

RE-ELECT

JEFF HERN

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL

EARLY VOTING: May 26 - May 30

ELECTION DAY: June 2

Find out where to vote at

JeffHern.com/2020Primary

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HAMILTON COUNTY

REPORTER

Hamilton County's Hometown Newspaper

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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN

CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy.

HIGH: 67    LOW: 55



# Arrest made in fatal hit and run accident

*Sheriff credits community members for information leading to arrest*

## The REPORTER

On Tuesday, Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the area of 226th Street and Anthony Road, just west of Cicero, on a report of a pedestrian struck by a vehicle.

In a Wednesday press conference, Hamilton County Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush said, "The first deputies to arrive at the scene were directed to where the victim, Alice Chamblin, a 70-year-old female from Cicero, was laying on the side of the road. Bystanders and deputies performed first aid and CPR until paramedics arrived; however, Chamblin died on scene due to her injuries."

Reports filed by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Crash Team indicated Chamblin had been walking on the side of Anthony Road with a family member just before the crash occurred.

The family member and another witness were able to provide a vehicle description of a truck which had crossed from the northbound lane of travel, into the southbound lane of travel and struck Chamblin. The truck then left the scene northbound on Anthony Road.

Evidence left on scene by the suspect truck was found and collected by accident investigators.

Based on witness information and evidence at the scene, investigators were able to determine the suspect vehicle was a silver/gray 1997-2003 Ford F-150 with a tinted rear window.

"Through the generous help from our social media followers, local news and our local communities, tips and leads began



Sullivan

to come into our office. These tips led investigators to Tipton, where a citizen reported seeing a Ford F-150 that matched the description of the suspect vehicle," Quakenbush said.

Investigators with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office located the truck and concluded the damage to the truck was consistent with evidence collected at the crash scene. The vehicle was impounded and taken to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office crime lab where detectives were able to match evidence found at the scene to the evidence on the suspect's truck.

"Through exhaustive work of the Hamilton County Crash Team and the help of the citizens of our communities, we were



Reporter photo by Jeff Jellison

**Hamilton County Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, flanked by Chief Deputy John Lowes, Capt. Tom Logan and Sgt. Brian Niece, announce the arrest of a Tipton County man involved in Tuesday's fatal hit and run accident that occurred on Anthony Road just south of 226th Street.**

able to arrest Daniel L. Sullivan of Tipton," Quakenbush said.

Sullivan was arrested on the alleged crime of leaving the scene of a crash

causing death. Sullivan is currently housed in the Hamilton County Jail.

# Fishers to conduct virtual Memorial Day ceremony

## The REPORTER

Fishers city officials have announced that the public Memorial Day ceremony has been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns, but area residents can join the city virtually for a day-long remembrance of our fallen heroes.

Virtual events include the following:

### Honor Our Heroes

To honor our fallen patriots, the City of Fishers invites residents to submit photos of their loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom while serving in the United States Armed Forces. These photos will be virtually displayed on the City of Fishers webpage on Monday, May 25. Submissions are due

by end of day Thursday, May 21. Submit your photo using [this link](#).

### Moment of Silence

Join the nation in a moment of silence at 3 p.m. to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

### Warbird Flyover

Turn your eyes to the skies for a warbird flyover at 4 p.m.

### Poppy Wreath Craft

Make a red poppy wreath to show support for those who have sacrificed for our country. A red poppy is a symbol of both remembrance and hope for a peaceful future. Display your wreath on your front door or in a window during Memorial Day Weekend.



Photo provided

**The City of Fishers will conduct a virtual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday. The event will include a World War II-era Warbird flyover to honor those fallen heroes.**

# Indiana to enter Stage 3 of reopening plan Friday

## WISH-TV | [wistv.com](#)

Gov. Eric Holcomb on Wednesday said most of the state will advance to Stage 3 at 12:01 a.m. Friday.

Lake, Marion and Cass counties will advance to Stage 3 on June 1 unless localities change that date.

He said during Wednesday's coronavirus briefing that he will sign the order Thursday to go to Stage 3. Holcomb said wearing a mask when around many people, social distancing and other safe practices will "go a long way" to keep the state on track for reopening. The governor also warned Hoosiers 65 and older at high risk should remain cautious

and limit exposure.

The governor said Hoosiers' following of restrictions in Stage 2 of the current [Back on Track plan](#)

helped to get to Stage 3, but warned people to remain vigilant in Stage 3, which will quadruple the number of people who can come together. Stage 3 will allow social gatherings of up to 100 people.

Holcomb said, "Stage 3 will be just as important as Stage 2 and will determine if we get to Stage 4" on June 14.

Dr. Kristina Box, commissioner of the Indiana State Department of Health,

**See Stage 3 . . . Page 3**



Holcomb

# Restaurants need your help

Everybody knows that restaurants are struggling right now due to the COVID-19 crisis. Some have seen decreased revenue from being "carryout only" for about two months and some have decided to close permanently.

Restaurants are a big part of American life. According to an industry study, 56 percent of people dine in, get carryout or delivery from a restaurant two to three times a week. About six percent say they eat out every single day.

At the beginning of 2020, there were more than 1 million restaurant locations nationwide and it was projected that they would bring in more than \$900



COLUMNIST

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billion in sales for the year.

Restaurants employ 15.6 million people a year and make up a huge part of our national economy.

Fortunately when the crisis hit, most governors allowed carryout at restaurants. While that's not enough for a business to survive, a complete shutdown would have been catastrophic.

If every restaurant in the country completely closed for one week, it would mean \$4.5 billion in lost earnings and 135,178 jobs lost. For three months, that would mean \$58.7 billion in lost earnings and 1.7 million jobs lost.

So what did restaurants do during the shut-

down? Some adapted. They changed their menus. Cut staff. Cooked food for hospital workers. Adjusted their hours. Signed up for delivery platforms. Anything they could do.

Those first few weeks, some restaurants were overwhelmed with calls for carryout. Pizza Hut and Domino's could not hire drivers fast enough.

Some restaurants did not see a surge. Breakfast places and high-end steakhouses did not receive as many calls. And it was proven that customers were only willing to drive so far to pick up their order. They might love traveling from Hamilton County for a date night in downtown Indianapolis but they weren't going to drive 30 or 45 minutes to pick up food.

**See Help . . . Page 2**

# OneZone, Ascend Indiana partner to help college students find jobs

## The REPORTER

OneZone, the Chamber of Commerce for Fishers and Carmel, and Ascend Indiana, the talent and workforce development initiative of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, are announcing a collaboration to help college students find jobs – and employers to find talent – during these challenging times.

OneZone is offering their employer members an opportunity to join the Ascend Network, a software platform and team of recruiters that connect students and recent graduates with an associate degree, bachelor's degree or certificate to Indiana jobs and internships.

"Hamilton County

remains a great place to work, and as employers prepare for the impending workforce recovery, we want to make sure they have all the tools necessary to meet their employment needs, and that includes having available early-in-career talent. Our member, Ascend Indiana, is helping us to do that," said Jack Russell, interim president, OneZone.

To participate, OneZone members can submit information through a short form at [one-zonecommerce.com](#). Employers will then be connected to Ascend to



Russell

begin the process of sharing their open jobs and internships with students and recent graduates.

"While employers and students are facing unprecedented challenges, the Ascend Network is a unique approach to aligning talent with opportunities in the region, now and in the future," said Jason Kloth, president and CEO, Ascend Indiana. "Students from 27 Indiana higher education institutions have joined the Network, and they have submitted 13,000 applications to

**See Jobs . . . Page 2**





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### JOBS

from Page 1

employers for open positions.”

OneZone is hoping to register more than 25 employer members by the end of the year.

**About OneZone**

OneZone, a Hamilton County chamber of commerce, serves the Central Indiana business community as a commerce connector, strong voice, significant presence and business advocate in an ever-changing marketplace. With OneZone, businesses get an organization that reaches across municipal boundaries – just the way business does – to deliver more impact and more opportunities more efficiently.

**About Ascend Indiana**

Ascend is the talent and workforce development initiative of the Central Indiana Corporate Partner-

### HELP

from Page 1

ship (CICP), an organization that brings together industry, higher education and philanthropic leaders to advance our region’s prosperity and growth. Ascend’s vision is for Indiana to be a place of economic opportunity for all. To achieve this, Ascend bridges talent and communication gaps by creating connectivity between people and employers. Ascend has focused its efforts around three core priorities: Connecting job seekers to career opportunities through the Ascend Network talent platform, providing strategic consulting to address labor market gaps through Ascend Services, and informing workforce research and public policy through thought leadership. To learn more, visit [ascendindiana.com](http://ascendindiana.com).

For those restaurants that did see a carryout surge, are they making good money?

It depends.

Tip percentages are statistically lower with carryout, which harms servers. And while the governor allowed alcohol for carryout, some saw strong sales and others did not. If alcohol sales weren’t strong, it can make or break a restaurant. The average restaurant with beer/wine licenses or a liquor license reports anywhere from 25 to 35 percent of its revenue from alcohol sales. That’s an average which means a sports bar could see 50 or 60 percent of its sales from alcohol. A reduction in alcohol sales can be tough too because it’s one of the items with the best margins. A bottle of wine at a restaurant can be marked

up 200 to 500 percent.

Some restaurants turned to delivery platforms like DoorDash, GrubHub and UberEats to boost sales during this time. Those companies are growing and can help a restaurant reach new customers, but most people don’t realize that these sites typically take 15 to 25 percent of all revenue the restaurant makes and that doesn’t include the delivery charge the consumer pays. When you consider small profit margins in restaurants (the goal is 20 percent but studies show on average restaurants often have 3 to 8 percent profit margins), taking 15 to 25 percent of revenue can be tough. Some restaurants respond by making their prices higher on these services to offset the platform costs. As a result, when you

add delivery charges, driver tip and higher prices up, the consumer might be paying 50 percent more for an item compared to if they were to call the restaurant and pick it up themselves. A \$10 burger could cost you \$15.

In Hamilton County, restaurants were allowed to reopen on Monday, May 11 to 50 percent capacity and a whole lot of rules. Some decided to stay closed or carryout only to see how it works first. For those that are open now, it’s still tough. Consumer confidence will need to be rebuilt and many people still don’t feel safe going out to eat. On top of that, many people have lost income during this crisis. Some were out of work and some had to close their businesses temporarily. As a result, when people have less money, they tend

to go out to eat less often.

If there is a recession, that will be tough for everyone, including restaurants. During the 2008 Recession, restaurants lost more than 110,000 jobs.

And that means fewer small businesses. Most restaurants are small and 90 percent have fewer than 50 employees and 70 percent of all restaurants have only one location.

A 2019 study by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that businesses with fewer than 500 employees are the largest driving factor for both job growth and job loss, making up 80 percent of new jobs.

As you can see, restaurants – small restaurants especially – are key to our nationwide economic growth. Let’s hope they can survive this storm.



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Victims of Crime and Abuse  
[www.prevailinc.com](http://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.

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# Youth sports survey gives guidance on reopening Westfield's Grand Park





STEVEN

NATION

COUNTY COUNCIL

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May 26th - May 30th

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# Noblesville Lions Club awards five scholarships

### The REPORTER

The local Noblesville Lions Club has selected its award winners for scholarships at Noblesville High School and Hamilton Heights High School. Due to current virus conditions, actual award dates are being considered.

### Noblesville High School

**Tommy Nguyen:** \$1,500 Noblesville Lions Club Academic Merit Scholarship  
**Kerrigan Fleming:** \$1,500 Noblesville Lions Club Irving Heath Memorial Scholarship  
**Jack Wertz:** \$750 Noblesville

### Lions Club Ivy Tech Scholarship Hamilton Heights High School

**Caitlin Hartwick:** \$750 Noblesville Lions Club Academic Merit Scholarship  
**Eleanor Arrowood:** \$750 Noblesville Lions Club Scarlet/Jack Funcanon Scholarship

# Watch for nesting turtles on roadways

### The REPORTER

It's nesting season for Indiana's native turtles, which means Hoosiers may find them crossing roads this time of year.

All native turtles are regulated in Indiana. Endangered species and Eastern box turtles are protected and cannot be collected from the wild or kept as pets. If you encounter a turtle, it's best to simply observe and enjoy the shelled

reptile in its natural habitat. Wild turtles do not make good pets – they live a long time (some species are able to outlive their owners), can be messy, and have special husbandry needs.

Indiana's turtles face a number of conservation challenges. Habitat loss and illegal collection for the pet trade remain imminent threats, and the destruction of turtle nests by predators continues to impact popu-

lations. Seven of the state's 16 turtle species are listed as state endangered or special concern.

Turtles found crossing roads may be moved off the roadway as long as conditions are safe to do so and the turtle is moved in the direction it was traveling. The turtle should not be moved to a new area, which would displace it from its home range and remove it from the population. Relo-

cating turtles to new areas can leave turtles disoriented and spread new diseases to that area. Some species, like Eastern box turtle, have a strong homing instinct and if moved, may spend most of the rest of its life trying to find its original home.

Turtle nests in backyards should be left undisturbed. A mesh cage may be placed over the nest to protect the eggs from predators, as long as it is checked daily for hatchling turtles.

Common snapping turtles and softshell turtles may be harvested with a valid Indiana hunting or fishing license, but bag limits, season dates and other regulations apply, see [eregulations.com/indiana/fishing/reptiles-amphibians](https://eregulations.com/indiana/fishing/reptiles-amphibians). The hunting season for these species is closed during the April-June nesting season.

Learn more about Indiana's amphibian and reptile regulations at [wildlife.IN.gov/3328.htm](https://wildlife.IN.gov/3328.htm).

Hamilton County Reporter

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# 2019 AIC Commissioner of the Year



Re-elect

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Commissioner

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SteveDillinger.com/2020Primary

to find early voting locations and get more information

EARLY VOTING

May 26 to May 30

ELECTION DAY

June 2nd

Endorsed by Hamilton County Professional Fire Fighters



Letter to the Editor

Heirbrandt, Altman:  
Vote Dillinger, vote for  
experienced leadership

Dear Hamilton County Voters,

Throughout the last four years, Hamilton County has continued to see unprecedented growth and progress. From our infrastructure to our public safety operations, our county government continues to provide the highest level of service while maintaining low taxes and fees for our residents.

One of the biggest reasons for our success is the experience and knowledge provided by our fellow commissioner, Steve Dillinger. As the longest-serving county commissioner in Indiana and 2019 AIC Commissioner of the Year, Steve has been a guiding force for Hamilton County. Steve's leadership and dedication to the residents in our county has been invaluable.

It's important to have leaders who have the skills and expertise to make the right decisions, for the right reasons. As a team of three commissioners who share the executive and legislative responsibilities for Hamilton County, we all have different strengths, accomplishments and innovative ideas for new solutions. In these tough and uncertain times, Steve has provided guidance and cooperation to lead our county in the right direction.

Together with our hundreds of dedicated civil servants, your Hamilton County Commissioners can make a meaningful difference. A vote to re-elect Steve Dillinger is a vote for experienced leadership.

**Mark Heirbrandt & Christine Altman**  
*Hamilton County Commissioners*

Letter to the Editor

Fishers voter supporting  
McMillan for Commissioner

Dear Editor:

As a lifelong resident of Delaware Township and Hamilton County and a long-time friend of the McMillan family, I would like to say that Charlie is one of the most outgoing, heavily involved and knowledgeable in all things Hamilton County person I know.

Whenever we talk, he reveals yet another aspect of the needs and concerns he has for the community.

Charlie is deeply dedicated to "doing the right things for the right reasons" and has spent his life working toward achieving high goals with a mission.

I will definitely be supporting Charlie McMillan for County Commissioner on June 2.

Sincerely,  
**Sue Payne**  
*President, Hamilton County Artists Association  
Textile Specialist, Conner Prairie Fishers*

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](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com).

# Now Hiring

## Seasonal Part Time General Laborer

The Town of Arcadia is currently accepting applications for a dependable individual to fill the position of a **Seasonal Part Time General Laborer**. Job details would involve mowing, weed eating, labor maintenance and other jobs as assigned. **Position is Monday through Friday 8am-4pm paying \$14/hour with a maximum of 29 hours per week.** Applicants must possess a valid Indiana Driver's License. Resumes submitted without an application will not be considered.

**Applications are available at the Arcadia Town Hall 208 West Main Street Arcadia, Indiana 46030.** Applications will be accepted at the Clerk's Office until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2020. **Online application available at:** <https://tinyurl.com/y86wtbse>

# Now Hiring

## Full Time General Laborer

The Town of Arcadia is currently accepting applications for a dependable individual to fill the position of a **Full Time General Laborer**. This is an entry level position, duties include but not limited to; mowing, snow removal, water main repair, storm and sanitary sewer repair, tree removal, experience in running equipment (bobcat, backhoe and tractor) and other tasks as assigned.

**Salary negotiable based on experience ranges between \$38-42K per year** Applicants must possess a valid Indiana Driver's License. Resumes submitted without an application will not be considered. The job description is available for viewing at <https://tinyurl.com/yd2o4777>

**Applications are available at the Arcadia Town Hall 208 West Main Street Arcadia, Indiana 46030.** Applications will be accepted at the Clerk's Office until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2020. **Online application available at:** <https://tinyurl.com/y86wtbse>

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**May 26-June 1:**  
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**June 2:**  
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Virtual Meeting

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet virtually for an executive session at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

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"Social Distancing"

FREE Outdoor Movies In Your Car at Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds



Drive In MOVIE NIGHT

Friday May 22nd



FREE Movies for the public, starts approx 9 pm

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The Reporter

Letter to the Editor

O'Connor makes his case for Nation, Ditslear, Dillinger

Dear Editor:

We are experiencing times that are "unprecedented." What are we going to experience over the next 90 days? Six months? We are sailing in "turbulent seas" and need to have stable, experienced leadership in place to navigate these uncharted waters.

Steve Nation, John Ditslear and Steve Dillinger are long-standing pillars in our community. Each one of these men have given a majority of their working years to ensuring Hamilton County is and will continue to be a leader in the state of Indiana. I have had the privilege of working with all three and know they are committed to the growth and prosperity of the county.

Steve Nation has led the charge on bringing the Youth Assistance Program to all of the communities in Hamilton County which makes a significant difference in the lives of young people. The programs continue to provide support and direction to our youth and gives them a perspective on the future they would otherwise not have had.

John led the City of Noblesville for 16 years as Mayor and oversaw a significant increase in new jobs from a variety of companies. In addition, the 146th Street extension to Interstate 69 was initiated under John's leadership and was a key to increasing the amenities and assessed value for the citizens of Noblesville. SMC Corporation relocated to Noblesville under John's watch and now has over 2 million square feet under roof and is the North American headquarters for the company.

Steve Dillinger has spent over 30 years of his adult life serving Hamilton County. He has overseen a number of projects in the county, most recently the widening of 146th Street west to Shelborne Road in Carmel, the State Road 37 improvements in Fishers and Noblesville and championed the Hamilton County Parks development of Kotewi Park, to name a few. He has also been recognized by his peers across the state on several occasions for his leadership in County government.

Here's the point ... we need leaders with experience and an understanding of what has and will continue to make this county a great place to live, work and raise a family. All three of these men have demonstrated their commitment to our community and have the knowledge and backgrounds to lead us forward. I can say without equivocation each of them has and will listen to the residents of the county and make decisions to enhance our collective quality of life. On or before June 2, I hope you will join me in voting for each of them.

Election Day is fast approaching!

Greg O'Connor

Noblesville

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](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com).

Letter guidelines this election season

With the approach of the June 2 Primary Election, the Hamilton County Reporter is establishing some Letters to the Editor guidelines to keep things fair and balanced.

Letters addressing new topics about the upcoming election or the policies of individual candidates will be accepted until the end of business on Friday, May 22 and will be published on Saturday, May 23.

Letters in response to new topics published in our May 23 edition will be accepted until Tuesday, May 26 and will be published in our May 27 edition.

These deadlines will give candidates and their supporters the opportunity to reply to letters addressing new topics.

Please send your letters to [News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com).

Letters to the Editor do not represent the opinions of The Reporter or our staff.



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## Letter to the Editor

## Bruce Kimball endorses Jeff Hern for County Council

Dear Editor,

It is truly my pleasure to endorse Jeff Hern for the Hamilton County Council. Jeff is a good man and has made great strides on the County Council not just for Carmel, but for the entire county.

Throughout his tenure in office and in this campaign, I have seen Jeff's hard work and dedication shine. He is constantly looking for ways to improve the lives of those around him and find something to make his community even better than before. It is easy to run into Jeff after

he was volunteering in the neighborhood or after spending time out in the community. He is a servant leader and is exactly the kind of person we need leading this county.

In order to vote, you can vote early or you can vote by mail before May 21 by requesting a ballot online at indianavoters.com. Please consider voting for Jeff Hern for Hamilton County Council!

Sincerely,  
**Bruce Kimball**  
Carmel

## Letter to the Editor

## Jowitt says Nation's character defines his service to the county

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my absolute support for Steve Nation's campaign for Hamilton County Council and to briefly explain why Steve's candidacy is so important.

Having been in law enforcement in Hamilton County for 37 years, I have seen Steve's effectiveness in public service, first as prosecuting attorney and then as a superior court judge. He not only cares about justice, he is deeply compassionate about people and service to his community. Steve has been an integral part of the formation of Hamilton County's victim assistance program; helped found Westfield Youth Assistance, then grew it to encompass all of Hamilton County and beyond; has served as a Special Judge in several counties; and, as prosecuting attorney, personally tried 57 jury trials, attaining convictions in all of them.

Steve's character, knowledge, wisdom, sense of fairness and desire to make Hamilton County a better place has defined his service. He knows our county like few others do – not just its past and present, but its people and its continuing potential. He is acutely aware of ongoing needs in our communities and is completely committed to addressing mental health issues and continuing his support for public safety.

When he received Hamilton County's highest honor, the Continental Award, in 2019 Steve said, "You do things not thinking of anything you might get, you just do it because the people needed it."

That's how Steve has always approached his public service, and it's precisely why I'm voting for him on June 2. I urge you to do the same.

**Kevin Jowitt**  
Noblesville

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**Paul Poteet...**  
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## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

Acts 13:3-4 (KJV)

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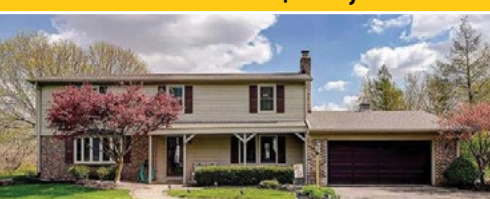
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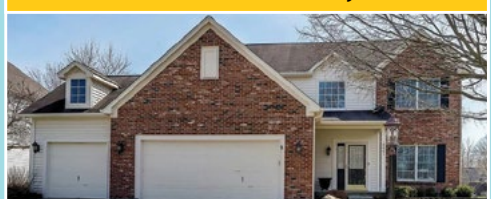
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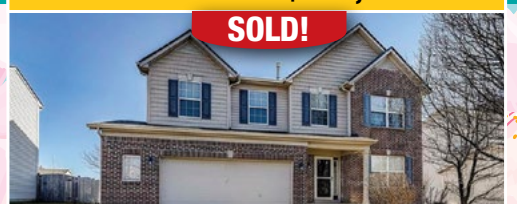
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Huskies star will be a Western Michigan Bronco . . .

Father's influence carries Gus Etchison  
through junior year, to WMU commitment

By RICHIE HALL

There were many reasons why choosing to play basketball at Western Michigan University was an easy decision for Hamilton Heights star Gus Etchison.

It's a Division I school in the competitive Mid-American Conference. It's not too far away from home. The coaches offered Etchison immediate playing time. All of those are valid reasons, but they were overshadowed by the biggest one of all: It had the personal approval of Tony Etchison.

After the Etchison family visited Western Michigan, Tony told his son how much he liked it.

"I had his blessing to go there," said Gus. "That made a big difference."

In October, Tony Etchison lost his life in a farming accident. Tony may not be here physically anymore, but there is no doubt that he is still here. He continues to be an influence on Gus, not just in basketball, but off the court as well.

"I want to be like him and carry myself like he carried himself on and off the court," said Gus Etchison.

Gus made the announcement that he had committed to Western Michigan Friday evening in a Twitter video. In that video, he said he wanted to continue his father's legacy. Tony also played Division I basketball, at Mercer University in Macon, Ga. The video featured a clip of Tony Etchison during one of his college games.

"They incorporated that into a tape of me, which was pretty cool," said Gus Etchison.

Western Michigan made it clear to Gus that he would be welcomed with open arms by the Broncos. The team told Etchison that he was "a No. 1 guy" and would be the point guard once he walked on to the floor.

"It made me feel wanted," said Etchison, who just finished his junior year at Heights.

**TRANSITION PERIOD**

Western Michigan is going through a transition period at the moment, as its longtime coach Steve Hawkins was recently let go. Hawkins had coached the Broncos for 17 seasons, including two appearances in the NCAA tournament.

Longtime assistant Clayton Bates is now the head coach for WMU. Etchison pointed out that Bates had been his main recruiter, and was still doing so even after moving into the head coaching position.

"He recruited me pretty much the whole time," said Etchison.

Hamilton Heights coach Chad Ballenger also went up to Western Michigan with Gus and his mother Toby during the season. Ballenger could also tell right

away how much the Broncos wanted to up there.

"It was just a really good visit," said Ballenger. "They really showed how much they wanted Gus to be a part of them. With Tony getting to go up there and being high on his list, that meant a lot to Gus."

Ballenger said that WMU's style of play will suit Etchison well, since Bates is going to a four-guard offense.

"He's going to an offense that's going to suit Gus," said Ballenger. "Gus is going to be a point guard in college. That was also appealing that he's going to go into a style that fits him, let Gus play to his strengths."

Pete Smith, the veteran basketball coach, has been a family friend of the Etchisons for many years. In fact, Etchison was the ball boy for the Guerin Catholic team that Smith coached to a state championship in 2012. He also attended the Golden Eagles' summer basketball camps from first through eighth grade, and his grandfather John Stretch was Smith's scorekeeper when Smith was a coach at GC; Smith said Stretch is a "dear friend" of his.

"He's been a family friend for 20 or 30 years," Etchison said of Smith. "I've been around him ever since I was born."

**WHY WAIT?**

Smith also fully encouraged Gus to accept Western Michigan's offer. He told the family, why wait to see if someone else needs a guard like Etchison when there's a school only three and a half hours away that already wants him.

"It's a great situation for Gus to grow as a young man, get a solid education, and also have an opportunity to play basketball on a team due to make the NCAA tournament sometime in his career there," said Smith. "Now he can completely focus on doing whatever Coach Ballenger needs him to do to help their team win next season, knowing he's playing for the goals of his team, not trying to impress coaches to offer him a scholarship."

Of course, if anyone wasn't impressed with Etchison's play in his junior season, they weren't paying attention. Etchison shined for the Huskies last year, even while dealing with the grief of losing his father.

The emotions were raw on Nov. 27, the day Heights hosted Lebanon in its season-opening game. But Etchison, with all eyes on him, channeled that into a remarkable performance by scoring 41 points. The Huskies won the game 71-69 in overtime on a Hudson Hochstedler putback.

"I know before the game I was really upset," said Etchison. "I just wanted to



Kent Graham/File photo

**Gus Etchison shined for Hamilton Heights in his junior year, even while dealing with the grief of losing his father. Etchison averaged 24.9 points per game and recently announced his commitment to Western Michigan.**

take over and play for him. I just wanted to win that game so badly."

Ballenger said that he watched that season-opening game the other night. "Just from an emotional standpoint, man, it was really hard," he said.

"With Gus' situation, we were more worried about his emotional status and things like that," said Ballenger. "I wanted it for him so bad."

After Hochstedler made the winning shot and were jumping and down celebrating, Ballenger ran on to the court.

"It was this outpouring of emotion and I wanted it for the kids, wanted it for Gus," said Ballenger. He said it was the first time in their young lives that many

of those players had lost someone close to them.

"Tony, he coached those kids in junior basketball and was around," said Ballenger.

Gus would go on to average 24.9 points per game during that season. That included a 56-point performance in the Huskies' Dec. 10 game with Mount Vernon, one of the toughest teams on Heights' schedule. Etchison isn't sure where that performance came from, but remembers a feeling of confidence as the game went on.

"Honestly, that game, I felt like my dad was there with me," said Etchison.

See Etchison . . . Page 9



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# IU football team prepares for next season with 'virtual offseason'

By OLIVIA RAY  
WISH-TV

When campuses closed down mid-March, teams including Indiana University's scattered across the country and were tasked with simulating a college football practice while working from home.

"Every single player was able to give feedback from every player and tell our strength staff, and say, 'OK, this is what I have access to at my house,'" said Tom Allen, IU head football coach. "And then Aaron Wellman and his staff had to go through and create an individualized workout plan for each guy."

Wellman was hired as Indiana football's head strength coach just weeks before the pandemic shut down college

sports. He said his staff spends 10 to 12 days designing three-week programs and making sample videos for each player based on their inventory lists.

"Some guys have water jugs they filled up. I get texts regularly," Wellman said. "Almost every day from multiple guys, they've found. Or I got a text last week, he found a big tractor tire."

"I actually got on Facebook Marketplace," said Indiana graduate senior Jovan Swann. "Got a little rack set up in the garage, got my plates and weights and everything. I know we've got some guys in Florida. Indiana is known for getting those Florida recruits and I've seen some guys working on the sand. I'm kind of jealous of that because it's great for the body."

However, Swann found a workout fit for his hometown in Indianapolis.

"My group of guys that I train with, to push a truck, we've got a few trucks being from Indiana, a Midwest guy," Swann said. "I've got an F-150 and we pushed that around a little bit. Just to build up that stamina, that endurance, that way your muscles don't get fatigued."

From burning rubber to running backyard drills, all of these are tailor-made plans from Wellman, who was brought in for this very reason: He's well-equipped to handle these unusual circumstances.

"The one thing that helps us, you know Coach Wellman coming from the Giants, you know the NFL has a four-month period where they are not with their players, so he's kind of used to do-

ing this, obviously not in this primitive way," Allen said.

For Wellman, his main concern this offseason is making sure his guys are not only ready for next fall but will remain healthy throughout the upcoming season.

"I was in the NFL for four years prior to this and, in 2011 and the lockout, there was a fourfold increase in ACL injuries. So, we're cognizant of that. Our minds go to that," Wellman said. "We're always concerned about the health and welfare of our players and we need to mitigate risk when they come back. And the risk is blatantly obvious that their soft tissues aren't going to be conditioned chronically as they would have been when we lost 11 spring ball prior to the several opportunities."

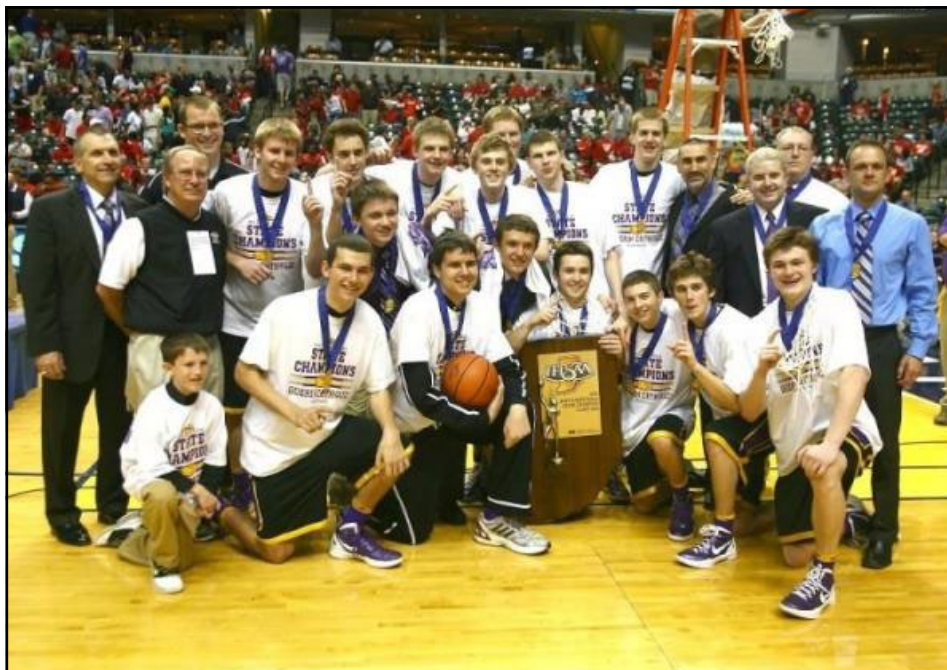


Photo provided

Gus Etchison (far left, bottom row) was a ballboy for the Guerín Catholic boys basketball team during its 2011-12 state championship season. Also pictured behind Gus is his grandfather John Stretch, the scorekeeper for the Golden Eagles and a longtime friend of coach Pete Smith.

## ETCHISON

from Page 8

"It was fun. We lost, which was tough, but Mount Vernon's a really good school and great team."

Heights finished last season 16-9, losing a tough game in the sectional championship to Delta 42-41. It was one of two basketball-related disappointments for Etchison this spring. The other was when he was left off of the Indiana Junior All-Stars team, a likely shock to anyone who had watched him play this season.

"I'm obviously disappointed I didn't make the team, but it gave me more motivation to come out and work harder," said Etchison, who also said he thinks he got more publicity after not making the team, rather than if he had made it.

"I know I have the abilities to do it," said Etchison.

### LOOKING FORWARD

Etchison is also looking to lead the Huskies to another winning season. And there's a player Gus is looking forward to playing with next season: Younger brother Tillman Etchison, who will be a freshman for the Huskies.

Gus said his younger brother is 5-10,

5-11 – "I think he's getting my dad's height," he said – and is already a big kid. Gus continued his scouting report by saying Tillman can shoot and handle the ball really well.

"He plays pretty good defense, too," said Gus. "He should help out a lot next year."

Gus also said that there will be other young players coming on to the Huskies team, and that some players in his class will step up as well.

"I think we're going to be really good next year," said Etchison.

Then after that, Etchison will be heading up to Kalamazoo to play for the Broncos. Western Michigan is already a special place to Gus because of the presence of his father. And while they have to wait one more year to have Gus on their court, the Broncos have already made it clear that the Etchisons are part of the family.

"The coaches are really close. They're especially close with my mom. They reach out to her the same as they reach out to me. When I went there, it felt like family to me," said Gus.

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