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THURSDAY, DEC. 21, 2017

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Partly sunny.
Tonight: Clouding up.
Shower chance after midnight.
HIGH: 47 LOW: 40



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Preparations underway to bring future Nickel Plate Express train to Forest Park . . .

Noblesville chooses not to renew ITM lease

City of Noblesville

The Noblesville Parks and Recreation Board, with full support of the City of Noblesville administration, has elected not to renew its lease with the Indiana Transportation Museum (ITM) when it expires on March 1, 2018. The unanimous decision by the Parks Board was made Wednesday morning.

"The City of Noblesville is taking these proactive measures now to protect our residents and our heritage, to ensure Forest Park is cleaned up and to bring the trains back to our community with a new operator – the Nickel Plate Express," Noblesville Mayor John Ditslear said.

Since its selection as the new rail operator in July, the city and Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad have had active discussions to ensure the Nickel Plate Express excursion train includes Noblesville in its operations, which are slated to begin in 2018 between Atlanta and Arcadia and could extend south to Noblesville starting in 2019. Forest Park is expected to become a major stop.

"With one rail line, there should be just one operator," said Ditslear. "The ITM has not shown good stewardship with the resources entrusted to them for more than 50 years. The city is excited to be working with the Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad to continue the city's railroad history and bring the trains back to Forest Park as a safe, clean and fun tourist attraction that connects Noblesville with our neighbors in northern Hamilton County."

Since the city notified Indiana Department of Environmental Management about potential environmental problems in May, IDEM has conducted three follow-up investigations and the Environmental Protection Agency has completed one. All four have found violations, including PCBs, and several cars also are believed to con-



Reporter photo by Jeff Jellison

Noblesville's lease with the Indiana Transportation Museum will expire in March.

tain asbestos, which is currently under further analysis. The ITM also self-inventoried 1,064 items for waste containment and disposal.

"We expect full cooperation from the ITM to ensure a smooth transition as they finalize their clean-up efforts and move their operations outside of Forest Park," said Parks Board President Scott Noel.



Reporter photo by Jeff Jellison

Upon termination of the Lease Agreement on March 1, 2018, ITM is required to remove all of its equipment and return the premises back to the Parks Board in a clean, sightly, healthful condition and in good repair. The City anticipates that additional

time to fully vacate and repair the premises may be desired and is willing to discuss further accommodations with ITM leadership.

The notice of non-renewal does not impact ITM's obligation to investigate and remediate environmental contamination at the property through coordination of IDEM. This obligation is contractually mandated by the terms of the Lease Agreement and the city believes the financial burden should not be passed along to taxpayers.

For more background information on ITM at Forest Park, including environmental site inspection reports and more, visit bit.ly/2BENDG.

Noblesville's reasons for ITM lease decision

City of Noblesville

The City of Noblesville's administration strongly recommends that the Noblesville Parks and Recreation Board does not renew ITM's lease based on several factors:

- The environmental contamination caused by ITM has tarnished Forest Park. After more than six months of investigation by the city and by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, ITM's leadership has failed to take public responsibility for its actions and have dragged out the process for clean-up – referring to the investigation as "trumped up" despite reports from IDEM that confirm the city's concerns.

- ITM has squandered its opportunity as the sole operator of the Nickel Plate Railroad in Noblesville for several decades through questionable management, failure to complete locomotive restoration projects that were funded by federal grants, empty promises and frivolous lawsuits that have been thrown out of federal court.

- By removing ITM from Forest Park, the newly formed Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad can formalize its plans to bring the Nickel Plate Express excursion trains to Noblesville starting in 2019. As the only rail operator chosen by the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority, this group will begin operations between Atlanta and Arcadia starting in 2018. They are backed by Hamilton County Tourism and Thomas Hoback, who brings a long, storied career as a quality railroad operator, including ownership of the Indiana Railroad.

The City of Noblesville is taking these proactive measures now to protect our residents and our heritage, to ensure Forest Park is cleaned up and to bring the trains back to our community with a new operator - the Nickel Plate Express.

ITM in Forest Park

- ITM has leased its ground in Forest Park since the 1960s back when it was known as the Indiana Museum of Transportation and Communication.

- Noblesville Parks and Recreation has struggled with ITM over several decades with complaints by Parks board members, staff and nearby residents about the conditions of ITM's grounds, unsightly storage of equipment and general lack of care

See Lease Decision . . . Page 2

White River Township to lose Cicero medics, ambulance service

The REPORTER

During the Cicero Town Council meeting Tuesday evening, the Cicero Town Council unanimously voted against extending the agreement for providing Advanced Life

Support (ALS) services to White River Township.

The members of the council felt that continuing to provide these services was placing too great of a financial and logistical strain on the Cicero Fire

Department. Of specific concern was the fact that responding to emergency calls in White River Township often results in all of the Cicero Fire Department's personnel being sent to an out of town

location. This may result in no one from the Cicero Fire Department being available to handle emergency / 911 calls for the citizens of Cicero that may

See Service . . . Page 3

ISP Superintendent Carter, Sheridan Police, Fire pull victim from burning car

The REPORTER

Shortly after 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19, two people sustained serious injuries during a crash on State Road 38 east of 226th Street, near Sheridan. Callers reporting the incident told dispatchers the crash left victims trapped inside a burning vehicle.

Members of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Crash Team investigating the incident believe a green 2014 Chevrolet Cruze driven by Joseph McNutt, 30, Sheridan, was westbound on State Road 38 when, for unknown reasons, it crossed the centerline. The Cruze struck a 2003 Honda Civic, driven by Danielle Johns, 22, Sheridan, head-on as it was travelling eastbound on State Road 38. Both drivers were initially trapped inside their vehicles, with the Civic on fire as a result of the crash.

Both drivers suffered broken bones and other injuries during the collision. McNutt was taken by

ground ambulance to St. Vincent Hospital on 86th Street while Johns was taken by air ambulance to Methodist Hospital. Toxicology test results for alcohol and drugs are pending at this time.

Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter, who happened to be near the location when the call came out, was one of the first people on the scene. Along with Eric Gifford from Sheridan Fire, Michael Foote from Sheridan Police and an unknown passerby, Superintendent Carter assisted in pulling the entrapped driver from the burning Civic. Rescuers barely moved the victim more than six feet from the burning car before it became fully engulfed in flames.

The incident remains under investigation by the Hamilton County Crash Team. Anyone with information regarding the collision should call the team at 317-773-1282.

Making his list and checking it twice

Here is the County Line's Christmas list being sent to Santa for our good boys and girls laboring in public service to our great community. It's meant to add a bit of humor for the season and more meaningful for Reporter readers who've kept up with the local news.



FRED SWIFT

For Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness: Tickets on the next Fair Train.

For Noblesville Deputy Mayor Steve Cooke: A guided Preservation Alliance tour of beautiful, unspoiled Seminary Park.

For Carmel School Su-

perintendent Nick Wahl: full reinstatement to his lucrative position.

For George Kristo: A case of alcohol-free champagne for his next New Year's Eve party.

For Sheriff Mark Bowen: A new year free of crime and jail overcrowding.

For Democratic County Chairman Joe Weingarten: More brave candidates coming forward to run for office.

For County Commissioner Christine Altman: A lifetime pass on the commuter rail line . . .

. valid upon its arrival in Hamilton County.

For Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard: A merry-go-round play set for his office to show visitors what it might have been.

For the folks at the Indiana Transportation Museum: Permission to put the Polar Bear Express back on the tracks.

For Noblesville Mayor John Ditslear: The new edition of "How to Build a Roundabout in 90 Days" written by Carmel City Engineer Jeremy Kashman.

For Elections Chief Kathy Richardson: An extra supply of electronic notebooks for better

election reporting courtesy of her friends on the County Council.

For County Commissioners: A 99-year warranty covering hail damage on their new solar panels.

For Noblesville ice skaters: A two-month extension of the Jan. 8 scheduled closing of the Federal Hill Commons ice rink.

For Home Place residents: Invitations to the Welcome to Carmel annexation dinner party at the Home Place Tavern.

For all our loyal Reporter readers: A Very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.



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LEASE DECISION

from Page 1

for its property.

- Conditions discovered on ITM's ground show a steady decline, revealing a systemic culture of operating with no regard for the well-being of the property.

- ITM publicly denied any contamination problems at Forest Park, claiming the city's investigation was nothing but a conspiracy.

- ITM's site is full of equipment and items that have not moved in decades. While some pieces would be considered historically significant, most have been left unprotected and have continued to deteriorate over time.

- A timeline will be established for the ITM to remove all of its equipment from Forest Park and clean up the ground it leases from the city in coordination with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the city.

Environmental actions timeline in Forest Park

- **May 15, 2017:** A reporter from WRTV-6 notified the City of Noblesville of potentially hazardous chemicals improperly stored and leaking onto the grounds leased by ITM within Forest Park. As required by law, the City notified IDEM to begin more in-depth investigation and analysis.

- **May 31, 2017:** The City sent notice to ITM of the problem and warned the organization of it being in "serious default" under the terms of its lease. The city requested remediation procedures, containment measures and a plan for clean-up at its own expense. In addition, the city stipulated that the ITM and its entities "cease all expenditures other than those in the normal course of business" to ensure the clean-up effort is fully funded.

- **May 31, 2017:** ITM's press release called the city's charges "trumped up" and denied any "known violations" from their operations. And yet more than 1,000 items were tagged for possible inspection by IDEM – with PCBs found to be present with ITM equipment and belief of asbestos within historically significant rail cars (currently under analysis). IDEM staff also noted numerous areas of stained soils and evidence of leaked materials throughout the property, including lead, grease, oils and lubricants; damaged lead-acid batteries that were improperly stored outdoors exposed to the elements; and evidence of sandblasting that could have led to dangerous conditions for nearby residents and park visitors.

- **June 9, 2017:** IDEM issued the first of numerous violation letters that confirm the city's initial investigation of serious problems on ITM's grounds due to the organization's negligence. In fact, some of IDEM's work was delayed due to the unsafe conditions caused by ITM. Meanwhile, the ITM has told the public nothing regarding IDEM's findings, continuing to make the false claim among its supporters and the press that the city's concerns were "trumped up."

- **June 28, 2017:** ITM's own "self-disclosure" report through its consultant to IDEM indicated violations with OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit process and storm water discharge management.

- **Aug. 28, 2017:** ITM's consultant requested additional time to implement some of the required actions due to a large inventory of 1,060 items taking nearly two months to complete – and by their own admission – unsafe conditions in some areas where chemicals were stored.

- **Sept. 27, 2017:** IDEM's review of ITM's Initial Site Investigation Work Plan (submitted on Aug. 11) was found to be deficient and requiring amendments. A revised Initial Site Investigation Work Plan was then submitted on Nov. 11 – three months after the original due date.



Photo provided

This photo shows ITM at Forest Park as it stood when the City of Noblesville notified IDEM to begin its investigation.

Lease agreement information

- The Noblesville Parks and Recreation Board and Indiana Transportation Museum entered into the most recent lease agreement on Feb. 4, 2015, and ending on March 1, 2016. The lease is automatically renewed as four additional one-year terms unless either party elects not to renew the agreement by giving written notice to the other party not less than 60 days prior to the end of each term.

- As part of the agreement, ITM pays the city \$10 per year to lease the space.

- ITM agrees

- to keep and maintain the leased property in a clean, sightly and healthful condition and in good repair at its own expense and shall yield the same back to the city upon termination of the lease.

- ITM's use of the premises shall not violate any governmental rule, regulation or statute and at all times comply with the rules and regulations of the landlord.

Return of the Nickel Plate Railroad to Hamilton County

- ITM's contract to operate trains on the Nickel Plate in Hamilton County was suspended by the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority (HHPA) in March 2016 due to concerns about the condition of the tracks that were found to be in disrepair by independent railroad experts, and ITM's mismanagement as reported by former volunteers that led to an investigation by the Indiana Attorney General.

- In April 2017, HHPA released its request to solicit proposals from interested operators for the development of railroad operations on the Nickel Plate. In June, each of the five proposals submitted was independently scored by the HHPA, and in September, the new operator was announced.

- With backing from Hamilton County Tourism and Indiana Railroad's Thomas Hoback, the Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad was awarded the contract with plans to begin operating the Nickel Plate Express out of Atlanta, Ind., starting in 2018.

- The City is in discussions with Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad to ensure the Nickel Plate Express includes Noblesville in its route starting in 2019.

- Plans include bringing the Nickel Plate Express to Forest Park and across the White River Bridge to the edge of the downtown square. This will keep the history and heritage of the Nickel Plate Railroad alive in the Noblesville community and more vibrant than ever for generations to come.

Q & A

Q) Has the city contributed funds to assist ITM with expenses?

The City of Noblesville has always provided taxpayer support of the Nickel Plate through the necessary improvements made at railway intersections as well as road work on 8th Street where the train tracks sit within the roadway from Logan to Division.

The City also procured two separate funding awards from the Indiana Department of Transportation for use by the ITM totaling \$454,343. In January 2004, \$289,426 was awarded for passenger car rehabilitation. However, INDOT ended funding in December 2015 as ITM never began work on the project. In 2005, \$164,917 was awarded for steam locomotive rehabilitation. INDOT again ended funding in December 2015 as the project was by that time four years behind schedule.

In 1998, ITM received a \$220,000 loan from the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority and an additional \$50,000 loan for operating expenses.

Hamilton County Tourism first began working on railroad improvements with ITM in 2006 and contributed more than \$500,000 in lodging tax dollars and other resources on grants and services to help support the organization.

Q) Why was the financial burden to maintain the rail tracks left to the ITM?

When the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority contracted with ITM to serve as the rail operator, ITM was charged with maintaining the rail and was permitted to run its tourism excursion trains as part of the agreement.

Q) Why is the city against saving the trains?

The city is all for saving the trains and preserving its railroad history – but responsibly and within the city's plans for future growth of the community. The

city is taking this action to end the lease with ITM in order to save the trains, giving the new operator the chance to bring a safe, clean and fun excursion train experience for visitors and residents while honoring the Nickel Plate's rich heritage. Residents will someday soon hear the trains rumbling through Forest Park and to downtown Noblesville.

Q) As a railroad museum, aren't certain environmental issues expected with antique trains?

ITM claims their Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code is 8412 (museums and art galleries), which may be true for the locomotive cars that do not move. However, the north half of the property is more accurately used by ITM as an SIC code of 3743 (railroad equipment manufacturing or heavy repair). This is considered to be a very industrialized use and not one used by museums. Furthermore, some of ITM's activities should not take place adjacent to a residential area or in a public park.

Q) Doesn't this move just pave the way for the Nickel Plate Trail?

These actions regarding ITM's lease have nothing to do with any trail proposed by the City of Noblesville. If the Nickel Plate Trail is built, it will remain south of downtown Noblesville and south of the current ITM location. The city's action regarding ITM's lease is based on the organization's failure as a tenant in Forest Park, its failure to take responsibility for the environmental conditions it caused at a treasured city park and its failure as the sole operator on the Nickel Plate Railroad, which its leadership has squandered.

Q) Why did the Parks Board take steps to not renew the lease now?

Despite the city's best efforts to maintain a cooperative relationship with ITM, issues between the Parks Board and ITM over their unsightly conditions have been ongoing since the 1990s. On at least two occasions – March 7, 2005 and Feb. 4, 2008 – the board gave ultimatums to ITM about the lack of information requested and the appearance of the grounds. Each time, the board informed the ITM to "clean it up or get off the property." The Parks Board even provided additional dumpsters to assist with clean-up efforts. It was not until May 2017 when the city became aware of the potential contamination of the site by ITM and raised the concerns beyond mere aesthetics to one that threatens the health and safety of our treasured city park.

The time has come to embrace a new operator for the Nickel Plate Railroad – and to give them the chance to show our community what a truly valuable, clean and safe railroad experience within Forest Park can be for residents and visitors alike.

"The environmental contamination caused by ITM has tarnished Forest Park. After more than six months of investigation by the city and by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, ITM's leadership has failed to take public responsibility for its actions and have dragged out the process for clean-up – referring to the investigation as "trumped up" despite reports from IDEM that confirm the city's concerns."

- Statement from City of Noblesville

"The City of Noblesville is taking these proactive measures now to protect our residents and our heritage, to ensure Forest Park is cleaned up and to bring the trains back to our community with a new operator – the Nickel Plate Express."

- Statement from City of Noblesville

**Have an opinion on the latest Nickel Plate news?
Send your letters to News@ReadTheReporter.com**

Hamilton East Public Library participating in National Reading Challenge next month

The REPORTER

From Jan. 1 to Jan. 31, Hamilton East Public Library will participate in a nationwide Winter Reading Challenge. Readers of all ages – infants through adults – are encouraged to read 3,500 or more books, participate in special activities and earn badges and prizes along the way.

Over 100 libraries and schools across the nation are participating in the challenge. If the libraries reach a collective goal of 55,000 books, Shark Tank

investor Mark Cuban will donate \$25,000 to the organization, First Book, which provides new books, learning materials and other essentials to children in need. Top performing libraries will also become eligible to receive a donation towards a local charity.

This year, HEPL has selected our local beneficiary as the scholarship program for graduates of the Excel Center at Ivy Tech. The Excel Center is a free public high school in Noblesville dedicated

to helping adults earn their high school diploma, college credits and a variety of industry-recognized certifications. And to further the impact, Community partner Noblesville Orthodontics will donate to the Excel Center 10 cents for each book read towards the local goal of 3,500 books.

Beginning Jan. 1, readers are encouraged to simply log into hepl.bean-stack.org to get started helping make a difference nationally and locally.

SERVICE

arise during this time. In such instances, the town is dependent on neighboring departments to respond to calls for assistance in handling fires or medical emergencies in Cicero.

As every second matters in an emergency, the members of the town council did not feel this was acceptable as they each stated that protecting the

residents of the Town of Cicero must be the department's first and foremost priority.

The provision of ALS services to White River Township will not cease immediately. Rather, the Cicero Fire Department will continue to provide emergency services to White River Township residents for the first 180 days

of 2018. This will enable White River Township to have time to get another ALS provider in place.

In the interim, both the Cicero Town Council and the Cicero Fire Department stated that they would work with White River Township and the White River Township Volunteer Fire Department to ensure a smooth transition.

from Page 1

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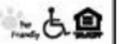
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Hamilton County Reporter



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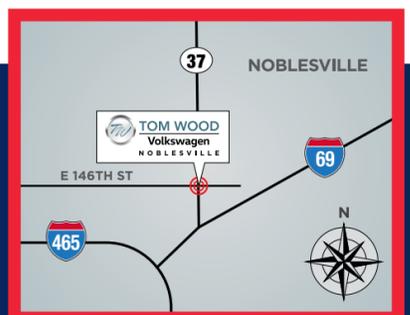
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Hoosier Weather Daddy?



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Photo provided
Citing Greg O'Connor's years of service to the Noblesville community, the Common Council has chosen to endorse him in the race for the District 29 seat to replace retiring State Representative Kathy Richardson.

Noblesville Council endorses O'Connor

The REPORTER
Noblesville Common Council members Brian Ayer, Mark Boice, Wil Hampton, Chris Jensen, Roy Johnson, Mary Sue

Rowland and Rick Taylor issued a statement regarding fellow councilor Greg O'Connor's run for Indiana House District 29.

In a statement provided to the Hamilton County Reporter, council members said:

"It is hard to imagine anyone taking the place of State Representative Kathy Richardson. Rep.

Richardson is a fierce champion for her constituents and for her hometown – Noblesville. As we look at next year's election to replace her, it is imperative that we entrust the seat to someone who, like Kathy, knows Noblesville and the unique issues our city faces. Greg O'Connor, our fellow common council member, is that

person. Greg's 10 years of service on the Noblesville Common Council, coupled with this strong background in finance and understanding of local issues such as infrastructure and workforce development, will serve him, and Noblesville, well in the Indiana General Assembly. Greg O'Connor has our full support."

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Burns nominated for Inspector of the Year

The REPORTER
John Burns has been nominated as 'Inspector of the Year' for the second year running.

Each year, US Inspect area manager Ric Holder reflects on his team of inspector's overall performances, community contribution, customer service and technical aptitude – to name a few categories – with one mission in mind: selecting

the best candidate nominee for 'Inspector of the Year'. The challenge is tough, as US Inspect has more than 160 inspectors nationwide.

"While we (US Inspect) are focused on the client's journey and satisfaction with each and every interaction, at the end of the year, we sit back and reflect on that one inspector that exemplifies the skillsets, knowledge and qualities necessary of being named 'Inspector of the Year'," said Holder.

Holder went on to say, "John was nominated and awarded '2016 Inspector of the Year'. He deserved the title because of his overall contribution to his community, consumer education, leadership as our team's mentor and his positive attitude. John is highly respected by his peers, the real estate community, teammates and senior management."

"I have found John Burns to be a person of integrity and excellence. He has gone out of this way to help my clients, even some-



Burns

times at an inconvenience to himself. He is the best home inspector I have ever used, and I've used a lot over 17 years of real estate," said Joy Pittman, Broker/Owner Home Works, LLC. "I brought my clients to US Inspect because of John Burns."

John has delivered thousands of high-quality home inspections to happy customers throughout the greater Indianapolis metropolitan area since 1992. John joined US Inspect in 2016 as a senior inspector and mentor. John is a graduate of Indiana State University. John enjoys watching movies and sports and spending time at church with family and friends.

US Inspect delivers the best inspections in the market and their reputation is based upon honesty, integrity and excellent service to their consumers. More information can be found by visiting USInspect.com/Central-Indiana. Questions may be directed to Josie Lane at 317-225-4651.



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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:1-3 (KJV)

Mary Ann Gallagher December 19, 2017

Mary Ann Gallagher, 84, Fishers, passed away on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 surrounded by her loving family. She was born to Norbert and Helena (Swanwick) Sack in Indianapolis.



Mary Ann graduated from Sacred Heart High School and Indiana University at Indianapolis where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree late in life. She remained a life-long learner. Mary Ann enjoyed her life as an Army wife. Her frequent moves to places around the world started her love of travel and adventure. Mary Ann and her husband, Mike, enjoyed traveling throughout their life together.

Mary Ann is survived, loved and missed by her children, Kathleen Liddy, Thomas Michael "Mike" Gallagher Jr., Marlene G. Schleifman, Mary G. Wood, Ann E. Gallagher and Joseph E. Gallagher (Heather); 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Michael "Mike" Gallagher Sr.; and brother, Norbert Sack.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 22, 2017 at the church, with an additional visitation one hour prior. Rev. Patrick Click will officiate. Burial will be at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Randall & Roberts Funeral Homes has been entrusted with Mary Ann's care.

Memorial contributions may be made to Breast Cancer Research Foundation, 60 E. 56th St., 8th Floor, New York, NY 10022; or American Diabetes Association, 8604 Allisonville Road, Suite 140, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Arrangements

Calling: 4 to 8 p.m. Dec. 21; 10 to 11 a.m. Dec. 22
Service: 11 a.m. Dec. 22
Location: St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church
Condolences: randallroberts.com

Janice Tulbert

August 30, 1927 – December 20, 2017

Janice Tulbert, 90, Noblesville, peacefully went to be with Jesus her Savior on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis. She was born on August 30, 1927 to Frank and Edythe (Price) Knox in Mecklenburg, N.C.

Janice was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville. She had been a bookkeeper and enjoyed knitting and quilting.

She is survived by two daughters, Beth Tulbert and Bretta (Morris) Slagle; two grandsons, Brad (Katie) Slagle and Blake (Sarah) Slagle; and a great-granddaughter, Parker Slagle.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Henry Tulbert, who passed away in 1980; a son, Bont Tulbert; two sisters; and one brother.

They family has entrusted cremation to Randall & Roberts Funeral Homes in Noblesville.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

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No. 2 Royals run past Pendleton



Reporter photo by Kirk Green

Hamilton Southeastern's Aaron Etherington makes a slam dunk during the Royals' Wednesday victory over Pendleton Heights.

By **RICHIE HALL**

Reporter Sports Editor

Here's a nice way to celebrate the last day of school before Christmas Break: A basketball win.

Hamilton Southeastern finished up its first semester on Wednesday, and the Royals were out of the classroom and on to the court that night to play old rival Pendleton Heights. Southeastern, now ranked No. 2 in the Class 4A Associated Press rankings, used a series of runs to build, maintain, and eventually beat the Arabians 61-46.

The Royals are now 7-0 for the season, their best start since the 2013-14 school year.

"The thing I'm probably most proud of is the way we played defense tonight," said HSE coach Brian Satterfield. "They are so efficient with what they do and how they run their offense. I was a little worried with us trying to prepare on a short week, and with finals going on, we didn't quite go as long as we normally do. But our guys had focus this week in practice and I thought that carried over in the game tonight."

The Arabians scored the first basket of the game on a 3-pointer, but the Royals answered that with a 9-0 run. Mabor Majak scored four points on two nice-looking baskets - the first on an elegant hook shot, the second an immediate tipback of one of his own shots.

After that initial run, Southeastern went through the game unbothered for the most part. The Royals made at least one big run in each period to extend their lead. In the second quarter, HSE scored eight unanswered points.

Aaron Etherington started the run with a free throw, then made a 3-pointer. Nick Bowman followed that with a dunk, and Etherington capped the run with a dunk - not the only one the Royals would make on Wednesday.

Southeastern made its biggest run in the third quarter, pouring in 13 straight points. Majak started things with a putback, then the Royals threw in three straight 3-pointers. Bowman drained the first two 3s, then Chris Grubbs made the third downtown shot. Grubbs, who was starting in place of Noah Smith (out in a precautionary measure), then finished the run with a jump shot. That gave HSE a 42-20 lead, the largest advantage of the game.

"With Noah not being here, you just didn't know how the guys would respond," said Satterfield. The coach said that his players jumping into different roles was huge, especially Grubbs getting his chance

in the starting lineup.

"He had a tremendous night tonight as well," said Satterfield.

Pendleton did make things interesting in the fourth quarter, going on an 8-0 run to trim Southeastern's 50-29 lead to 50-37. Luke Drye hit a 3, then Eli Pancel added five points on a dunk and a 3-pointer.

But the momentum switched in a flash. The Arabians missed a 3, the Royals grabbed the rebound, and the ball got in the hands of Bowman, who dunked it. Grubbs then made a traditional three-point play to get HSE ahead 55-37.

Pancel threw in a 3-pointer to cut the Royals' lead to 55-40, but Southeastern answered with six straight points. Chaz Birchfield made a layin, then Etherington scored four more points, on two free throws and a second slam dunk.

Etherington finished the game with 19 points, while Bowman totaled three 3-pointers on his way to 13 points. Grubbs added 12 points.

Birchfield made his presence known on the boards with eight rebounds, followed by Majak with six and Etherington with five. Etherington also handed out six assists, with Birchfield dishing out four. Majak blocked two shots.

Southeastern is off for a week, then will play at the Columbia City/Huntington Holiday Hoops Tournament on Dec. 28 and 29. The Royals play two pool games on Dec. 28, against Norwell at 10 a.m. and Seccina at 6 p.m. Both games will take place at Huntington North.

Southeastern 61, Pendleton Heights 46

	FG	FT	TP	PF
Southeastern				
Nick Bowman	5-9	0-0	13	1
Chaz Birchfield	3-7	1-2	7	3
Aaron Etherington	6-13	5-7	19	2
Chris Grubbs	4-5	3-4	12	0
Mabor Majak	3-4	1-2	7	0
Josh Fugate	1-3	0-0	3	1
Brandon Miller	0-0	0-0	0	0
Delind Hooks	0-1	0-0	0	0
Bradley Beemon	0-1	0-0	0	0
Kole Hornbuckle	0-1	0-0	0	0
Totals	22-44	10-15	61	7

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4
Pendleton	7	5	14	20
Southeastern	12	14	17	18

Southeastern 3-point shooting (7-15) Bowman 3-5, Etherington 2-5, Fugate 1-3, Grubbs 1-1, Birchfield 0-1.
Southeastern rebounds (32) Birchfield 8, Majak 6, Etherington 5, Grubbs 5, Bowman 1, Fugate 1, Beemon 1, Hooks 1, Hornbuckle 1, Miller 1, team 2.

Tiger girls tie best defensive performance in win at Delta

The Fishers girls basketball team got a big Wednesday road win, sailing past Delta 54-20.

The Tigers led 15-4 after the first quarter and were ahead 29-11 at halftime. Fishers then outscored the Eagles 18-4 in the fourth period. The 20 points the Tigers allowed ties a school record for fewest

points allowed an opponent. Fishers also allowed just 20 points in a game on Dec. 27, 2011.

Toni Grace made three 3-pointers on her way to 10 points. After that, Fishers had three more players (Skylar Fulton, Tamia Perryman and Katie Burton) all scored eight points. Lydia Stullken had an outstanding game, with eight rebounds, seven blocks and four steals. Perryman and Cierra Tolbert both grabbed five rebounds.

The Tigers are now 8-6 for the season. Fishers is back home tonight for a big game: The Tigers welcome Class 4A No. 1 North Central for a 7:30 p.m. tipoff.



Fulton

Fishers 54, Delta 20

	FG	FT	TP	PF
Fishers				
Briana McGee	0-1	0-0	0	2
Lauren Emmerson	0-3	0-0	0	0
Toni Grace	3-10	1-3	10	4
Skylar Fulton	3-10	0-0	8	2
Ali Gerka	2-7	0-0	5	1
Audra Emmerson	0-1	0-0	0	0
Tamia Perryman	4-6	0-0	8	1
Katie Burton	3-4	2-3	8	2
Kenedi London	2-5	3-5	7	2
Lydia Stullken	1-6	1-3	3	1
Casey Walker	1-5	2-2	4	0
Cierra Tolbert	0-3	1-2	1	1
Totals	19-61	10-18	54	16

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4
Fishers	15	14	7	18
Delta	4	7	5	4

Fishers 3-point shooting (6-24) Grace 3-5, Fulton 2-7, Gerka 1-6, L. Emmerson 0-1, McGee 0-1, A. Emmerson 0-1, Burton 0-1.
Fishers rebounds (34) Stullken 8, Perryman 5, Tolbert 5, Fulton 4, Grace 2, Burton 2, London 2, Walker 2, McGee 1, L. Emmerson 1, Gerka 1, A. Emmerson 1.

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Thanks for reading!

GC girls fall to Lapel

The Guerin Catholic girls basketball team fell to Lapel 48-36 in an away game on Wednesday.

The Golden Eagles trailed 14-5 after the first quarter and 26-10 at halftime. Nicole Cunningham led Guerin Catholic with 11 points, while freshman Olivia Labus scored nine points. Sarah Holba grabbed nine rebounds, while Danielle Mason made five steals.

The Golden Eagles will host Shelbyville Friday night at the Eagles Nest.

Lapel 48, Guerin Catholic 36

Guerin	FG	FT	TP	PF
Danielle Mason	1-10	0-0	2	2
Sarah Holba	2-7	0-0	4	3
Sydney Geis	2-7	0-1	6	2
Hanna Bills	1-6	1-2	4	2
Olivia Labus	4-5	0-0	9	0
Carly Hammons	0-2	0-0	0	2
Fiona Weber	0-1	0-0	0	0
Grace Hackett	0-2	0-0	0	0
Lexi Foerder	0-1	0-0	0	0
Mary Theresa Ford	0-0	0-0	0	0
Nicole Cunningham	2-14	7-11	11	3
Totals	12-55	8-14	36	14

Score by Quarters

Guerin	5	5	10	16	36
Lapel	14	12	11	11	48

Guerin Catholic 3-point shooting (4-25) Geis 2-6, Bills 1-4, Labus 1-2, Cunningham 0-7, Holba 0-3, Mason 0-2, Foerder 0-1.
Guerin Catholic rebounds (23) Holba 9, Mason 3, Cunningham 3, Geis 2, Hammons 2, Bills 1, Weber 1, Foerder 1, Ford 1.

Hamilton Heights' Gabe Reel signs with Marietta College



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights

Hamilton Heights' senior Gabe Reel has signed a letter of intent to play baseball for Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio. Reel (seated) is pictured with sister Cassidy Elliott, parents Michelle and Todd, and brother Sam.

Gabe Reel, Hamilton Heights' senior, has committed to play baseball for the Marietta College Pioneers this fall. Marietta College is a member of the Ohio Athletic Conference. He is the son of Michele and Todd Reel.

Marietta College was Reel's college of choice to continue his education and play baseball at the collegiate level. "What really inspired me to choose Marietta was the connection with the coaches, and I loved the campus when I went on a visit in October," said Gabe Reel, who plans to study business management.

"I have been playing competitive baseball for 10 years, and I've been training with Mike Shirley each winter since I was

in sixth grade," noted Reel, who was named 1st Team All-Conference, 1st Team All County, and Honorable Mention All-Indy Area Metro Team. "Mike has helped me the most in becoming the player I am today. Because of him, I continue to focus on improving my skills and game to make valuable contributions as a teammate and play at the highest level possible."

Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights Athletic Director said, "Gabe is one of those special athletes who represents Hamilton Heights extremely well on and off the field. He is a very polite young man, a hard worker, and a great role model for the younger players. He has been passionate about baseball for a long time and it's exciting to see his hard

work pay dividends. We wish him well as he continues his playing career at Marietta College."

"We are really excited for Gabe," said J.R. Moffatt, Hamilton Heights Head Baseball Coach. "He has put in the work and now has an opportunity to continue to play a game he enjoys while continuing his education. I have no doubt that he will be a great addition to their program. As coaches, it's young men like Gabe that make our time worthwhile. We are happy for him, but also really happy that we get to watch him for one final season with us. Yes, they got a good one."

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Wednesday's scores	
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Indiana 105, Atlanta 95	Dallas 110, Detroit 93
Miami 90, Boston 89	Minnesota 112, Denver 104
Sacramento 104, Brooklyn 99	San Antonio 93, Portland 91
Chicago 112, Orlando 94	Golden State 97, Memphis 84
L.A. Lakers 122, Houston 116	L.A. Clippers 108, Phoenix 95

Eastern Conference

Atlantic	W	L	PCT.	GB
Boston	26	8	.765	-
Toronto	21	8	.724	2.5
New York	16	14	.533	8.0
Philadelphia	14	16	.467	10.0
Brooklyn	11	19	.367	13.0
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Cleveland	23	9	.719	-
Indiana	18	14	.563	5.0
Milwaukee	16	13	.552	5.5
Detroit	17	14	.548	5.5
Chicago	10	20	.333	12.0
Southeast	W	L	PCT.	GB
Washington	17	14	.548	-
Miami	16	15	.516	1.0
Charlotte	11	20	.355	6.0
Orlando	11	21	.344	6.5
Atlanta	7	24	.226	10.0

Western Conference

Northwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Minnesota	19	13	.594	-
Portland	16	15	.516	2.5
Oklahoma City	16	15	.516	2.5
Denver	16	15	.516	2.5
Utah	14	18	.438	5.0
Pacific	W	L	PCT.	GB
Golden State	25	6	.806	-
L.A. Clippers	12	18	.400	12.5
L.A. Lakers	11	18	.379	13.0
Sacramento	11	20	.355	14.0
Phoenix	11	22	.333	15.0
Southwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Houston	25	5	.833	-
San Antonio	22	10	.688	4.0
New Orleans	15	16	.484	10.5
Memphis	9	22	.290	16.5
Dallas	9	23	.281	17.0

Pacers get comfortable road win in Atlanta

By GREG RAPPAPORT

Courtesy nba.com/pacers

One game after their last-second defeat to the Celtics, the Pacers bounced back with a comfortable road win, topping the Atlanta Hawks 105-95 on Wednesday Night.

Despite Indiana being able to empty the bench in the final minutes, the game remained within reach for Atlanta (7-24) most of the night, as the Pacers (18-14) won all three of the first quarters but only led by seven entering the fourth quarter.

It was then that the Pacers essentially ended the game, going up by 15 when Victor Oladipo — who racked up a game-high 23

points — canned a triple with 5:58 left in the game to go up by 15 points.

"The bench is coming in and giving us some energy," said Pacers head coach Nate McMillan. "They did again tonight. That's what you want to do though. You want to get stronger as the game goes on. We want to try to get away from these slow starts."

The road win featured a balanced scoring effort from the Blue & Gold, with Bojan Bogdanovic (19 points) and Myles Turner (20 points) each posting bounceback games from Monday's loss.

With the game well in hand, Oladipo was able to rest during the final five minutes.

The 10-point margin was a bit closer than the actual game, as the Hawks went on a 10-0 run to close the game in garbage time.

Early in the night, the Pacers' starting unit got off to a slow start, falling behind 13-7. Much like its previous game against the Celtics, Indiana's opponent started the game hot, with the Hawks making six of their first nine shots from the field as the hosts built an early lead.

Late in the first quarter, Bogdanovic reeled off a personal 5-0 run, sinking a three, then stealing a pass and slamming it, triggering an Atlanta timeout. Indiana closed the first quarter leading 28-27.

In the second quarter, Lance Stephenson made his presence known, slamming one down with his left hand as Indiana's bench started to take control. Stephenson finished his night with one of his best performances of the year, notching 10 points, eight rebounds, and six assists.

Moments later, the Hawks began to chip away at their deficit, eventually tying the game at 45 on a 3-pointer from Ersan Ilyasova, triggering a timeout from Pacers head coach Nate McMillan with 3:40 remaining in the half.

Ilyasova's three ended up being the start of a 7-0 Hawks run, putting Atlanta up 49-45. But Indiana was able to close the half out strong, stringing together an 8-2 run of its own to go up 53-51 at the break.

To open the second half, Indiana's defense went into a lockdown, holding the Hawks to six points over the first 6:10 of the third quarter as the Pacers' lead approached double digits.

By the end of the third quarter, Indiana had outscored the Hawks 25-20, taking a 78-71 lead into the final frame in Atlanta.

Things got off on the right note for the Pacers in the fourth, as Joe Young connected a 3-pointer to give Indiana a 81-71 lead. Young's shot was quickly followed up with a jumper from Cory Joseph, extending Indiana's lead to 12.

From there, Indiana took full control of the game, breaking through on offense and shutting down Atlanta on defense en route to its eighth road win of the season.

"Defensively, we turned it up, and that's the reason why we did so well down the stretch," said Oladipo after the win. "We have to build on that."

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