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Hamilton County Reporter

Your Hometown Week In Review

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Photo provided

(From left) 2018 Noblesville Common Council President Chris Jensen, Lt. Bruce Barnes, Police Chief Kevin Jowitt, Councilor Mark Boice and members of the Common Council present Barnes with the 2018 "Stake in the Ground" award during their meeting on Tuesday evening.

Noblesville awards Barnes with 'Stake in the Ground'

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Common Council recognized Lieutenant Bruce Barnes of the Noblesville Police Department as the 2018 Stake in the Ground honoree at their meeting last Tuesday. In addition to his daily job responsibilities, Barnes addressed the media during and throughout the investigation of the Noblesville West Middle School shooting in May 2018.

"Bruce was the public face speaking on this incident," said Noblesville Police Chief Kevin Jowitt. "Bruce did an extraordinary job doing what he did, particularly because he had a son at the school and didn't know his status until the later in the day. Bruce went far beyond what anyone could expect in that situation. He does a fantastic job and we

are lucky to have him." Councilor Mark Boice said Barnes does an exceptional job of portraying Noblesville well on a national level through many trying situations.

"During the May 25 school incident, Mayor John Ditslear, Chief Jowitt and State Police Superintendent [Doug Carter] trusted Bruce and he provided the national media very precise information without compromising the integrity of the case," Boice said. "In every situation that he has provided information to the public and media, he has done so in a manner that portrays Noblesville as professional and in the best way possible."

Barnes currently serves as the department's public information officer, but he has served the police

department in a variety of capacities including shift supervisor, shift commander, SWAT team commander and honor guard commander.

"Bruce has been responsible for all of our recruiting and selection for more than 10 years. He started our crime watch program and he created and still runs the citizens academy," Jowitt said.

Barnes began working for Noblesville in November 1993.

"I am very honored and humbled," Barnes said. "It is hard to accept this award without saying that so many people did their job that day. Chief Jowitt and Major Scott Kirby set the standard and it blossomed from there. We don't rise to the occasion, we are prepared. That's why it was

a success."

Barnes said his goal that day was to send a message of confidence.

"I wanted Noblesville residents and parents to know we're here. Your kids may not be with you, but trust they are in good hands - our hands or Noblesville Schools. We wanted parents to have confidence in us," he said.

The "Stake in the Ground" Award is designed to recognize city employees - typically at the director level - who go way above and beyond their jobs by "putting their stake in the ground" to not only be a good employee, but to be an exceptional employee. Each councilor makes a nomination and then all members vote on the award. Barnes is the second non-director to win the award.

Noblesville school shooter's parents deny responsibility

The REPORTER

The parents of a 13-year-old boy who opened fire in a Noblesville West Middle School classroom say they could not foresee their son's actions and deny any responsibility for them.

The boy's parents, Kevin and Sarah Moore, responded to a lawsuit filed in Hamilton County Superior Court 1, brought by the parents of Ella Whistler, seeking damages for her injuries suffered in the May 25 shooting.

According to a report by news gathering partner WISH-TV, the shooter's parents said they are not personally responsible for the girl's injuries and that their son and Noblesville Schools may both bear some responsibility. They also say that if the court orders them to pay any damages, they should be offset by the amount the Whistlers have already received from other sources such as insurance and donations.

Cory and Julia Whistler, Ella Whistler's parents, state in their suit that 13-year-old David Moore shot their daughter, Ella Whistler, and teacher Jason Seaman after entering Noblesville West Middle School with a .22 caliber pistol equipped with a silencer, a .45 caliber pistol and more than 200 rounds of ammunition all belonging to Kevin and Sarah Moore,

David Moore's parents. Court documents indicate the firearms used by David Moore were kept in a gun safe in a storage closet that David Moore had access to.

The Whistlers allege Kevin Moore and Sarah Moore knew or should have known their son had unusual and potentially violent propensities, disconcerting attraction to arms and obsession with firearms and violence and that their son suffered from mental and psychological disorders. The suit further alleges that David Moore took pleasure in violence in others and lacked empathy and that he had the capacity to commit violent acts.

The Whistlers feel Kevin Moore and Sarah Moore should have taken reasonable steps to prevent access to their firearms, ammunition and other weapons.

David Moore admitted to the attack during a juvenile court hearing on Nov. 14 and was ordered to be held in a state juvenile detention center until he's 18 or deemed rehabilitated.

Newly elected Superior Court 1 Judge Mike Casati has not yet set a trial date for the suit.

To see the complete suit filed by Cory and Julia Whistler, visit bit.ly/2S9eBgC.

To see the response filed by Kevin and Sarah Moore, visit bit.ly/2UzKrQg.

HSE school board approves solar project for three school buildings

By LARRY LANNAN
LarryInFishers.com



After peppering staff with questions, the Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) school board has cleared the way to install solar panels in three school buildings this year. Work will begin as early as April, with full installation expected this summer.

The three buildings that will use the solar system are Sand Creek Elementary, Sand Creek Intermediate and the HIJ (Hamilton Southeastern Intermediate and Junior High).

Bob Rice, Energy Management Director for HSE Schools, told board members the savings in electricity means the project will pay for itself in 11 years. The so-

lar project will be financed through a four-year bond issue that will not trigger a tax increase, per HSE Chief Financial Officer Mike Reuter.

The \$2.8 million contract was awarded to the private firm AMERESCO, which has done similar projects for schools on the east and west coast, and solar projects for local governments in Indiana.

Rice told the board this project will produce more than cost savings over time, students will be able to learn about solar energy as part of the school curriculum. He also touted the reduction in the carbon footprint, as well as awareness among students of jobs in the solar industry.

The board vote to approve the project was unanimous.

You can review the entire presentation to the board at bit.ly/2WAdtkO.

Boy, 13, arrested for shooting 14-year-old boy in Westfield

The REPORTER

Westfield Police have arrested a 13-year-old boy in connection with a shooting that occurred Thursday evening in Westfield.

Police reports indicate the incident occurred just before 5:30 p.m. in the 1200 block of Scarlet Street, located on the city's west side.

The victim, a 14-year-old boy, was transported to an Indianapolis hospital and is reported to be in stable condition.

The suspect, whose name has not been released, was taken to the Hamilton County Juvenile Detention Center on charges of aggravated battery and possession of a handgun without a license.



Photo provided by WISH-TV

Police have not released a motive, but indicate the suspect and victim did know each other.

Brandi Ruiz, a nearby resident, told news gathering partner WISH-TV that

her family moved to the apartments in August. She said there have been issues surrounding crime. Her son, who is also 14, said people have tried to jump him after he gets off the school bus.

Ruiz described the area. "A lot of kids running around here. They're out of control. The parents aren't watching their kids. I try to keep my kids inside so they're not a part of it," she said.

More people, more sales, more local businesses . . .

Carmel Christkindlmarkt celebrates huge second season

The REPORTER

Preliminary numbers released Thursday show the Carmel Christkindlmarkt enjoy another successful run during its second annual season of offering one of the biggest and best German-themed holiday markets in the United States.

The 26-day run drew a record 328,000 people, up from an estimated 150,000 in 2017, and total market sales revenue of \$2,233,652, up from \$1,389,000

in 2017.

In 2018, the Market attracted visitors from 45 states and 84 of Indiana's 92 counties. CEO and Market Master Maria Murphy attributed the growth to off-season moves made to expand the market grounds, the addition of more huts, more food and beverage options and a greater diversity of the offerings made for shoppers and consumers.

A complete market report will be presented to the Carmel City Council after the close of the fiscal year in April. But for now, here are some numbers of interest:

- Ice skating - 19,809 skaters during the Market (16,709 last year).
- Sponsorships - \$24,000 in corporate sponsorships (\$5,000 last year).
- Local business involvement - 29 Central Indiana businesses (12 last year);

15 of those were Carmel businesses; and seven were new businesses launched to participate in the Market.

- Gluhwein - 30,000 cups of Gluhwein were sold.
- Hot chocolate - 26,000 cups
- Pretzels - 11,500 sold
- Beer and Gluhbier (including SunKing's 'Kringelbock') - 5,400 sold
- Raclette cheese sandwiches - 10,000 sold.

Heights Middle School to unveil new gym

The REPORTER

The greater northern Hamilton County community is invited to attend a special ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Hamilton Heights Middle School West Gym. Heights Middle School is located at 420 W. North St., Arcadia.

Hamilton Heights Middle School students, faculty, staff, board members and project professionals are excited to share in the completion of the first of several recent construction projects and enhancements at the middle school.

The short dedication will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Hamilton Heights Middle School Principal Bret Bailey in celebration of the newly renovated areas.

"We thought this dedication would be a nice addition to the Junior Varsity County Wrestling Tournament, which we are hosting this year," said Corey Kiger, Hamilton Heights Middle School Assistant Principal and JV Wrestling Tournament Director. "This will offer district families, members of our community and visitors from inside and outside the county the opportunity to see the recent upgrades and hear about what else is on slate for this building which has served the corporation well for more than 60 years."

Dori Hochstedler, Project Vision Director, Hamil-



Photo provided

Renovations and upgrades to Hamilton Heights Middle School's West Gym, locker rooms, concessions area and public restrooms are complete. The public has a chance to check out the newly renovated areas at a special dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 9.

ton Heights School Corporation, is excited to share the progress that has been taking place inside the school building which has seen thousands of students, parents and visitors come through its doors. "It's an impressive start to the building's overall interior and exterior transformation toward a more functional, useable, and aesthetically pleasing space for the school and community through our Project Vision Program."

"We are very excited to share these newly renovated areas with our community," said Bailey, who will serve as the Master of Ceremonies. "There was a complete mechanical and electrical up-

grade, including new HVAC equipment and LED lighting, to most of the 54,800 square feet of the building that will remain after the partial demolition of the building in the next phase of construction. The girls and boys west gym locker rooms, concession and athletic storage and laundry areas were renovated as part of the first phase of construction.

In addition, aesthetic upgrades for a new look and feel in the East and West gyms consisted of new paint, sound systems, athletic wrestling mats and wrestling spotlight, scorer's bench, and glass safety petitions among others.

Henderson, White re-elected to Fishers Police Merit Commission

By LARRY LANNAN
LarryInFishers.com

Warren Henderson and Jim White have each been re-elected to serve another term on the Fishers Police Merit Commission.

State law allows police officers to elect two members of the five-member commission. Henderson and White have been serving as the officers' elected commission members.

The Police Merit Commission is charged with administering discipline to department members, including suspension, demotion and termination of employment. Even when no such cases are pending, the commission is required to meet at least twice each year.

One member of the commission is appointed

by the Fishers City Council and the remaining two members are named by the mayor. Currently, Gary Bolenbaugh is the City Council appointee. The mayor's appointees are Bryan Babb and Tiffany Sharpley. However, Ms. Sharpley told commission members at the last meeting she plans to move from Fishers and will need to leave the commission.

Fishers Chief of Police Ed Gebhart announced the election results at last Monday's Board of Works and Safety meeting.

March 1 deadline nears for music scholarship

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Chorus, The Silvernotes, provides a \$500 music scholarship every year in hopes to further the education of a student who wants to incorporate music into his or her professional life.

To be eligible for the \$500 scholarship the student must be a graduating senior from a Hamilton County school with a C or better av-

erage and must either major or minor in music while at college.

There is an application to be completed along with a written essay on why music is important in your life. Applicants must also have a sealed recommendation from a teacher.

Complete details can be obtained through all Hamilton County school counselors.

Heights students' artwork featured at Butler University

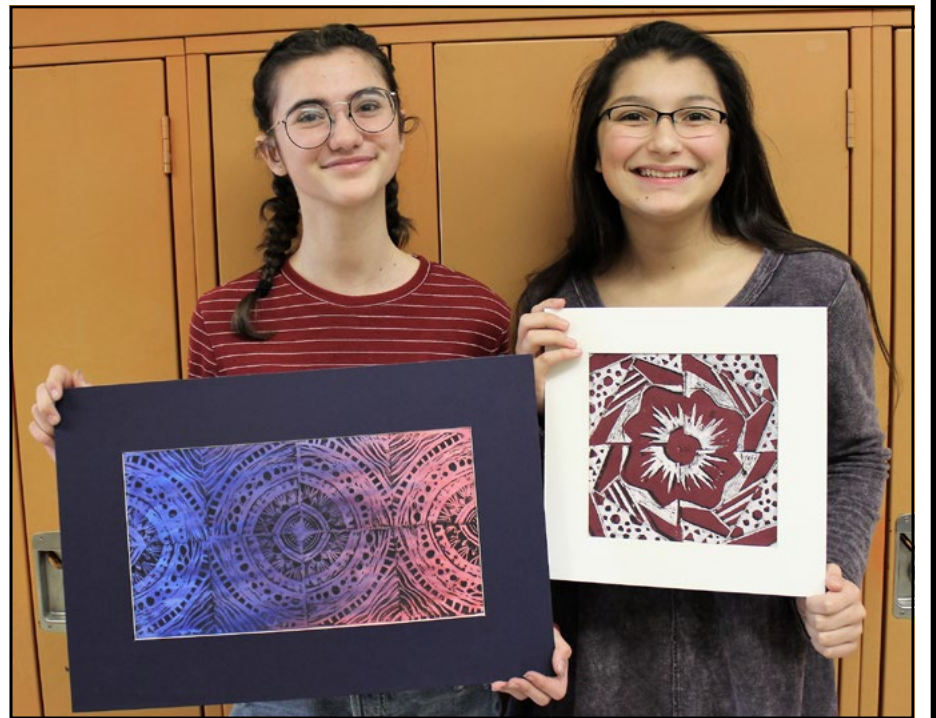


Photo provided

Hamilton Heights Middle School Advanced Art students Lilith Weiss and Lucy Hubbell have received Gold and Silver Key awards for their art work through the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards at Butler University. The artwork of these artistically talented eighth-graders will be on display at Clowes Hall until March 17. Weiss' gold medal work will move on to the National level for judging.

Phase 2 of 276th/281st ...

Bids due in May for northern county road

By FRED SWIFT
ReadTheReporter.com

Documents were signed last Monday by Hamilton County Commissioners for Phase 2 of the reconstruction of 276th/281st streets, a project that will get underway this summer connecting State Road 19 with U.S. 31. Phase 1, which involved improvements to 276th from just west of Gwinn Road and 31, is now all but completed.

The second phase involves building a gently

curved new road from 276th to 281st.

The newly rebuilt 281st will meet State Road 19 where the existing 281st continues east toward State Road 37. County Highway Director Brad Davis says this connection will provide a good east-west roadway from 31 to 37 across Jackson and White River Townships.

The project will be bid in May with construction expected to start by July. The cost of about

\$5.5 million is being paid with \$4 million in federal funds and the remainder in local funds.

The new road between 19 and 31 will have a much improved road surface with wider shoulders and improved intersections, thus providing motorists from the Atlanta and Arcadia areas easier access to 31. Beck's Hybrids, whose operation is served by the new road, is participating in providing some of the needed right-of-way.

236th Street, U.S. 31 intersection to be studied by INDOT

The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will hold a public open house to educate residents and solicit community input regarding an interchange study at U.S. 31 and 236th Street.

The open house will take

place from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Sheridan Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., Sheridan.

The study will help determine the type of interchange INDOT will install. The project will help to improve safety in the intersection, reduce congestion and

accommodate future growth in the area. INDOT plans to hold a total of two open houses and one public hearing during this study.

If you have questions, contact the INDOT Customer Service Center by calling 1-855-463-6848 or email INDOT@indot.in.gov.

Noblesville Schools leading state in special education recognition

The REPORTER

Noblesville Schools announced Thursday that Indiana's Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) was awarded the national exemplary award of excellence at the organization's conference being held in Indianapolis this week. The organization represents

special education administrators across the country.

ICASE is led by Noblesville Schools Director of Special Education Mark Booth, who after bringing innovative and successful special education practices to Noblesville, is now sharing that learning across the state.



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IMCU contributes \$2K to Westfield High School

The REPORTER

Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU) recently presented a check for \$2,088 to Westfield High School as part of an ongoing school spirit debit card program. The partnership allows Westfield fans the opportunity to show their school spirit and support the athletic program by signing up for a 'Rocks-themed debit card.

Every time the card is used as a signature-based transaction, Westfield athletics benefits. The more cards that are in use, the larger the contribution. Since beginning the program in 2013, Westfield High School has earned \$10,709 through this IMCU giveback program.

IMCU Business Development Manager Gina Terril presented the check to WHS Athletic Director Bill Davis at the boys varsity basketball game on Jan. 18.

The card is available for issue to members at the IMCU Westfield Branch,



Photo provided

Westfield High School Athletic Director Bill Davis (left) accepts a check for \$2,088 from IMCU Business Development Manager Gina Terril.

4005 Westfield Road, as well as IMCU's other 25 Central Indiana locations. The IMCU Westfield Rocks debit card is free to members with

IMCU's free checking account and can be issued immediately through IMCU's Instant Issue program, which allows members to receive

their debit card on the spot.

Help support Westfield High School and visit the IMCU Westfield Branch or imcu.com for details.

Former Carmel swim coach sentenced

The REPORTER

U.S. Attorney Josh Miner announced that a former Carmel swim coach, John Goelz, has been sentenced to 16 years and eight months in federal prison for sexually exploiting one of the girls he coached.

Goelz coached at the Carmel Swim Club and as a volunteer assistant coach for Carmel High School swim team. Federal prosecutors

say Goelz had a relationship with the girl that lasted more than nine months through last June. Prosecutors have said they believe Goelz had sex with the girl at parks, at his home and at an Anderson hotel where he shot video of them having sex. Her age hasn't been disclosed.

Goelz also must serve 10 years of supervised release following his sentence.



Goelz

Noblesville firefighter Joel Musselman retires after 34 years of service

The REPORTER

Feb. 1 was the last day of duty for Captain Joel Musselman, who is retiring after 34 years of service. Musselman was hired as a firefighter for the City of Noblesville in 1985 at the age of 30.

His 34 years of service made him the longest active member of the Noblesville Fire Department. Captain Musselman has seen tremendous change in the city he serves over the course of his career.

Musselman was born and raised in Noblesville. He and his wife Darlene have raised two children, Sam and Shelby, both of whom attended Noblesville High School. When he was hired, nearly 14,000 people called Noblesville home. Today's population is approximately 62,000.

Captain Musselman was a member of the Dive

Team, HazMat Team and Rescue Team as well as an active member of Firefighters Local 4416. Captain Musselman was an instructor and led numerous fire ground trainings for Noblesville as well as surrounding communities.

Captain Musselman has spent the last several years as the Station Captain at Station 75. When asked what he planned to do now, Musselman stated he wants to spend his time traveling and perhaps take up a second career as a professional surfer.

Fire Chief Greg Wyatt said, "Captain Musselman has served the citizens and visitors of Noblesville for 34 years and has done so with a Coke in his hand and a big smile on his face. He is truly one of the nicest people anyone could ever meet and we will greatly miss him."



Musselman

Noblesville Chamber, League of Women Voters team up . . .

Noblesville mayoral hopefuls to take part in "Candidate Conversations"

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters of Hamilton County are teaming up to present a three-part series of "Candidate Conversations" featuring Noblesville mayoral candidates Vince Baker, Mike Corbett, Chris Jensen and Julia Kozicki prior to the primary election on May 7. These informal forums will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 11, March 11 and April 8 in the Noblesville High

School auditorium.

According to Noblesville Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Bob DuBois, this is a unique opportunity for Noblesville residents to help shape the mayoral conversation.

"The Noblesville Chamber, in partnership with the League of Women, has created an online portal to accept questions," said DuBois. "Every question asked by our residents will be shared with the candidates."

Noblesville citizens can submit questions for the Candidate Conversations series via a form on noblesvillechamber.com. Questions will be carefully selected for the Candidate Conversations based on content and time restraints. However, all questions will be shared with the candidates privately.

Candidate Conversations will offer a unique format, with specific topics being addressed at each event. On Feb. 11, candi-

dates will discuss issues that address Noblesville people and relationships, including issues of safety, health, housing and workforce development. On March 11, the theme is Noblesville places and things, which includes infrastructure, parks, districts and destinations. Finally, on April 8, the three candidates will tackle the Noblesville economy and finances, including city budgets, capital improvement plans and economic development.

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Advocating for
Victims of Crime and Abuse

www.prevailinc.com

I was born and raised right here in Noblesville. I grew up in a home without domestic violence or assault - it wasn't something I saw, or even heard about.

But when I was introduced to Prevail of Central Indiana, I was shocked by the number of individuals who are affected by domestic violence. In 2018 alone, Prevail helped more than 4,000 clients in Hamilton County. (Nearly 80 percent of clients are women and children.)

Prevail is strictly confidential, and since their core values include integrity and respect, they provide their services at no charge. Domestic violence and abuse are hard topics to discuss, so you don't often hear about them. But at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, we're breaking the taboo and raising awareness for Prevail, an organization that helps families in Hamilton County.

- Mike Bragg, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville

To help Hamilton County families affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse, you can donate the following items:

- Art supplies (for children to journal and express their emotions)
- Bottled water (8 oz. bottles, preferably)
- Individually packaged snacks
- Gas cards (many women have no access to funds after fleeing their abuser)

You can drop off items at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, located at 14701 Tom Wood Way. You can also donate directly to Prevail of Central Indiana by visiting Prevailinc.org.

Girls basketball sectionals

Defense leads Royals to long-awaited championship

By RICHIE HALL

FISHERS - Defense wins championships, and Hamilton Southeastern's defense brought it a long, long awaited girls basketball sectional championship on Saturday night.

The Class 4A No. 1 Royals won their first sectional since 2007 (and fourth overall) by beating Carmel 47-34 in front of a large and screaming crowd at the Southeastern gym. With the victory, the Royals earned a trip to play in the Kokomo regional next Saturday.

It's worth the wait of one more week for a process that began last summer.

"We started back in June," said Southeastern coach Chris Huppenthal. "I told our kids, we weren't going to win a sectional championship in February, we were going to win it starting right now. And from Day 1 in June, when we got together in the summer, these kids had a goal to focus. And we told our kids in the locker room before we came out that we had a passion and we had a commitment to come out here to play with some fire, to play with some enthusiasm. That's what our kids did. Played with a lot of energy."

That energy and passion began spilling out with under two minutes left in the game, when the Royals players realized that they were going to win.

"It just means everything," said senior Malea Jackson. "This is what we've been working towards since the end of last season. This is our one goal that we've been going for. It's just a great feeling, I can't even put it into words. We've become such a family and to win this together, it's just the best feeling in the world."

Carmel was the three-time defending sectional champion coming into the game, so the Greyhounds weren't going down without a fight. They kept it close with the Royals in the first quarter, which ended with a layin by senior Reagan Hune and Carmel leading 10-8. Junior Sydney Parrish



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

The Hamilton Southeastern girls basketball team beat Carmel 47-34 on Saturday to win its first sectional championship since 2007. The Royals are now 23-1 and will play at the Kokomo regional next Saturday.

scored six of HSE's points.

Southeastern started the second period with an 8-0 run, and it would never trail again. Jackson hit a 3-pointer, then senior Amaya Hamilton added five more points, a layin and a 3. Senior Macy Berglund ended the run with a pair of free throws, but that was followed by another Royals run: Junior Jackie Maulucci made a 3-pointer and a free throw, and Jackson threw in another 3 to put Southeastern up 23-12.

Baskets by sophomore Bridget Dunn and Hune cut the Royals' lead to 23-16 by halftime. The third quarter was a defensive affair, with Southeastern scoring five points and Carmel four. Jackson hit a 3 and Parrish made a jumper, while Berglund hit two free throws and Hune made a layin.

"That's the only thing we work on in practice: Defense, defense, defense. Defense wins championships. We get offense based on the defense," said Jackson.

A putback by Hamilton began the fourth quarter, and that pushed the Royals' lead to 30-20. Carmel made one last stand, with Dunn draining a 3 and Hune scoring again, cutting the HSE lead to 30-25. But Southeastern made yet another 7-0 run to jump ahead 37-25; Parrish added another five points.

Two more Hune baskets got Carmel within 37-29, but the Royals would finish the game out from the free throw line, going 10 of 12 from the line in the final two and a half minutes.

Parrish scored 16 points, with Jackson adding 13, including three 3-pointers. Parrish had a fine defensive game with nine rebounds and two blocked shots. Hamilton had five rebounds. Tayah Irvin had another solid defensive game.

Hune scored 14 points for Carmel, which finished its season 14-11. Hune and Mackenzie Wood both pulled four

rebounds.

"They played so hard," said Greyhounds coach Erin Trimpe. "We had a game plan and in the first half, we really fought defensively. We executed it. But Hamilton Southeastern, they're so good. They're so solid in their sets and what they're running. They didn't panic when we got a couple stops. You have to give them a lot of credit for the way they handled themselves tonight."

The Royals will play the winner of the DeKalb sectional in the first semi-final at Kokomo next Saturday morning. The DeKalb championship was decided on Monday between Fort Wayne Northrop and Fort Wayne Carroll after press time. Homestead and Zionsville will play in the second semi-final, each team having won their respective sectional on Saturday.

Southeastern is 23-1 for the season, the most wins for the Royals since 2007.

Semi-final games: Carmel beats Westfield, Royals grind out win over Tigers

By RICHIE HALL

FISHERS - Carmel and Hamilton Southeastern took different paths to the championship game during their Friday semi-final games at Sectional 8, which was hosted by the Royals last week.

The Greyhounds used solid shooting and a great performance from senior Reagan Hune to beat Westfield 53-34. Meanwhile, the Royals had to grind, finally getting past a fired-up Fishers team 36-27.

Southeastern senior Malea Jackson scored the first two points of the game on a layin, which Fishers junior Tamia Perryman answered with a rebound basket. Junior Sydney Parrish made two free throws to put HSE up 4-2, then sophomore Katie Burton tied it up again with a layin. That set the tone for the game.

Parrish scored four more points in the first quarter, which ended with the Royals ahead 8-4. The Tigers cut it to 10-9 midway through the second when senior Skylar Fulton made a 3-pointer, but a quick 6-0 run put Southeastern ahead 16-9. Senior Amaya Hamilton made a hook shot, then Parrish added two more baskets.

Cierra Tolbert hit two free throws with two seconds left, and that kept the Tigers within 16-11 at halftime.

The Royals led 20-14 midway through the third, but the Tigers quickly tied it up by nailing back-to-back 3s, from sophomore Audra Emmerson and Burton. Parrish put HSE back on top

with a layin, but a Fishers steal led to a Burton basket, tying the game again.

Hamilton made two free throws with 36 seconds left to get HSE ahead 24-22. The Tigers answered again, as Burton's floater knotted the game going into the fourth quarter.

The Royals ramped up their defense, and got timely baskets early, with Hamilton making two layins to get her team up 28-24. Those would be the last baskets, but Southeastern got it done from the free throw line, going 8 of 8 in the quarter.

Sophomore Katie Howard hit a long 3-pointer with under two minutes left to keep the Tigers within 30-27, but Southeastern wouldn't allow its rival another point. Junior Jackie Maulucci went 4 of 4 from the line in the game's final 1:10, with Jackson making both her attempts.

Parrish led all scorers with 18 points, also pulling eight rebounds and getting three blocked shots. Maulucci had five rebounds.

Burton had nine points for Fishers, Fulton drained two 3-pointers for six points, and Perryman collected eight rebounds. The Tigers finished their season 15-10.

Fishers beat Anderson 58-33 last Tuesday in the first round of Sectional 8. Burton scored 25 points in that game to lead all scorers, while Tolbert collected 10 rebounds.

Carmel reached the championship game by beating Westfield 53-34 in the first Friday semi-final

game.

The Greyhounds were led by a solid performance from Reagan Hune. The senior scored the first six points of the game, putting Carmel up 6-0 right away. That gave the 'Hounds momentum that carried them to a 15-6 lead by the end of the first quarter. Hune scored eight points overall in that period, with senior Macy Berglund contributing the other seven.

The Shamrocks cut into Carmel's lead in the second period, getting within 23-17 by halftime. Freshman Alyssa Crockett poured in nine points during the quarter. But the Greyhounds took control again in the third period, with four different players hitting 3-pointers: Hune, sophomore Bridget Dunn, senior Sophie Bair and freshman Kate Clarke.

In total, the 'Hounds outscored Westfield 16-7 in the third, giving them a 39-24 lead at the end of the period. Clarke's 3 started a 7-0 run that also included the beginning of the fourth quarter; Clarke began the period with a basket, then Berglund scored on a putback.

Crockett ended the run with a layin, but Carmel scored two more baskets, a layin from sophomore Tally Seitz and a jumper by Clarke, to take its biggest lead of the game at 47-26. Clarke and Seitz would later each hit 3s; Carmel was 6 of 10 from 3-point range from



Reporter photos by Kent Graham


Carmel's Sophie Bair (left) and Westfield's Alyssa Crockett battle for a loose ball during the Greyhounds-Shamrocks girls sectional semi-final game Friday.

the game.


Hune finished the game with 13 points, six rebounds and four steals, while Berglund scored 11 points and also pulled six rebounds. Clarke added 10 points, including a pair of 3s. Senior Mackenzie Wood grabbed seven rebounds.

Crockett led all scorers with 19 points, hitting two 3-pointers, and also grabbed seven rebounds. Sophomore Gigi Eldredge collected five rebounds.

Westfield finished the season 15-8 and graduates three seniors: Jade Shipley (who hit a 3-pointer), Regan Dimond and Zoe Pentecost.



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Fishers' Katie Burton (3) tries to work around three Hamilton Southeastern players during the Royals-Tigers girls basketball sectional game Friday at Southeastern.

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Patient Greyhounds run past Millers in first round

By RICH TORRES
FISHERS – Patience.

Last Tuesday night, coach Erin Trimpe stressed its importance as her Carmel girls basketball team's persistence was tested during the opening round of Sectional 8 at Hamilton Southeastern.

Locked in three ties in the first half, including a 20-20 stalemate at halftime against the short-handed Noblesville Millers, the Greyhounds had two choices.

Either they could stick to the game plan or fold under the weight of their first-half shooting woes. The Greyhounds opted for the former, leading to a decisive 18-point fourth quarter en route to a 48-33 victory.

"We kept stressing to our shooters to keep shooting. For our post players to keep crashing the boards and give us two or three chances to get some shots up," Trimpe remarked. "I thought in that fourth quarter we hit shots. It helps when you hits shots. It definitely makes a difference."

With a large target on their backs as the defending sectional champions, the Greyhounds found their offensive rhythm in the final 16 minutes to advance to Friday the sectional semifinals.

Senior Reagan Hune finished with a team-high 13 points on 6-of-12 shooting, while 5-10 senior Macy Berglund had 10 points and seven rebounds.

Carmel shot 32 percent from the field in the first half, but once the third quarter began, that percentage soared to 54 for the second half.

The Greyhounds opened the third quarter with an 8-2 run and added a 9-0 run to start the fourth behind three straight 3-pointers, which finally broke down the Millers' stubborn 2-3 zone.

"I thought our post did a good job of taking it inside, finding our shooters, and our girls continued to shoot with confidence," Trimpe said. "That's all we can

really ask from them."

In the first half, execution alluded the Greyhounds. Carmel went 1-for-12 from 3-point range and were 1-for-14 after the third quarter. The Greyhounds' string of treys in the fourth, however, provided the spark they needed.

Their defense and rebounding handled the rest.

Noblesville, which was down three starters and five varsity players due to season-ending injuries and illness, battled, but struggled to answer late as the Greyhounds' shooting heated up.

During their regular-season meeting on Nov. 20, Carmel cruised past Noblesville 74-44. This time around, the Millers banded together and nearly pulled off the upset.

"We only have seven kids, so our game plan is to play a 2-3 zone. And we've done a really nice job," Millers coach Donna Buckley said. "We just wanted to make sure we rebounded and made them take long jumpers. Last time we played them, they shot lights out. That was really the difference. They didn't shoot nearly as well this time, but they started to hit some late."

The Millers kept stride with a game-high 14 points from senior Mallory Johnson and eight points from sophomore reserve Makenna Mundy, who went 4 of 5 from the floor.

Senior Maddie Knight added seven points, but the Greyhounds neutralized the Millers on the boards, grabbing 19 defensive rebounds. Carmel out rebounded Noblesville 30-20.

"We might not be the buffest of teams, but we have a lot of really good length and a lot of really aggressive players that can really fly in there," Trimpe said. "Our No. 1 goal was to dominate the boards tonight, so I was proud of their effort."



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Noblesville's Maddie Knight drives the basketball during the Millers' sectional game with Carmel last Tuesday.

Their defensive pressure led to 16 Noblesville turnovers, including nine in the second half, which fueled the Greyhounds rally and 9-0 run in the game's final 3:38.

"We like to pressure people. We like to try to cause some disruption and I thought our guards, especially up top, did a really good job of not allowing them to see over the top," Trimpe said. "We know Noblesville is a good team, and we know they have some phenomenal seniors. Their guards create so well, and we knew they would be prepared for us and have a good game plan."

Bridget Dunn had eight points and 10 rebounds for Carmel. Freshman Kate Clarke posted seven points as the Greyhounds shot 42 percent overall.

"They forced us into some tough situations, and they played us hard. Our girls

had to keep pushing through. The game plan they came in with really threw us off," Trimpe said. "We tried to make some halftime adjustments and the girls came out and executed those well."

The Millers will lose three seniors to graduation this offseason, but with five juniors returning and a talented junior high class coming in, Buckley sees a turnaround coming soon. Prior to this year, the Millers had a string of six straight winning campaigns.

"We've come a long way. We've really grown up this year. We lost three varsity kids to ACLs, one kid to concussion. Our starting point guard just went down the past four games," Buckley said. "We were literally playing without three starters, and several other keys kids, but our kids stayed together. That's a huge thing."

'Hawks play Frankton tough before falling, 62-47

By RICHIE HALL
SHERIDAN - For the first time in school history, Sheridan is hosting a girls basketball sectional.

The Blackhawks gave their home crowd some exciting moments in the first round of Sectional 40 on Tuesday at Hobbs Memorial Hall. Sheridan was down to a solid Frankton team at halftime before coming back to tie the game in the third quarter.

The Eagles made a late run to beat the 'Hawks 62-47, thus ending Sheridan's season. The Blackhawks finished 12-11 under first-year coach and former Sheridan player Jaidlin Delph.

"These girls just worked their tails off and we couldn't be more proud of the year that they had," said Delph. "I'm really lucky to have had them this year and everything that they've given to me. I'm just blessed as a first-year head coach to have such a hard-working team."

Both teams made big runs in the first quarter. After Olivia Raines got the 'Hawks on the board with a layin, Frankton scored eight straight points to take a 9-2 lead. But Sheridan answered back with its own 8-0 run to lead 10-9; Heather Barker started it with a three-point play, followed by a Lillie Dickerson

3-point basket. Raines then hit a jumper to give Sheridan the lead.

Chloe Thomas made a putback to give the Eagles an 11-10 lead at the end of the quarter, and that would be the start of an 11-0 run to put Frankton up 20-10 in the second period. The Eagles led by as much as 30-15 late in the quarter, Sheridan cut that to 30-18 by halftime.

The 'Hawks continued that run as the third period began, scoring eight quick points to get within 30-26. Barker opened the quarter with five points (a 2-pointer and 3-pointer), then Jillian O'Flaherty nailed a 3.

Sheridan embarked on another run midway through the third, scoring seven straight points to tie the game at 37-37. Barker and Raines made layins, then O'Flaherty hit her second 3-pointer of the game to even things up.

"It's who these girls are," said Delph. The coach said her team is asked to give 32 minutes of best effort each night, and the Blackhawks delivered on Tuesday.

"They just worked so, so hard tonight and literally gave it all they had," said Delph. "There's girls who can't even stand up after the game tonight because they were just busting their butts so much."



Reporter photo by Kirk Green

Sheridan senior Olivia Raines takes a shot during the Blackhawks' sectional game with Frankton last Tuesday night at Hobbs Memorial Hall. Raines was one of four seniors on the Sheridan team.

Frankton went on its own 7-0 run after Sheridan tied it up, going ahead 44-37 early in the fourth. Allie Delph scored four straight points to get the 'Hawks within 44-41, but the Eagles took over from there, outscoring Sheridan 18-6 in the final 5:45 of the game.

Two seniors led the way in scoring: Barker finished the game with 18 points, while Raines earned a double-double of 12 points and 10 rebounds. Barker also handed out four assists and made four steals, with Raines getting four steals also.

Heights advances to sectional championship

Hamilton Heights won two games last week at the Class 3A Sectional 24 at New Castle to reach the championship game there.



Dissett

Last Tuesday, the Huskies avenged a regular-season loss to Yorktown, winning 38-20 to advance to the semi-final round. Heights left no doubt in this game, leading 17-4 after the first quarter. The Huskies held that margin at halftime, 24-11, then turned on its defense again in the third period, allowing Yorktown only two points.

"Great team effort defensively, especially Bayleigh Runner and Jillian Osswald were fantastic locking down Yorktown's two main options," said Heights coach Keegan Cherry. "Offensively we did a great job executing our actions against their 2-3 zone. Lauryn Wiley was solid all night and did a great job of finishing inside. We still have an uphill battle, but it was a great start to tournament play."

Wiley led the Huskies' scoring with 16 points, with Runner adding 10. Payton Dissett pulled five rebounds, and Runner blocked four shots.

After several days of being delayed, Heights moved into the championship game with a 54-16 semi-final win over Muncie Burris.

The Huskies led 19-5 after the first quarter and 33-11 at halftime. Runner scored 16 points to lead Heights, also pulling seven rebounds and making five steals. Dissett handed out four assists.

"Never easy to play in these types of games," said Cherry. "Before the game we talked about playing to a standard regardless of team of score. I was proud of our maturity as a team in that we remained mentally solid throughout."

Heights is 14-10 and played sectional host New Castle for the championship. The game ended after press time. Full details will be available in the Reporter's Wednesday, Feb. 6 edition.

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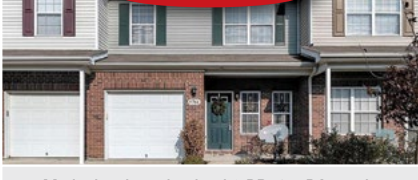
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Boys basketball

Millers get solid victory over Mount Vernon

By **RICHIE HALL**
NOBLESVILLE - There were three ingredients to Noblesville's 48-38 victory over Mount Vernon on Saturday afternoon.

First, take one solid first half of play that saw the Millers make effective scoring runs to get some separation over the Marauders. Then add a third quarter of Noblesville keeping its composure when Mount Vernon made its run, and top it off with a fourth quarter of solid free-throw shooting.

Mix together in The Mill for 32 minutes, and you come out with a win.

"That's the game in a nutshell," said Millers coach Brian McCauley. "We got off to a tremendous start."

After some initial back and forth that saw Noblesville trail 7-6 midway through the first quarter, the Millers made a quick 6-0 run to take the lead and hold it for the duration of the game. Xavier Hines scored the first four points in that run, then Alex Hancock's layin made it 12-7.

The Marauders' Jacob Frank interrupted the run with a 3-pointer, but Hancock scored again at the end of the

quarter to give Noblesville a 14-10 lead. That basket also started a 7-0 run; Zack Johnson scored three points, with Eagan Keever-Hill making a putback in between.

Jordan Schmidt later hit a 3-pointer, and Hancock continued his strong first-half play with another basket. That gave Noblesville a 24-12 lead. The first half ended with the Millers up 26-17; Hines added a rebound basket.

"Xavier Hines was really good today defensively," said McCauley. "He rebounded well. He had some big rebounds for us." Hines totaled six rebounds for the Millers.

The Marauders went on their own 7-0 run that began at the end of the first half and continued into the third quarter. Peyton Meadors made back-to-back layins at the start of the period to get MV within 26-21. Meadors then made a three-point play to get his team within 30-27 with 2:04 left in the third.

But that would be as close as Mount Vernon would get. Neither team scored for the remainder of the quarter, and the Millers set the tone for the fourth period early when Johnson made two

free throws just nine seconds into the quarter.

Noblesville made 14 of 15 foul shots in the fourth period: Johnson, Schmidt and Keever-Hill all went 4-for-4, while Alex Hunt was 2-for-3. Hunt also had an important basket with around two minutes left in the game to put Noblesville up 38-29, effectively sealing the win.

"Our entire team played well," said McCauley. "We took care of the ball extremely well. We had five turnovers. We really knocked down our free throws."

Johnson led Noblesville's scoring with 15 points. Keever-Hill and Schmidt both added eight points.

"Zack was consistent throughout the game," said McCauley. "Eagan made his free throws. Jordan Schmidt made his free throws late and handled the ball well."

Noblesville is 9-8 and continues its homestand this weekend with a Hoosier Crossroads Conference game against Brownsburg on Friday, then a game with Fort Wayne Wayne on Saturday.



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Noblesville's Jordan Schmidt scored eight points and made key free throws in the fourth quarter during the Millers' Saturday afternoon win over Mount Vernon.

Tigers take over in second half, beat 'Rocks

If there's one thing the Fishers boys basketball team can do, it's win under tough circumstances.

The Tigers traveled to Westfield for a Thursday Hoosier Crossroads Conference game, and slowly took control in the third quarter to grab a 63-53 win over the Shamrocks at The Rock. Fishers got the win despite having two players out, and is now 5-1 in conference play, second to Zionsville's 6-0 record.

Tigers coach Matt Moore noted that it was the third game in a row his team held an opponent under 55 points. The coach said it was a grind it out game, but Fishers seems to thrive in that situation.

"Those aren't the prettiest sometimes, but those are games that we can win," said Moore. "And we've been able to win those a lot this year."

Westfield led 15-12 after the first quarter. The Shamrocks had five different players score in that period, with Chris Chin and Caleb Welch both getting four points. Josiah Matthews had seven points, including a 3-pointer, to keep the Tigers within striking distance.

Fishers made its move in the second quarter, outscoring the 'Rocks 16-9 to take a 28-24 lead. It was Willie Jackson's turn to shine in that period, and he poured in 11 points.

The Tigers then turned it up in the third quarter, scoring 19 while holding Westfield to nine, going up 47-33. Jeffrey Simmons, who has quickly established himself as one of the better freshman players in the state, threw in 14 points.

The Shamrocks made a comeback in the fourth quarter, at one point cutting Fishers' lead to eight points. Welch had an outstanding quarter, with 10 points, including two 3s. But the Tigers were carried through with their free throw shooting, making 12 of 17 in that period.

Jackson made all six of his free throws on his way to 19 points. Simmons added 18 and Matthews scored 13 points.

The Tigers were without Justin Long, who was sick, and Terry Hicks, who has a broken fifth metatarsal in his foot. Moore said Hicks "will have surgery sometime next week," and is looking at a four to six week recovery period.

"There's an outside chance we get him back for the end of sectionals, potentially, and we're holding out hope on that," said Moore. "But it's unfortunate for him."

Hicks is a starter for Fishers, and Luke Hernandez



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

Fishers' Josiah Matthews (right) is guarded by Westfield's Camden Simons (left) and Zach Banks during the Tigers-Shamrocks boys basketball game Thursday at The Rock. Matthews scored 13 points in Fishers' 63-53 win.

started in his place. Hernandez played well in his role, scoring five points. Other players stepped up, such as Emmanuel Davis and Dominic Castellani.

"With losing Terry, it hurts us because of his versatility," said Moore. "But at the same time, I think Luke steps in and does a great job. When Justin Long, who was sick tonight, is in there, he can do some things. Tonight I think Manny Davis, if we had a game ball to give, we'd give it to him just for his effort, his ability to stay on the floor and help make plays."

Welch scored 19 points for the Shamrocks, with Zach Banks adding 10 points. Chin totaled eight points, and Camden Simons scored six. Braden Smith, also one of the better freshman players in the state, led Westfield in rebounding with eight, in addition to five points and four assists.

"I thought we did a lot of good things the first half," said Shamrocks coach Shane Sumpter. "I thought we rebounded well, I thought we kept them out of the lane. The second half, a lot of those things disappeared is basically what happened. They came out strong the second half. They got a little bit of fire. They really hurt us inside. Jeff Simmons hurt us inside. We gave up a lot of offensive rebounds the second half and we struggled to score. Give Fishers a lot of credit. Defensively, they're really good. We just dug ourselves a hole."

Westfield is now 8-7 overall. The Shamrocks play at Harrison on Tuesday, then travel to Hamilton Heights on Friday. Westfield will host Lafayette Jefferson on Saturday.

Fishers fell on the road Saturday afternoon, losing to Fort Wayne Snider 64-59.

The Panthers took a 17-9 lead after the first quarter, forcing the Tigers to play catch up for the rest of the game. Snider led 34-27 at halftime; Fishers outscored the Panthers by one point in the later three quarters, but couldn't come all the way back.

Willie Jackson scored 19 points, including a 9 of 9 effort from the free throw line. Jackson was one of 10 scorers in double figures; Jeffrey Simmons had 13 points, Josiah Matthews scored 12 and Alex Szilagyi added 10, including two 3-pointers.

The Tigers are 13-6 and will host Anderson on Tuesday and Pendleton Heights on Friday.



Westfield's Braden Smith had eight rebounds, five points and four assists.

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Teams play each other Tuesday...

Huskies lose tough game to Frankton

Hamilton Heights lost a tough game at Frankton on Thursday, 77-71.



Hochstedler

The Eagles took an early lead on the Huskies, going up 25-14 after the first quarter. Heights played a little more even with Frankton in the other three periods, cutting the lead to 37-29 by halftime, but couldn't come all the way back.

Four Huskies players landed in double figures. AJ Field poured in 23 points on 10-of-18 shooting and pulled five rebounds, while Gus Etchison added 18 points and also handed out five assists. Issiac Hickok and Hudson Hochstedler both scored 12 points. Hickok, Cory Vonfeldt, Brent Pennington all corralled four rebounds, while Hochstedler dished out three assists.

Heights is 10-6 and will play three home games this week, hosting Sheridan on Tuesday, Westfield on Friday and Frankfort on Saturday.

Blackhawks fall to South Putnam

The Sheridan boys basketball team was on the wrong side of a comeback by South Putnam Saturday afternoon, losing 45-44 at Hobbs Memorial Hall.

The Blackhawks fell behind 7-2 after the first quarter, but cut the Eagles' lead to 20-19 at halftime. Sheridan then took control in the period to go ahead 34-26, but South Putnam outscored the 'Hawks 19-10 in the fourth quarter.

Drake Delph scored 13 points for Sheridan, with Caleb Duke adding 10. Nick Burnell pulled 12 rebounds to go with eight points, while Jesse Kolb had five rebounds.

The Blackhawks are 8-6 and play Tuesday at Hamilton Heights. Sheridan will travel to Carroll on Friday for a Hoosier Heartland Conference game, then return home to host Lebanon on Saturday.

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