.
5. When at home, park your vehicles in a locked garage, if possible. If you can't park in a garage, park in a well-lit area.
6. Leave your home's exterior lights on.
7. When parking, check that all doors and your trunk are locked and that you have your keys with you.
8. If possible, get an alarm installed. Alarms can deter thieves not only from stealing items out of your vehicle, but from stealing your vehicle as well.



Sheridan Eye Center



Dr. Scott A. Miller

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Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 8:00 - 5:00

Thursday: 8:00 - 6:00

Friday: 8:00 - 5:00

Saturday: 8:00 - Noon,
4th Saturday of every month

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