

County COVID-19 cases still on the rise

The REPORTER

On Tuesday, the number of COVID-19 cases in Fishers reached 826.

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has recorded a statewide total of 75,862 cases. ISDH also reports 2,863 deaths have occurred as a result of the virus. A total of 861,655 Hoosiers have now been tested for COVID-19.

In Hamilton County, a total of 46,951 tests have been performed and 2,820 people have now tested positive. A total of 104 people have died as a result of COVID-19 in Hamilton County.

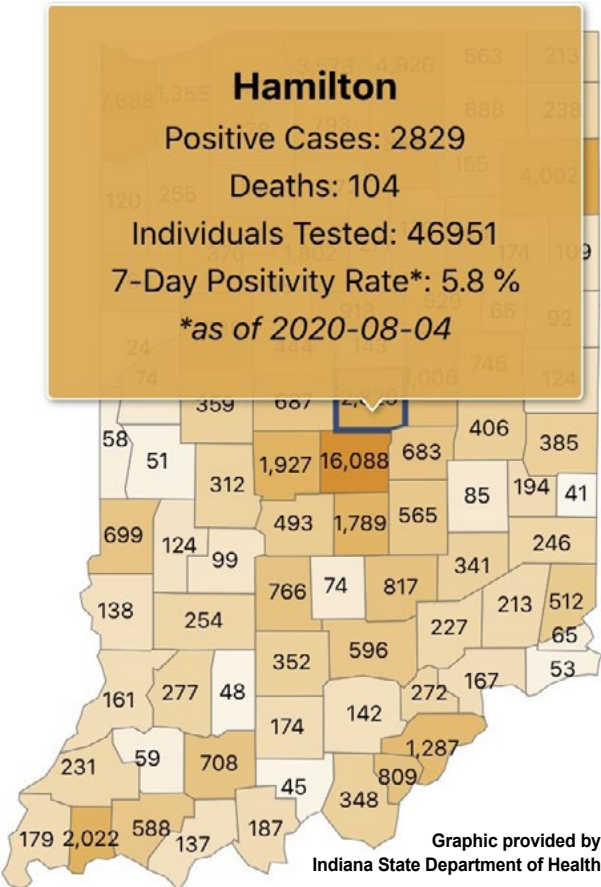
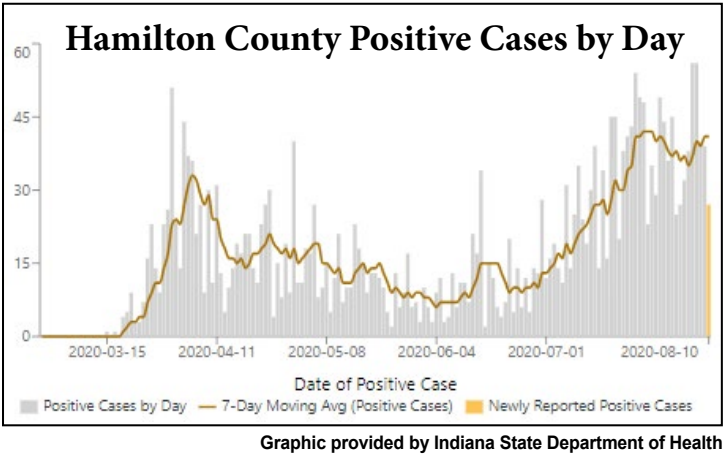
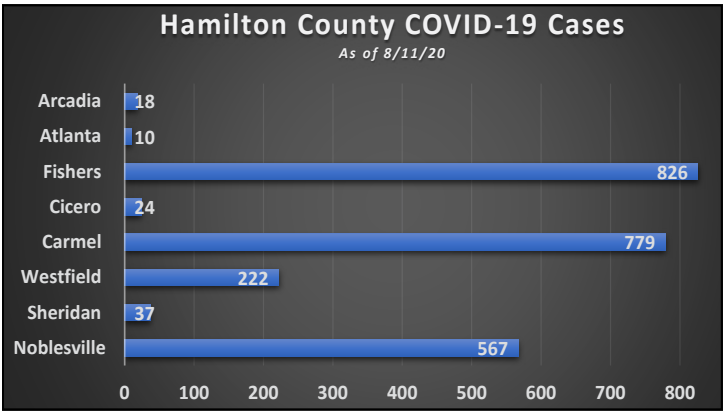
Four cases confirmed at Westfield Schools

Westfield Washington Schools announced on Tuesday there are four confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school system. All four individuals are employees of the transportation department. All are in isolation at home.

A statement issued by the school district said: "We are working with our local health department to follow the CDC guidelines. The confirmed cases are in self isolation and those who are considered close contacts have been notified and are required to self quarantine at home. Those individuals will not return to work until they've met all of the required safety criteria to return, including isolating at home and being symptom free."

"Due to employees being quarantined and in isolation, we are experiencing a bus driver shortage and some routes will be doubled in order to transport all students to school. In other words, drivers will run their assigned routes and after dropping students at school, will run an additional route. This will result in longer delays than normal because drivers will be disinfecting buses before they run their second route."

"If your bus route will be double routed, you will be notified by our transportation department. Students who are late to school will not be marked as tardy."



Local non-profits, township trustees help residents avoid COVID-related evictions

The REPORTER

Individuals and families who have problems paying their rent or mortgages due to the COVID-19 pandemic can seek assistance through a new program announced Monday by HAND, Inc. and the Hamilton County Township Trustee Association.

"Since March, there has been a pause in any eviction proceedings at both the state and federal level," said Andrea Davis, executive director of Noblesville-based non-profit HAND Inc. "But individuals and families who have lost their jobs or suffered medically due to COVID are still responsible for full payment of their rent or mortgage. This program will allow us to help those at risk of eviction."

The federal moratorium on evictions ended in late July, and Gov. Eric Holcomb said last week that he intends to allow the state moratorium expire on Friday, Aug. 14.

Danielle Carey Tolan, president of the Hamilton County Township Trustee Association, encourages all Hamilton County residents to seek assistance before their landlords initiate eviction proceedings.

"Our goal is to keep people in their homes," Tolan said. "We know that stable housing is critical for a child's success in school and better health outcomes – both physical and mental – for all family members. This then reduces the burden on our many social services in the county."

Residents who need assistance should connect with their local township trustee to assess the situation and determine the best



Davis



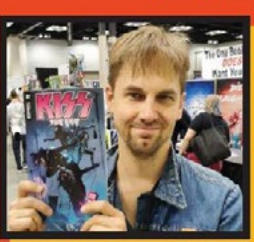
Tolan

sources of help. You can find your trustee at [this link](#). (Click "accept", enter your address and click "trustee" on the right). In keeping with COVID safe policies, begin the process by calling your trustee to set a phone appointment time.


Township trustees will assess the needs and coordinate with local non-profits to provide resources. Non-profits participating in this program include: Aspire Indiana, Family Promise of Hamilton County, Good Samaritan Network, HAND Inc., and Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County. Funding partners include Hamilton County.

See Eviction . . . Page 2


FEATURED ARTISTS



STUART SAYGER



VICTOR DANDRIDGE



YURI DUNCAN

Graphic provided

Nickel Plate Arts, HEPL partnering for virtual 'Comic Book in a Day'

The REPORTER

Nickel Plate Arts has partnered with the Hamilton East Public Library's Ignite Studio to present Virtual Comic Book in a Day, an eight-hour marathon of comic book art creation. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29.

More than two dozen area artists as well as artists around the world connected to the program will compete

against the clock to come up with several pages of brand-new comic content. In addition to the comic book creation, veteran "Featured Artists" will mentor the Challenge Artists and offer insight into the state of the comics industry throughout the day. Both the Ignite Studio and Nickel Plate Arts teams will go live on Facebook with mini-workshops and progress updates during the course of the day.

Hamilton East Public Library and Nickel Plate Arts are collaborating to offer free, virtual comic workshops via Zoom during the week leading to the Virtual Comic Book in a Day event. The workshops are free, and feature each of the three Featured Artists: Stuart Sayger of Noblesville, Yuri Duncan of Indianapolis, and Victor Dandridge of Columbus.

See Comic . . . Page 3

OneZone, Indiana Chamber of Commerce create company-to-company mentoring program

The REPORTER

OneZone has announced a new partnership with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and Engage Mentoring program to build the largest and most effective cross-company mentoring program in the country through the Engage Mentoring program.

OneZone says the initiative will help employers skill up their workforce by connecting them with mentors to help them grow their skills on a variety of topics.

The Engage Mentoring program is a model of mentoring that uses a proprietary software system to help employees build the necessary skills needed to be good mentors, as well as connect with qualified mentors in the business community on the basis of skill development.

OneZone joins the In-

diana Chamber of Commerce in this mission, to help employers throughout the state skill up their workforce and provide access to critical mentoring relationships.

"We are thrilled to announce our partners for the Engage Mentoring program," said Jason Bearce, Vice President of Education & Workforce Development for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. "Now more than ever, employers need resources and strategies for employee engagement and skill development. This program will be a powerful tool in their arsenal."

"We are proud to partner with Engage Mentoring and the Indiana Chamber



Russell

of Commerce to offer our members an opportunity to engage in an innovative and effective company-to-company mentoring program," said OneZone President and CEO Jack Russell. "It is important as our organization continues to be a voice and impactful for businesses that we provide strong resources to employers in our community to help them attract, retain, and develop talent. This partnership will be a strong tool for our business community in Carmel, Fishers, and our region."

[Click here](#) for more information about the Engage Mentoring program and how to get your company involved.

Police patrolling for motorists not stopping for school buses

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Traffic Safety Partnership will be working to safeguard students as they get on and off the bus this fall. Over the next couple of months, officers will be positioned along bus stops and routes looking for stop-arm violations and motorists driving dangerously.

The overtime patrols are part of the state's Stop Arm Violation Enforcement (SAVE) program, which was developed by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) last year and is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. As part of the effort, officers will work with local school corporations and bus drivers to identify problem areas where the highest

number of violations occur.

"We take school bus stop arm violations very seriously, as they jeopardize the safety of our children," said Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush. "We urge you to devote your full attention to the roadway and if you see a bus with yellow flashing lights, please slow down and prepare to stop. It is important for all of us to look out for the safety of our children to keep our community safe."

In 2019, thousands of bus drivers in Indiana participated in an annual survey and reported more than 2,500 stop-arm violations in a single day. Taking that one-day total as



Quakenbush

an average, that means an estimated 450,000 violations could have occurred during the 2019 school year.

In Indiana, it's against the law for motorists to pass a bus that's stopped and has its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended. This applies to all roads, with one exception. On multi-lane roads divided by a physical barrier or unpaved median, vehicles traveling the opposite direction of the bus may proceed with due caution.

"Always err on the side of caution when it comes to school bus safety. If you're not sure what

See Safe . . . Page 2



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SAFE

to do, just stop,” said ICJI Executive Director Devon McDonald. “The best way to think about it is to drive like it’s your child boarding or riding that bus.”

The following is a list of school bus **safety tips** provided by NHTSA.

- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may

dart into the street without looking for traffic.

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- Don’t drive distracted or impaired.
- Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.
- Be prepared. Knowing how to drive when buses are around is critical.

- **Yellow flashing lights**

indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.

- **Red flashing lights** and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

Click here to learn more about the Hamilton County Traffic Safety Partnership.

About the SAVE program

Launched in 2019, the Stop Arm Violation Enforcement (SAVE) program works to provide safe transportation routes for students going to and from school in Indiana. Grants are awarded to law enforcement agencies to conduct high visibility patrols along school bus stops and routes, which are identified by coordinating

with local school corporations, bus drivers and other key officials. SAVE is funded by the National Highway

Transportation Safety Administration and administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

from Page 1

EVICTIION

County Community Foundation, Hamilton County’s Community Development Block Grant program, and United Way of Central Indiana through its COVID-relief funding from Lilly Endowment.

The state also is providing a total of \$40 million in rental assistance. Applications for those funds are available at indianahousingnow.org.

“By pooling our resources in a coordinated way, we can stretch our funding to reach as many people as possible while providing a variety of services to fam-

ilies in need,” Davis said. “It is the smart way to work as a community to keep our community thriving for all our residents.”

To learn more, visit handincorporated.org.

About HAND

Founded in 2003, HAND Inc. addresses the housing needs of low- and moderate-income individuals, families and senior citizens in Indianapolis’ suburbs. HAND has been awarded a total of \$390,000 in United Way’s C-CERF funding to provide rental assistance in Hamilton and Boone counties.

from Page 1

CASES

School officials want to remind parents and students that it’s important to remain home if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and keep children who have symptoms or are being tested for COVID-19 at home. Contact the school and report the absence and the reason for the absence.

Students/parents should report a positive case to their school (during the school day), or should use the WWS COVID phone line after hours: (317) 867-8056. This phone line will send an automated notification to the Director of Human Resources and Safety and to the District Head Nurse.

from Page 1

Wanted:


Are you interested in a special business opportunity in the restaurant industry?

A unique opportunity to manage or manage to own a small, hometown diner awaits the right individual.

The Choo Choo Café, located in an historic late 19th century building, has been a popular eatery in the heart of downtown Atlanta for more than two years. The charming diner has been completely renovated to include a full service kitchen and seating for 40+ customers. The two-story building has a renovated apartment on the second floor.

For information and inquiries into the many possibilities available through this business opportunity, contact steve@thechoochoocafe.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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Improvements coming to West Park in Carmel

The REPORTER

On Monday, Aug. 24, the main entrance to **West Park** and the southern half of the trail system, including the pond boardwalks, will be closed to the public due to planned improvements. The Jill Perelman Pavilion and the adjacent adventure playground in the woods will remain open and accessible.

Upgrades to West Park include replacement of the existing splash pad and playground in the original section of the park, renovation

of the restroom building and main shelter, and improvements to the roadway and parking facilities. The park will fully reopen after construction is completed in summer 2021.

The West Park improvements are funded jointly by the Carmel/Clay Board of Parks and Recreation and the **Clay Township Impact Program** as part of Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation's Reimagining Parks initiative. Through this initiative, CCPR is updating and enhancing

six existing parks to make them more accessible, safer and available year-round. CCPR says these projects will provide benefits for all township residents, schools and businesses, and make the Carmel community a better place to live, work and play.

To learn more about all the parks being reimagined, visit carmelclayparks.com/reimagining-parks.

If you visit the park before its closure, please continue using physical distancing.

Carmel police seek public's help in locating suspicious person

The REPORTER

The Carmel Police Department is investigating suspicious activity in the area of Carmel Woods Apartments.

At 4:19 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 6, an adult male approached a child on Trail View Drive. The child's mother did not know or

recognize the male and interrupted the contact. The child is safe and was not harmed in the incident.

Detectives would like to speak to the male. The male was described as white, 30 to 50 years old, bald, green eyes, 5-foot-6, with an athletic build. He was last seen wearing a black hooded

sweatshirt, blue jeans and black shoes.

If you have any information or video or photo evidence that could help identify the male, please contact Detective Greg Loveall at (317) 571-2500 or gloveall@carmel.in.gov. Please reference CPD case number 20-54338.

COMIC

from Page 1

Ohio. Each of these artists is acclaimed and has impressive comic resumes.

Nickel Plate Arts Executive Director Ailithir McGill says she sees positive opportunities about moving this year's Comic Book in a Day online.

"Going virtual allows Comic Book in a Day to welcome participants from all over the world, while also providing a safe, healthy and more laid-back experience for our Challenge Artists," McGill said. "This format has also given us the opportunity to reexamine the role that our professional Featured Artists will play during the event: They will be providing more direct instruction, coaching and mentorship to this year's Challenge Artists than in previous years."

"Ignite Studio is thrilled to once again partner with Nickel Plate Arts for Comic Book in a Day," Ignite Studio Manager Katelyn Coyne said. "Taking this year's event entirely virtual will help us reach new audiences over more days. We can't wait to see all of the creative ideas our patrons near and far will bring to this multi-day event!"

Watch for updates on social media from the Hamilton East Public Library and Nickel Plate Arts pages throughout the day. Winners of various categories will receive cash prizes, comic book memorabilia and art supplies. The overall winner will receive the Comic Book in a Day championship belt. Winners will be



Photo provided

Artists Brad Barclay and Andi Overman work on their comic panels during last year's event.



Photo provided

Nickel Plate Arts Executive Director Ailithir McGill (left) presents 2019 overall champions Raquel and Gabrielle Zacherl with the Comic Book in a Day championship belt.

announced at Nickel Plate Arts' September First Friday on Sept. 4.

About Nickel Plate Arts

Nickel Plate Arts is an umbrella non-profit organization that creates and coordinates arts and cultural experiences across communities to improve the quality of life for residents, strengthen local economies

and enrich experiences for visitors. Nickel Plate Arts is a project of Hamilton County Tourism, Inc. The Nickel Plate Arts Trail extends 30 miles through Fishers, Noblesville, Cicero, Arcadia, Atlanta and Tipton. Visit Nickel Plate Arts at 107 S. 8th St. in Noblesville, online at nickelplatearts.org or call (317) 452-3690.

Explore Fishers' new lifestyle blog

The REPORTER

The City of Fishers has announced the launch of its new lifestyle blog site, ThisIsFishers.com.

The site is the official blog of the city that embodies what it means to be uniquely Fishers.

The new blog showcases how Fishers residents live, work, learn and play in the community and fea-

tures the unique voices and stories of residents, businesses, community groups and schools.

Along with blog posts featuring entertainment, arts and culture, food and drink, recreation, local businesses – and Fishers residents – the site also includes a comprehensive **community calendar** for events happening around

the city.

Local organizations and businesses are encouraged to submit their events to the community calendar to create an easy to find list of what's happening in Fishers.

For more info, visit ThisIsFishers.com and follow the City of Fishers on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram** to stay up to date.



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School Board Candidates

There are 14 board seats at stake this year in the six Hamilton County school districts. Winners in the non-partisan elections on Nov. 3 will take office on Jan. 1, 2021. Filing ends at noon on Aug. 21 at the county election office.

Carmel Clay Schools

Katie Browning (At large)

Hamilton Southeastern

Tony Bagato (Delaware Twp.)

Chauna Leigh Holder (Fall Creek Twp.)

Sarah E. Parks-Reese (Wayne Twp.)

Suzanne Thomas (Fall Creek Twp.)

Clinton Wilson (Fall Creek Twp.)

Hamilton Heights

Kevin J. Cavanaugh (Jackson Twp.)

Gretchen Pennington (White River Twp.)

David Adam Sheller (White River Twp.)

Noblesville Schools

Carl Johnson

Westfield Washington Schools

Carl (Mike) Steele (District 3)

Meeting Notices

The Hamilton County Insurance Committee will meet to discuss insurance items at 9 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 14, 2020, in Conference Room 1A at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

Notice

The Hamilton County Plan Commission is trying to be as responsible as possible during this pandemic episode and still move forward with updating our comprehensive plan. The next series of Hamilton County Plan Commission Comprehensive Plan Update public meetings will be a drive-through process. Our office will be doing a mass mailing to residents in our jurisdictional areas of Hamilton County next week. Please plan to drive through our site locations to complete the entire survey and/or drop off your own written comments regarding the types of growth and development you want and don't want to see.

Adams Township

Thursday, August 20, 2020

Sheridan Community Center

300 East 6th Street

Sheridan, IN 46069

7:00 p.m.

White River Township

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Walnut Grove Community Center

12695 East 256th Street

Cicero, IN 46034

7:00 p.m.

Noblesville/Wayne Townships

Thursday, August 27, 2020

Wayne Township Fire Station

18441 Durbin Road

Noblesville, IN 46060

7:00 p.m.

RL3659 8/3/20, 8/10/20, 8/17/20

No 'good will' from these Carmel purse snatchers



Photos provided

The Carmel Police Department is asking for the public's help in identifying these individuals who are suspects in a purse snatching from the Goodwill store, located at 10491 Walnut Creek Drive. The theft occurred at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 7. The victim's purse contained her rent money as well as personal items. If you recognize either suspect, please contact Officer Todd Robbins at (317) 571-2500 or trobbsins@carmel.in.gov. You can also contact Crime Stoppers at (317) 262-TIPS or crimetips.org. Please reference CPD case number 2020-54514.

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Application deadline nearing for state park deer management hunts

The REPORTER

Indiana State Parks is seeking volunteer hunters to participate in deer management hunts at 17 locations later this year.

Properties where hunting is allowed with firearms only (i.e., any firearm legal to take deer on public land in Indiana) are: Brown County, Chain O'Lakes, Charlestown, Harmonie, Lincoln, McCormick's Creek, Ouabache, Pokagon, Potato Creek, Prophetstown, Shades, Spring Mill, Turkey Run, Versailles, and Whitewater Memorial state parks.

Properties where hunting is allowed by archery only (i.e., any archery equipment legal to take deer in Indiana) are: Fort Harrison State Park and Trine State Recreation Area.

The dates on which the hunts will take place are Nov. 16-17 and Nov. 30-Dec. 1.

Volunteers can apply online at wildlife.IN.gov/5834.htm, where additional guidelines can be found under State Park Deer Management Draw.

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 17.

Management hunts are carried out exclusively to achieve an ecological objective – to ensure balanced and healthy natural communities for all plants and wildlife within park boundaries. Successful applicants are allowed to take up to three deer. Only one of those deer can be antlered. Deer harvested at a state park management hunt are not counted toward regular statewide bag limits. Trophy hunting, or passing on does or smaller bucks to wait for a larger buck, is counter to the ecological objective of state park management hunts and is strongly discouraged.

Apply for Indiana Private Lands Access reserved hunts

The REPORTER

Hunters can apply for reserved gamebird hunting opportunities on private property through the Indiana Private Lands Access program until Sept. 21.

Formally known as the Access Program Providing Land Enhancements (APPLE), the Indiana Private Lands Access program offers quail, pheasant and woodcock hunting opportunities on private property. Draw result notifications will be emailed within two weeks of the application deadline. Successfully drawn applicants will be allowed two hunting partners. All regulations and bag limits apply.

These hunts are allocated through the online reserved hunt system. The online application is the only way to apply. Hunters may apply for one hunting period. Although the hunting period is two days, selected hunters may only hunt one day of the two-day period.

You can register for this hunt and check the status of the draw at on.IN.gov/reserved-hunt.

The Indiana Private Lands Access program offers financial incentives to landowners who allow controlled public access hunting on their private lands. Wildlife biologists also work with landowners to establish and improve wildlife habitat.

For more information about the Indiana Private Lands Access program, please visit wildlife.IN.gov/9572.htm.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews. When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not; . . .
Acts 18:19-20 (KJV)

Dr. Jeanette May Stoops

July 16, 1925 – November 9, 2019

Dr. Jeanette May Stoops, 94, passed away on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at Allisonville Meadows in Fishers. Born near Sheridan, Indiana on July 16, 1925, she was the daughter of the late John W. and Zula (Price) Stoops.

Following her graduation from Sheridan High School in 1943, Jeanette attended Purdue University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in 1949 and her Master's degree in 1954. During the summer of '54, she studied at the University of Edinburg in Scotland. Education was always a top priority with Jeanette. In 1958, she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship and took full advantage of the opportunity, using it to study economics at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. She went on to earn her Ph.D. in Economics from Bryn Mawr College in 1963.

Jeanette's working years included employment with McDonnell Douglas in Los Angeles, Chance Vought in Dallas, Chase Manhattan Bank in New York, and the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco. She also spent time as an educator, teaching at both the University of Wisconsin Platteville and Memphis State University.

Jeanette enjoyed traveling and music, and never turned down the chance to get lost in the pages of a good book. She was also passionate about animals, especially when it came to her dogs.

Jeanette is survived by her sister, Vera E. Shew (E. Stanley), Clinton, Ind., along with several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, James B. Stoops and Ernest S. Stoops; and by her sister, Mary E. Avery.

Cremation was chosen by her family. A private family memorial service will take place at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan, at which time Jeanette will be laid to rest.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Hamilton County Humane Society.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kercheval Funeral Home in Sheridan.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

Michael Edward Kastner

May 2, 1936 – August 5, 2020

Michael Edward Kastner passed away in his sleep, in the quiet morning of August 5, 2020, in his home in Noblesville.

Mike, born May 2, 1936, to Agnes and Karl Kastner in Cleveland, Ohio, is survived by his wife and love of his life, Maureen; his children: Michael Jr. (Linda), David (Leslie), Judy (Tom), Peggy (Shawn) and Patrick (Beth); as well as his pride and joy, his grandchildren: Allison (Troy), Nicole (Jacob), Megan, Sam, Daniel, Joshua, Noah and Henry.

Mike graduated from St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Detroit as well as a master's degree in industrial engineering from Cleveland State University.

In his long career as an engineer and manager, Mike worked for NASA, General Electric and Thompson Consumer Electronics, working to create everything from landing gear for jet aircraft to light bulbs to television tubes. His colleagues remember him as a highly regarded leader who cared deeply for those who worked for him.

A devout member of the Roman Catholic faith, Mike served on the Pastoral Council and as a lector for Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Noblesville. Throughout retirement until early this year, Mike volunteered at the St. Vincent de Paul Center in Noblesville, helping distribute food and household items to those in need.

Mike loved to read, amassing enough books to fill a library in his home, on subjects ranging from gardening to spy fiction, architecture to ancient history, and, of course, railroads. He also loved to build things. He constructed a grandfather clock that still chimes precisely every 15 minutes, three decades after he built it. He completed countless home improvement projects, both in his own home and those of his children. Mike never quite finished his HO scale model railroad layout but leaves it detailed with intricate bridges, buildings, mountains and streams.

His greatest joy was his family, the foundations of which were built upon his love and devotion to them. The structure he created – strong enough to weather even his loss – lives on in those he loved. He was a good man, a true engineer, a devoted husband and the best father one could ask for.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Vincent de Paul of Noblesville in Mike's name at svdpnoblecause.com.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Edward James Rose

September 28, 1970 – August 6, 2020

Edward James Rose, 49, Sheridan, passed away on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at his home. He was born on September 28, 1970 to Gail and Judy (Cain) Rose in Noblesville.

Ed was a movie and music buff. He especially loved watching Marvel action movies with his children and 1980s rock. He also enjoyed cooking and grilling. He was also a salt water taffy aficionado.

He is survived by his father, Gail Rose; children, Hannah Rose, Lizabeth Rose and Josh Rose; and his sister, Christine (Michael) Saucier.

Ed was preceded in death by his mother, Judy Mae Rose, in 2019.

Private family services will be held with burial at Crownland Cemetery. Randall & Roberts has been entrusted with Ed's care.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



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PENDING



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**13180 San Vicente Blvd.
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PENDING



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Hamilton County Sports

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Sports Editor Richie Hall

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Muncie Central replaces Monroe Central . . .

Heights football gets new Week 1 opponent

The Hamilton Heights football team will have a new opponent for its first game of the season.

The Huskies will host Muncie Central to open the 2020 season, with kickoff at 7 p.m. Aug. 21 at the Heights stadium. The game will also function as the Senior Night contest for the Huskies players and cheerleaders.

Heights was originally supposed to play Monroe Central on Aug. 21 for its season opener. But on Monday evening, Monroe Central Golden Bears' Twitter account announced that the game was

canceled. Monroe Central's Week 2 game against Tindley was also canceled. The Golden Bears also had a cross country invitational scheduled for Aug. 22, but that has been canceled as well.

Heights athletic director Kurt Ogden told the Reporter that Monroe Central's athletic director said he is tasked with finding games that fit into their health department's and school corporation's model of "limiting risk," as schools try to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. The likely concern was transporting students out of the county, and bringing in

students and spectators to the school.

The Huskies began a search for a new Week 1 opponent immediately, and that quickly came to fruition. Ogden announced that Muncie Central was on board to play Heights Tuesday afternoon.

Several other early-season football games have been canceled due to the effects of the pandemic. Carmel's Week 1 game with Louisville Trinity was one of them; the Kentucky High School Athletic Association shifted the dates of fall sports, thus forcing the game to be called

off.

On Tuesday, a high-profile game was canceled: Center Grove-Warren Central, a big Metropolitan Conference contest that is the traditional start of the season for both teams. The Warriors had a football player test positive for COVID-19 last week. Ryan O'Leary, the sports editor of the Daily Journal in Franklin, reported that the decision was made because of the number of Warren players and coaches currently in quarantine. Center Grove is trying to find a replacement game.

Boys soccer teams will be busy Saturday

By the time Saturday afternoon comes around, most boys soccer teams in Hamilton County will have already taken to the field.

Teams can begin their regular seasons on Saturday, although a few local squads will be having scrimmages on that day as well. Three teams are playing regular season contests: Carmel hosts Zionsville, Fishers welcomes Franklin Central and Hamilton Southeastern plays at Mount Vernon.

Also on Saturday, Guerin Catholic will scrimmage at Noblesville and Westfield scrimmages at Cathedral, while Hamilton Heights travels to Frankfort for a Jamboree there. All four schools open their regular season on Tuesday (Aug. 18): The Golden Eagles host Cardinal Ritter, the Huskies travel to Yorktown and the Millers will play at Greenfield-Central. Westfield hosts Fishers in the first all-county regular-season game of the season.

Sheridan begins its season next Thursday, Aug. 20, hosting Anderson Prep Academy.

University will play an intramural schedule this season, and will not play against other teams.

Here is a boys soccer schedule for this season, with information from the schools' athletics websites.

CARMEL

Aug. 13: Brownsburg (scrimmage), 5 p.m.
Aug. 15: Zionsville, 11:30 a.m.
Aug. 20: at Noblesville, 6:30 p.m.
Aug. 22: Hamilton Southeastern, 1 p.m.
Aug. 25: at Ben Davis, 7 p.m.
Aug. 27: Center Grove, 7 p.m.
Sept. 1: at Brebeuf Jesuit, 7 p.m.
Sept. 8: at Lawrence North, 7 p.m.
Sept. 10: Lawrence Central, 7 p.m.
Sept. 11: at Columbus North, 8 p.m.
Sept. 15: North Central, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 17: at Warren Central, 7 p.m.
Sept. 18: Homestead, 8 p.m.
Sept. 22: at Pike, 7 p.m.
Sept. 24: at Cathedral, 7 p.m.
Sept. 25: Guerin Catholic, 7 p.m.
Sept. 29: Harrison, 7 p.m.

FISHERS

Aug. 12: Center Grove (scrimmage), 7 p.m.
Aug. 15: Franklin Central, 7 p.m.
Aug. 18: at Westfield, 7 p.m.
Aug. 22: Harrison, 7 p.m.
Aug. 25: Zionsville, 7 p.m.
Aug. 27: at Guerin Catholic, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: at McCutcheon, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 1: at Noblesville, 7 p.m.



Kent Graham/File photo

The Noblesville boys soccer team won a sectional championship on its way to the semi-state final last season. The Millers scrimmage Guerin Catholic on Saturday, then open the regular season Tuesday (Aug. 18) at Greenfield-Central.

Sept. 3: Marion, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 8: Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 10: Pendleton Heights, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: at Columbus East, 12:30 p.m.
Sept. 15: at Brownsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 17: at North Central, 7 p.m.
Sept. 22: Avon, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 24: at New Palestine, 7 p.m.
Sept. 29: Greenfield-Central, 7:30 p.m.

GUERIN CATHOLIC

Aug. 15: at Noblesville (scrimmage), 11 a.m.
Aug. 18: Cardinal Ritter, 7 p.m.
Aug. 25: at Heritage Christian, 7 p.m.
Aug. 27: Fishers, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: at Brebeuf Jesuit, 7 p.m.
Sept. 3: Noblesville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: at Bishop Chatard, noon
Sept. 8: Roncalli, 7 p.m.
Sept. 10: at Brownsburg, 7 p.m.
Sept. 15: Cathedral, 7 p.m.
Sept. 17: Covenant Christian, 7 p.m.
Sept. 25: at Carmel, 7 p.m.
Sept. 29: at Lafayette Central Catholic, 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 1: Zionsville, 7 p.m.

HAMILTON HEIGHTS

Aug. 15: Jamboree at Frankfort (with Eastern), 10 a.m.
Aug. 18: at Yorktown, 7 p.m.
Aug. 20: Pendleton Heights, 7 p.m.
Aug. 22: at Muncie Burris, 1:30 a.m.
Aug. 27: New Castle, 7 p.m.
Sept. 1: at Anderson, 7 p.m.
Sept. 3: Kokomo, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: at Danville, 3 p.m.
Sept. 9: Hoosier Conference tournament, time and location TBD
Sept. 10: Hoosier Conference tournament, 7 p.m. (location TBD)
Sept. 12: Hoosier Conference tournament, 11 a.m. at Northwestern
Sept. 15: at Bishop Chatard, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 17: at Northwestern, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 19: Husky Invitational
- Heights vs. Tipton, 9 a.m.
- Crispus Attucks vs. Scenic, 10:30 a.m.
- Games at 1:30 and 3 p.m.
Sept. 22: at Eastern, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 24: Western, 7 p.m.
Sept. 29: at Liberty Christian, 5:30 p.m.

HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN

Aug. 12: Greenfield-Central (scrimmage), 6 p.m.
Aug. 15: at Mount Vernon, 10:30 a.m.
Aug. 18: Lawrence North, 7 p.m.
Aug. 22: at Carmel, 1 p.m.
Aug. 25: at Brownsburg, 7 p.m.
Aug. 27: at Shelbyville, 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 29: Franklin Central, 5:45 p.m.
Sept. 1: Avon, 7 p.m.
Sept. 5: at Brebeuf Jesuit, 11:30 a.m.
Sept. 8: at Fishers, 7 p.m.
Sept. 15: Westfield, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Cathedral, 11:30 a.m.
Sept. 22: at Zionsville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 24: at Marion, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: at Homestead, noon
Sept. 26: at Fort Wayne Carroll, 6 p.m.
Sept. 29: Noblesville, 7 p.m.

NOBLESVILLE

Aug. 15: Guerin Catholic (scrimmage, 11 a.m.)
Aug. 18: at Greenfield-Central, 7 p.m.
Aug. 20: Carmel, 6:30 p.m.
Aug. 25: at Avon, 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 27: Brebeuf Jesuit, 7 p.m.

See Soccer . . . Page 7

NHS golf wins county dual

The Noblesville girls golf team won the first of what will be three straight days of dual meet competition against fellow Hamilton County teams on Tuesday.

The No. 6-ranked Millers beat No. 20 Guerin Catholic 157-191 in a nine-hole dual at Pebble Brook Golf Club. Sarah Brenneman was the meet medalist, leading Noblesville with a score of 37. Caroline Whallon was next with a 39. Other Millers scores were Ellie Karst 40, Jordan Adam 41 and Sophi Stutz 43.

Christina Pfefferkorn led the Golden Eagles with a 39. Jenny Zerla and Isabella Pinion both carded 48s, followed by Mia Thompson with 56 and Anna Jacoby with 62.

Noblesville hosts No. 1 Carmel at 4:30 p.m. today at Harbour Trees, then welcomes No. 3 Westfield on Thursday.

Turn to Page 7 to see the latest coaches poll.



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From Alabama to Indianapolis . . .

The fire that drives Philip Rivers

By CHARLIE CLIFFORD
WISH-TV

A 20-minute drive to the south from the Tennessee-Alabama border leads to the heart of this magic trick.

The year 1999 was a tricky time to be a top quarterback prospect inside the state that holds football second only to religion. This is thanks to, in part, a quarter-century of being captivated by legendary Alabama Coach Bear Bryant and his archival three hours to the west.

Who knows if Byrant and his houndstooth fedora would have picked this quarterback either. After all, he was different.

The throwing motion is a story within itself, but we'll get to that later.

At the core, this kid checks out. He was the son of a highly respected high school ball coach. He was a two-way talent, with a knack for snagging an interception in the secondary, leading the state of Alabama in interceptions for an entire season.

Of course, this would be only minutes after hitting a pass-catcher inside a tight window downfield for a touchdown strike. Soon, the street leading into Athens High School would carry his legacy: Philip Rivers Drive.

"He (Rivers) means a great deal to our town," former Golden Eagles Head Football Coach Allen Creasy said earlier this

week. "He has been on a football field every day since he was 5 years old."

Back in 1999, Creasy was following Golden Eagles Head Coach Steve Rivers' lead. Steve's son, Philip, was racking up local prep headlines and drawing Tommy Tuberville, then Auburn University's head coach, among other big names in the college game into the home press box.

On the sidelines? This was a foreshadowing of two decades of similar scenes.

"He was fiery, he was emotional, and he was demanding" of teammates, Creasy said. "But, from Little League Baseball all the way until today, I never have seen a team that didn't get better because he was on it. When he was playing Little League ball as a catcher, they were the best club. When he was quarterbacking (at Athens), we had one of the best teams in Alabama."

Any avenue leading to a team being "the best" starts and ends with dedication in the eyes of Rivers. One Friday night, during Rivers' senior season at Athens, depicts this notion perfectly.

Amid the 1999 season that ended with a Golden Eagles quarterfinals appearance in the Alabama High School State Playoffs, Auburn's Tuberville made the trek 200 miles north to Athens.

Cozied up with the locals in the home press box, Tuberville was ready to watch the Athens gunslinger. Some report Tuberville already knew that fellow star se-

nior Jason Campbell, out of Taylorsville High in Mississippi, was his future Tigers quarterback.

Others will tell you, Tuberville wanted Rivers — and bad. Either way, knowing one of the two most influential people in the state was watching that night, Rivers made sure Athens put on a show.

Once the game kicked off, the strategy called for one thing and only thing only: running the freaking football.

"He came over after an early series and said, 'We need to keep running it! We are killing them with it,'" Creasy said.

When the game was over, Athens celebrated a blowout victory. Rivers had only thrown five passes.

"Shows you right there, no matter who is watching, all Philip cares about is winning," Creasy said.

After admitting much of his career relied on the internal drive that arrives as a kid, the 38-year-old smiled ear to ear, handing credit to two others who played a key role.

"You know, my dad, I was around him every day," Rivers said. "But, being around Coach Creasy, watching those guys coach together, it kind of helped trigger some of that early passion for the game."

Auburn did end up sending a scholarship Rivers way. Technically, the door to an eventual starting quarterback spot was open. Still, the indication, according

to some, was Rivers likely wouldn't beat out Campbell.

If he wanted to be a Tiger, Rivers might need to move to tight end.

Meanwhile, in Tuscaloosa, Ala., the Crimson Tide were en route to an SEC West Championship during the fall of 1999.

Armed with a pair of sophomores, Andrew Zow and Tyler Watts, running a two-quarterback system, Head Coach Mike DuBose wasn't interested in the 2000 high school class.

Instead, a prized junior prospect, who had a father with his own legacy with the Crimson Tide, was inbound to Alabama: Brodie Croyle. Croyle's injury-plagued collegiate career found promise his senior year, leading Alabama to a Cotton Bowl victory over Texas Tech.

He left Alabama with the program's single-season mark for passing yards.

Later, Croyle's NFL career fizzled due to another rash of injuries, officially retiring from the pros in 2012. Back in Athens, the phone kept ringing for Rivers. One area code was popping up over and over: 984, which is in Raleigh, North Carolina.

This is where NC State's Joe Pate comes in. Pate led the Wolfpack's recruiting efforts of Rivers, and ironically his wife had attended Athens High School.

See Rivers . . . Page 8

ICGSA Week 1 girls golf SOCCER coaches poll

1. Carmel, 2. Evansville North, 3. Westfield, 4. Homestead, 5. Center Grove, 6. Noblesville, 7. Columbus North, 8. Hamilton Southeastern, 9. Franklin Community, 10. Floyd Central, 11. Brownsburg, 12. Zionsville, 13. Penn, 14. Castle, 15. Western, 16. Concord, 17. NorthWood, 18. Crown Point, 19. Bedford North Lawrence, 20. Guerin Catholic.

Honorable mention: Batesville, Culver Academies, Lake Central, Lebanon, Tipton.



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Sept. 1: Fishers, 7 p.m.
Sept. 3: at Guerin Catholic, 7 p.m.
Sept. 8: at Westfield, 7 p.m.
Sept. 15: Zionsville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 17: Cathedral, 7 p.m.
Sept. 22: at Franklin Central, 7 p.m.
Sept. 24: Lawrence Central, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: at Fort Wayne Carroll, 11:30 a.m.
Sept. 26: at Homestead, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 29: at Hamilton Southeastern, 7 p.m.
Oct. 1: Brownsburg, 7 p.m.

SHERIDAN
Aug. 20: Anderson Prep Academy, 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 25: at Mississinewa, 6 p.m.
Aug. 27: Benton Central, 5:45 p.m.
Aug. 29: Blackford, 10 a.m.
Sept. 8: Tipton, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 10: at Tri-Central, 5 p.m.
Sept. 12: at Liberty Christian, 12:30 p.m.
Sept. 14: at Taylor, 5 p.m.
Sept. 15: at North Montgomery, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 17: at Crawfordsville, 7:15 p.m.
Sept. 22: Carroll, 5 p.m.

Sept. 24: Eastern, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 26: Western Boone, 10 a.m.
Sept. 28: at Irvington Prep, 5:30 p.m.
Oct. 1: Rossville, 5:30 p.m.

WESTFIELD
Aug. 15: at Cathedral (scrimmage), 10 a.m.
Aug. 18: Fishers, 7 p.m.
Aug. 20: Pike, 7 p.m.
Aug. 22: at Pike JV Invite, 10 a.m.
Aug. 25: at Franklin Central, 7 p.m.
Aug. 29: at Greenfield-Central, 11:30 a.m.
Sept. 1: at Zionsville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 3: Brebeuf Jesuit, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 8: Noblesville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 12: Westfield Soccer Invite - Games at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 15: at Hamilton Southeastern, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: Pendleton Heights, 11:30 a.m.
Sept. 22: Brownsburg, 7 p.m.
Sept. 24: at Harrison, 7 p.m.
Sept. 29: at Avon, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 1: at Kokomo, 7 p.m.

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Major League Baseball standings

Tuesday's games	
Toronto 5, Miami 4, 10 innings	Milwaukee 6, Minnesota 4
Cincinnati 6, Kansas City 5, 10 innings	Colorado 8, Arizona 7
Baltimore 10, Philadelphia 9, 10 innings	Texas 4, Seattle 2
N.Y. Yankees 9, Atlanta 6	San Francisco 7, Houston 6, 10 innings
Washington 2, N.Y. Mets 1	San Diego 6, L.A. Dodgers 2
Chicago White Sox 8, Detroit 4	L.A. Angels 6, Oakland 0
Chicago Cubs 7, Cleveland 1	Pittsburgh at St. Louis, postponed
Tampa Bay 8, Boston 2	

American League				
East	W	L	PCT.	GB
N.Y. Yankees	11	6	.647	-
Tampa Bay	10	8	.556	1.5
Baltimore	8	7	.533	2.0
Toronto	6	8	.429	3.5
Boston	6	11	.353	5.0
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Minnesota	11	7	.611	-
Detroit	9	6	.600	0.5
Cleveland	10	8	.556	1.0
Chi. White Sox	9	9	.500	2.0
Kansas City	7	11	.389	4.0
West	W	L	PCT.	GB
Oakland	12	6	.667	-
Texas	7	9	.438	4.0
Houston	7	10	.412	4.5
L.A. Angels	7	11	.389	5.0
Seattle	7	12	.368	5.5

National League				
East	W	L	PCT.	GB
Miami	7	4	.636	-
Atlanta	11	8	.579	-
Washington	6	7	.462	2.0
Philadelphia	5	7	.417	2.5
N.Y. Mets	7	11	.389	3.5
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Chi. Cubs	11	3	.786	-
Cincinnati	8	9	.471	4.5
Milwaukee	7	8	.467	4.5
St. Louis	2	3	.400	4.5
Pittsburgh	3	13	.188	9.0
West	W	L	PCT.	GB
Colorado	12	5	.706	-
L.A. Dodgers	11	7	.611	1.5
San Diego	11	7	.617	1.5
San Francisco	8	11	.421	5.0
Arizona	7	11	.389	5.5

WNBA standings

Tuesday's games	
Las Vegas 98, Indiana 79	
Minnesota 68, Washington 48	
Los Angeles 93, New York 78	

Eastern Conference				
Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
Chicago	5	3	.625	-
Washington	3	5	.375	2.0
Indiana	3	5	.375	2.0
Connecticut	2	6	.250	3.0
Atlanta	2	6	.250	3.0
New York	1	7	.125	4.0

Western Conference				
Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
Seattle	7	1	.875	-
Las Vegas	6	2	.750	1.0
Minnesota	6	2	.750	1.0
Phoenix	5	3	.625	2.0
Los Angeles	5	3	.625	2.0
Dallas	3	5	.375	4.0

NBA standings

Tuesday's games	
Brooklyn 108, Orlando 96	Boston 122, Memphis 107
San Antonio 123, Houston 105	Portland 134, Dallas 131
Phoenix 130, Philadelphia 117	Sacramento 112, New Orleans 106
	Milwaukee 126, Washington 113

Eastern Conference				
Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
e-Milwaukee	56	16	.778	-
a-Toronto	51	19	.729	4.0
x-Boston	48	23	.676	7.5
se-Miami	44	27	.620	11.5
x-Indiana	43	28	.606	12.5
x-Philadelphia	42	29	.592	13.5
x-Brooklyn	35	36	.493	20.5
x-Orlando	32	40	.444	24.0
Out of playoff contention				
Washington	24	47	.338	31.5
Charlotte	23	42	.354	29.5
Chicago	22	43	.338	30.5
New York	21	45	.318	32.0
Detroit	20	46	.303	33.0
Atlanta	20	47	.299	33.5
Cleveland	19	46	.292	33.5

Western Conference				
Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
w-L.A. Lakers	52	18	.743	-
x-L.A. Clippers	47	23	.671	5.0
nw-Denver	46	25	.648	6.5
sw-Houston	44	26	.629	8.0
x-Oklahoma City	43	27	.629	8.0
x-Utah	43	28	.614	9.0
x-Dallas	43	31	.581	11.0
Portland	34	39	.466	19.5
Memphis	33	39	.458	20.0
Phoenix	33	39	.458	20.0
San Antonio	32	38	.457	20.0
Out of playoff contention				
Sacramento	30	41	.423	22.5
New Orleans	30	41	.423	22.5
Minnesota	19	45	.297	29.5
Golden State	15	50	.231	34.0

e - Clinched Eastern Conference a - Clinched Atlantic Division se - Clinched Southeast Division

w - Clinched Western Conference nw - Clinched Northwest Division sw - Clinched Southwest Division

High-scoring first half not enough for Fever against Aces

The first half of Tuesday night’s Fever matchup with the Las Vegas Aces was the highest scoring half of basketball during this shortened WNBA regular season. Indiana went into the locker room trailing 60-59 after shooting 61 percent from the floor through the first half.

Candice Dupree poured in 15 of her game-high 20 points in the first half, but it was not enough as the Aces took the

first meeting this season, 98-79. It was Dupree’s second game this season leading the Fever in scoring through eight games played.

The Fever ended the night with three others scoring in double figures. Tiffany Mitchell shot 6-of-15 for 14 points, while Teaira McCowan added 12 points. to go along with eight rebounds. After her second best career scoring night on Sunday,

Kelsey Mitchell pitched in 11 points.

Lauren Cox led the Fever reserves with a career-best seven points in just her fourth game this season.

For the Aces, veteran Angel McCoughtry led Las Vegas with 20 points as six Aces finished in double figures. McCoughtry ended the night 9-of-10 from the field. Despite shooting 5-of-17 on Tuesday night, A’ja Wilson still managed

to record 12 points and 10 rebounds in her first game since being named WNBA Western Conference Player of the Week on Monday.

Jackie Young came off the bench and added 17 points, four rebounds and three assists on only 6-of-7 shooting.

Indiana and Las Vegas will conclude the 2020 regular season series on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

RIVERS

Once during an early visit to the high school, Pate and Steve Rivers were chatting in the field house ahead of a Golden Eagles practice.

Coach Rivers asked Pate if he had a moment to watch some old film of his team from over a decade back.

“Sure?” Pate said.

The overhead projector fires on.

Rivers “shows me this old highlight of an Athens running back breaking through the line of scrimmage for a 70-yard touchdown run,” Pate recalled. “Then he rewinds the tape, hits for ‘play’ again, and says, ‘Now keep an eye on the sideline. You see that little boy sprinting, nearly step for step, alongside our speedy running back? You see him feverishly waving that white towel over his head as he runs? Coach, that is Philip.’”

He was 7 years old at the time. Pate is adamant he never promised Rivers the starting quarterback spot as a freshman during the recruiting process. Although, in the back of his mind, he knew the Wolfpack wouldn’t have a solidified No. 1 when he arrived on campus for his freshman season.

During the previous spring, a visit to an Athens practice showed Pate all he needed to see. At that time of the year, college staffs were not permitted to speak directly with their recruits. After an invite from Coach Rivers to stand on the practice field, right behind the huddle, Pate stopped talking and just listened.

Play after play, one voice rang with the tone of the ACC’s future all-time leading passer.

“I would hear Philip say, ‘Now this play is going to work, if everyone just does what you are supposed to do, it will work,’” said Pate.

Eventually leaving Athens with all the game film he

needed, Pate noticed another critical puzzle piece. That odd, three-quarter motion delivery? It is going to play just fine, moving forward.

“Not one pass I saw him throw during a high school game got batted down at the line of scrimmage and looking back at NC State, it never was a problem either,” Pate said.

Had Rivers been only 5-feet-10, he may have had to call a significant audible. Soon, Wolfpack Offensive Coordinator Norm Chow would consult with then Seattle Seahawks Head Coach Mike Holmgren about Rivers motion.

Ultimately, Chow received the quarterback guru’s blessing: Don’t change a thing. Philip was ready to charge ahead — as Philip. Rivers signed with NC State and immediately found his form in Raleigh. Mission complete for Coach Pate.

It is important to note that the runner-up in the race for Rivers turned out to be the Ole Miss Rebels, not Auburn, according to Pate.

Rebels Head Coach David Cutcliffe was prepared to potentially bring two freshman quarterbacks to Oxford, Miss., in 2000. The other was Eli Manning.

“I wonder how things would have played out had Philip and Eli both arrived together at Ole Miss?” Pate said.

Coach Pate still laughs about that one. Instead, we watched the pair trade jerseys to open the 2004 NFL Draft.

Top overall pick Manning bolted from the Chargers for the Giants in exchange for the No. 4 selection — Rivers sporting his dad’s old No. 17 and headed for San Diego.

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A couple years earlier, Pate had returned to Athens to scoop up a promising offensive tackle, James Newby.

Newby, who happened to live three houses down the road from the Rivers, stuck with the Wolfpack despite an offer from Alabama and his farming family’s allegiance to the Crimson Tide.

Looking back to their high school days, Newby pointed out Rivers would sometimes disappear on the Athens sidelines when the offense wasn’t on the field. Where did he go? He is with the defense. Playing safety.

“He was ferocious,” Newby recalled. “He just knew how to read the play, anticipate where the ball was going. I don’t think a lot of people know about that story.”

His defensive days are done, but down in Alabama, some legends live on forever. Everyone we spoke with closed their interview with virtually the same line: Philip deserves a grand finale and, with the Colts, he can pull it off.

“I’ll see you at the Super Bowl,” Creasy said.

With this great of a tale already on paper? Why not?

