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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Rainy.
Tonight: Rain, possibly mixed with snow.

HIGH: 55 LOW: 33



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Photo provided by WISH-TV
Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard and government leaders from the City of Carmel and Hamilton County cut the ribbon to mark the official opening of the new roundabout located at 96th Street and Keystone Avenue.

Carmel opens 96th St., Keystone roundabout

The REPORTER

Carmel city leaders gathered Monday near the intersection of Keystone Avenue and 96th Street for a ribbon-cutting marking the official opening of a new \$90 million roundabout. City officials said the intersection of 96th Street and

Keystone Parkway on the northern border with Indianapolis has long been one of the most-crowded and crash-filled intersections in the area. The roundabout, which opened late last week to motorists, was under construction for nearly three years.

Carmel's mayor Jim Brainard explained to the media and area residents why the city decided to build a roundabout instead of just additional lanes to Keystone Avenue and 96th Street. "If we improve on the ability to get more cars

through the intersection quickly, we don't have to add all those lanes," said Brainard. "We all remember that old song 'pave over paradise.' We didn't really need more pavement. We needed to make the intersections work better and more safely."

Fishers Mayor Fadness looking ahead to 2020

Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness sat down for a podcast interview with me on Dec. 23. We discussed a number of subjects. The mayor described expectations that 2020 will be "a year of building." The many building projects include State Road 37, the 116th Street development downtown where the new headquarters for First Internet Bank and a new hotel will begin construction – and a complete reconstruction of 96th Street will be underway. Here are some of the items the mayor talked about as the city enters 2020.

New downtown development along 116th Street

This massive undertaking will begin in earnest during 2020, but will take about 24 months to complete, so it will not be finished in 2020. Fadness says this will change the landscape of downtown and the City of Fishers. Once complete, all this will profoundly change the look and feel of downtown, including the Nickel Plate Trail, a new high-end hotel and the six-story First Internet Bank Headquarters. "It will feel like an urban center in the sense of – you will feel like you're in a downtown area," Fadness said. "We'll have world-class amenities that nobody else in Central Indiana really has. I think it will be really a crown jewel for the city of Fishers and this area. We'll definitely demonstrate that we're a dynamic and very vibrant city."

Sense of community

The mayor is planning to spend the first six months of the new year building a sense of community and culture among the population of Fishers. He wants local residents to feel connected to the overall community. He looks at this as another critical piece of infrastructure, this one a human infrastructure. As the mayor sees it, people seeking a suburban home look for housing, its affordability, as well as



Photo provided
Mayor Scott Fadness spoke with Larry Lannan just before Christmas about what 2020 will hold for the city of Fishers.

how close the home is to a job and good schools. The precise geographic location is not the point for these people. The mayor sees his job as, once here, how do you fall in love with the city where you happen to reside? People tend to retreat back to their cul-de-sacs. Fadness plans to explore ways to get people out of their neighborhoods and give them pride and ownership for the city they call home.

Geist: Waterfront Park and Conservancy District

The Geist Waterfront Park is still in the design stage. A number of permits will be needed in order to move forward. Do not look for construction to start in 2020, but Fadness wants to move forward as quickly as possible. Legal moves have begun to establish a Geist Conservancy District, with the power to tax and be responsible for maintenance of the lake. The mayor says the Indiana General Assembly must act to keep this moving forward. Fadness says he supports "some sort of conservancy district." The mayor acknowledges the rub will be the issue of which homeowners must pay for the lake maintenance costs.

"This is an asset that so many different homes derive value from the fact that they're in this area and that it is a wonderful natural amenity," Fadness said. "I also recognize the fact that Citizens (water utility) doesn't necessarily view their job as making sure you can water ski on the lake." Citizens owns the lake and is only focused on the water supply from the lake, according to the mayor. "You have this scenario where you have this wonderful natural amenity that does require management, it does require maintenance," the mayor told me during the podcast. "It just depends on which stakeholder you are talking about... what kind of maintenance needs to be done. There's going to be a lot of conversations about this going forward. I do believe this is an asset that needs to be managed and I do believe there are costs that come with it and I do believe the people that benefit directly and indirectly from the lake should pay that."

116th Street & Allisonville Road

When Kroger opted to remodel

Shake up your January

I don't know about you, but I really got into the holiday spirit last month. Christmas carols went through my head during every waking hour. I watched more Christmas movies than I can count.

I was enthralled by Carmel's Christkindlmarkt and Newfields Winterlights. Our holiday celebrations, from Christmas, to Christmas 2.0 with my niece and her family, to New Year's Eve with friends, were joyful and filled with fun. It was a magical December from start to finish!

And now it's January. Soon everyone will be taking down their Christmas lights and decorations and returning to normal – what-

COLUMNIST



AMY SHANKLAND
Sandwiched

ever that is. It means that many of us will be in the throes of the dreaded January Blahs. I wrote in a different column years ago about how January is just no fun. It's a month filled with a bunch of people trying to get healthy (and often failing), extremely cold temperatures, and days that are getting longer but not noticeably so. Yes, Martin Luther King Day is celebrated in January, which is one bright spot. But that's pretty much it. However, I'm challenging myself and my readers to shake up January this year. Do some awesome stuff to

See Shake . . . Page 2

Christkindlmarkt vandals caught

The REPORTER

On Dec. 8, 2019, three juveniles entered and vandalized one of the Christkindlmarkt stores. With the public's help, detectives were able to quickly identify the three suspects. The suspects are all juveniles from Westfield. Per policy, the Carmel Police Department does not routinely release

identifying information in matters relating to juveniles. After a full investigation, the three suspects now face charges including Criminal Mischief and Theft. The Carmel Police Department would like to thank the many community members who came forward to help identify the suspects.

Jail time suspended in local child porn case

The REPORTER

David Wyler, Carmel, has pled guilty to two counts of possession of child pornography and will serve two years of probation with a suspended jail sentence.



Wyler

Three other felony counts of possession of child pornography were dismissed as a part of a plea bargain struck between Wyler, his attorney Bruce Boje, and Hamilton County Deputy Prosecutor Rachel Jefferson. Wyler, a Carmel resident and retired Hamilton County Sheriff Deputy, served one day in jail following his arrest in August on five felony counts of Possession of Child Pornography after the Hamilton County Child Exploitation Task Force received a CyberTipline report from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The report indicated on March 22 a person had uploaded two images of unclothed children to Pinterest. Information provided by Pinterest indicated the username was "davidwyler1954." Pinterest also supplied investigators with several IP addresses that had been used to access the Pinterest account. According to police, some of the IP addresses appeared to geolocate to Hamilton County. According to a Carmel Police Department

detective, further investigation showed that David Wyler living on Goldfinch Drive in Carmel, and that his year of birth is 1954. During an interview with police, Wyler admitted to having multiple boards on Pinterest, and some of his boards were named Young Boys, Young Girls, Girls and Boys. During the interview, Wyler told investigators that he had last viewed images of children with uncovered genitals within the last two weeks. Police also found multiple images of nude prepubescent children on Wyler's phone. According to court documents, Wyler will not serve any jail time if he successfully completes the terms of his probation. Wyler's sentence seemed lenient to some throughout the community. Hamilton County Prosecutor Lee Buckingham did not respond prior to press time to the Reporter's questions regarding the plea agreement and sentencing. When asked about the sentencing, Carmel Police Chief Jim Barlow did not comment; however, stated, "It is our role as law enforcement officers to thoroughly investigate all crimes. It is the prosecutor and court's responsibility to determine the appropriate sentencing."

See Looking Ahead . . . Page 2



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LOOKING AHEAD

their current store in the area and not build a new grocery, that left a large commercial hole in the area. Fadness says he is "cautiously optimistic" that progress will be made in 2020.

He recently spoke with the developer and says the

property owner is actively searching for a tenant to fill that area.

The mayor also pointed to a major step taken in partnership with the Hageman Company to buy the large old brown building on the southeast corner of 116th Street and Allison-

ville Road. "Our plan is to tear that building down and look to redevelop it," said Fadness.

"For the folks that live along 116th and Allisonville, we are definitely trying to be as aggressive as we can to redevelop that area," added the mayor.

SHAKE

from Page 1

from Page 1

New Democrats taking office on the city council

Fadness has held meetings with Jocelyn Vare and Sam DeLong, the two new Democrats taking office on the city council in 2020. "I hope everyone is well-intentioned," Fadness said.

"We're going to openly communicate with all nine council members. We're going to treat everyone the same, unless, for some reason, we're given a reason why we have to act otherwise," the mayor said.

I reminded the mayor there are many cities throughout Indiana that do not operate that way. "I think our residents would demand that we operate professionally and transparently with all nine (council members)," the mayor responded.

You can listen to my entire podcast interview with Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness at [this link](#).

make it memorable for you and your loved ones. It can be tempting to avoid going out and about, especially if you're in the sandwich generation taking care of older parents along with kids. But bundling up and getting everyone outside is just the ticket for defeating the January Blahs and cabin fever.

If you're going out with your elderly parent or parents, try a new restaurant this month, one with lots of comfort food. Visit a museum together – some offer wheelchairs you can use for free – and make new discoveries. We have so many wonderful, warm museums in Central Indiana (hello, Conner Prairie!) that you're sure to find something everyone can enjoy.


Get out there with your kids and do some sledding. If you're not so thrilled about climbing up those hills anymore, like me, try Koteewi Run snow tubing. Getting a tow up the hill to

slide right back down? I love it! My family and I tried this last year and we're going back this month.

Throw on your layers and build a snowman together ... or a snow bunny... or a snow chinchilla. We won't judge.

THEN, when you're cold but happy, come on home, put on the hot chocolate, and practice some hygge. I've written about this concept before, but hygge (pronounced HOO-guh) means getting cozy and enjoying the little pleasures in life. For me, hygge means hot tea, warm fuzzy socks, a good book, candles, our (fake) fireplace, and/or eating a meal of comfort food and playing board games with friends and family.

Do all you can to not just “get through” January, but to thrive and enjoy many of its moments. Soon we’ll be in February, maybe even marveling about how time flies when we’re having fun.



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
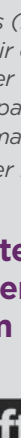
I was born and raised right here in Noblesville. I grew up in a home without domestic violence or assault – it wasn't something I saw, or even heard about. But when I was introduced to Prevail of Central Indiana, I was shocked by the number of individuals who are affected by domestic violence. In 2018 alone, Prevail helped more than 4,000 clients in Hamilton County. (Nearly 80 percent of clients are women and children.) 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.

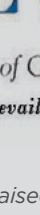
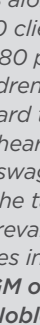

– Mike Bragg, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville

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)

Drop off items at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, 14701 Tom Wood Way.

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A map snippet showing the location of Tom Wood Volkswagen Noblesville. A red location pin is placed at the intersection of a vertical road labeled '37' and a horizontal road labeled 'E. 146th Street'. The text 'Tom Wood Volkswagen Noblesville' is written next to the pin.



Photos provided

iThieves on run from Noblesville Walmart

The REPORTER

The Noblesville Police Department is currently investigating a theft incident that occurred on Dec. 28, 2019, at the Walmart located at 16865 Clover Road, Noblesville.

Based on statements from witnesses, video footage and other evidence at the scene, four black males came into the store and proceeded to the electronics department.

Information suggests that the suspects inquired about purchasing two iPads and as a result, a salesperson retrieved the devices from a locked storage cabinet and placed them on the counter.

A short time thereafter, the suspects grabbed the merchandise from the counter and ran towards the store's exit. The suspects continued through the exit without making any attempt

to pay for the merchandise. Witnesses stated that the suspects may have left the area in a silver, four-door vehicle. There were no injuries reported by either patrons or employees as a result of the incident.

Anyone with information regarding this case is encouraged to contact Patrolman Corey McGriff at cmcgriff@noblesville.in.us or p3tips.com/713.

AG Curtis Hill asks Supreme Court to uphold Indiana law requiring parental notice when minors obtain abortions

Submitted

Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill on Friday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to affirm the constitutionality of Indiana's law requiring parental notice when minors obtain abortions.

The law at issue applies to minors who already have obtained an exemption from a juvenile court allowing them to proceed with an abortion without parental permission as typically required under Indiana law. The law requires parental notice except for when a juvenile court rules that notifying parents is not in the minor's best interests, such as when the child lives with abusive family members.

A three-judge panel of the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals has previously upheld a preliminary injunction against the enforcement of Indiana's parental notice law. That court then declined Indiana's pe-

tion for a rehearing of the matter by the full court.

One Seventh Circuit judge stated that a rehearing would be pointless because only the U.S. Supreme Court at this stage can adequately clarify how its own precedents apply to abortion regulations such as Indiana's law.

"It is better to send this dispute on its way to the only institution that can give an authoritative answer," wrote Judge Frank Easterbrook.

The appellate court's difficulty making sense of the tangled web of case law is telling, Hill said.

"When even the most experienced and distinguished members of the federal judiciary throw up their hands in confused frustration," Hill said, "it is time for our nation's highest court to issue guidance."

A look back to America's founding documents should bode well for Indiana's law,

Hill added.

"Nothing in the U.S. Constitution prohibits Indiana from requiring parental notification when an unemancipated minor is getting an abortion," Hill said. "Even to get a tattoo, a minor in Indiana needs parental permission. Quite simply, parents have rights and responsibilities in the care and upbringing of a child."

Further, on a practical level, Indiana's law helps protect the child's own well-being, Hill added.

"An abortion is a medical procedure that could have implications for a child's future treatment," Hill said. "It's an event that could bear on a child's emotional needs and mental health, and it's an event that parents need to know about in order to provide nurturing care and guidance."

[Click here](#) to read Indiana's petition to the Supreme Court.

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Meeting Notices

The TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold a joint Capital & Construction and Budget & Finance committees meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, at the John W. Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Ave., Indianapolis.

The Delaware Township Board and Trustee will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, at the Delaware Township Government Center, 9090 E. 131st St., Fishers.

The Clay Township Board will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, at the John W. Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Ave., Indianapolis.

The Sheridan Public Library Board will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, at the Sheridan Public Library, 103 W. 1st St., Sheridan.

Public Notice

2020 Drainage Board Meetings

The meetings will be held in the Commissioners Court in the Government and Judicial Center.

Hearings will be held the second meeting of the month

Monday	January 13	12:00 PM
Monday	January 27	9:00 AM
Monday	February 10	12:00 PM
Monday	February 24	9:00 AM
Monday	March 09	12:00 PM
Monday	March 23	9:00 AM
Monday	April 13	12:00 PM
Monday	April 27	9:00 AM
Monday	May 11	12:00 PM
Tuesday	May 26	9:00 AM
Monday	June 08	12:00 PM
Monday	June 22	9:00 AM
Monday	July 13	12:00 PM
Monday	July 27	9:00 AM
Monday	August 10	12:00 PM
Monday	August 24	9:00 AM
Monday	September 14	12:00 PM
Monday	September 28	9:00 AM
Monday	October 12	12:00 PM
Monday	October 26	9:00 AM
Monday	November 09	12:00 PM
Monday	November 23	9:00 AM
Monday	December 14	12:00 PM
Monday	December 21	8:30 AM

The first meeting of each month is for administrative purposes. The deadline for items to be placed on the agenda will be 12:00 PM the Wednesday prior to the meeting. Possible Executive Session to follow each meeting. Approved by Drainage Board April 22, 2019

RL2954 1/3/2020

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Council Highway Committee will meet at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, at the Hamilton County Highway Department, 1700 S. 10th St., Noblesville. The purpose of this meeting is for discussion of highway projects.

The Hamilton County Plan Commission's Comprehensive Plan Update Committee will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, in Conference Room 1A on the first floor of the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Hamilton County Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, in the County Council/Commissioners' Courtroom of the first floor of the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

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Joshua Glen Turner

August 2, 1985 – December 30, 2019

Joshua Glen Turner, Noblesville, passed away on Monday, December 30, 2019 at St. Vincent Mercy Hospital in Elwood. He was born on August 2, 1985 to Ted and Cindy (Edwards) Turner in Indianapolis.

Joshua loved hunting, was a member of the Jeep club and enjoyed woodworking. He is remembered by his family as a man who worked hard, and loved harder. Joshua loved his family dearly and will also be missed by his beloved dog, Juno.

He is survived by his parents, Ted and Cindy Turner; wife, Stacie Turner; sisters, Nikki (Shawn) Morgan and Hailey Turner; daughters, Bailey, Lilly and Alyse Turner; step-children, Ryan (Erika) Gibbons, Zach (Carlie) Gibbons and Tayler (Bryce) Gibbons; grandparents, Burlen and Betty Turner; grandmother, Susan Edwards; grandchildren, Trenidy, Jacob, Gabby and Gulianna Gibbons; special nieces, Callie and McKenna; as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Joshua was preceded in death by his grandfather, Frank Edwards; and uncles, Mike Turner, Glen Harber and Ronald Harber.

Visitation was held on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville. Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 3, 2020 at the funeral home. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Arrangements

Service: 2 p.m., Jan. 3
Location: Randall & Roberts Funeral Home
Condolences: randallroberts.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.
John 20:1 (KJV)

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Paul H. Finch III

March 15, 1975 – December 27, 2019

Paul H. Finch III, 44, Noblesville, passed away on Friday, December 27, 2019 at IU Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. He was born on March 15, 1975 to Paul and Anita (McMillan) Finch in Decatur, Ill.

Paul worked at Steak 'n Shake and was a member of United Pentecostal Church. He loved art, animals and WWE.

Paul is survived by his father, Paul H. Finch Jr.; brother, John Finch; sisters, Marcy Massey, Heather Gimbel, Anna Prouty and Melody Payton; as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death in 2016 by his mother, Anita; and by an infant sister, Mary Louise.

Visitation was held on Thursday, January 2, 2019 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Burial will be at 1 p.m. CST on Friday, January 3, 2019 at Arthur Cemetery in Arthur, Ill.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

James G. Williams, Sr.

December 1937 – December 29, 2019

James G. Williams, Sr., 82, Carmel, passed away December 29, 2019. He was born in December of 1937 in Indianapolis, son of James H. and Dorothy M. Williams.

He owned and operated Williams Comfort Air for 45 years before retiring.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 62 years, Carrie; children, Kelly and James G. (Brenda) Jr.; grandchildren, Meaghann, Kyle (Allison), Kelsey (Ben), Karly and Kamry; one great-grandchild; brother, A. Wallace (Mary Ann); and sister, Cindy (Charles).

Family and friends will gather from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, January 3, 2020 at Colonial Hills Baptist Church. An additional visitation will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at the church, with the funeral service beginning at 11 a.m.

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

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

Arrangements

Calling: 4 to 7 p.m., Jan. 3; 10 to 11 a.m., Jan. 4
Service: 11 a.m., Jan. 4
Location: Colonial Hills Baptist Church
Condolences: bussellfamilyfunerals.com

BUSSELL FAMILY FUNERALS



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Jerry Jenkins

June 3, 1948 – December 27, 2019

Jerry Jenkins, 71, a lifelong resident of Sheridan, was called home on Friday, December 27, surrounded by his family. Jerry was born on June 3, 1948 to the late Elmer and Kathryn (Lerch) Jenkins in Frankfort.

Jerry was a graduate of Sheridan High School class of 1966. He chose to earn his living working the land as a farmer. He worked for several family farms, most recently and for the past several years for Wilhoite Farms. Jerry met the love of his life, Linda (Riggs) Jenkins, and they were married on September 9, 1972 at The Bible Church in Sheridan. The two of them have been at each other's side for 47 years.

Jerry was proud to have been involved in Boone County and Hamilton County 4-H, not only as a 10-year member, but also a 4-H leader for many years while his four children were members. He also served on the Boone County Pork Producers Board. Jerry loved working with and showing pigs, and he passed this love on to his children and grandchildren teaching them how to raise and show pigs. He especially looked forward to showing pigs with his grandchildren every year. Jerry was involved in 4-H for more than 40 years.

Jerry enjoyed taking care of his livestock, gardening, grilling, and using his smoker, but everyone who knew Jerry knew he looked forward to making people laugh, whether it was through a prank or a joke. He enjoyed seeing people happy. Jerry's children said he enjoyed a good meal, and when his wife Linda would prepare something good, he would call his children and leave voicemails telling them what they just missed out on and how good the meal was. Jerry's greatest joy was his and Linda's faith and their walk with Jesus, and together the two of them passed these important values on to their children and grandchildren. Jerry and Linda celebrated their faith and were members at Zion Apostolic Tabernacle in Frankfort.

Jerry leaves behind his wife Linda of 47 years; their four children, Annette (Joseph) Donovan, Frankfort, Brent (Jennifer) Jenkins, Pendleton, Stacy Jenkins, Wenzhou, China, and Katricia (David) Sanchez, Lafayette. Jerry was a proud grandfather to Brayton, Brianna, Gentry and Natalia. He also leaves behind his sister, Rebecca (Bishop Harrell) Wilson, Sheridan, along with several extended family members and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A celebration of Jerry's life was held on Monday, December 30, 2019 at The Bible Church, 1478 State Road 38, Sheridan. Family and friends gathered prior to the services. In lieu of flowers, the family would like donations to be made to The Bible Church in c/o the AED fund.

Everyone is invited to leave condolences for the Jenkins Family at fisherfunerals.com. Fisher Family Funeral Services is honored to serve the Jenkins Family.

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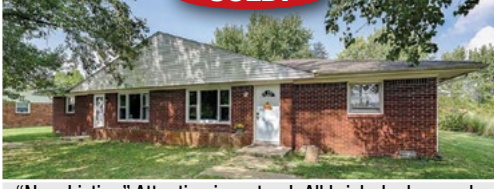
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NOBLESVILLE, CARMEL, WESTFIELD, SHERIDAN, HAMILTON HEIGHTS, FISHERS, UNIVERSITY, GUERIN CATHOLIC, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN

Thirteen 3s for Noblesville...

Millers overwhelm Roncalli

The Noblesville girls basketball team finished 2019 on a winning note, overwhelming Roncalli 84-34 Monday night at The Mill.

The Millers outscored the Rebels by a comfortable margin in each quarter, leading 21-6 after the first period and 45-16 at halftime. Noblesville finished the game with a 20-point fourth quarter.

Ashlynn Shade scored 27 points, followed by Mallory Miller with 23 and Kaitlyn Shoemaker with 13. All three players made multiple 3-pointers: Shade drained five triples, with Miller making four and Shoemaker three. Jayla Jones also had a 3-pointer, giving Noblesville a total of 13 for the game.

Anna Kiser collected eight rebounds, with Wood pulling five. The Millers out-rebounded Roncalli 34-22 for the game. Noblesville had 21 assists for the game; Miller and Kiser both dished out five with Shade handing out four. Shade also made seven steals.

The Millers are 6-10 and are back at The Mill Saturday afternoon to host Martinsville.

NOBLESVILLE 84, RONCALLI 34

Noblesville	FG	FT	TP	PF
Kaitlyn Shoemaker	5-10	0-0	13	3
Jayla Jones	1-1	0-0	3	1
Emery Denison	0-2	0-0	0	1
Ashlynn Shade	10-18	2-2	27	1
Makenna Mundy	3-5	0-0	6	3
Mallory Miller	8-13	3-4	23	1
Anna Kiser	1-1	2-4	4	2
Dani Mendez	0-2	0-1	0	3
Brooklyn Smitherman	1-2	0-0	2	1
Emily Wood	3-4	0-0	6	3
Totals	32-58	7-11	84	19

Score by Quarters

Roncalli	6	10	10	8	34
Noblesville	21	24	19	20	84

Noblesville 3-point shooting (13-22) Shade 5-8, Miller 4-6, Shoemaker 3-6, Jones 1-1, Denison 0-1.

Noblesville rebounds (34) Kiser 8, Wood 5, Shade 4, Smitherman 4, Mundy 3, Miller 3, Mendez 2, team 5.



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Noblesville's Kaitlyn Shoemaker scored 13 points for the Millers during their 84-34 win over Roncalli Monday night at The Mill. Shoemaker had three of Noblesville's 13 3-pointers in the game.

'Rocks pull away from Anderson

By RICHIE HALL

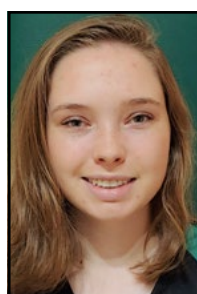
WESTFIELD - The Westfield girls basketball team received a challenge from Anderson Thursday at The Rock, but pulled away in the fourth quarter for a 56-41 victory.

The Indians were within two points of the Shamrocks twice during the third period, at 35-33 and 37-35. Westfield finished the game on a 19-6 run, allowing Anderson only four points in the fourth.

Ashtin DeCraene started the run by scoring five straight points, on a 3-pointer and a layin. A putback got the Indians within 42-37, but Ava Henson finished the third quarter with a layin of her own, giving the 'Rocks a 44-37 lead.

Chesney Tebbe opened the fourth period with consecutive baskets, pushing Westfield ahead 48-37. The Shamrocks held Anderson without a basket until the 3:18 mark of the quarter, a layin by Kaylie Vaughn. After that, Westfield sealed the game from the free throw line, making 8 of 10 shots.

"We went to a zone," said Shamrocks coach Ginny Smith. "And I think that that really changed the dynamics of the game. It took Anderson a little bit to figure out



Black



Castor

what we ran and then try to adjust to it. We were switching back and forth from man to zone, but still trying to stay out on (Tyra) Ford and make sure she didn't get any open looks."

Westfield's strategy worked: Ford led all scorers with 26 points, but the 'Rocks didn't allow her any points in the fourth quarter.

The Indians led for the majority of the first period, scoring the first four points of the game, then leading 6-2. With 2:58 left, Ford made two foul shots to get Anderson up 9-6.

Westfield took the lead a few seconds later. Ashley Black's layin got the Shamrocks within one, then Jessica Castor hit a 3 to give Westfield its first lead, at 11-9.

Emma Weber tied the game with a basket, but Madi Kerrigan's layin pushed the 'Rocks ahead 13-11, and they never trailed again.

"We subbed four new kids and they came in and they really got us going," said Smith. "I'm really proud of those kids. It's tough coming off the bench and getting thrown right into the fire like that, but those kids really responded."

Henson's layin put Westfield up 17-13 at the end of the first quarter. The Shamrocks used an 8-0 second quarter run to take a 25-15 lead. Black scored six consecutive points during that run, and Henson finished it up with a basket.

"Ashley was really solid," said Smith. "She did all the little things. I'm really proud of Ashley's performance. If I were to pick a player of the game, I would definitely pick her."

Anderson worked its way back into the quarter, with Ford scoring six straight points of her own late in the period. Westfield led 28-23 at halftime, then held firm against the Indians until it was able to break away late in the third.

Four players scored in double figures for the 'Rocks: DeCraene led with 13

points, then Henson, Castor and Black each had 10. All nine players that took to the floor for the Shamrocks scored at least one point.

Henson and Castor each collected six rebounds, with Olivia Robey, Alyssa Crockett and Black all pulling five. Tebbe handed out four assists.

Westfield is 10-7 and plays next Wednesday at Bishop Chatard.

WESTFIELD 56, ANDERSON 41

Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Olivia Robey	1-5	0-0	2	3
Alyssa Crockett	0-4	2-3	2	2
Ava Henson	5-6	0-0	10	1
Jessica Castor	2-10	5-6	10	4
Ashtin DeCraene	3-8	5-6	13	1
Emily Robinson	0-0	1-2	1	1
Chesney Tebbe	3-4	0-0	6	1
Madi Kerrigan	1-1	0-0	2	0
Ashley Black	5-7	0-0	10	1
Totals	20-45	13-17	56	14

Score by Quarters

Anderson	13	10	14	4	41
Westfield	17	11	16	12	56

Westfield 3-point shooting (3-13) DeCraene 2-5, Castor 1-2, Robey 0-2, Crockett 0-2, Henson 0-1, Black 0-1.

Westfield rebounds (34) Henson 6, Castor 6, Robey 5, Crockett 5, Black 5, Tebbe 3, Robinson 1, DeCraene 1, team 2.

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Royals cruise past Pendleton Heights

The Hamilton Southeastern boys basketball used three big runs to cruise past Pendleton Heights 72-45 in a Monday evening game.

The first quarter finished in a 15-15 tie, but the Royals went on a 17-2 run in the second quarter to open up a lead. Southeastern was ahead 35-20 at half-time.

The Royals made their second run early in the third period, scoring 10 straight points to jump ahead by 23 points, but the Arabians got hot from 3-point range at the end of the period. Southeastern led 53-40 after three quarters, and Pendleton got within 10, but the Royals finished the game with another 17-2 run, securing the victory.

Mabor Majak led HSE with a double-double of 15 points and 12 rebounds, and also blocked four shots. Kole Hornbuckle added 13 points, four rebounds and four assists, while Alex Totton had 11 points and collected five rebounds. Vinny Buccilla handed out five assists.

The Royals are 4-4 and will be off until Friday, Jan. 10 when they play at Lawrence Central.

HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 72, PENDLETON HEIGHTS 45				
Southeastern	FG	FT	TP	PF
DeAndre Rhodes	2-3	0-0	4	2
Kole Hornbuckle	6-10	1-1	13	1
Vinny Buccilla	3-10	2-2	9	0
Sam Jacobs	4-8	0-0	8	3
Mabor Majak	7-9	1-4	15	1
Alex Totton	2-3	5-6	11	0
John McCall	1-3	2-2	4	1
Dalton Retzner	3-3	2-2	8	2
Michael Viele	0-1	0-0	0	0
Jason Stutz	0-1	0-0	0	1
Totals	28-51	13-17	72	11
Score by Quarters				
Pendleton	15	5	20	5 - 45
Southeastern	15	20	18	19 - 72
Southeastern 3-point shooting (3-9) Totton 2-3, Buccilla 1-4, Hornbuckle 0-1, Stutz 0-1.				
Southeastern rebounds (35) Majak 12, Totton 5, Hornbuckle 4, Rhodes 3, Buccilla 3, McCall 2, Stutz 1, Viele 1, Jacobs 1, team 3.				



Reporter photos by Kirk Green
The Hamilton Southeastern boys basketball team dunked its way into the New Year, scoring a 72-45 win over Pendleton Heights on Monday. ABOVE: Mabor Majak reached double-double status with 15 points and 12 rebounds. At right is Vinny Buccilla, who handed out five assists. LEFT: Kole Hornbuckle scored 13 points and dished out four assists.



Reporter photo by Kent Graham
Noblesville's Anna Kiser had eight rebounds for the Millers in their Monday win over Roncalli at The Mill.



Reporter photo by Kirk Green
The Hamilton Southeastern cheerleaders perform for the crowd during the Royals' Monday game.



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Photo provided

The University girls basketball team defended its championship at the Monrovia Holiday Classic on Monday. The Class 2A No. 2 Trailblazers beat Bishop Chatard in the first round and South Putnam in the championship.

No. 2 'Blazers defend Monrovia title

The Class 2A No. 2 University girls basketball team defended its championship at the Monrovia Holiday Classic Monday, defeating Bishop Chatard 63-54 in the first round and South Putnam 62-46 in the championship.

The Trailblazers had their hands full with South Putnam in the championship game, trailing at the end of the first quarter for the first time this season and holding only a two-point lead entering the fourth quarter. University held the Eagles to just seven points in the fourth quarter and turned to their post players on offense to win the game going away. University is now 16-0 on the season.

Seniors Maddi Sears and Lindsey Syrek had 17 points each with freshman Kelsey DuBois adding 16. DuBois had eight points in the decisive fourth quarter and Sears had seven.

The first quarter was a back and forth affair with neither team leading by more than four. DuBois tied the game at 17 with a basket with seven seconds left, however South Putnam's Alex Bratcher was fouled as time expired and made both free throws for a 19-17 lead at the end of the quarter. Sears had seven and DuBois six in the opening period.

University turned up the defensive intensity in the second quarter, holding South Putnam to just seven points. Trailing 26-24 with two minutes remaining in the quarter, University went to Syrek for seven straight points, the last three coming on a basket and free throw with 12 seconds remaining. Payton Seay closed out a 9-0 run to end the quarter with a buzzer beating shot after making a steal near mid-court Syrek had nine points during the second as Univesity led 33-26 at the break.

Baskets by Syrek and Sierra Hinds

had University in front 37-29 with five minutes remaining in the third period. The Eagles scored the next five points to cut the lead to three. Seay answered with a rebound basket and DuBois scored to put University up 41-34, however South Putnam scored the last five points on the quarter to cut the lead to 41-39 after three.

Fourth quarter baskets by Syrek and DuBois and a Hinds free throws had University up 46-43 with six minutes remaining. The Blazers outscored South Putnam 16-3 the rest of the way. A basket and two free throws from Sears and two DuBois foul shots had the lead at 52-45 with 3:45 remaining. Two more DuBois baskets pushed the lead to 11 with 2:52 remaining and University controlled the ball and made enough foul shots to close out the win.

University pulled down 41 rebounds, including 11 offensive rebounds. Sears, a 5-7 guard, had a team-high 13 rebounds. Syrek had 12 boards and DuBois 10. The Trailblazers assisted on 17 of their 22 made field goals. Freshman Jordan Patterson led with five assists, Seay had four and Sears three.

Syrek had seven blocked shots. Seay had three steals.

South Putnam is 9-4 on the season. Lexi Vanihel led the Eagles with 15 points.

University advanced to the championship game with the win over Class 3A No. 19 Bishop Chatard.

Syrek had 21 points and Sears scored 17 to lead the Trailblazers. Sears was 8 for 8 at the foul line in the fourth quarter, extending her streak of consecutive made free throws made to 20.

A 13-0 run in the first quarter put the Trailblazers in front and they withstood several Chatard runs to close out the win.

Trailing 6-5, Hinds hit University's only 3-point basket of the game for an 8-6 lead. Syrek scored inside before Hinds stole the ball, passed ahead to Syrek who found Sears for a lay-in. Patterson hit a baseline jump shot before Syrek had a pair of rebound baskets for a 18-6 University lead. Moira McGinley hit a three pointer at the buzzer for Chatard to leave cut the lead to 18-9 at the quarter.

The scoring pace slowed in the second quarter. A Syrek basket and an old-fashioned three-point play by DuBois had University ahead 23-13 with 1:10 remaining. Syrek scored before four straight Chatard points cut the lead to eight. Sears made a steal and basket at the buzzer to give the Blazers a 27-17 lead at halftime.

University opened the third quarter on a 9-1 run. Baskets by Seay, Syrek and Hinds and a three-point play from Sears put the Blazers up 36-18 with four minutes left in the third. Chatard battled back, scoring ten straight and pulled within six with a minute remaining the third. Hinds made a free throw and Sears scored with two seconds left for a 40-33 University lead at the end of the third.

After a Syrek basket and Seay free throw put University up by 10, Chatard pulled back within 43-38. Sears hit a pair of free throws with five minutes remaining and added two more just 20 seconds later. Hinds made a foul shot and Syrek scored off a Seay pass for a 50-42 lead with 3:38 left.

Chatard scored to cut the lead to 50-44 before University scored the next 11 points to put the game away. Syrek scored on a rebound, DuBois made a basket and Syrek hit two foul shots. Foul shots from DuBois, Sears and Hinds put University up 61-44 with a minute remaining.

Syrek had 11 rebounds, DuBois nine and Sears seven. Sears had a team-high four assists.

Zakia Rasheed had 19 for Chatard, which has a 7-6 record. McGinley had 15 and Erika Pemberton 13.

University is off until Tuesday when it hosts New Castle at The U Center.

UNIVERSITY 62, SOUTH PUTNAM 46				
University	FG	FT	TP	PF
Kelsey DuBois	7-11	2-5	16	4
Sierra Hinds	3-9	1-2	7	4
Lindsey Syrek	5-9	7-7	17	3
Peyton Seay	2-6	1-4	5	2
Maddi Sears	5-13	4-6	17	0
Jordan Patterson	0-1	0-0	0	3
Elise Nachlis	0-1	0-0	0	0
Totals	22-50	15-24	62	16

Score by Quarters				
South Putnam	19	7	13	7 - 46
University	17	16	8	21 - 62
University 3-point shooting (3-11) Sears 3-8, Hinds 0-2, Seay 0-1.				
University rebounds (41) Sears 13, Syrek 12, DuBois 10, Seay 4, Hinds 1, Patterson 1.				

UNIVERSITY 63, BISHOP CHATARD 54				
University	FG	FT	TP	PF
Kelsey DuBois	1-6	5-7	7	2
Sierra Hinds	3-7	4-6	11	4
Lindsey Syrek	9-14	3-4	21	4
Payton Seay	2-10	1-2	5	1
Maddi Sears	4-7	9-9	17	1
Jordan Patterson	1-2	0-0	2	1
Totals	20-46	22-28	63	13

Score by Quarters				
Bishop Chatard	9	8	17	21 - 54
University	18	9	13	23 - 63
University 3-point shooting (1-3) Hinds 1-2, Seay 0-1.				
University rebounds (33) Syrek 11, DuBois 9, Sears 7, Seay 3, Hinds 2, Patterson 1.				

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Greyhound girls dominate at Kokomo

Carmel scored a dominant win at Kokomo on Thursday, by the score of 67-23.

The Greyhounds were in control from the beginning, leading 28-2 after the first quarter. Carmel led 41-7 at halftime, then moved ahead 59-16 after three periods, outscoring the Wildkats in each quarter.

Hannah Lach had an outstanding night shooting the ball, making six 3-pointers on her way to 20 points. Gracie Collins and Kate Clarke added 11 points. Lach also led the rebound with seven, followed by Bridget Dunn and Emily Roper with six each, then Clarke collected five.

Collins and Kiara Gill both had four steals and Roper blocked two shots.

Carmel is 7-6 and hosts Penn on Saturday afternoon.

CARMEL 67, KOKOMO 23					
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Hannah Lach	7-16	0-0	20	1	
Gracie Collins	4-8	0-0	11	2	
Emily Roper	0-4	2-2	2	1	
Evan Spidel	0-8	1-2	1	1	
Kate Clarke	5-8	0-0	11	1	
Kiara Gill	3-6	2-2	9	0	
Bridget Dunn	2-8	0-0	4	2	
Riley Pennington	3-4	0-2	6	0	
Mahalet Zeuresenay	1-2	1-2	3	0	
Totals	25-64	6-10	67	8	
Score by Quarters					
Carmel	28	13	18	8	67
Kokomo	2	5	9	7	23
Carmel 3-point shooting (11-31) Lach 6-14, Collins 3-6, Gill 1-2, Pennington 1-2, Spidel 0-5, Dunn 0-2.					
Carmel rebounds (37) Lach 7, Dunn 6, Roper 6, Clarke 5, Zeuresenay 4, Collins 3, Pennington 3, Gill 2, Spidel 1.					

GC girls drop tough game at Lapel

Guerin Catholic's girls dropped a tough game at Lapel on Thursday, 46-42.

The Bulldogs led 10-9 after the first quarter and 27-19 at halftime. The Golden Eagles cut into that lead in the third period, with Kathryn Loso scoring eight points during that quarter. But Lapel was able to hold on for the win.

Olivia Labus led Guerin Catholic with 15 points, including seven in the first quarter. Loso finished with 10. Labus and Nicole Cunningham both made two 3-pointers.

The Golden Eagles are 4-9 and host Shelbyville on Tuesday.

LAPEL 46, GUERIN CATHOLIC 42					
Guerin Catholic	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Katie Koger	3	0-0	6	3	
Nicole Cunningham	2	2-4	8	5	
Delaney Klee	1	0-0	2	1	
Kathryn Loso	3	4-4	10	1	
Olivia Labus	4	5-6	15	5	
Aliyah Dorsey	0	1-3	1	1	
Ally Sponhauer	0	0-0	0	0	
Natalie Fernandez	0	0-0	0	1	
Lily Pottratz	0	0-0	0	0	
Mia Thompson	0	0-0	0	0	
Totals	13	12-17	42	17	
Score by Quarters					
Guerin Catholic	9	10	14	9	42
Lapel	10	17	13	6	46
Guerin Catholic 3-pointers (4) Cunningham 2, Labus 2.					

Guerin boys win sixth straight game

Guerin Catholic's boys basketball team kept its win streak going on Thursday, beating Lapel 56-40 at the Bulldogs' gym.

The Golden Eagles led 17-12 after the first quarter, then turned up the defense in the second period, allowing Lapel only four points. As a result, Guerin led 31-16 at halftime and held its advantage steady in the second half.

Bernie McGuinness scored 23 points for the Golden Eagles, followed by Matthew Gillis with 11. McGuinness came close to a double-double with nine rebounds, while Cameron Weitzel collected six rebounds.

Guerin Catholic had 18 team assists. Gillis dished out six, while Joseph Bobilya and McGuinness both handed out four.

The Golden Eagles, winners of six straight, are 8-2 and play Saturday at Lebanon.

GUERIN CATHOLIC 56, LAPEL 40					
Guerin Catholic	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Kaleb Edwards	4-6	0-0	8	4	
Joseph Bobilya	2-8	0-0	5	0	
Bernie McGuinness	9-14	3-3	23	1	
Cameron Weitzel	2-5	2-2	7	2	
Matthew Gillis	5-6	1-2	11	2	
Kameron Osswald	0-1	0-2	0	0	
Jack Parenteau	0-0	0-0	0	2	
Elijah Edwards	0-0	0-0	0	0	
Will Grissom	0-0	2-2	2	1	
Dominic Ferrucci	0-0	0-0	0	0	
Sam Osborn	0-0	0-0	0	0	
Totals	22-40	8-11	56	12	
Score by Quarters					
Guerin Catholic	17	14	16	9	56
Lapel	12	4	14	10	40
Guerin Catholic 3-point shooting (4-14) McGuinness 2-5, Bobilya 1-5, Weitzel 1-3, Osswald 0-1.					
Guerin Catholic rebounds (25) McGuinness 9, Weitzel 6, Edwards 3, Gillis 3, Bobilya 1, Osswald 1, Parenteau 1, team 1.					

Carmel boys take care of Anderson

The Carmel boys basketball team took control in the middle quarters of its game at Anderson Thursday, and that led to a 66-41 victory.

The Greyhounds were ahead 16-12 after the first quarter, but allowed the Indians only nine points in the second and third periods. Carmel led 31-16 at halftime and 50-21 after three.

Peter Suder reached double-double status, scoring 22 points and collecting 10 rebounds, in addition to making two 3-pointers. Charlie Williams had 12 points and eight rebounds, while Bryce Beery pulled six rebounds. Conner Gioia handed out eight assists to go along with his nine points.

Carmel is 5-3 and is off until next Friday, Jan. 10 when it hosts Center Grove in a Metropolitan Conference game.

CARMEL 66, ANDERSON 41					
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Conner Gioia	3-3	3-3	9	3	
Peter Suder	9-15	2-4	22	3	
Charlie Williams	6-8	0-0	12	3	
Josh Whack	1-3	0-0	2	1	
Jackson Jannsen	3-6	0-0	7	3	
Bryce Beery	1-1	0-0	2	2	
Wil Leary	1-3	3-4	6	2	
Spencer White	1-1	0-0	2	1	
Burke Weldy	1-1	2-2	4	1	
Nick Frische	0-1	0-0	0	0	
Sam Orme	0-1	0-0	0	0	
Josh Rauh	0-0	0-0	0	0	
Totals	26-43	10-13	66	19	
Score by Quarters					
Carmel	16	15	19	16	66
Anderson	12	4	5	20	41
Carmel 3-point shooting (4-10) Suder 2-2, Jannsen 1-4, Leary 1-2, Orme 0-1, Whack 0-1.					
Carmel rebounds (34) Suder 10, Williams 8, Beery 6, Gioia 3, Weldy 2, Jannsen 1, White 1, Orme 1, Whack 1, Leary 1.					



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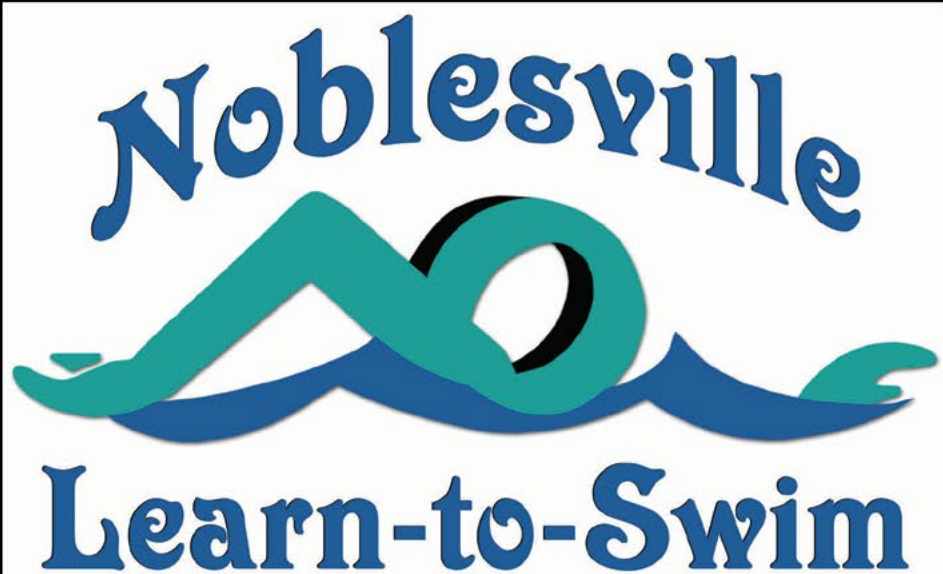
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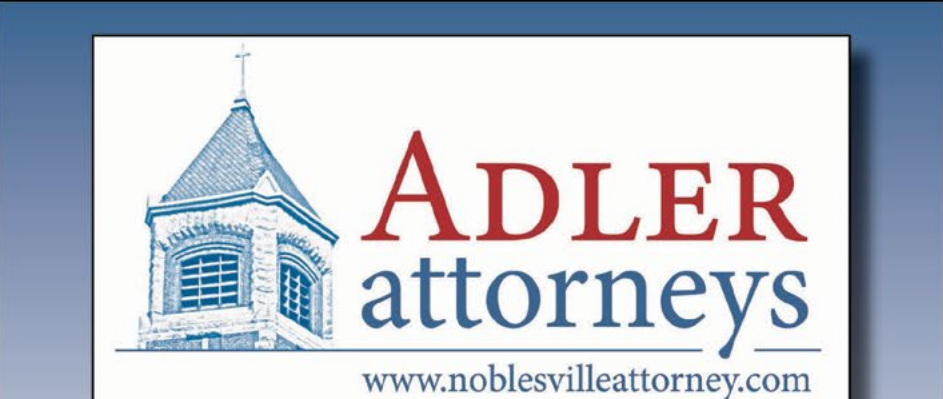
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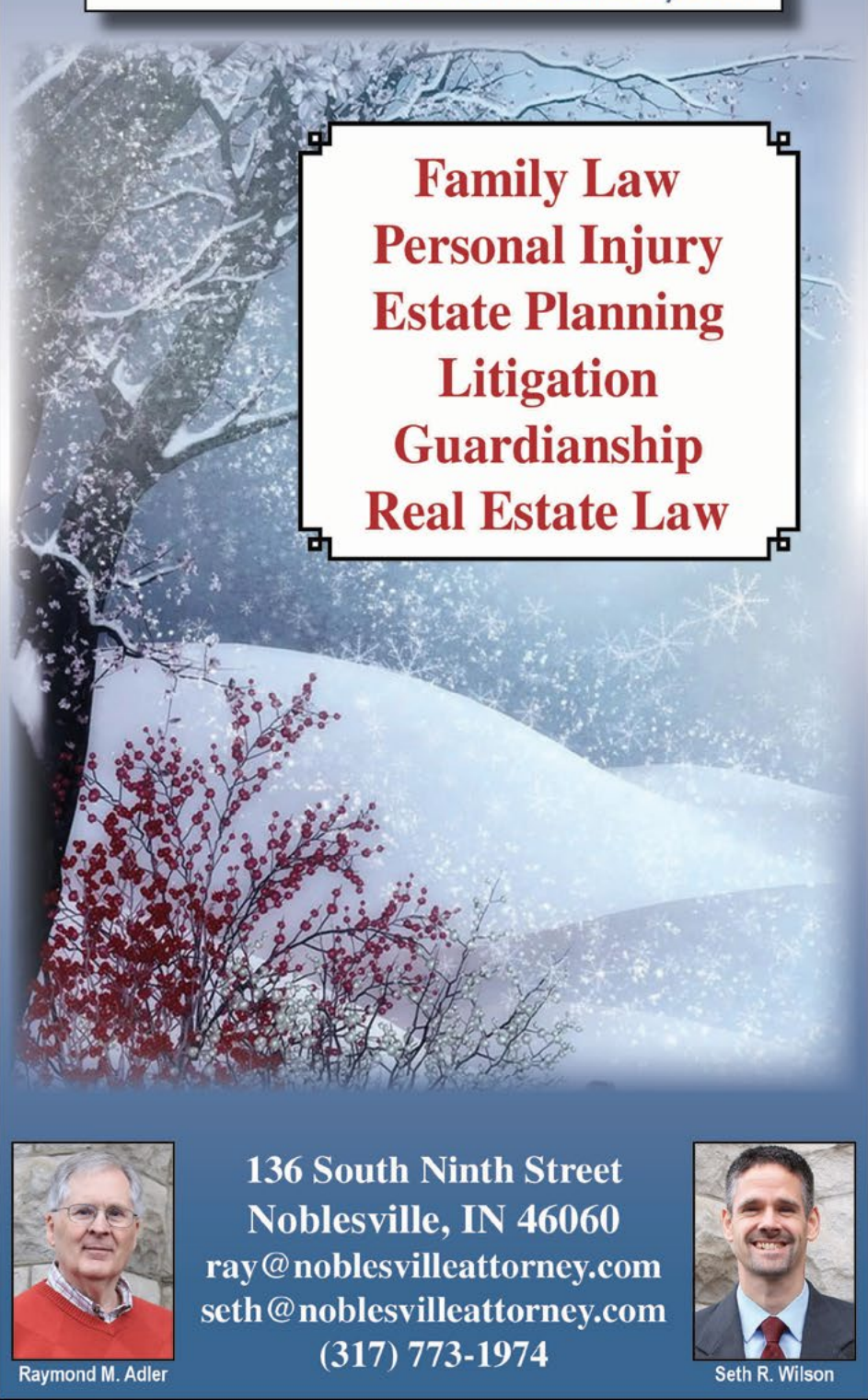
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NBA standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic	W	L	PCT.	GB
Boston	23	8	.742	-
Toronto	23	12	.657	2.0
Philadelphia	23	13	.639	2.5
Brooklyn	16	17	.485	8.0
New York	10	24	.294	14.5
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Milwaukee	31	5	.861	-
Indiana	22	13	.629	8.5
Chicago	13	22	.371	17.5
Detroit	12	23	.343	18.5
Cleveland	10	24	.294	20.0
Southeast	W	L	PCT.	GB
Miami	25	9	.735	-
Orlando	15	19	.441	10.0
Charlotte	14	23	.378	12.5
Washington	10	23	.303	14.5
Atlanta	7	27	.206	18.0

Western Conference

Northwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Denver	24	10	.706	-
Utah	22	12	.647	2.0
Oklahoma City	19	15	.559	5.0
Portland	14	21	.400	10.5
Minnesota	13	21	.382	11.0
Pacific	W	L	PCT.	GB
L.A. Lakers	27	7	.794	-
L.A. Clippers	25	11	.694	3.0
Phoenix	13	21	.382	14.0
Sacramento	13	22	.371	14.5
Golden State	9	27	.250	19.0
Southwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Houston	23	11	.676	-
Dallas	22	12	.647	1.0
San Antonio	14	19	.424	8.5
Memphis	13	22	.371	10.5
New Orleans	11	23	.324	12.0

NFL standings - Week 17

x- Clinched playoffs / y- Clinched division / z- Clinched division and homefield advantage

American Conference

East	W	L	T	PCT.
y-New England	12	4	0	.750
x-Buffalo	10	6	0	.625
N.Y. Jets	7	9	0	.438
Miami	5	11	0	.313
North	W	L	T	PCT.
z-Baltimore	14	2	0	.875
Pittsburgh	8	8	0	.500
Cleveland	6	10	0	.375
Cincinnati	2	14	0	.125
South	W	L	T	PCT.
y-Houston	10	6	0	.625
x-Tennessee	9	7	0	.563
Indianapolis	7	9	0	.438
Jacksonville	6	10	0	.375
West	W	L	T	PCT.
y-Kansas City	12	4	0	.750
Denver	7	9	0	.438
Oakland	7	9	0	.438
L.A. Chargers	5	11	0	.313

National Conference

East	W	L	T	PCT.
y-Philadelphia	9	7	0	.563
Dallas	8	8	0	.500
N.Y. Giants	4	12	0	.250
Washington	3	13	0	.188
North	W	L	T	PCT.
y-Green Bay	13	3	0	.813
x-Minnesota	10	6	0	.625
Chicago	8	8	0	.500
Detroit	3	12	1	.219
South	W	L	T	PCT.
y-New Orleans	13	3	0	.813
Atlanta	7	9	0	.438
Tampa Bay	7	9	0	.438
Carolina	5	11	0	.313
West	W	L	T	PCT.
z-San Francisco	13	3	0	.813
Seattle	11	5	0	.688
L.A. Rams	9	7	0	.563
Arizona	5	10	1	.344

After hot first quarter for Indiana...

Second-half runs send Denver past Pacers

By BRENDAN ROURKE
Courtesy nba.com/pacers

It was a tough start to the new year for the Pacers on Thursday night.

With Malcolm Brogdon continuing to miss time due to a sore lower back, the Pacers (22-13) could not find a way to knock off a tough Denver Nuggets (24-10) squad in the second half, losing 124-116 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse. The Blue & Gold have now lost in three of their last four outings.

Indiana's offense shot a blistering 70.0 percent (14-of-20) from the field in the first quarter to grab a 37-27 lead after one. But Denver would respond by dropping 35 in the second frame to pull to within two, 64-62, at the halftime break.

After grabbing a lead in the third, Denver would use two runs in the fourth quarter that would give them the lead for good. The rebounding bug hit Indiana once again, as 2018-19 All-Star Nikola Jokic found several second-chance points midway through the fourth to take the wind out of Indiana's sails.

"He's just a threat," Domantas Sabonis said of Jokic. "When he's on the court, everybody else becomes a bigger threat. Because when he's on the court, you kind of sag off help. When he's on the court, everybody has to be locked

in 'cause he can find open guys cutting, spotting up. So, it's just tough."

Twenty of Jokic's 22 points came in the second half.

Jeremy Lamb finished with a game-high 30 points on 9-of-13 shooting, while Myles Turner and T.J. Warren added 21 and 20 apiece. Sabonis flirted with a triple-double, by finishing with 18 points, nine rebounds, and nine assists.

To go along with Jokic's 22, rookie forward Michael Porter Jr. tallied a career-high 25 points on 11-of-12 shooting, including 2-of-3 from deep for Denver. The Nuggets outrebounded the Pacers 15-7 in the final quarter, with six coming from the offensive glass, to put the game away.

"You have to tip your cap to him," Turner said of Porter Jr. "I mean, I've been following his career. I think he's been through a lot. It's kind of cool and refreshing to see someone like that go out and have a good game. You hope, obviously, it's against somebody else. But yeah, they have a lot of depth on that team, and you have to respect everybody."

The Pacers scored on five of their first six possessions of the game to grab an 11-6 lead early in the first quarter. With 8:03 remaining, Domantas Sab-

onis swiped the ball away from former Indiana Mr. Basketball Gary Harris, and found a cutting Aaron Holiday for a reverse layup that pushed the Blue & Gold's lead to seven.

Despite a timeout from Nuggets head coach Michael Malone, the Blue & Gold kept putting on a show. Indiana would rattle off an 11-4 run over the next 2:22 to extend its lead to 24-10 with 5:20 left in the first frame. The run was highlighted by an emphatic two-handed slam from Turner, and back-to-back 3-pointers from Lamb on consecutive Pacer possessions.

The Nuggets would trim Indiana's lead back to single digits on a four-point play from Jamal Murray with 4:40 left in the first. But Turner would continue his impressive first quarter by finishing a tough floater in the paint to give the Pacers a 29-19 lead less than a minute later.

Denver would respond with six unanswered points late in the frame to trim Indiana's lead down to four, 31-27, but Sabonis made sure Indiana closed out the quarter on a high note.

The big man turned the tide first with a sensational swat on the defensive end. T.J. McConnell would then throw a dime of a bounce pass that found the big man for a sprinting slam. Then, after a Denver turnover, Sabonis would return the favor. With 0.1 showing on the clock, he found McConnell for the reverse layup to close out the quarter with a 37-27 lead.

Coming out of the quarter break, a brief 5-0 Denver run threatened Indiana's lead. But the Sabonis and the second unit found their stride once again. The energetic squad would lead a 9-2 run, including threes from Justin Holiday and Doug McDermott, to grab a 46-34 lead with 9:15 left in the half.

The Blue & Gold would halt another Denver run thanks to the efforts of Lamb. The former UConn star scored the next 10 Pacer points to hold a 56-48 lead with 4:07 remaining in the half.

But Denver managed to climb back to within two thanks to the efforts of Mason Plumlee in the paint. With 3.5 seconds left, he finished a tough dunk through a foul call, but would miss the ensuing free throw to end the half.

Two three-point plays from Jokic,

followed by five points from Harris, would assist Denver in grabbing its first lead of the ball game, 73-70 at the 9:17 mark of the third quarter.

However, the Pacers would respond with a 9-2 run, including four from Warren, to regain a 79-75 lead with 6:26 left to play in the third.

After an Indiana timeout, things would remain tight. The Pacers would hold on to a slim lead until Porter scored nine straight Denver points to grab an 86-84 lead for the Nuggets with 2:08 left in the period.

32 seconds later, McDermott's three from the right wing grabbed an 87-86 lead for Indiana. But Denver would close out the quarter with five straight points from Monte Morris, including a buzzer beating jumper, to grab a 92-88 lead heading into the final frame.

Anchored by six more points from Porter, Denver would begin the fourth quarter on an 8-3 run to pull ahead 100-91. With 9:11 remaining, a loose-ball scramble began in the paint. Porter ended up with the rock and added another jumper. Pacers coach Nate McMillan called a timeout in an attempt to regroup the team.

During the timeout, Turner checked in for Goga Bitadze and appeared to spark some life into Indiana. Two quick, three-point plays from Turner, including a nifty one-handed floater trimmed the Nuggets lead to 103-99 with 7:49 left to play. Just over a minute later, he would induce a roar from the crowd on his rainbow 3-pointer from the top of the key that pulled Indiana to within three, 107-104.

But Jokic and the Nuggets responded with a 10-3 run over a 3:40 span that pushed their lead up to 10. With 2:53 remaining, the seven-footer would grab two offensive rebounds en route to another bucket that forced McMillan to call a timeout once again.

With the Pacers trailing 120-112 and 1:25 showing, Sabonis had a chance to trim the lead to six, but missed two consecutive free throws, drawing the occasional groan from the crowd. Denver would easily close out the game from there.

NFL Playoffs at a glance

WILD CARD
AFC
(5) **Buffalo** at (4) **Houston**
4:35 p.m. Saturday
(6) **Tennessee** at (3) **New England**
8:15 p.m. Saturday

NFC
(6) **Minnesota** at (3) **New Orleans**
1:05 p.m. Sunday
(5) **Seattle** at (4) **Philadelphia**
4:40 p.m. Sunday

DIVISIONAL ROUND
Jan. 11-12
AFC
Lowest winning seed vs.
(1) Baltimore

Highest winning seed vs.
(2) Kansas City

NFC
Lowest winning seed vs.
(1) San Francisco
Highest winning seed vs.
(2) Green Bay

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Jan. 19
AFC Divisional winners
NFC Divisional winners

SUPER BOWL LIV
Feb. 2
Hard Rock Stadium
Miami Gardens, Fla.