

Hamilton County Reporter

Your Hometown Week In Review

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Santa, holiday spirit roll in for Noblesville’s 41st Christmas Parade



Treasurer’s Office investigation concludes

Special Prosecutor: “Insufficient evidence” to prove improper conduct

Mark Booth removed as Noblesville Schools Special Ed. Director

The REPORTER

Hancock County Prosecutor Brent Eaton released his findings last Wednesday regarding the Indiana State Police’s investigation into the Hamilton County Treasurer’s Office.

“After a thorough investigation, we found insufficient evidence to prove that Hamilton County Chief Deputy Treasurer Kim Good’s parents were improperly permitted to make late property tax payments without paying late fees as required by law for those transactions,” said Eaton. “We did find that if any waiver of any late fee was granted over the years to anyone that it would not be a crime under Indiana Law.”

The report goes on to state that recordkeeping in the Hamilton County Treasurer’s Office is insufficient to determine if late fees were waived for property tax payments that were received after the due date. Eaton did conclude that as a result of



Eaton

the incomplete recordkeeping, it is possible that a payment could be received after the deadline and still be processed as an on-time payment.

“Simply put, even if there were a violation of the law, there is no provision in Indiana criminal law that makes this specific conduct a crime. Therefore, no criminal action can be taken to rectify the matter or hold anyone criminally accountable under the law,” said Eaton. “I reviewed every resource I could to determine if this action was criminal, and given the evidence, the answer is no.”

Eaton was appointed as Special Prosecutor in April by Hamilton County Circuit Court Judge Paul Felix at the request of Hamilton County Prosecutor D. Lee Buckingham II. Eaton was tasked with reviewing the Indiana State Police’s investigation into the Treasurer’s Office to determine if there was

Stoesz: Lack of crime doesn’t mean lack of wrongdoing

The REPORTER

The criminal investigation that focused on the Hamilton County Treasurer’s Office began after former county employee Susan Byer filed a lawsuit stating she was unjustly fired after making allegations of late property tax payment penalties not being charged to family members of Treasurer’s Office employees.

Byer is represented by Westfield-based attorney Tim Stoesz.

Stoesz issued the following statement after Special



Stoesz

Prosecutor Brent Eaton released the findings in his investigation:

“Special Prosecutor Brent Eaton did a very good job. The report vindicates Susan’s allegation that the property tax payments of Kim Good’s parents were processed late, and not designated as late, allowing the late penalty to be waived. Just because a crime wasn’t committed doesn’t mean wrongdoing did not happen. We look forward to reading the Indiana State Police Investigation Report.”

criminal activity taking place in the management of the Hamilton County Treasurer’s Office.

Indiana Code 6-1.1-37-10 states that if property taxes are not completely paid on or

before the due date, a penalty shall be added to the unpaid portion in the year of the initial delinquency. Under the

See Treasurer . . . Page A2

The REPORTER

Noblesville Schools has announced Mark Booth will no longer serve as Director of Special Education after being disciplined for a social media post published on his personal Facebook page.

The post was a photo of Donald Trump with a caption that referred to Trump as “special needs.”

After learning of the social media post, Noblesville Schools issued a statement that said, “The post was unacceptable and clearly exhibited a serious lack of judgment.”

Booth’s new role in the school district will be analytical compliance. Booth served his position as special education director since 2004.

Erin Rood will serve as interim special education director until a permanent replacement is chosen.



Booth

Fishers Police Department awarded sixth consecutive accreditation from CALEA

Three economic development projects move forward in Fishers

15 years of continuous accreditation earns Meritorious Award for the Department

By LARRY LANNAN
LarryInFishers.com



The Fishers Police Department announced last Wednesday that it has received a sixth consecutive accreditation award from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The department also says it has received the Meritorious Award for being an accredited agency for more than

15 continuous years.

Meritorious agencies receive an enhanced Certificate of Meritorious Accreditation, displaying a blue “Meritorious” ribbon and an inscription proclaiming their 15 or more years of accredited status.

Being accredited by CALEA consists of a four-year process measuring adherence to strict international guidelines of policing and organizational practices. At the end of the fourth year, CALEA assessors visit the agency to review day-to-day operations of policies and procedures. After confirming

compliance, observations of agency activities, and interviews, the Commission voted unanimously to award the Fishers its sixth award.

CALEA was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of the following law enforcement’s major executive associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA), and Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

By LARRY LANNAN
LarryInFishers.com

The Fishers City Council took action last Tuesday to approve next steps for three economic development projects.

The council approved Economic Revitalization areas, moving forward with the Hub & Spoke, as well as the Sitel projects. The council also approved the first amendment to the economic development agreement with Nickel Plate Station.

Hub & Spoke is under construction on 106th Street near Interstate 69 and the planned Nickel Plate Trail. It will be a center for the construction industry, with training programs for those aspiring to work in the construction trades.

Sitel is a customer service company, planning on bringing 350 jobs to Fish-

ers with a location at 121st Street and Cumberland Road.

Nickel Plate Station is planned to be a mixed-use development north of 116th Street in the downtown area of Fishers.

In other city council items:

The accounting firm BKD has given the city a “clean opinion” in a recently-concluded audit, according to Councilman and Finance Committee Chair John Weingardt. The city several years ago chose to use a private accounting firm audit instead of using the State Board of Accounts.

Hamilton County Council President Brad Beaver and incoming President Rick McKinney stopped by the city council meeting as a courtesy. Beaver briefly

talked about the upcoming construction on State Road 37. McKinney touched on the work coming at 146th Street and State Road 37.

The council gave final approval to the Non-Profit Committee recommendations on city grants to local organizations. The following received the final go-ahead:

- Hamilton County Youth Assistance Program: \$65,250
- Youth Mentoring Initiative: \$64,707
- Janus Development Services: \$15,043
- Conner Prairie Museum: \$100,000
- Hamilton Southeastern Schools Foundation: \$10,000

Fishers Firefighter Brian Reeves was honored for 20 years of service.

Janus thankful for \$10K gift



Photos provided

Early last year, Ken Hahn, President of Metro Plastics, set a goal to run the 2019 Monumental Marathon in Indianapolis, despite the fact he hadn't run in years and would be turning 50 two days prior to the 26.2 mile event. But for Ken, the goal was not just to complete the race, but to raise \$10,000 for Janus Developmental Services. Janus is a 40-year-old non-profit that provides services and programs for adults with disabilities throughout Hamilton County. **(Left)** On Nov. 25, Hahn presented a check in the amount of \$10,790 to Janus Developmental Services from funds raised from his participation in the Monumental Marathon. **(Right)** Janus client John presented Hahn with a handmade thank you card from everyone at Janus.

Donate blood, give the gift of life this holiday season

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office will hold a blood drive on Monday, Dec. 16. Give the priceless gift of life this month by donating blood.

Never donated before? Why donate blood? Why does it matter if you donate blood this December?

Simply put, more Hoosiers need blood than avail-

able blood donors. A total of 38 percent of the population is eligible to donate blood, but only 7 percent do. If you have never donated before, it is never too late to start.

Have questions regarding if you are eligible to donate? Think you can't donate? Please feel free to text a blood center representative and ask. The rules and regulations regarding blood do-

nation are constantly changing, so feel free to reach out and double check. You can reach the representative at (317) 517-2689.

Did you know that every two seconds in the United States someone needs blood? Commit to donate today and save three lives right here in Hamilton County.

Visit bit.ly/2OUSBBD to sign up.

Noblesville woman injured in house fire



Photo provided

Shortly after 12:30 a.m. on Thursday, the Noblesville Fire Department responded to a residence fire at 292 Chestnut St. Upon arrival, responding units encountered flames and heavy smoke coming from the front of the home. Crews were able to enter the structure and pull an unconscious female out of the burning home. She was transported to Riverview Hospital in serious condition. She was later transferred to Eskenazi Hospital. Three cats were also pulled from the home; one survived.

TREASURER

from Page A1

law, Indiana Code 6-1.1-37-15 allows the Treasurer to waive, negotiate or settle penalties if a formal policy is presented to and approved by the Hamilton County Council. According to Eaton, there is no evidence that such policy for waiver exists, which means any waiver for Good's parents or anyone else were unlawful.

According to the report, the scope of this investigation was limited to the processing of payments by the Treasurer's Office, the records of those payments,

any direct criminal act committed by any employee of the Treasurer's office against any other employee of the Treasurer's office during or because of employment with the Treasurer's office, and truthfulness and honesty with investigators. It did not consider any other avenue of investigation of the office or personnel beyond those listed as it would have exceeded what was believed to be the jurisdictional scope allowed by the Judge's order assigning a Special Prosecutor.

The report also concluded

that there is no evidence that any employee of the Hamilton County Treasurer's Office was intimidated, harassed, or otherwise the victim of a criminal act. There is insufficient evidence to make a finding of criminal acts committed by employees of the Treasurer's Office during or because of their employment with the Treasurer's Office. The failure to maintain the records of when payments were actually received is not a crime that can be prosecuted under the law as it exists in Indiana.

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Producer: Beth Montag

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Noblesville memorializes Herring with red ribbons



Photo provided

Noblesville Street Department employees have placed red ribbons on downtown street poles in memory of 21-year-old Ryan Scott Herring of Gas City. Last month, Herring fell while installing holiday decorations on a city light pole. Herring was a contract worker from Winterland Inc., the company hired to install decorations around the courthouse square.

Wreath auction will benefit Cicero Library

The REPORTER

Have you seen the beautifully decorated wreaths on display at the Cicero Library?

These Christmas wreaths were designed by local patrons, businesses and organizations for the annual HNPL Friends of the Library Silent Wreath Auction, which raises money for library programs, such as winter and summer reading. This year's proceeds will go toward appliances for the Cicero Library's new meeting room.

The public is invited to bid on wreaths during business hours now through Saturday, Dec. 7. At 4 p.m. on Dec. 7, the wreaths will be transferred downtown to the Our Town Cicero Tree Lighting Festival, where bidding will conclude at 7 p.m.

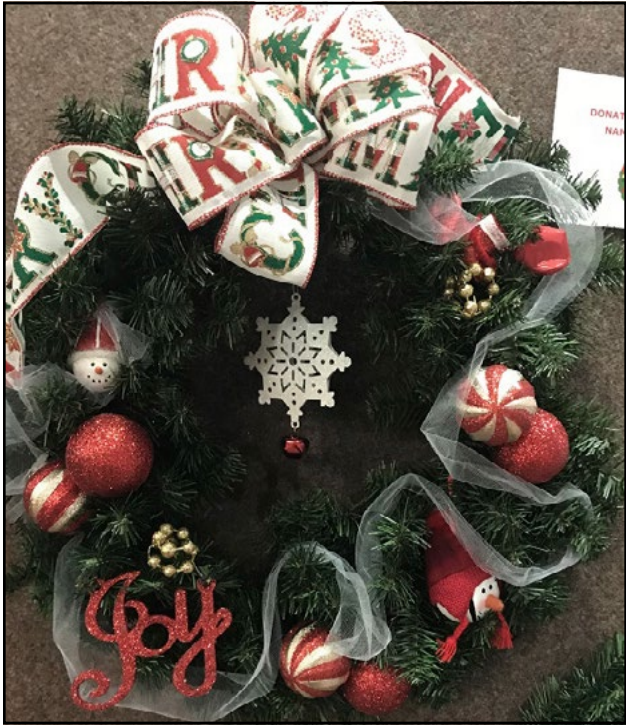


Photo provided

Anyone interested in donating a wreath for this fundraising auction may simply bring a nicely decorated wreath to the Library before Dec. 7.

See what's in store at Carmel's Winter Cheftacular on Dec. 9

The REPORTER

The Winter Cheftacular truly captures the spirit of the season by bringing people together with great food for a great cause. Overall, this event provides a learning experience for Carmel High School students and supports local restaurants and the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank.


The second annual Winter Cheftacular will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9 at the Carmel High School freshman cafeteria. Local chefs will contribute small plates featuring a special assigned ingredient. During the event, the chefs will work with CHS culinary students to serve guests. Proceeds from the event will go towards the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank.

For more information, visit smore.com/r9zv4. Visit gofan.co/app/events/69798 for tickets.


This event is in partnership with the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter at Carmel High School.

Richard "Rick" Coy

March 15, 1945 – November 23, 2019



Richard "Rick" Coy, 74, Noblesville, passed away on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at his home in Noblesville after a fight with cancer. Rick and his twin brother, Ron, were born on March 15, 1945 in Indianapolis.



After high school, Rick served in the United States Air Force. He later opened and owned his own business, Packaging Equipment and Films, in Noblesville for 34 years. Rick was an avid race fan, and was fortunate to have been involved with a race team for a number of years. Through both, he became blessed with many friends. He also enjoyed golfing and a cold Miller Lite.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Elizabeth Coy; brother, Ron Coy; and cousins, Sherry McIntyre and Cappy McLean.

Rick was preceded in death by his son, Sean Coy, and cousin, Joann Bauerle.


Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville, with Rev. Stanley R. Sutton officiating. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2019 at the funeral home. Burial will be at West Ridge Park Cemetery in Indianapolis.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 5635 W. 96th St., Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Marc Alan Gehlbach

December 24, 1970 – November 22, 2019



Marc Alan Gehlbach, 48, Zionsville, passed away on November 22, 2019 surrounded by family and friends. He was born December 24, 1970 to Richard and Carolyn Gehlbach of Carmel.

Marc was a graduate of Carmel High School and Ivy Tech Community College. He joined the Carmel Fire Department family in 2006, where he dedicated his life's work to the CFD Family that never left his side throughout his 13 years of service and during his last few days of life.

Survivors include his son, Wyatt Levi; girlfriend, Jacquelyn Fuller; parents, Richard and Carolyn Gehlbach; siblings, Eric, David, Teresa (Adam Baxmeyer) and Amy (Joey O'Neill); and nieces and nephews, Amelia, Alan, Elsie, Jack and Quinn.


A Mass of Christian burial was conducted on Wednesday, November 27 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church.

Please visit bussellfamilyfunerals.com to read Marc's complete obituary.

Bussell Family Funerals, Carmel-Westfield was privileged to assist the family in arrangements.

Peggy Ann Moore

November 18, 1946 – November 25, 2019



Peggy Ann Moore, 73, Indianapolis, passed away on Monday, November 25, 2019 at her home. She was born on November 18, 1946 to Edward and Pearl (Barnhart) Piecuch in South Bend, Ind.

Peggy retired from Simon Property Management where she was an administrative assistant. She also worked for Kiwanis International and enjoyed working with a good friend at Kathy's Koachlite Styling Salon. Peggy enjoyed the theatre, and earlier in her life she volunteered with the Civic Theatre by making costumes. Most of all, she loved spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Peggy is survived by her daughter, Tammy (James) Snyder; sons, Jason (Jackie) Moore and Steven (Amy) Moore; grandchildren, Samantha Snyder, Teddy Snyder, Jason Moore II, Josh Coleman, Steven Coleman, Jordan Bolser, Satin Hendricks, Braylin Wyrlic and Layden Wyrlic; great-grandchildren, Haydyn Bolser, Marylyn Bolser, Mykiya Henderson and Dallas Coleman; brothers, Tim (Cindy) Piecuch and Patrick (Alicia) Piecuch; sister-in-law, Andrea Piecuch; brother-in-law, Dennis Poff; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Mike Piecuch and Kevin Piecuch; sister, Linda Poff; and several nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at Phi Delta Kappa, 192 W. McClung Road, LaPorte, IN 46350. Randall and Roberts Funeral Home of Noblesville has been entrusted with Peggy's care.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 5635 W. 96th St., Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

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14116 Moate Drive Fishers • \$279,900


PENDING



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2798 North 400 E. Greenfield • \$349,900


PENDING



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9558 Fairview Parkway Noblesville • \$269,900


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Well-maintained 2 story w/4 BR, 2.5 BA. Updated kitchen, family room w/fireplace gas & built-in book cases, hardwood flooring on most of main, office, sunroom, partial basement finished, tons of storage & mini barn. BLC# 21671984

8518 East 196th Street - Duplex Noblesville • \$174,900


PENDING



"New Listing" Attention investors! All brick duplex, each unit has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, kitchen, family room and laundry area, concrete patio, mature trees, separate driveways. East side of duplex has extra family room w/fireplace. BLC# 21668718

18252 Kinder Oak Drive Noblesville • \$344,900

NEW LISTING!




Stunning 5 BR, 3.5 BA, this home has it all, kitchen w/SS appliances, wainscoting & planning desk, family room w/gas fireplace, finished basement has full sized windows, side load 3-car garage, fenced back yard & deck. BLC# 21680110

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A Hallmark story in the making

It's Friday night, the day after Thanksgiving. Chuck is tucked away near the ceiling of Lucas Oil Stadium, keeping the scoreboard for the Indiana State Football Championships.

Me? I'm tucked under a blanket, sitting in Chuck's recliner with a cup of decaf coffee. And, I'm watching a Hallmark movie.

Chuck always smiles whenever he walks in and sees me watching my favorite movies of the season ... all on the Hallmark Channel.

Chuck asks me, "Has the girl arrived into town

yet? Has she met the guy yet? Have they kissed yet? Have they lived happily ever after ... yet?

So many yet's. Well, it is Hallmark. I know it's all inevitable, but it's about the stories and the feelings that you snuggle up with whenever you watch a Hallmark movie.

I remind Chuck that our story is very much like a Hallmark movie. A little schmaltzy but oh, so sweet.

We met ... unexpectedly. We were in the late fall and early winter of our lives. We were not looking to fall in love ... but we did.

I watched him singing

in the choir at his church. I heard him tell about his family and heard the love in his voice. I saw the twinkle in his eye when spoke of his years as a school superintendent. I saw the wooden Christmas projects he crafted with such great skill in his workshop. I heard the kindness of the thoughts in his heart. Those thoughts made my heart smile.

Within weeks of our first date I realized, some six years ago, that I was living a Hallmark movie ... and I was falling in love.

I was reminded of that this week when something broke at our house. He said, "Well, I can't fix everything but I can fix a few things." I looked at him and

said, "Yes Honey, I know you can fix broken things ... you fixed my heart."

Yes, Virginia, there IS a Santa. Yes, my friends, there IS love in Hallmark movies. Yes, my friends, he IS my prince charming and yes, we are living happily ever after.

Maybe I should call Hallmark. I have a story I continue to tell. I love the characters in it. I love how they show that they care about each other. I love telling their story ...

Once upon a time in a cozy Midwest town there lived two lonely people with love that needed to be shared ...

Stay tuned. There are more chapters that need to be written.

Six respond to garage RFP . . . County service agencies will share \$4.4M

By FRED SWIFT
[ReadTheReporter.com](#)

Fourteen non-profit social service organizations will share nearly \$4.4 million in county funds approved Nov. 25 by Hamilton County Commissioners. The annual allocations, payable after Jan. 1, are granted to agencies that perform services for the public.

The money supplements budgets of private groups whose work might otherwise have to be undertaken by local government. The County Council appropriated the funds to agencies that request assistance. Good Samaritan, which provides food and clothing to the needy, will receive \$50,000. The Hope Family Care Center will get \$15,000; Chaucie's Place, \$30,000; Meals on Wheels, \$10,000; Prevail, \$180,000; Prime Life Enrichment, \$240,000; The Shepherd Center, \$40,000; Trinity Free Clinic, \$74,000; and The Youth Mentoring Initiative, \$10,000.

Organizations with county contractual agreements include Cherish Center getting \$30,000 and Hamilton County Humane Society, granted \$122,000.

Matching grants were approved for Janus Development's Hamilton County

Express public bus system operations fund for \$386,095 and the Hamilton County Express capital fund for \$33,720.

Aspire mental health service was allocated \$2,284,432, which is mandated by state law, and Janus \$775,000, also a statutory amount for handicapped development.

The Hamilton County Leadership Academy, Conner Prairie and Invest Hamilton County economic development project submitted applications but were not granted funds.

In other action, Commissioners revealed they have received six responses to a Request for Proposals for a new parking garage in Noblesville planned along Clinton Street between 8th and 9th streets. The proposals will be reviewed with possible awarding at their next meeting.

The multi-level garage is part of a major city-county downtown redevelopment project announced earlier. It includes selling the county's current parking lot south of Conner Street for a major mixed-use development. The deal includes the city paying the county \$4.5 million for the Conner Street lot and giving the so-called Armory Lot on the north side of Logan Street to the county.

Choose happiness for the holidays

"I have decided to be happy because it is better for my health."

— Voltaire

Many of us — and I include myself in the "us" — wait for circumstances to provide our happiness. The option of happiness as a decision doesn't make a lot of sense; or does it? How is it that often we see people in the most adverse conditions maintain a level of joy which seems impossible? Note that I use the word "joy" to replace "happy." I submit that even in Voltaire's statement that "joyful" could better replace "happy." Those who are truly joyful find that within themselves and those focused more on happiness look around them for that source — a set of circumstances often impossible to reach.

Depression is a word which we hear very often in our society. There are many commercials and advertise-

ments of medications which promise relief, and some are very helpful despite what can be very serious side effects. Depression can be situation-related, such as grief over loss of a family member, as well as related to seasonal disorders and clinical depression, the latter which can require substantial medical intervention.

This column's purpose is not to explore the causes and treatments for depression, and this writer does not have the knowledge and expertise to do so. However the holiday season can bring about stress and anxiety so here are some tips which might help:

- Watch/listen to fewer news reports. Today's information cycle is 24/7 and it is never good regardless of your political or ideological views. On that same note, refrain from political discussion with family and friends during holiday gatherings.

erings.

- Make a practical list of any holiday gifts you are expected to provide, and stick to it! Easier said than done, I know from personal experience!

- Make sure you continue to exercise regularly despite a busier schedule. Exercise releases endorphins important in controlling stress. Additionally, as we are all excited about the yummy candies and cookies available, remember that sugar can also elevate the heart rate and affect anxiety levels.

Back to Voltaire's quote — joy and happiness have a direct benefit to our heart health, our digestive system, muscle pain, quality of sleep and energy level. During this holiday season and always, I wish you joy, peace, and *contentment*, a word we seldom hear in today's society.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "Comparison is the thief of joy." So don't allow yourself to be caught up in comparing your holiday season — and your life — with

anyone else. Eat well, exercise, spend time with family and friends (away from the "news") and perhaps look around you to see how you might reach out to those in need through volunteer activities and outreach.

And to change the topic entirely, thank you to all who have attended the two book signings I have done at the PetSmart store this past year. My book, "Sweetie's Scars: A Journey of Hurt, Hope, and Healing" has been well received locally and in sales on Amazon. Proceeds are donated to the Humane Society for Hamilton County. I appreciate your support of Sweetie's legacy to end animal abuse.

Wishing you Thanksgiving blessings, Sharon McMahon, CNWC FlexAbility4u@aol.com

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

Why D-III basketball is a great option

Editor's Note: The Sheridan Student Column is brought to readers by Sheridan High School's 10th grade English class, taught by Abby Williams.

Hello, my name is Ethan Moistner. I am a sophomore at Sheridan High School, and I am on the varsity basketball team. Basketball has been a big part of my life since I was a little kid. I have played my whole life for Sheridan.

I started playing basketball seriously around the sixth grade. That's when I started playing AAU ball. My dream has always been to play in the NBA. That means playing college basketball first. As I got older I realized that playing at a small

school like Sheridan, I would have to rely on playing AAU to achieve my dream. Then I started to do some research. After my research was over, I realized that college basketball doesn't mean playing D-I.

I found out that D-II, D-III, and NAIA were just as good for someone like me from a small school.

D-III is honestly the best out of the three options aside from playing at a D-I school. It is still great competition and is still college basketball. They train and practice just like any other college basketball program. The only major difference is that D-III schools are technically not allowed to offer you scholarships for sports. They still

travel and play teams from around the country. They even play some big-name schools. People always think that playing at a small school means not making it big, but actually starting out at a small school could help you in the long run. Many people each year start out at a school that is smaller than most but then after one or two years they transfer to a D-I school. When coming out of high school, they probably could have never made a D-I roster, even as a walk on.

Going to a D-III college to play basketball is so underrated. People always think that it isn't good basketball, but quite frankly sometimes it is better basketball, but they aren't always highly-ranked players from around the country. Yes, people who play D-I have to play the hardest they can because

they are trying to make it to the NBA, but people who play in the lower divisions of the NCAA have to play and work out even harder than everyone else because they are trying to make the NBA. They also are trying to get noticed by all of the bigger schools.

I have come to a conclusion that D-III basketball is probably the best option for me because of my situation. Coming from a small school like Sheridan, it is kind of difficult to try and make a name for yourself without being a tremendous athlete or someone with freak athleticism. D-III always been overlooked, and I think it's time for people to stop looking at it as low-class basketball and think of it as an opportunity to make a name for yourself and possibly earn a spot on a D-I roster.

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation winter/spring programs announced

The REPORTER

This winter/spring season, which runs January through April, Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) will offer 228 programs, including 64 new programs.

What you'll find

Programs are offered for all ages, from parent/child programs for kiddos as young as six months to senior programs for ages 65 and older. Categories include nature, aquatics, sports, creative arts, enrichment, science and technology, home-school, adaptive, senior and wellness.

Experience something new

CCPR is offering 22 creative arts programs, including Tiny Dancers for the preschool/toddler age

group, and Intro to Painting for both the youth and adult age groups.

CCPR strives to provide inclusive programming for all ages and abilities through their adaptive programs. You'll find these debut adaptive programs geared toward individuals with disabilities: Mystery Kitchen Night, Youth Fishing and Preschool Hoopers.

How to register

Electronic copies of the Program Guide can be found online at carmelclayparks.com/programs and physical copies are available at the Monon Community Center.

Register for programs online at apm.activecommunities.com/carmelclayparks or in person at the Monon

Community Center, 1195 Central Park Drive West.

About Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) holds the Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) for parks serving populations of 75,001 to 150,000. As an accredited agency, the department serves the recreation, fitness and nature needs of the community, manages and develops existing spaces and resources and creates a sustainable future for parks

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Carmel takes care of business

'Hounds hold off Trojans for ninth state championship

By **RICHIE HALL**
INDIANAPOLIS - Carmel football coach John Hebert said this about his team's attitude leading up to the Class 6A state championship game: "It was all business."

The Greyhounds took care of business in every aspect - offense, defense, special teams, clock management. It all added up to Carmel's ninth football state title, which it won 20-17 over Center Grove last Saturday night at Lucas Oil Stadium.

After a tough first quarter, the 'Hounds got their offense going in the middle periods to take a 20-3 lead. Carmel then held firm in the fourth quarter when the Trojans made their expected comeback. Two big third-down conversions by senior running back Dylan Downing clinched the game for the Greyhounds.

"It was a team effort, special teams and defense with four turnovers in the first half, and then our offense woke up and started really playing hard and making plays, putting points on the board," said Hebert.

Center Grove received the ball to start the game, and that first drive took up just over six minutes of the first quarter. It also resulted in the game's first points, when Austin Watson made a 22-yard field goal to get the Trojans on the board.

Carmel responded a few minutes later, with Spencer Hanna making a 42-yard field goal to tie the game at 3-3. The Greyhounds' defense was doing its job, recovering three Center Grove fumbles in the first half.

Meanwhile, the Carmel offense got going in the second quarter. Gabe Quigley threw for the Greyhounds' first touchdown of the game, teaming with Baron Smith for a 48-yard TD reception. Hanna made the extra point.

Quigley played outstanding during the post-season. He was moved into the quarterback role after an injury to Christian Williams during the first half of Carmel's regional game with Homestead. Quigley stepped up in the second half of the regional game, then Hebert said the senior played "flawlessly" in the Greyhounds' semi-state win over Merrillville.

"He played several plays here with what could be a broken shoulder and he would not come out," said Hebert. "We had to force him to come out. And he was making plays and getting first downs. He just did not want to let his teammates down. I



The Carmel football team lifted up the state championship trophy for the ninth time in program history last Saturday. The Greyhounds held off Center Grove 20-17 for the Class 6A title in an all-Metropolitan Conference showdown at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Reporter photo by Kirk Green

think that inspired our sophomore Zach Osborne, who came in and was really steady, took control of the game and took care of the ball and we were able to convert on getting first downs and able to roll down the clock."

The Trojans made another long drive during the final six minutes of the period, but it was halted when Ty Wise intercepted a pass at the Carmel 17 and took it into Trojan territory. The Greyhounds pushed it down to the eight-yard line, where Hanna made a 25-yard field goal, giving Carmel a 13-3 halftime lead.

Zach White gave the 'Hounds a rushing touchdown late in the third quarter, powering into the end zone on a 10-yard run. Hanna's kick made the score 20-3.

But Center Grove made it interesting in the fourth quarter, as Trojans' quarterback Tayven Jackson threw two touchdown passes. His first one came in the early part of the period, on a 41-yard throw to Trent

Veith. After holding Carmel to a three-and-out, Center Grove made another scoring drive that took it down to the Greyhounds' 11-yard line. Carmel's defense got Jackson on the run, but he found a wide-open Mason Long for another TD throw. Watson made both extra-point kicks.

The Trojans tried for an on-side kick, but Ty Pennington recovered it for the 'Hounds at the 50-yard line. Center Grove held Carmel back to third-and-10 on the 50, but Downing kept the drive going with a 17-yard run, giving the Greyhounds a first down.

Center Grove had already taken a timeout, and they used their other two timeouts during Carmel's next sequence. Still, the Trojans were able to get the Greyhounds into another third-down situation. But never fear, Downing was there, making a nine-yard run for a first down with the clock at 1:39. After that, Carmel took a knee, and had the trophy.

"They're going to make their adjustments and we have to be able to capitalize on them and we did," said Downing.

"That 17-point lead, they weren't going to go away," said Hebert. "We knew that we were going to have to claw and scrape and put it together. I'm happy that it fell on our offense there at the end because it really sends a message to the young players in our program that taking care of what you can control on your end and running out the clock takes the doubt out of the picture."

Downing finished as the game's leading rusher, with 102 yards on 11 carries. Quigley completed 5 of 8 passes for 93 yards, with John Rogers making two receptions. Ty Wise led in tackles for Carmel with 13 total stops (10 solo and three assists), while Sam Saliba had 10 tackles (five solo and five assists).

Carmel finished its season 11-3, while Center Grove completed its season with an 8-6 record.

Boys basketball

Millers open with easy victory

By **RICHIE HALL**
NOBLESVILLE -

With a new coach and several new varsity players, Miller fans probably did need a program to see who was taking to the court in the Noblesville boys basketball team's opening game last Tuesday at The Mill.

Those new Millers did pretty well in the team's first game. Noblesville had a strong defensive effort in the first half, and that was the foundation for a 52-33 victory for the Millers over Tindley. Noblesville also has a handful of players with varsity experience back, and they did their part as well.

First-year coach John Peckinpaugh said that for the first time out, "our guys did pretty good. I think we return seven minutes a game, so we're getting there."

One of the key returners is Brendon Fisher, a senior who had some good

minutes for Noblesville last year. Fisher had an outstanding start to the game, scoring the Millers' first eight points. That included two 3-pointers, the second of which began a 10-0 run that carried Noblesville to a 15-4 lead early in the second quarter.

"He had a great summer," said Peckinpaugh. "He really emerged as a leader for us from day one. He's just level-headed, he stays calm under pressure and he really knows how to play the game. He doesn't ever really make the wrong play. He's going to have to play a big role all year for us if we want to win games."

Jordan Gadis, another senior who played solid minutes for the Millers last year, added to the run with a layin, then junior Evan Wilson nailed a 3 to finish the first-quarter scoring. The second period began with freshman Preston Roberts making a layin, and Nobles-

ville had a 15-4 lead.

The newer players asserted themselves in the second quarter. Junior Noah Harris and sophomore E.J. Smith both had baskets during that period. It was a low-scoring quarter, but the Millers' defense stood tough, and kept the team well ahead at halftime with a 21-8 lead.

"Coming into the game, we were a little bit worried because we didn't know exactly what they did, but we felt like we have a pretty good idea of what we wanted to do against them," said Peckinpaugh. "I think our guys executed our game prep really, really well. We wanted to keep them out of the lane and I thought we did a really good job with that, with our gap help from our wings. So I was really pleased with how we played defensively."

Noblesville's offense got going again in the third quarter. Fisher knocked in



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Noblesville's Brendon Fisher scored 17 points, including five 3-pointers, for the Millers in their 52-33 win over Tindley last Tuesday at The Mill.

two more 3s, and Smith added eight points, including a 3-pointer. Peckin-

paugh calls Smith "a really good player," noting that he "gives us a dimension that we don't have."

Another player to watch for is the 6-foot-6 Harris. He

led the Millers in rebounds with seven and handed out five assists. Peckinpaugh said that Harris is the team's "X-factor."

"We'll go as far as Noah

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Hochstedler makes buzzer-beating putback, Gus scores 41. . .

Huskies win emotional opener in OT

By **RICHIE HALL**
ARCADIA - If there's a theme that can be applied to this year's Hamilton Heights boys basketball team — on and off the court — let it be this: "We will be here for you."

The Huskies opened their season last Wednesday by hosting Lebanon in an emotional game in front of a packed crowd. Heights went back-and-forth with the Tigers for the entire 32 minutes, then an extra four minutes of overtime before Hudson Hochstedler's putback at the buzzer secured a 71-69 victory for the Huskies.

Everyone knew it would be an emotional game. Heights was playing its first game without Tony Etchison in the stands, after he lost his life in a farming accident last month. Etchison's son Gus, now a junior, is one of the stars on the Huskies' team.

"I knew it was going to be very hard for him, just to get that first one out of the way," said Heights coach Chad Ballenger. "I think the second one will be hard, too. It's just been tough for him. But he's been grinding, and he's got great support and our community's been good. We're going to keep plugging away and be there for him."

Gus' teammates were there for him, including at the end of the game. Etchison had already scored 41 points, and with the score tied at 69-69, was driving in with seconds left to hopefully put in the game winner.

Etchison drove in and

put up a jumper that went off the left side of the rim. But Hochstedler came rushing in to grab the rebound, and put the ball back up. It swished through the net as the clock ran out to 0.0.

"I'm not that emotional of a player, but that's the most excited I've been in a while," said Hochstedler. "For the team, good start. For the Etchisons, we're all behind them. It's nice to have that win. It means more than just a game."

"It was tough because there's two guys on me about the whole game," said Etchison. "I thought it was going in, but I'm glad Hudson got that rebound and put it in and get us that 'W.'"

It was a hard-fought win, and not just because of the emotions involved with the game. The Huskies got off to a great start in the first quarter, but the Tigers came back with an equally great second period.

Heights led 21-11 late in the first, before a Lebanon basket finished the quarter at 21-13. In a bit of foreshadowing, the first basket of the game was a Huskies' putback, this one from Brent Pennington.

Etchison played like a man possessed for the entire game, and wasted no time in the first quarter. He threw in three 3-pointers and went 4-of-4 from the free throw line, giving him 13 points in that period.

"That's who he is," said Ballenger. "My wife and I, we were talking about it. She was like, you know he's just

going to come out and light it up and be there, because that's who he is. When the lights are on, he shines. I had a lot of conversations with Tony over the years, and he would talk about AAU and be like, when pressure was on, and the better teams, he always rose up. He always could rise up and be there, and that's Gus."

"I just wanted to win this game more than any game I think I've ever played in my life and I just wanted to make him proud," said Gus.

Lebanon came back in the second quarter to lead 34-31 at halftime. Michael Reese finished the period with three 3-pointers to get his team in front. The Tigers rode that momentum to a 40-33 lead with 5:55 left in the third quarter, after Luke Ferrell converted a traditional three-point play.

But the Huskies blasted back on an 11-0 run that was remarkably quick. Issiac Hickok made a putback that led to an and-1, then Etchison stole the ball and scored. He then added five more points, and Hochstedler's free throw put Heights ahead 44-40.

After that, neither team led by more than six points for the remainder of the game. The Huskies reached that lead when Etchison hit a 3 to get his team up 58-52. Lebanon's Reese then took over, scoring eight straight points to put the Tigers up 60-58.

Two free throws each from Hickok and Etchison pushed Heights ahead 62-60, but Kobe Ottinger tied



Reporter photo by Kent Graham
Hamilton Heights celebrates after Hudson Hochstedler (second from right) put in a buzzer-beating putback to give the Huskies a 71-69 overtime win against Lebanon last Wednesday at the Heights gym.

it at 62-all with a layin. That would be the score at the end of regulation.

Etchison scored the majority of the points for the Huskies in the overtime, including an and-1 that took the Heights from down two points to up one, 67-66. He added two more free throws to give the Huskies a 3-point lead, but Reese tied it up with a 3-pointer with 1:34 left, giving him 27 points for the game. There would be no more points until Hochstedler's basket.

"You want to talk about a class individual, and talk about the epitome of high school sports," said Ballenger. "He wants to go to MIT or Purdue. He's going to be an engineer. He's planned out what he wants to do and he just works his butt off. He's a great kid. Academically, athletically, just a great individual kid."

Etchison's 41 points marked the third time he has reached the 40-point mark in his career. He finished the game with six 3-pointers, six steals and five rebounds. Camron Knott added 10 points and seven rebounds, including a pair of 3s.

The Huskies next play Friday, when they host New Castle, then travel to Guerin Catholic on Saturday.

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'Rocks blast Kokomo, Smith scores 35

Westfield got a big victory in its season-opener last Saturday, beating Kokomo 68-50 in an away game.

It was a close game in the first half, with the Shamrocks up 14-12 after the first quarter and 33-30 at halftime. But Westfield took control in the third quarter, outscoring the Wildkats 20-8.

The 'Rocks were led by sophomore Braden Smith, who poured in 35 points, including seven 3-pointers.

Smith also collected eight rebounds and handed out four assists. Junior Benji Welch and sophomore Nic Depasquale both added 10 points. Senior Camden Simons and sophomore Cam Haffner both pulled five rebounds.

Westfield plays its home opener Tuesday against Pendleton Heights, then hosts Zionsville on Friday to begin Hoosier Crossroads Conference play.

GC splits first two games

Guerin Catholic dropped its season-opening game last Wednesday, falling to Park Tudor 62-55 at the Eagles' Nest.

The Golden Eagles led 13-11 after the first quarter, but the Panthers came back to lead 28-27 at halftime. Park Tudor then scored 20 points in the third period.

Bernie McGuinness led Guerin Catholic with 24 points. Joseph Bobilya and Cameron Weitzel both had seven points.

Guerin Catholic picked

up its first win of the season last Saturday, cruising past Manual 63-29 at the Eagles Nest. The Golden Eagles led 24-16 at halftime, then put the game away in the third quarter, outscoring Manual 17-2.

McGuinness scored a game-high 19 points. Bobilya added 11 points, including three 3-pointers.

The Golden Eagles are 1-1 and host Roncalli on Friday to open Circle City Conference play, then host Hamilton Heights on Saturday.

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MILLERS

Harris will take us," said Peckinpauh. "He's got to have a great, great year for us to be where we want to be. He's a great kid. Mom and Dad have done a great job with him."

Noblesville led 39-20 after three quarters, and maintained that advantage through the fourth period. Alex Hunt, another senior who had solid varsity minutes last year, added four points in that quarter.

Fisher finished the game

with 17 points, totaling five 3-pointers. Smith scored 10 points.

Noblesville lost a tough game at Columbus East last Saturday, falling 43-42.

The Olympians led 11-6 after the first quarter. The Millers cut that lead to 20-17 by halftime, with Wilson scoring eight points in the second period, including a pair of 3-pointers.

Columbus East was ahead 30-26 after three quarters. Noblesville scored

from Page A6

16 points in the fourth, with four different players hitting a 3-pointer, but the Olympians held on.

Wilson finished with 11 points. Gadis drained two 3s on his way to 10 points, while Noah Harris added nine.

The Millers are 1-1 and play at Fishers on Friday to begin Hoosier Crossroads Conference action. Noblesville returns to The Mill on Saturday to host Beech Grove.

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Girls basketball

Huskies get two victories 'Hawks pick up OT win over Stars

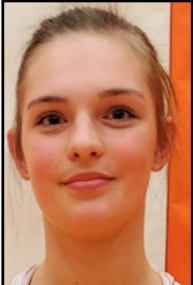
Hamilton Heights scored a huge win at Greenfield-Central last Tuesday, beating the Cougars 56-35.



Moran

The Huskies outscored Greenfield in each quarter, leading 11-7 after the first period and 28-15 at halftime. MyKayla Moran led Heights with 16 points, going 8-of-10 from the field.

“Tremendous effort by MyKayla Moran tonight,” said Huskies coach Keegan Cherry. “She was dominant inside. Really proud of her.”



Runner

Bayleigh Runner added 13 points, including three 3-pointers. Jillian Osswald, Runner and Moran all had three rebounds, and Runner also made six steals. Heights

had 16 assists on the night, with Osswald and Payton Dissett both handing out six and Runner dishing out four.

“Our guard play was really unselfish and got the ball where it needed to be all night,” said Cherry.

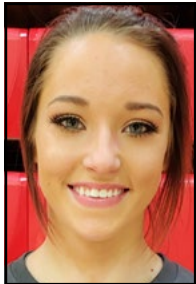
Heights sailed past Fort Wayne Northrop 51-25 last Saturday in a game that turned into a historic occasion.

Runner joined the Huskies’ 1,000-point club during the game. Runner achieved that mark as part of a 30-point performance, including eight 3-pointers.

Heights led 15-8 after the first quarter, then blanked the Bruins 12-0 in the second to take a 27-8 halftime lead. Moran controlled the boards with 10 rebounds and also scored seven points. Dissett added seven points as well.

Runner and Osswald both had five rebounds, with Osswald also dishing out seven assists and making six steals.

The Huskies are 4-3 and play Wednesday at Fishers, then return home on Saturday to host Norwell.



Went

Sheridan played an outstanding overtime period to pull away from Western Boone 57-49 last Tuesday in a home game.

The Stars led 30-26 at halftime, but the Blackhawks came back to take a 38-36 lead af-

ter three quarters. WeBo tied the game up at 43-43 at the end of regulation, and Sheridan then outscored the Stars 14-6 in the extra period.

Allie Delph scored 22 points for the ‘Hawks, with Emma Went adding 15 points.

Sheridan is 3-4 and plays Tuesday at Frankfort, then travels to Clinton Prairie on Friday.

Millers fall to Carmel and Avon

Noblesville dropped two games last week, first falling to county rival Carmel 57-50 last Tuesday at the Eric Clark Activity Center.



Miller

Carmel led 13-3 after the first quarter, with Bridget Dunn and Kate Clarke both scoring five points. Noblesville cut the Greyhounds’ lead to 28-23 by halftime; Ashlynn Shade helped out by scoring seven points, while Mallory Miller making all four of her free throw attempts.



B. Ely

Freshman Hannah Lach had eight points for Carmel in the second quarter, including two 3-pointers. Lach made three more 3s in the second half, helping the ‘Hounds to stay ahead. Lach wound up with six for the game, leading all scorers with 22 points.

Clarke had three triples, on her way to 16 points and also handed out four assists. Dunn added 15 points, and reached double-double status with 12 rebounds.

Miller led Noblesville with 21 points, going 9-of-10 from the line. Shade scored 17 points, collected six rebounds and made four steals. Abby Haley dished out four assists.

The Greyhounds are 3-2 and play at Hamilton Southeastern on Friday afternoon. Noblesville is 3-4 and plays a Hoosier Crossroads Conference game Saturday afternoon at Avon.

Noblesville fell to Avon last Saturday afternoon in an away Hoosier Crossroads Conference game.

The Millers played a strong first half, leading 12-10 after the first quarter and 26-17 at halftime. But the Orioles cut that lead to 32-27 after three periods, then poured in 23 points in the fourth quarter to come back and get the win.

Shade scored 19 points for Noblesville, and also had eight rebounds and six assists. Brooklyn Ely added nine points, including three 3-pointers.

The Millers are 0-2 in the conference and 3-5 overall. They continue HCC play on Wednesday at Hamilton Southeastern.

MILLERS GAME WITH HOMESTEAD SET FOR SATURDAY

The Noblesville girls basketball game with Homestead has been re-scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 7. It will be a 1 p.m. junior varsity start, with varsity to follow.

Westfield splits two games

Westfield cruised past McCutcheon 55-32 last Tuesday night.



Tebbe

The Shamrocks outscored the Mavericks in each quarter of the game, leading 32-20 at halftime. Alyssa Crockett scored 24 points for Westfield, with Ava Henson adding 10 points. Crockett pulled seven rebounds, with Chesney Tebbe collecting five. Olivia Robey, Tebbe and Jessica Castor all dished out four assists.

Westfield dropped a Hoosier Crossroads Conference game at Franklin Central 53-44 last Saturday.

The Flashes led 10-6 after the first quarter and 21-16 at halftime. Two Shamrocks reached double figures: Alyssa Crockett scored 17 points, including three 3-pointers, while Ava Henson added 11 points. Crockett collected six rebounds, with Olivia Robey, Tebbe and Henson each getting four.

Westfield is 0-2 in HCC play and 4-3 overall. The Shamrocks next play Wednesday at Mount Vernon, then return to the Rock on Saturday to host Rushville.

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– Mike Bragg, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville

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