

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN
CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly to partly sunny.

Tonight: Partly cloudy.

HIGH: 41 LOW: 28



County officials, candidates speak on postponed election

The REPORTER

On Friday, Governor Eric Holcomb issued an order moving Indiana's Primary Election from May 5 to June 2.

Holcomb said, "My view on that fast-approaching primary election is it needed to be pushed back in order to again ensure the safety of our county employees, the poll workers, and the voters themselves."

Shortly after Holcomb's announcement, local officials and candidates in this year's primary began expressing their comments.

Hamilton County Clerk Kathy Williams, whose responsibilities include overseeing all county elections,

said, "Moving the Primary out was a very difficult decision made by the Governor but I truly believe it was the best decision. We have been preparing for the 'what ifs' all week and there are just not any good answers at this time. We had already started to have polling places canceling and poll workers, who are the backbone of election day process, determining they wouldn't be able to work. Implementing 'social distancing' would be

very difficult at the polls and satellite voting."

Hamilton County Council President Rick McKinney, running for an At-Large re-election spot, said, "My opinion is that I would have preferred the primary date stayed at its original May 5 date. To accommodate new hygiene and 'personal distancing' safeguards, voting could



Williams



McKinney



Merhoff

The REPORTER

Mo Merhoff, president of OneZone, Inc., officially announced her retirement Friday morning to area officials and members.

"Now in my 20th year, it seems like a good time to end this significant chapter in my life," she said. "Unfortunately, current conditions preclude this from being a public announcement as planned."

OneZone's Chief Operating Officer Jack Russell

will serve as interim president. OneZone's board of directors will launch a regional executive search for a president in the next few weeks.

According to OneZone Board President Kathy Krusic, "Mo has been instrumental in creating an environment in which businesses thrive, that in turn has resulted in Carmel and Fishers being nationally recognized as outstanding

See Merhoff . . . Page 2

See Election . . . Page 2

First responders wearing masks for their safety



Photo provided

The City of Noblesville wants residents who notice first responders wearing masks or other personal protective equipment to understand this is being done as a precaution as part of coordinated preparedness and mitigation plans, based on adjusted screening protocols the emergency dispatch system. It does not mean that a person at the location has COVID-19.

Westfield taking steps to bring community together

The REPORTER

On Friday, Westfield Mayor Andy Cook announced the City is taking steps to engage the community in the coming weeks. The goal is to bring the community together, even with social distancing measures in place.

The first event aimed at keeping the community engaged is a fitness challenge. Residents will choose from a list of fitness challenges, complete the challenge and post a picture on social media tagging the City of Westfield and Westfield Welcome and including #Westfield-FitnessChallenge.

You can participate by doing such activities as indoor weightlifting circuit with a bodyweight, dumbbells or items in your home that resemble a weight (like milk jugs, books, or filled backpacks); or walking, running, or cycling in your neighborhood, on city trails, or at city parks.

Judges will choose a winner based on meeting criteria and creativity. New activities will be released in the coming weeks and residents are encouraged to submit ideas.

For more information on this new initiative, please click the photo at right to watch the video update.



Photo provided

Mayor Andy Cook delivered a video message in front of the Grand Park Events Center on Friday. Click the photo above to watch the message.

Carmel clarifies travel order, encourages donating blood

The REPORTER

Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard has ordered the closure of Brookshire Golf Club – except for those wanting to walk the course – in addition to closing the City's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Site on Range Line Road. Both closures were announced Thursday and additional steps may be taken to continue to prevent the spread of the deadly COVID-19 virus.

In addition, the City released a clarification to Wednesday's travel order and emergency declaration, to make sure residents

understand that a trip to donate blood is just as important as a trip to the grocery store, your doctor, or to a job where you must be physically present. In addition, to address some questions that have been raised, the City has added the following to the emergency order:

"All persons utilizing a public trail or multi-use path, or visiting a public park, are permitted to travel to and from these facilities



Brainard

and to exit their vehicles in order to make use of them, provided that proper "social distancing" protocols are followed when doing so."

Click [here](#) to read the entire original document.

"Our hope is that our residents in Carmel will use their common sense and do the right thing when it comes to making unnecessary trips that could expose them to social interactions that we are trying to pre-

vent," Brainard said. "We must realize that there is no greater civil liberty than the freedom to live without fear that someone you encounter might be the bearer of a virus that will take away your ability to enjoy good health and safety. We need to be diligent and take these matters seriously in order to stop the spread of this deadly virus."

The City has also updated its growing list of local restaurants that remain open for carry out and delivery. You can keep up with all updates by visiting the City's special COVID-19 page.

County's new webpage offers complete list of online services

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Commissioners are asking residents to do as much of their county business online as possible. Like any business, the county is trying to limit transmission of COVID-19 among staff and maintain business operations.

"The county provides services that are instrumental to our community," County Commissioner Christine Altman said. "We need to do our best to keep the folks in dispatch, in law enforcement, and in our offices healthy so we don't have any interruptions in government business."

The county has created a webpage listing all the county business that be conducted online – including how to file for an absentee ballot and how to pay your property taxes. You can find the list at [this link](#).

In the meantime, many county employees are telecommuting or working flexible hours in an effort to distance themselves from one another.

"We are committed to staying open as long as we can," Altman said. "But in order to do that, we need the community's help. Not only is online business easier, but it's also more convenient and you'll be doing your part to keep our staff healthy."

For more information about COVID-19 and the current situation here in Hamilton County, please check out the County Health Department's [website](#).



Altman

Noblesville mayor issues executive order to enhance public health, safety

The REPORTER

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen announced Friday the issuance of an executive order as part of a multi-faceted strategy to address the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Jensen executed Executive Order No. 20-01 effective March 20.

"Issuing an executive order allows us to communicate clear parameters and enforce restrictions on door to door solicitations as well as close city buildings including public safety buildings except in the case of emergencies in an effort to mitigate person-to-person contact," Jensen said.

"This situation is evolving every hour and we are keeping in contact with key local, state and federal officials to stay up to date on the latest recommendations. We continue to urge the public to practice social distancing, refrain from non-essential gatherings, wash their hands and be observant of symptoms."

Public health officials are asking residents to avoid unnecessary travel, self-quarantine where appropriate, and work from home to the extent possible.



Jensen

This preventative measure to suspend in-person solicitation is necessary to avoid spread of COVID-19, particularly in relation to individuals in higher-risk segments of our population.

The City of Noblesville government remains open to continue to provide essential service to ensure the safety and well-being of residents. The city would like to remind the community that all permit applications, forms, and online bill paying can be accessed at

cityofnoblesville.org.

Noblesville City Court has been suspended until May. If you have a hearing, please contact the City Court at (317) 776-6344 or visit cityofnoblesville.org. All ticket payments may be made online, via mail, or at the drop box.

Jensen asked constituents to be informed on state and federal preventative recommendations and appreciates the sacrifices local residents and businesses are making for the benefit of the community. For local resources and to stay up to date on the latest coronavirus information, visit cityofnoblesville.org/coronavirus.



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ELECTION

have been made 100 percent mail-in ballots for May 5 instead of a month's delay."

Williams said, "The time frame to mail out a ballot to every registered voter would have been impossible to do. There would not be enough supplies available statewide to get this done."

Since there has already been a change in the date schools may resume, who is to say with any degree of certainty it will be safe to hold the primary June 2?" McKinney said.

Current Hamilton County Commissioner Steve Dillinger, who is running for re-election, said, "Because of the uncertainty and precautions everyone is taking, I understand why the election has been pushed back. As a community, we must band together to beat this virus. I will continue to work with other elected officials to keep our residents safe."



Dillinger

Hamilton County Councilman Jeff Hern, who seeks re-election, said, "We need to continue to adhere to social distancing, which

excludes several traditional campaign initiatives. I always enjoy a new challenge, and I look forward to connecting with voters in a new way. The health and well-being of our community will always be a number one priority. As a current Hamilton County Councilor, I will continue collaborating with other elected officials to protect Hamilton County."

Hamilton County Council candidate Steve Nation said, "Good government is made better when elected officials or those running for office have the opportunity to listen to citizens, and when appropriate, work with them to find solutions. This virus has impeded this dialogue. I am happy that the Governor's action will give us more time to talk before the election takes place. I hope that this



Hern



Nation

shows that such dialogue will last after the election."

John Ditslear, former Noblesville Mayor and candidate for Hamilton County Council, said, "We are in a very serious situation and I support the Governor's decision to delay the election. My family and I have been staying home to protect ourselves, as well as our great community. I will continue to follow the State Department of Health and the Governor's guidance. We will re-adjust our campaign strategy to continue to educate the voters."



Ditslear

Referring to COVID-19, McKinney said, "Hamilton County is in stable financial position to weather this current crisis, in part to the conservative fiscal management and leadership demonstrated by the County Council."

"We know we are going to have to work through a lot of issues but I am very confident in my election and clerk staff that we will get the job done," concluded Williams.

MERHOFF

communities in which to live, work, and play."

After joining the Carmel Chamber in 2000, Merhoff championed numerous collaborative initiatives and established the organization as a source of information and education for businesses, entrepreneurs and non-profits, leading to exponential growth. In 2015, the Carmel and Fishers Chambers of Commerce merged to create OneZone representing more than 1,300 members, and that same year was recognized as the Indiana Chamber Executives Association's Chamber of the Year. Most recently, she has facilitated an active public advocacy initiative on behalf of members and their businesses.

"The very best of my years with the chamber have been the incredible people I've worked with and gotten to know. These are the people with vision, commitment and spirit who have been the main ingredients in making our communities extraordinary, enviable places," Merhoff said.

Prior to joining OneZone, Merhoff, spent 14 years with the United States Rowing Association, including serving as the executive director of the 1994 World Rowing Championships in Indianapolis.


Receiving both her graduate and undergraduate degrees from Purdue University, she is a past member of the Purdue President's Council Advisory Board and is past board chair of the Indiana Chamber Executives Association (ICEA). She is a member of the St. Vincent Board (Hamilton County), Indiana Soccer board, Butler University Business Advisory Board, and a founding member of the newly established Women for Purdue.

Merhoff's future plans include continuing to facilitate board planning sessions for not-for-profit organizations as well as traveling and spending more time with her husband, dogs and horse.

About OneZone

Launched in 2015 with the merger of the Carmel and Fishers Chambers of Commerce, OneZone serves the business interests of its 1,300 collective members. OneZone is a stronger voice, has a significant presence and acts as a business advocate in an ever-changing marketplace on behalf of its members. For more information, visit onezonecommerce.com.

**Thanks for reading
The Reporter**



PREVAIL
Advocating for
Victims of Crime and Abuse
www.prevailinc.com


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





What's new for 2020? The Atlas Cross Sport.



All **Atlas Cross Sport** models come with a touchscreen infotainment display with both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration. Navigation is optional, as is a reconfigurable digital gauge display and SiriusXM satellite radio. The Volkswagen Car-Net connectivity app allows for remote starting and analytics while a 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot allows occupants to remain connected to the internet with their smart devices while on the go.

- Standard autonomous emergency braking with forward-collision warning
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Coronavirus cancellations

Send your event cancellation notice to Notices@ReadTheReporter.com

Atlanta

Mr. Muffin's closes train layout display to public

The REPORTER

For the health and safety of our customers and friends, the layout at Mr. Muffin's Trains in Atlanta will be closed until after April 1. We will reassess the situation and provide a further update at that time.

The shop will remain open for shipping and pick-

ups as long as the Indiana government allows. We are taking additional safety precautions, including more frequently disinfecting public spaces, and are willing to accommodate special needs such as curbside pickup.

We strongly recommend placing credit card

orders via the [website](#); you can still pick up the order by clicking the "Pickup in Store" button in the shopping cart. We'll pull the product and notify you when it's ready to pick up.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call (765) 292-2022 or visit MrMuffinsTrains.com.

Countywide

Riverview Health closing physician offices

The REPORTER

In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, Riverview Health will close all but three primary care offices and limit hours for orthopedics offices beginning Monday, March 23.

The three primary care offices that will remain open include Noblesville

Family Medicine, Sheridan Family Medicine and Hazel Dell Family Care. The open orthopedics offices will be Riverview Health Orthopedics & Sports Medicine – Carmel and Riverview Health Orthopedics & Sports Medicine – Westfield.

Patients will be contacted to reschedule. Patients

needing to schedule an appointment, refill a prescription or otherwise consult with their provider should call their physician's office, as phones will still be answered and messages returned.

No walk-ins will be allowed at any of the open offices.

Noblesville

Community First Bank closes lobby at Noblesville branch

The REPORTER

During this time of extra caution due to COVID-19, Community First Bank (CFB) of Indiana remains committed to the health and well-being of its customers, employees, and surrounding communities.

Effective 5 p.m. on Wednesday, all CFB branches will temporarily close the lobbies to walk-in traffic. These branches will remain fully staffed and able to assist customers during normal business hours.

Banking will still be

carried out via five drive-up locations, six 24/7 ATMs, online banking, mobile app, night depository, and in-person appointments by request (including new account openings, loan appointments, etc.).

Please call (765) 236-0600 with any questions.

PrimeLife Enrichment temporarily closes doors

The REPORTER

Due to the growing serious health threat of the coronavirus, PrimeLife Enrichment has temporarily closed its Center, located at 1078 Third Ave. SW in Carmel, effective immediately.

ately.

The facility will remain closed at least until April 6 and potentially longer.

Handy also announced that the Central Indiana Council on Aging (CICOA) will deliver lunches

to those in need. She encouraged PrimeLife Enrichment members to contact CICOA for additional information.

Visit primelifeenrichment.org for more information.

County Parks expands closures

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation (HCPR) is closing the Cool Creek Nature Center located in Cool Creek Park, and the Taylor Center of Natural History and Koteewi Range Sport and Target Archery Center, both located in Strawtown Koteewi Park, until further notice.

Additionally, as a precautionary measure, all park programs, events and

facility rentals are suspended through April 15. The duration of this action may be extended based on health risks assessed at the end of this defined time period.

At this time, Hamilton County Parks and Recreation park grounds will remain open and accessible to the public to enjoy isolated recreation, which will become increasingly important during this time. Maintenance services will

continue to be provided in the parks. And as before, enhanced cleaning measures will continue to be taken throughout the park system.

To receive ongoing updates regarding HCPR park operations, the public is encouraged to visit the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation [Facebook page](#) or call the HCPR Administrative Office at (317) 770-4400.

NHS Alumni Banquet canceled

The REPORTER

The NHS Alumni Board has made the decision to cancel the 2020 NHS Alumni Banquet.

The board apologizes for any inconvenience this has caused you, but your health and safety are a top priority. The board hopes for a great turn out for the 2021 banquet to be held on April 24, 2021.

All reservation checks received, will be returned as soon as possible.

The organization is still taking donations for the scholarship fund and/or general fund. Goldstar donations of \$250 or more and in memory donations to help with scholarships for those graduating seniors for next year will still be accepted. All names will

be posted in the 2021 newsletter.

Those donations can be sent in a separate check to NHS Alumni, P.O. Box 818, Noblesville, IN 46061. Please include a note with your check to let the NHS Alumni Board know what your donation should be used for so your name can be added to the 2021 newsletter.

Upcoming Noblestories presentation canceled

The REPORTER

The Noblestories presentation, sponsored by the Noblesville Preservation Alliance (NPA) and scheduled for March 29 at Preser-

vation Hall in Noblesville, has been postponed until further notice in recognition of the potential dangers posed by the coronavirus.

NPA will reschedule at

a future date once the scope of the outbreak has been determined and public health officials are assured that public gatherings are safe again.

Community First Bank open house

Community First Bank's public open house for the Noblesville Grand Opening event set for Wednesday, March 25 has been canceled.

Westfield

Community First closes lobby at Westfield branch

The REPORTER

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Please call (765) 236-0600 with any questions.

Westfield Lions Club postpones Poker for Sight tournament

The REPORTER

The Westfield Lions Poker for Sight Texas Hold 'Em Poker tournament, originally scheduled for April 17 and 18, will be postponed until Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13.

The Lions Poker for Sight tournaments are the largest fund raisers for the Westfield group. They are a

vital part of the club's philanthropic endeavors every year.

The drawing for the winner of the Zac Brown Band Concert VIP tickets will also be moved to the night of June 13 at the final round of the Poker for Sight Tournament.

For more information or to register for Lions

Poker for Sight go to lions-poker.org.

For more information on the Westfield Lions Club go to westfieldlions.org.

The Westfield Lions Club will keep everyone posted on additional developments as time gets closer. Thank you all for your support.

Westfield Chamber cancels three events

The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce has released notices of the following cancellations:

- **"Shark Tank" Luncheon:** This event has been postponed until further notice.
- **Westfield Young Professionals:** At

this time all events are TBD. The next meet up is scheduled for April 2.

• **Coffee with the Chamber:** At this time all events are TBD. The next coffee is scheduled for April 14.

The Chamber will announce updates and changes as they occur. For more information, visit westfield-chamber.org.

Westfield GOP Club postpones Congressional debate

The Westfield GOP Club has postponed the 5th District Congressional Debate. The Club's goal is to reschedule the debate for sometime in April. Updates will be provided.

Fishers

Fishers GOP Club cancels Meet & Greet

The Fishers GOP Club has canceled its Meet & Greet scheduled for April 9 at the Delaware Township Community Center.

IKEA closing stores

IKEA announced Wednesday that all stores will close "temporarily," including the facility in Fishers. Home delivery will continue. Pickup service will continue, and the Fishers store will be handling pickup services.

The company gave no indication how long the shutdown of stores will last.

Lobby closed at Fishers Police Department Headquarters

The Fishers Police Department has closed the lobby of its headquarters. Please call (317) 595-3300 to speak to Records staff and (317) 773-1282 to speak with a Fishers police officer.

HSE School Board meeting canceled

The Hamilton Southeastern school board has canceled its March 25 meeting.

Hamilton North Public Library closes branches

The Hamilton North Public Library is closed to the public until April 16.

Hamilton County BZA meetings canceled

The Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals will not meet on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. Both the North District and South District meetings have been canceled.

Carmel

Walk Off The Earth rescheduled for August 9 at the Palladium

The REPORTER

Canadian indie-pop band Walk Off The Earth has set a new date for its debut at the Center for the Performing Arts – Aug. 9.

WOTE's previously scheduled April 17 date was among the Center Presents performances canceled this week in response to new public health guidelines on COVID-19. But the group, known for its vocal harmonies, gymnastic

musicianship and whimsical videos, is rescheduling the U.S. tour in support of its new album, HERE WE GO!

The local performance is now set for 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, at the Palladium, 1 Center Green, Carmel. Tickets purchased for the previous date will be honored, and ticket sales have resumed at TheCenterPresents.org.

The band shared the

news with its fans – "wo-telings" – via social media.

"In light of the ongoing public health concerns, we've decided to move our upcoming Here We Go US leg to August," they posted. "We love and value each and every one of you, and your safety and well-being is of the utmost importance to us ... We look forward to being back on the road soon and seeing you all this summer!"

Monon Community Center closes

The REPORTER

The Monon Community Center is closed until further notice.

The closure includes all Monon Community Center amenities: Fitness center, indoor aquatics, gymnasium, KidZone, indoor track, group fitness classes, personal training and private lessons. The closure will be assessed on a daily basis based on recommendations from public health officials.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit carmelclayparks.com/coronavirus-information.

virus-information.

Please note that Carmel city parks remain open, and everyone is encouraged to stay active and spend time outdoors if possible while continuing to practice safety measures, social distancing and protocols recommended by the CDC.

While the Monon Community Center will re-open as soon as conditions warrant, the following are canceled through April 10, at which time cancellations will be reassessed and impacted parties will be notified: Rec-

reation programming, aquatic programs, swim lessons, rentals, volunteer events and organized events (Hamilton County Homeschool Hoopla, Summer Hiring Event, Barrier-Free Theatre Performance, Swim Meet).

In accordance with Carmel Clay Schools, the before- and after-school program Extended School Enrichment is also closed through April 10, including School's Out Spring Break Camp.

During the closure, CCPR will continue to pay full- and part-time staff.

Center for Performing Arts extends cancellations through May 11

The REPORTER

The Center for the Performing Arts is extending its previously announced suspension of all performances and other events on its campus through May 11.

The cancellations include performances by Actors Theatre of Indiana, Carmel Symphony Orchestra, Central Indiana Dance Ensemble, Civic Theatre, Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre and Indiana Wind Symphony, as well as education events, rental events and Center

Presents performances.

All ticketholders will be contacted and provided refunds or the option to donate the purchase amount to the presenting organization to help defray costs associated with the cancellations. The Center will work to reschedule the canceled events as feasible.

The Center will continue to follow the guidance of public safety officials and will reassess the suspension as needed.

The Center's offices will

remain in operation during standard business hours. The Box Office and the Great American Songbook Exhibit Gallery at the Palladium will be closed to the public through May 11, but ticket sales for events not affected by the suspension will continue online at TheCenterPresents.org or by phone at (317) 843-3800.

Patrons with questions or concerns may contact the Patron Services department at (317) 843-3800 or tickets@TheCenterPresents.org.

Noblesville church pantry feeds hundreds of families with drive-up service

WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A community center in Noblesville is helping feed people in need during this difficult time.

Staff at The Choice Food Pantry is working hard to fill orders for the people who have requested groceries. The food pantry is lo-

Organizers say they will help more than 600 families just this week.

People can go on the center's [website](#) and pre-order their groceries. That's when staff members take over.

"We have a team that then delivers the groceries to the cars, so we're trying to make it as seamless as possible and as easy as possible and yet limit any kind of interaction so that we don't expose more people and keep people safe with what's going on," Keith

Coroner rules Fishers deaths as murder-suicide

The REPORTER



Officers re- **Chalfin** Hileman, 20, shot
sponded to a family distur- Debra Hileman, 73, prior to
bance in the 12600 block killing himself.

Letter to the Editor

Zionsville veteran supports Kent Abernathy for Congress

My fellow constituents,
As a third-generation combat veteran stretching from WWI through Desert Storm, my family knows the value of good leadership in times of panic, anxiety and uncertainty.

In this current environment of panic, anxiety and uncertainty – now is the time for successfully tested leadership. Kent Abernathy has been a servant leader for Hoosiers and Americans over the years in his various business and military roles.

With “Duty. Honor. Country.” in mind, Kent went back on active duty in 2003. He had three deployments: Two to the Pentagon and one to Iraq. During 2005, when Hurricane Katrina made landfall, Kent was the Crisis Action Team Chief on duty in the Army Operations Center and responsible to brief the Secretary and other senior Army leaders on the horrors of what mother nature would do to New Orleans and the Army’s response. Later, in 2009, he was part of the team that coordinated and tracked military assistance during

Letter to the Editor

Reader endorses Beth Henderson for Indiana's 5th District

Dear Editor:

We need a trusted nurse and business owner in Congress!

I'm a 68-year-old resident of the 5th District of Indiana and a lifelong Hoosier. I'm also a 13-year veteran of the United States military.

Like many Americans, I'm concerned about the medical, economic and emotional crisis we are facing with the coronavirus. In these unprecedented times I'm seeing that we're "represented" by a Congress that's more focused on their political careers than serving the needs of the American people.

We now more than ever need Congress to work for us, not the other way around. This is why I'm supporting Beth Henderson to represent Indiana's 5th Congressional District. Beth is not a career politician, but she is a registered nurse and successful businesswoman who understands what's important to those of us living in the 5th District.

Unlike the lawyers and politicians in Washington, Beth truly knows what it means to care for her fellow Americans. Her background required her to have the ability to get things done in difficult situations – she won't be tripped up by partisan bickering, and she won't bow to political pressures. And Beth is even better in person than she is on paper. Beth's kind heart shines through when you meet her; it's undeniable that her only goal is to do what's best for America and for the 5th District.

If you're a resident of the 5th District, I hope you'll join me in voting for Beth Henderson in the Republican primary.

Jody Brown
Post Commander Cicero American Legion

*Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to **News@ReadTheReporter.com**.*

You may be eligible for unemployment and not know it

By TRAVIS ROBINSON
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) says the coronavirus pandemic is a unique situation and there may be plenty of people who qualify for unemployment that don't know they do.

"Everyone I do know that is servers are having to take the unemployment leaves or they're just out of work all together," one server said.

DWD says they've had around 2,400 people file for unemployment last week and they expect that number to triple by the end of this week.

"So it's been pretty crazy," Chief of Staff Josh Richardson said. "I mean, as far as specific numbers, I think I'd want to wait until the weekends and see the

Meeting Notice

The Noblesville Common Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

We are open. How can we help you?
STAY HOME - STAY SAFE - STAY HEALTHY
LET US KNOW IF WE CAN MAKE IT MORE COMFORTABLE!

Hello Friends and Neighbors!

We are always appreciative of your business and the fact that you allow us to come into your homes and even more so during these challenging times amid the COVID-19 virus situation.

We have been diligent about sanitizing each of our locations. Fortunately, the size of our stores does allow for the adequate social distancing now being called for.


If you have purchased furniture from us recently - we are still out making deliveries. Our delivery crews will have disinfectant wipes for their safety, as well as the safety of others.

If you have been thinking about a project now would be a great time to get started on something. As long as you're spending a great length of time at home right now, you may as well make it safe and comfortable.

Our sales staff is very experienced. They can help you over the phone or via text or the chat feature found in the lower right corner of our website. When you do want to come in and try some things out, we will be here! Check out our website for more information and to take a peek at some of the products that we offer.

Spring is arriving and we're staying positive and uplifted during this difficult time We are open, how can we help you?

Sincerely,
 Jeff Godby



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Sharon Ann Daubenspeck

November 11, 1948 – March 19, 2020

Sharon Ann Daubenspeck, 71, Quincy, Ind., passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at her home. She was born on November 11, 1948 to Bernie and Irene (Pierson) Hiatt in Noblesville.



Sharon worked in the kitchen of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Tipton and for Hamilton Heights Schools. She loved dancing, cooking and gardening, and her farm animals. Most of all, Sharon loved her family.

She is survived by her sons, Guy Daubenspeck and Will Daubenspeck; grandson, Justin Levi Daubenspeck; granddaughter, Jessica Ellen Daubenspeck; great-granddaughter, Lillianna Rose Daubenspeck; three sisters, Brenda, Cathy and Coral; and her brother, Doug Hiatt.

In addition to her parents, Sharon was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Brown in 2018; and her brother, Steve Hiatt.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan St., Noblesville, with visitation from 11 a.m. to the time of the service at the funeral home. Kim Jarrett will officiate. Burial will be at Arcadia Cemetery in Arcadia.

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

Arrangements
 Calling: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., March 25
 Service: 1 p.m., March 25
 Location: Randall & Roberts Funeral Home
 Condolences: randallroberts.com

Omer Neil Dawson

July 23, 1992 – March 15, 2020

Omer Neil Dawson, 27, Noblesville, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, March 15, 2020 at Riverview Health in Noblesville. He was born on July 23, 1992 to Tracy and Tanya (Wiseman) Dawson in Tipton County.

Omer loved music and played guitar and drums and wrote songs. He played in the marching band and liked to "beat box." Omer was a gold medalist swimmer in the Special Olympics where he was a unified partner and athlete. He had a huge heart and wanted to help those who couldn't help themselves, especially those in need. Omer was involved in street ministry to the homeless. He was goofy and loved to make people laugh.

Omer is survived by his mother, Tanya (Roque) Wiseman; daughter, Robyn Reana; brother, Jonathon (Kirsten) Brown; sister, Desirée (Manny) Martinez; grandmothers, Roberta Reed and Marie Covey; many aunts and uncles; as well as multiple nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Tracy Len Dawson; papa, George Wiseman; cousin, Neil Wiseman; grandpa, Junior "Omer" Dawson; and "Bonus," Harold Reed.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date at Faith Community Church. Randall & Roberts Funeral Homes has been entrusted with Omer's care.

Memorial contributions may be made to Special Olympics for Hamilton County, P.O. Box 730, Noblesville, IN 46061.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

"These are the times that try men's souls"

"These are the times that try men's souls..."
 — Thomas Paine, December 1776

Although Mr. Paine's quote — and please, if you have not, do read the entire quote — is stated in regard to the trials and tribulations of the birth of a new country, however this quote feels very relevant in these turbulent times.

I am not sure what I can add to what many expert medical professionals are sharing with our population, but I do hope and pray that we can act quickly with the right amount of caution, patience and conviction to follow the steps put forward by those who can actually help us recover from this pandemic. That means — do not believe everything you read/hear on social media or other non-professional sources. Begin by staying home! What a concept! We Americans want to do what we want to do, and by doing so we put many others at risk during this health crisis.

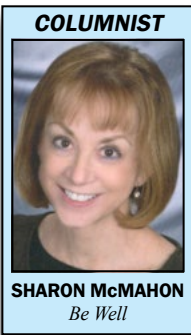
Yes, my husband and I are in the "risk" category, being over 65, although we are in good health. We do have a family member struggling with cancer and undergoing chemotherapy,

and for her we are quite concerned. Our hospitals and health professionals are strained to the limit and we must shoulder the responsibility to do everything in our power to make their jobs as pertinent as possible. If we do not follow the CDC recommendations, we will all suffer for it.

I do look forward to a day when we are on the other side of this dilemma, but I also know that it is not going to be an easy or fun task to get there. Again — stay at home; entertain your kids yourselves, they do not need play dates. Prepare your own meals at home. Organize your drawers (we all need to do this!) Clean closets. Watch movies — I recommend comedies. Journal. Exercise. Play games. READ! Many options if we consider them. Above all, please take care, don't panic, and be well.

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.



COLUMNIST
 SHARON MCMAHON
 Be Well

Thank You!

Many thanks for your efforts to write and produce a fine newspaper. During this pandemic, I now realize how much I look forward to reading it on a daily basis. You folks have done an excellent job of keeping your readers informed on Hamilton County, state and national news. Keep up the great work. Once again, thank you!
 Charles Cunningham

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things? Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Acts 7:48-51 (KJV)

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 18000 Durbin Road
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 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

White River Township
 Thursday, April 16, 2020 / July 23, 2020
 Walnut Grove Community Center
 25587 State Road 213
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 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Adams Township
 Thursday, June 25, 2020
 Sheridan Community Center
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HAMILTON COUNTY REPORTER

Contact Information

Phone
 317-408-5548

Email
 News@ReadTheReporter.com

Publisher Jeff Jellison
 HamiltonCoNorthReporter@hotmail.com
 317-408-5548

Sports Editor Richie Hall
 Rhall1977@gmail.com
 Twitter: @Richie_Hall

Public Notices
 PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com
 765-365-2316

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Sports Editor Richie Hall

Rhall1977@gmail.com
Twitter: @Richie_Hall

After a historic season for Fishers girls basketball . . .

Tigers to play in Hall of Fame Classic

The Fishers girls basketball team just completed a historic season: Setting a new school record for most victories in a season, winning the program's second sectional championship and producing a Junior All-Star.

All that success has not gone unnoticed. The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame announced on Thursday that the Tigers will be one of four girls teams competing in the 2020 Raymond James Hall of Fame Classic. The girls edition of the Classic takes place Tuesday, Dec. 29 at the New Castle Fieldhouse, with the boys to play on Wednesday, Dec. 30.

Fishers is one of five first-time participants and part of a field with a collective 181-24 record over the past season. The girls Classic opens with Mount Vernon taking on Norwell in the first semi-final game, then the Fishers Tigers face the Evansville Memorial Tigers in the second semi-final game.

"The Hall of Fame Classic year in and year out features some of the top teams in the state," said Fishers coach Lauren Votaw. "We are excited that Chris May and the Hall of Fame felt that we belonged in that group based on what the girls were able to do this year and what they feel we will be able to do next season. I remember going to this event as a child and feel it will be a memorable experience for our program from our high school athletes all the way to our youth players."

The Tigers return significant firepower from their underclass-laden 23-2 sectional championship team. Indiana Junior All-Star Katie Burton averaged 15.4 points and 4.7 rebounds, junior Audra Emmerson averaged 7.2 points and 2.4 assists and freshman Hailey Smith averaged 7.1 points and 3.4 rebounds per game.

Votaw has a 51-24 record in three seasons at Fishers, which makes its first appearance Classic history.

Evansville Memorial will be a similar team, as it finished last season 22-4, won a sectional title and only graduates two seniors from that squad.

Junior Ryleigh Anslinger averaged 15.8 points and 3.1 steals, junior Peyton Murphy averaged 10.2 points, 6.2 rebounds and 2.8 steals, freshman Emily Mattingly averaged 6.2 points and junior Savannah Warren averaged 6.2 points, 4.7 rebounds and 2.9 assists per game.

Head coach Lee Aucker completed his first season as head coach of the



Kirk Green/File photo

The Fishers girls basketball team will play in the 2020 edition of the prestigious Raymond James Hall of Fame Classic, which is scheduled for Dec. 29 at the New Castle Fieldhouse. The Tigers just completed a 23-2 season and won their second sectional championship in program history.

Memorial girls program. Aucker was an assistant for seven seasons under 31-year Memorial head coach Bruce Dockery.

Memorial will make its third appearance in the Girls Classic. Appearing in the 2004 event, they won the Consolation game of the 2010 event, en route to a 2011 IHSAA 3A championship later that season.

In the other game:

Mount Vernon - The Marauders come off a 22-2 finish this season and have a 42-8 record over the last two seasons.

Losing just two seniors from their Hoosier Heritage Conference championship squad, junior guard Lexi Shelton averaged 16.3 points and 6.0 rebounds, junior frontliner Olivia Yeley averaged 8.9 points and 5.5 rebounds and junior guard Abby Worley averaged 7.9 points, 4.5 assists and 3.2 steals per game.

Julie Shelton has a 313-128 record in 19 seasons at Mount Vernon including a

2013 3A championship and 2012 3A runner-up finish. A 1989 Indiana All-Star after setting nine school records as a player at Seymour, she was a 2017 Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame inductee.

Mount Vernon makes its fourth appearance in the Girls Classic. The Marauders won the 1999 event and participated in the 1986 and 2011 events. Mount Vernon become just the 3rd school to make four or more appearances in the Girls Classic, joining Bedford North Lawrence (four) and Rushville (five).

Norwell - The Knights expect to return all but one player from a 22-5 team that reached the 3A regional finals in 2019-20.

Juniors Maiah Shelton (14.8 points and 6.6 rebounds), Kaylee Fuelling (13.9 points, 4.4 rebounds and 2.9 steals) and Lauren Bales (6.5 points and 2.6 assists) are leading returning players for the Lady Knights.

Head coach Eric Thornton is 366-172

in 23 seasons at Norwell. His program's 200-52 record (.794) over the past 10 seasons is the 9th best winning percentage in the state in that time. He has led the Norwell girls to 14 straight seasons with 15 or more wins, including eight 20-plus win seasons in that span.

Norwell makes its second appearance in the Girls Classic. The Knights were runners-up in the 2011 event with eventual Miss Basketball Jessica Rupright on their roster. Norwell and Mount Vernon return to the Girls Classic following 2011 appearances, although they did not face each other in that event.

In the boys Hall of Fame Classic, all four teams will be making their first appearance at the event. The first game will feature Blackford and Shenandoah, coached by former Noblesville mentor Dave McCollough. The second game will see Blackhawk Christian take on Barr-Reeve.

Fishers' Votaw one of 12 coaches to lead session . . .

Nicholson among panelists at 2020 IBCA Spring Clinic

Hall of Fame coach Dave Nicholson and current Fishers girls basketball coach Lauren Votaw are among those who will speak at the 2020 Indiana Basketball Coaches Association Spring Clinic.

The dates for the 2020 Clinic now are TBA. (It was to be April 24-25 at Lawrence North High School, but the event now is postponed to dates not yet determined.)

Cost to attend the clinic is \$50 for current-year IBCA members and \$100 for

non-members.

Indiana Fever coach Marianne Stanley, Xavier University men's coach Travis Steele and Miami (Ohio) men's coach Jack Owens are the featured speakers for the Clinic. They are headliners on an itinerary that also includes talks from 12 current high school coaches, an "Issues and Answers" with soon-to-be IHSAA commissioner Paul Neidig (see Page 7) and IBCA leaders, a round-table session with three retired coaches and the annual IBCA awards program.

In addition to the featured speakers, 12 high school coaches are set to lead sessions on a variety of topics such as "Skill Development for Wings and Guards,"

"Dribble Drive Breakdown Drills" or "Team Defense."

Boys coaches scheduled to speak are Marc Davidson of Fort Wayne Blackhawk Christian, Al Gooden of Lawrence Central, Nate Hawkins of Heritage Hills, David McCollough of Shenandoah, Marc Urban of Chesterton and Kendall Wilder of South Decatur. Other girls coaches on the agenda are Brandon Appleton of Angola, Chris Giffin of Lawrence North, Jerry Hickey of Salem, Brian Smith of Loogootee and Adam Yoder of Northwood.

In addition, a round-table of retired coaches tips off the clinic agenda. Nicholson, Charles Mair and Virgil Sweet

will be on a panel moderated by Indiana SportsTalk host Bob Lovell. The three coaches will discuss steps that they took to make their programs successful for the long run.

The planned clinic agenda (other than the new dates) can be found at ibcacoaches.com/news-events/ibca-clinic/clinic-schedule/

Dave Nicholson was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999 after he put together a 402-171 record in a 25-season coaching career at New Ross, Darlington, Benton Central and Noblesville.

His teams averaged more than 16 vic-

See Nicholson . . . Page 7



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Paul Neidig named next IHSAA commissioner

John (Paul) Neidig, who has enjoyed a 34-year career in secondary education and athletic administration, has been named by the Executive Committee as the next commissioner of the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

Neidig has been an IHSAA assistant commissioner since 2017 and will officially assume the position on Aug. 1, 2020 succeeding Bobby Cox. Cox announced his intention to retire this summer on Jan. 16.

The Poseyville, Ind. native will become the ninth individual to serve as IHSAA commissioner. He follows Bobby Cox (2011-20), Blake Ress (2000-2011), Bob Gardner (1995-2000), C. Eugene Cato (1983-1995), Ward E. Brown (1976-1983), Phil N. Eskew (1962-1976), L.V. Phillips (1945-1962) and Arthur L. Trestler (1929-1945).

Neidig, 56, joined the IHSAA staff

July 1, 2017 as an assistant commissioner and has administered the sports of boys and girls cross country, boys basketball, boys and girls track and field, and unified track and field.

"On behalf of the IHSAA Executive Committee, we are excited to confirm Paul Neidig as the next commissioner of the Indiana High School Athletic Association," said Matt Martin, chairman of the IHSAA Executive Committee and Director of Athletics at Knightstown High School. "Paul has some great thoughts and ideas about how to continue leading the Association and its member schools. We feel the organization is in great hands and we look forward to working with him."

"I'm very humbled to be chosen to become the next commissioner of the IHSAA," said Neidig. "I'm proud to be a part of this organization and lead it into the future. Our primary focus will continue to be promoting and supporting education-based athletics in our state."

"Also, I ask everyone to please be safe during these unprecedented times. Listen

to our state's health experts and take care of yourselves and your family and we will get through these difficult times."

Prior to joining the Association office, Neidig spent 31-years with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, most recently as Chief of Staff and Director of Athletics. He also served as its Chief Administrative Officer from 2012 to 2015, Deputy Chief of Staff from 2009 to 2012 and Director of Athletics at Evansville Central High School from 2001 to 2010. Before that, Neidig had worked at Evansville Central as a teacher, department chair, head coach and assistant coach for boys basketball, assistant athletic director and technology director between 1985 and 2001.

He was a continuous member of the IHSAA Board of Directors from 2004 to 2017 and served as Chairman of the Executive Committee three times in 2006-07, 2009-10 and 2015-16.

Neidig has held membership with the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP), Indiana Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), Indiana

Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (IIAAA) and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

He has been honored with numerous awards including a NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2006, IIAAA Athletic Director of the Year in 2007, Indiana Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) Administrator of the Year in 2012, IIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2013, and most recently with a citation from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in 2015.

Neidig earned a B.S. degree in Technology Education in 1985 from Eastern Illinois University where he played basketball for four years. He later earned an M.A. in Education from the University of Southern Indiana in 1994. He is a 1981 graduate of North Posey High School and played basketball all four years for the Vikings.

Neidig and his wife, Jean, are the parents of three adult children, Ashley (Charlie Grimes), Chris, and Kyle (Erin Neidig) and three grandchildren.

NICHOLSON

ories per season, posted three undefeated varsity regular seasons, captured championships in five different conferences and won 11 sectionals. Along the way, he was named an IBCA District 3 Coach of the Year in 1981, 1984 and 1986.

In addition, Nicholson received 13 other additional Coach of the Year awards, coached an Indiana All-Star, coached NBA player and served as an

assistant coach for the 1986 Indiana All-Stars. He also served on the IBCA Board of Directors in 1979-80 and as IBCA president in 1982-83.

Nicholson is a 1959 graduate of Valonia High School (now part of Brownstown Central), where he played varsity basketball for three seasons and was part of a 28-student senior class. He matriculated to Indiana State, receiving a bach-

elor's degree in 1965 and a master's degree in 1968.

Nicholson began his coaching career as an assistant coach for one season at Brook (now part of South Newton). He then became head coach at New Ross (now part of Southmont) for two seasons, Darlington (now part of North Montgomery) for two seasons and Benton Central for five seasons.

At Darlington, his Indians won the school's only sectional championship while posting a pair of undefeated regular seasons. He also "doubled up" in one of those seasons by guiding a "B" team to an unbeaten record. At Benton Central, his Bison captured the first two sectional crowns in program history.

Nicholson's greatest success came at Noblesville, where his teams posted a 255-114 record, went undefeated in the 1983-84 regular season and won eight

sectionals in 16 years – all played at Carmel – that concluded with the 1990-91 season (1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1990 and 1991). The 1981 title was the Millers' first since 1964.

Since retiring from coaching, Nicholson has served as an analyst for locally televised games for the past 28 seasons. He also has served on the board of directors for the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame for nearly 30 years and had a two-year term as the IBHOF president.

Nicholson was inducted into the Hamilton County Basketball Hall of Fame in 2005, the Montgomery County Hall of Fame in 2014 and the Noblesville High School Hall of Fame in 2014.

He and his wife, Julia, have been married for 55 years. The couple has one son, Dan, who also was a successful high school basketball coach at Lebanon, and two grandsons.

from Page 6

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