



(From left) Hamilton County Commissioners Steve Dillinger, Christine Altman and Mark Heirbrandt were present at Thursday's opening of the new interchange at State Road 37 and 126th Street in Fishers.

Caravan opens new interchange at 126th Street & State Road 37

By LARRY LANNAN
[LarryInFishers.com](#)

126th Street has been closed to east-west traffic at State Road 37 since late February, but as of Thursday, motorists are getting their first look at the newly-constructed interchange.

East-west traveling vehicles will cross SR 37 on an elevated roundabout. SR 37 traffic heading north and south will not be impeded at 126th Street as an underpass has been constructed underneath that roundabout.

This is the first phase of the massive State Road 37

project in Fishers, and there is much left to be done. Construction has already begun at 146th Street and SR 37 and that work is projected to continue well into 2022. Bids will be let on the reconstruction of 131st Street and SR 37 within a month or two, with work

expected to begin next year. The design phase for the SR 37 and 141st Street interchange should be completed soon, with bids expected to be opened about one year from now.

The project is over

See Open . . . Page 2

Join Carmel for virtual "Light up the City" event

The REPORTER

With enhanced lighting features in the heart of the city and along the Monon Greenway, the City of Carmel will introduce the annual tree lighting virtually this year.

Designed to lift the spirits of the community, the new "Light up the City" virtual event was developed after the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the need to adjust holiday celebrations.

Join virtually at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, when the City will air a prerecorded video of the lighting, hosted by Carmel City Council member Jeff Worrell, music from Actors Theatre of Indiana and

the Carmel Symphony Orchestra and, of course, Santa and his pals. The video will be aired on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [CarmelTV](#).

"Given the current state of this pandemic, we recognized the need to create ways people can enjoy our annual holiday traditions safely," said Nancy Heck, Director of the Community Relations and Economic Development Department. "We eagerly long for a return to our large in-person events, but our first priority is the safety of our community."

For the latest updates on this year's holiday activities and attractions, check out [this Facebook page](#) or visit [HolidaysInCarmel.com](#).

Get your 'test before turkey' on Monday at Trinity Free Clinic

The REPORTER

An alarming increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases has many Hoosier families facing tough decisions about holiday gatherings.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the Indiana State Department of Health, and the Hamilton County Health Department recommend celebrating Thanksgiving with only immediate family; but for those who choose to gather despite the warnings, Trinity Free Clinic in Carmel is providing free COVID-19 testing from 7 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 23. They call it the "Test Before Turkey."

"The best thing you can do is avoid group gatherings for Thanksgiving this year," Trinity Free Clinic Executive Director Mel Wischmeyer said. "But if you do choose to gather, everyone should get tested, then commit to quarantining until the big day to avoid bringing the virus to grandma and grandpa's house. That's not a perfect solution, but it does provide some peace of mind. Nothing is 100 percent protective except isolation."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the lowest-risk Thanksgiving plans include celebrating

See Test . . . Page 2

Commissioners declare disaster emergency

Declaration could provide state, federal financial assistance

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Commissioners have declared a local disaster emergency and authorized the furnishing of aid and assistance through the Hamilton County Emergency Operations Center. The local ordinance (Ord. No. 8-23-10-B § 3, 8-23-2010) was signed Friday morning and will remain in effect until Friday, Nov. 27.

Hamilton County has taken the necessary precautions to protect its community, employees and volunteers, but the rising

number of positive COVID-19 cases has placed an immeasurable strain on resources and could soon exhaust emergency funding.

"Unfortunately, with the spike of COVID cases in the county and Central Indiana the Commissioners foresee the need for additional resources to deal with this pandemic," Commissioner Christine Altman said. "The Emergency Declara-



Altman

tion will enable the county and our Emergency Management Agency to move quickly to procure necessary supplies, personnel and equipment and to qualify for emergency funding."

The disaster emergency declaration provides the Executive Director of Emergency Management the power to coordinate response and recovery as well as request assistance and potential reimburse-

ments from the State of Indiana as well as the appropriate federal agencies. A disaster emergency declaration must be reapproved every week.

"In the meantime, we ask everyone to take action to protect themselves and as importantly to protect others from this virus," Altman said. "Our mission has been and will continue to be the health and well-being of our residents. We hope that everyone will consider the impact to our friends and family in how we celebrate the upcoming holidays."

Local teens ask students to "Show Some C.L.A.S.S."

The REPORTER

Seniors from four Hamilton County high schools have partnered with the Hamilton County Health Department to launch an educational campaign designed to keep kids in school. Called "Show Some C.L.A.S.S.," the campaign outlines five basic rules students and families should follow to help keep children healthy and in the classroom:

C – Check your child's temperature every morning before sending them to school.

L – Lead by example. Be sure to wear a mask and model good social distancing.

A – Avoid social gatherings. Slumber parties, carpools, and birthday parties are discouraged.

S – Schedule a test if you or someone in your family exhibits signs of COVID-19.

S – Stay home until you receive your test results or if you are not feeling well.

Together, Teen Task Forces from Carmel High School, Hamilton Heights High School, Sheridan High School, and Westfield High School have helped spread the C.L.A.S.S. acronym among their peers by producing educational videos, making daily announcements, creating school banners, and taking over the Health Department's social



Photos provided

(Top left) Carmel High School: Tyler Young, Jasmine Hsu, Lillian He and Jack Ducat. (Top right) Hamilton Heights High School: Jade Voltz, Olivia Yott, Erik Malott, Josh Russell and Kim Trese. (Bottom left) Westfield High School: Benji Welch, Peighton Isley and Jake Richardson (not pictured: Sarah Weglarz and Elary Detamore). (Bottom right) Sheridan High School: Cameron Hovey, Cole Bales, Leah Moorman, Megan Lunn, Allie Delph and Lillie Dickerson.

media accounts.

For Megan Lunn, a senior at Sheridan High School, her involvement in the project is personal.

"I was one of the first students in school to get COVID-19 back in September," Lunn said. "I underestimated the severity of the

virus and wasn't wearing my mask or social distancing. The 10 days I was sick were some of the worst of my life. I wouldn't wish this on any-

one else and want to share my story so perhaps others can prevent getting sick."

Olivia Yott and her fellow classmates at Hamilton

Heights High School just returned to school this past week after a recent outbreak

See CLASS . . . Page 2



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OPEN

budget. Mayor Scott Fadness insists the city can fund the project shortfall by borrowing once a municipal bond is paid off in 2024, therefore not impacting the city's property tax rate.

At Thursday's opening, there was not a traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony in lieu of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, a caravan of vehicles opened up the road officially, with the first vehicle driving through the ribbon.

"It's rewarding to see the hard work that has been done thus far and the magni-

tude of the improvements on SR 37 at this stage," Fadness said in city news release. "This section will reduce congestion and streamline traffic flow, providing a safe intersection for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians."

State Road 37 will continue to be open during all remaining phases of construction, with two northbound and two southbound lanes open during each phase. There will be closures on side roads with alternative routes always accessible. All interchanges within this improvement project are sched-

uled to be complete in 2023.

"We appreciate the patience and adaptability of our local businesses and the community at large," County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt said. "A project of this size disrupts our day-to-day, but its positive impact will be felt by all of us for years to come."

The City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, Hamilton County, and INDOT are working together to improve the accessibility of SR 37 for local businesses, residents, and those driving into the city.

from Page 1

C.L.A.S.S.

of COVID-19 sent them home to learn virtually for two weeks.

"After quarantine, I realized how much we take being in school and being with our friends for granted," Yott said. "As a senior leader, I want to encourage all students to respect the rules and follow the guidelines, so we can continue to be in school and power through the uncertainty together."

"Our students are committed to staying in school," said David Woodward, Director of Student Services for Carmel Clay Schools. "Contact tracing tells us transmission is not happening primarily in our school buildings. So, the

real ask from these kids to their peers is to live by the C.L.A.S.S. acronym outside of the school building. It's going to take a village to keep our classrooms open and kids in school."

With the seasons changing, the flu and cold season gearing up, and winter sports scheduled to start soon, the Teen Task Forces will be critical in keeping teens informed. According to the Indiana State Department of Health, high school-age students are responsible for the largest number of new positive COVID-19 cases reported among those in the 0-19 age group.

"We're not naive enough to think that teens are look-

ing to the Centers for Disease Control or the Health Department for COVID-19 guidance," said Tammy Sander, creator of the Show Some C.L.A.S.S. campaign. "They get their information from very different sources than adults, so for this campaign to be successful, we knew we'd need to meet them where they're at. That's why the Teen Task Forces have been such an integral part of the campaign."

The C.L.A.S.S. campaign has also enlisted the help of teachers, local libraries, youth sports organizations, and parent-teacher organizations. For those interested in learning more, visit showsomeclass.org.

from Page 1

TEST

only with those who already live in your home or hosting a virtual dinner with friends and family. Returning college students who live away from home should not be considered part of the household. Upon their return, everyone in the household should wear masks when together and avoid contact with those outside their homes for 14 days.

Medical Operations Director Cindy Love offers these tips to increase safety for those who do choose to host Thanksgiving this year:

- If possible, eat on the patio or deck, even if you have to wear a jacket.
 - Open windows whenever possible.
 - Wear masks until mealtime and maintain social distancing of six feet.
 - Be vigilant about hand washing.
 - Avoid sharing serving utensils; consider pre-plating meals.
- "While we are happy to provide pre-Thanksgiving testing, it's important to remember that a negative result is only negative for that

day," said Love. "Everyone should remain cautious and careful not to spread the virus to help prevent an empty chair at next year's Thanksgiving table."

Although walk-ins will be accepted, the clinic recommends booking appointments for COVID testing in advance. Trinity Free Clinic is located at 1045 W. 146th St., Carmel. To register for free COVID testing at Trinity Free Clinic or anywhere in the State of Indiana, visit scheduling.coronavirus.in.gov.

from Page 1

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I was born and raised right here in Noblesville. I grew up in a home without domestic violence or assault - it wasn't something I saw, or even heard about. But when I was introduced to Prevail of Central Indiana, I was shocked by the number of individuals who are affected by domestic violence. In 2018 alone, Prevail helped more than 4,000 clients in Hamilton County. (Nearly 80 percent of clients are women and children.) Domestic violence and abuse are hard topics to discuss, so you don't often hear about them. But at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, we're breaking the taboo and raising awareness for Prevail, an organization that helps families in Hamilton County.

— Mike Bragg, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville

To help Hamilton County families affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse, you can donate the following items:

- Individually packaged snacks
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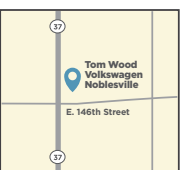

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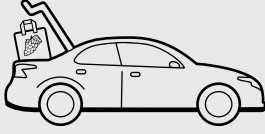
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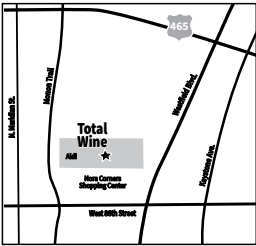


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Letter to the Editor

LWV thanks community for 2020 election efforts

Dear Editor:

In the recent election season in Hamilton County, more than 75 percent of registered voters exercised their civic privilege, with more than half of those voters choosing absentee or early voting. And they did so during a pandemic that complicated nearly every aspect of the voting process, a feat that reflects dedication of the voters themselves as well as community organizations.

The League of Women Voters of Hamilton County appreciates these community partners whose flexibility and practicality assisted voters in not only getting to the polls, but also provided important information.

First, we thank all the employees at the Hamilton County Election Office, who shared information that the League passed on to voters through its social media and other outlets. The office assisted with data for the League’s Vote411.org website, which features election data, poll location information and candidate platforms.

County libraries helped the League stage its customary candidate forums,

which were pre-taped this year due to the pandemic. Staff at Carmel Clay Public Library, Hamilton East Public Library and Westfield Washington Public Library helped with publicity and technology, while League volunteers served as moderators.

Many of the candidates themselves generously provided information and shared their views for the League’s Vote411.org website and the forums, which featured questions submitted by the public. We appreciate their willingness to work with the League on these projects.

Finally, we value our members, who each year organize the series of forums, compile databases and other data for the Vote411.org site, and work to inform voters of polling locations, hours and policies. During the pandemic, this work has been challenging and rewarding.

To our community, we hope you will follow us as we gear up the next legislative session. Find us on [Facebook](#) or on our website, lwvhcin.org.

Lisa Dick
President, League of Women Voters of Hamilton County

Letter to the Editor

Peterson explains role of Noblesville Plan Commission, differences with Council

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Noblesville Common Council and the city’s Plan Commission, I want to be fully transparent regarding all processes and actions on this committee. This committee determines a considerable amount of the new buildings that come into the city, and it has a huge effect on our community.

What is the Noblesville Plan Commission and how is it different from the Common Council?

The Noblesville Plan Commission meets on the third Monday of every month at City Hall. This commission helps to shape the city’s growth, and helps the Common Council develop and update City Ordinances, the Comprehensive Plan, the Thoroughfare Plan, and other long-term plans for the city. The Plan Commission consists of 11 voting members and conducts public hearings for land use zoning and land subdivision activities. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Plan Commission.

While the Plan Commission helps to advise the Council on the growth and development of the city, all approved spending or city ordinances must first go through the city’s Common Council.

The Common Council is the legislative branch of our city government. The Council’s primary functions are to pass the laws (ordinances) of the city and to approve the city budget. The Common Council consists of nine members. Of these nine members, three are elected across the city (at large) and six are elected according to certain areas of the city (districts). Common Council meetings are open to the public. To learn more about the Common Council or to see a schedule of meetings, please [click here](#).

Starting a new major project in Noblesville

When a private business chooses to locate, grow, or develop in Noblesville, they must seek approval to build a new building within the city.

Any private company or land owner has the right to meet with the city’s staff about a proposed property improvement. While the private company gets advice and discusses the project idea, the project is not considered “public.” The private company may choose to discuss various ideas with the city in order to match compliance with a variety of standards, ordinances, rules.

When, and if, the private company meets criteria to move forward, it is packaged for transparent and full disclosure in a public presentation.

Pursuing project approval

When the project is ultimately presented to city staff, it does not always get immediate approval. The city staff first makes a recommendation for approval, denial, or no recommendation after the presentation. If a project is denied by city staff, it just means the project has room for improvement before it is presented publicly.

Next, the private business has the choice to either present the project publicly or improve the project first and re-present the project to city staff.

Taking a project public

When a project goes public, the project is typically presented to the Plan Commission first. Before the public presentation, the information is posted on the city’s website three to five days before the meeting. During the meeting, the Plan Commission then votes on the project as “favorable”, “unfavorable” or “no recommendation.” Regardless of a “favorable” or “unfavorable” vote, it is up to the private business to then decide if the project should advance to the next step or be revisited for improvements again.

Getting approval from the Common Council

Only after all of these steps does a private business then have the option of presenting their proposal to the Common Council. The Common Council has the authority to approve or disapprove of projects. If a project receives approval from the Common Council, the private business can then begin collecting land permits, utilities permits, etc. so they can start building the new project.

It is very exciting to see so much positive and professional community engagement because this is how a community shapes itself. I encourage everyone to check the city’s website frequently for updates, projects and agendas to stay accurately informed. If you are interested in learning more, my email address is dpeterson@noblesville.in.us.

Darren Peterson
Noblesville

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Carmel City Hall remains closed to public indefinitely

The REPORTER

As the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise, Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard has extended the closure of City Hall until further notice. In Hamilton County during the past 50 days, there have been 48 COVID-related deaths. People are strongly encouraged to adjust their holiday plans and take precautions to avoid exposures.

Due to the increased numbers of COVID-19 patients in area hospitals, local health care workers are again putting in longer-than-normal hours. As

a result, the Feed the Frontlines effort is gearing back up to provide hot meals to those facing the daunting tasks of tending to COVID patients in Carmel hospitals.

“We must remain diligent in our fight against this disease as our hospitals fill with people suffering from COVID-19. This is not the time to relax our standards. We need to limit our social interactions,” Brainard said. “It is very tempting with Thanks-



Brainard

giving just around the corner to think that celebrating together with family or a small group of friends is harmless. Our data shows that the opposite is true. It is the in-home gatherings that are causing the increase in COVID cases and deaths. The sacrifices we make now can save the lives of loved ones so that you can celebrate for many more years to come. We need to remain resolute in our determination to protect our community for

a little while longer.”

State and county officials may elect to close the businesses and limit streets to essential travel only if infections continue to spiral upward; however, Brainard says he hopes that drastic restrictions won't become necessary.

Brainard says he will continue to closely monitor the situation and determine if City Hall can safely be reopened to the public in the coming months. In the meantime, all city services will continue and meetings will be held virtually unless specifically noted otherwise.

Westfield, prepare your political jousting sticks

Editor's note: The following Op-Ed column is provided to the Reporter by Marla Ailor, who serves as Vice President of the Fiscal Conservatives of Hamilton County. In this column, Ailor details her understanding of the current state of the Grand Junction Plaza project in downtown Westfield.

In this past week's Westfield Redevelopment Commission (RDC) meeting, commission members were updated on the Grand Junction Plaza.

Once touted by Mayor Andy Cook as what would be Westfield's “crown jewel,” it's a six-acre, \$35 million dollar park in the center of downtown West-

GUEST COLUMNIST



MARLA AILOIR

field. In a brief statement, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Todd Burtron, said, “I think it's important to note that obviously the project has brought a lot of attention; with some individuals in our community, it's become a political jousting stick.”

While we can't be 100 percent sure what he meant, we are prepared to wield our collective lances and take the first jab at the status of the project.

Blaming the conditions of the construction market, Burtron went on to note that cost overruns beyond initial estimates are “not unique to public projects, particularly in Hamilton County.” Having exhausted the entire \$35 million dollar BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) borrowed for Grand Junction, these major attractions have been excluded from the budget allowances: The ice rink, the stage structure, and the majority of the vertical structures including the trailhead building and a café. Having paid Land Collective, LLC \$4,174,839.82 (from 2014 to current), one might say it was a wasteful use of money given someone's decision to remove or delay the amenities David Rubin spent so much time designing. Thus far, that “someone” seems to be Mr. Lollar and the Mayor.

Commission member Bob Beaudry expressed his concerns, saying, “We're getting a lot less than what was presented to us, as a public,” and “It disturbs me, what's happening here.” To which Public Works Director Jeremy Lollar responded, “No one is more frustrated than me.”

While the permanent ice-skating rink has been excluded from the park,

Lollar is making plans to investigate the costs of a temporary structure, much like those used at Carmel's Palladium and Noblesville's Federal Hill Commons. As for the vertical structures, the plumbing and electrical work is being roughed-in and piles are being set in the foundations for the structures. This means that DESPITE BEING OUT OF MONEY, there are plans to complete them, one way or another. (There wouldn't be any need for the rough-ins otherwise.)

In 2019, The Westfield Current's **Anna Skinner** wrote, “The \$35 million would fund the entire project – everything from landscaping and playground equipment to construction of the amphitheater, ice skating rink, trailhead and more. The \$35 million also accounts for issuance and interest costs, which amount to \$4 million.”

Yet we know from the RDC meeting the playground equipment is being paid for via park impact fees and the remainder of the amenities promised will need to be “phased in” or paid for using alternative resources estimated today between \$9 and \$13 million dollars (to build the vertical structures originally promised).

Also in a 2019 article, written by **Braden Ochs for Towne Post Network**, Grand Junction Task Force member Teresa Skelton said, “We didn't just want a park, we have parks and they're wonderful. We wanted a ‘wow factor.’” Most residents should be left saying, “Wow,” not because of the gem-of-a-park Westfield leadership has built, but rather, because of the damaging authoritarian behavior being paraded as power and influence, which hasn't been able to help avoid to the massive funding shortfall or aid in any-

one's ability to complete the project as promised.

To add insult to injury, in the final two minutes of the RDC meeting with many questions remaining, the commissioners were threatened with the task of approving the third and final GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) for Grand Junction. Commission Chairman Joe Plankis said, “Ladies and gentlemen, we need to move on this because, otherwise, construction will stop tomorrow.”

Evidently, Mr. Plankis' fellow commission members actually believed him.

Westfield's Finance Committee and City Council plan to hear these updates at their upcoming meetings on Dec. 1 and Dec. 14, respectively, but all you can view the **RDC meeting on YouTube** (beginning at timestamp 30:53) to know where this project stands today.

If you have concerns or questions about being over-promised and underwhelmed by the status of the Grand Junction Plaza or its funding, we recommend reaching out to the **City Council** and asking them, “Where did the \$35 million go?” The current council members certainly aren't the people to blame, but we feel they have a fiduciary interest in getting the answers.

The Fiscal Conservatives of Hamilton County is a multi-partisan organization of Hamilton County residents who are volunteers focused on fiscal policy and fiscal issues. It is free of outside control by any individual, organization or group. It exists to distribute opinions on issues affecting Hamilton County residents. Opinions expressed in signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of all members of the FCoHC or its board members.

Community News

Sheridan Public Library offering COVID-safe way to meet Santa

A drive-thru visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 5 at Sheridan Public Library, 103 W. 1st St.

Visitors will have an opportunity to enjoy Santa while remaining safely in their vehicles. Children are encouraged to bring their lists. Craft bags and toys will be handed out during this event. Sheridan Public Library thanks Carmel Kiwanis for their donation of wonderful wooden toys.

Visit sheridan.lib.in.us for more information.

AG Curtis Hill hosts productive discussion about mental health and law enforcement

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill at a forum held Thursday morning

stressed the need to dig deeper into the psyches of both police officers and the citizens who interact with those officers. Understanding what prompts certain behaviors by police and understanding why some citizens are apprehensive about law enforcement can help foster healthier interactions between the two groups, Hill said.

Hill emphasized this point to begin a forum about the intersection of mental health and law enforcement. Several prominent health and law enforcement officials from Indiana joined Hill at The Bridge Forum, titled “Beyond the Stigma.”

In his keynote address, U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams said the events of 2020 – from the COVID-19 pandemic to nationwide protests against police violence – have had detrimental effects on all Americans' mental health. That includes police officers, who already encounter mentally taxing situations in their daily lives, Adams said.

Just as the death of George Floyd impacted communities of color, responses to that tragedy impacted the psyches of officers and their loved ones, Adams said. These events “viciously feed on one another” and can affect officer behavior, Adams said.

“Mental health is no different than physical health. We simply cannot separate the head from the rest of the body,” Adams said in his address.

Dr. Benjamin Chavis, a longtime civil rights leader who was an assistant to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., moderated a panel discussion about mental health and law enforcement. The panelists were:

• Dr. Virginia A. Caine, director of the Marion County Public Health Department

• Ryan Mears, Marion County prosecutor

• David Certo, Marion County Superior Court judge

• Jim Bontrager, Elkhart Police Department senior chaplain

During the panel discussion, Mears said “defunding the police” is not a good idea, and stressed that it is important to provide officers with the tools they need to more effectively respond to incidents in which mental health is a factor. Mears said the idea of “defunding the police” gives officers the impression that some citizens believe their services lack importance. This negatively impacts officers' mental health, he said.

“We need the police now more than ever, but we need to make sure that we're giving them the tools that they need,” Mears said.

Judge Certo highlighted the Mobile Crisis Assistance Team (MCAT) program in Indianapolis, which allows mental health professionals to accompany officers who are responding to subjects with mental health issues. Judge Certo said Indianapolis is a national leader in this regard and added that the program shows that communities can use limited resources in an effective manner.

Chrystal Ratcliffe, president of the Indianapolis NAACP, and Anthony Mason, president and CEO of the Indianapolis Urban League, were special guests at the forum.

The HeroZona Foundation assisted the Office of

See Hill . . . Page 6

Meeting Notices

The Noblesville Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020, at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville. Seating is limited to 50 people, but the public can also call (469) 998-6201 and enter conference ID 752-486-56# when prompted.

The Westfield Washington Schools Board of Trustees will meet in an executive session to receive information about and interview prospective employees, IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(5); and to train school board members with an outside consultant about the performance of the role of the members as public officials, IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(11); at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020, in the Community Room at Washington Woods Elementary, 17950 Grassy Branch Road, Westfield.

The Noblesville Common Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020, at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville. Seating is limited to 50 people, but the public may call (469) 998-6201 and enter conference ID 798-843-266# when prompted. Prior to the public meeting, an executive session will be held at 5 p.m. to discuss economic development and land acquisition, and a work session will follow at 6:45 p.m.

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Chase Patrick Scanlon

November 3, 1999 – March 24, 2020

Chase Patrick Scanlon, 20, Carmel, passed away on March 24, 2020. He was born on November 3, 1999 in Rochester, N.Y., son of John and Angela Scanlon.

Chase was a 2017 graduate of Carmel High School. Most recently, he was studying Informatics at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Survivors include his parents; Jay and Angie; sister, Lexi; maternal grandparents, Bill and Jean; and paternal grandparents, Jim and Donna.

A Celebration of Life Mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 28, 2020 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church. A reception will immediately follow the service.

Masks are required in following the CDC guidelines.

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

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

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Robert L. Huber

June 11, 1938 – November 18, 2020

Robert L. Huber, Carmel, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 18, 2020 at the age of 82. Bob was born June 11, 1938 in Clarksville, Ind., to the late Lewis F. Huber and Oma (Brown) Huber.

He moved to Carmel in 1947 and graduated from Carmel High School in 1956. In Carmel, Bob participated in basketball and track where he set the county record in the mile. More importantly, while there he met his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Judith Ann Ferrin. Bob and Judy were married in 1958 and shared 62 wonderful years together. In 1970, they moved their family to a farm in Westfield so Bob could pursue his passion for farming. If you only met Bob for a few minutes, you knew that he was proud of being a farmer. In 2000, he sold the farm, retired, and moved back to Carmel.

His passion for farming was also displayed by the numerous organizations he was involved with and supported, including President of the Hamilton County Extension Board, Indiana Pork Producers President, Honorary Commissioner of Agriculture appointed by Lieutenant Governor John Mutz, Indiana Future Farmers of America Foundation Board, President of the Hamilton County Farm Bureau Co-op Board of Directors and Member of the Hamilton County 4-H Foundations. His involvement and community support outside of farming included: President of the Carmel United Methodist Church Board of Trustees, Member of the Carmel Masonic Lodge, Indianapolis Scottish Rite, Indianapolis Murat Shrine, along with a member of the Carmel Clay Dads Club and Booster Club.

Bob is survived by his wife Judy and sons, Rich (Jane) and Mike (Michelle). He was also very proud of his six grandsons, Brad, Mark (Darlene), Matt (Liz), Grant, Kyle (Ashley) and Ryan, who will sorely miss spending time with their Papaw.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, November 23, 2020 at Carmel United Methodist Church, 621 S. Rangeline Road. A private family burial will follow in Carmel Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests in memory of Bob, memorial donations be given to the Hamilton County 4-H Council, Inc., 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville, IN 46060. Envelopes will be available at the service.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family in arrangements.

Condolences: BussellFamilyFunerals.com

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day. And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off. And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

Acts 27:29-35 (KJV)

HILL

from Page 5

the Indiana Attorney General in organizing and executing this forum. You may watch the forum in its entirety by visiting the [Hero-Zona Foundation's Facebook page](#). The forum was sponsored by the Indiana Drug Enforcement Association, the Indianapolis Urban League, the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis, Indianapolis NAACP Branch #3053, the National Newspaper Publishers Association and Vitanya Brain Performance.

While it has long been important to encourage conversations surrounding mental health, the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened many Americans' mental health. Researchers at the University of Oxford found that **nearly one out of every five people** diagnosed with

COVID-19 has been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder within three months of their coronavirus diagnosis. The [World Health Organization](#) says it is "normal and understandable that people are experiencing fear in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic."

If you or someone you know is in a crisis, help is available. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides support for people experiencing suicidal thoughts and can be reached at 1-800-273-8255. Individuals who are experiencing domestic violence may call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). The United Nations says **violence against women has increased** during the pandemic.



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Sports



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Noblesville, Carmel, Westfield, Sheridan, Hamilton Heights, Fishers, University, Guerin Catholic, Hamilton Southeastern

Football . . .

'Rocks return to state



Reporter photos by Kirk Green

The Westfield football team is headed back to state, this time to play in the Class 6A state championship game. The Shamrocks won the 6A north semi-state Friday, beating host Merrillville 41-23.

Westfield breaks away from Merrillville in the third quarter, claims program's fourth semi-state championship

By **RICHIE HALL**

MERRILLVILLE - The Westfield football team hasn't trailed much in games over the past few weeks.

But in the instances when the Shamrocks are behind, they eventually get it figured out. Such was the case again in Merrillville's Demaree Stadium on Friday night, where Westfield broke free from the Pirates in the third quarter of the Class 6A north semi-state game.

The 'Rocks eventually won 41-23, claiming the program's fourth semi-state championship. It also gave Westfield a ticket to play in the state finals, and it will be the Shamrocks' first-ever appearance in a 6A state final.

"It's amazing," said junior Micah Hauser. "And it's the one thing that our entire class, the classes above me and my class. We've been talking about that for years. Ever since we were in fifth and

sixth grade, that's our main goal. That's all we've ever thought about and to actually be doing it right now is amazing."

In order to get to state, Westfield had to get past a Merrillville team that is just as explosive on offense as the Shamrocks are. The Pirates proved that when their quarterback, Angel Nelson, threw a 43-yard pass to JoJo Johnson for the first score of the game.

The 'Rocks answered on their next drive, which ended with the first of six Westfield touchdowns. Maximus Webster saw Reid Schepers waiting in the end zone, and Webster tossed a 12-yard pass which Schepers calmly collected to get the Shamrocks on the board. Sean Sullivan's extra-point kick tied the game at 7-7.

Westfield's defense stepped up on the

See 'Rocks . . . Page 8



Westfield's Jackson Wasserstrom celebrates with a teammate after catching a touchdown pass.

IHSAA

Girls Basketball



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Reporter photos by Kirk Green

Westfield's Micah Hauser scored a fourth-quarter touchdown for the Shamrocks during their 41-23 win over Merrillville in the Class 6A north semi-state game. Hauser battled through injuries to help Westfield return to the state finals.



The Westfield players and coach Jake Gilbert celebrated after winning the semi-state trophy and advancing to the Class 6A state finals. This will be third time in the past eight years that the Shamrocks will play at state; Westfield made it to the 5A title game in 2013 and 2016.

'ROCKS

next drive, forcing Merrillville to turn the ball over on downs. The Shamrocks then marched down the field, using mostly the ground game, but Webster stepped up, completing four passes that totaled 10 or more yards. Webster finished the drive with a three-yard run into the end zone. The Shamrock defense set up the next touchdown. Kyle Pape intercepted a Pirates pass that gave Westfield the ball on the Merrillville 20. That's all that was needed, as Webster threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Jackson Wasserstrom. The Pirates would answer with a six-yard touchdown throw from Nelson to Marcus Hardy, but Westfield was in front 20-13 at halftime. Merrillville's Austin Pupek kicked a 29-yard field goal midway through the third, keeping the Pirates within 20-16. But Westfield made a sudden spurt after that to take over the game. Webster started things off with a powerful 48-yard run into the end zone, aided by Hauser making a pancake block. Merrillville then fumbled on the first play of its next drive, giving the 'Rocks

the ball at the Pirates 14. A couple plays later, Webster was back in the end zone after a two-yard run. "I think we figured them out a little bit better," said Westfield coach Jake Gilbert. "That's a good football team. We had a couple playmakers make plays. Micah Hauser had a huge block. Maximus had a huge run." Gilbert called that play a catalyst for his team. "From that point on, we really played well," he said. Westfield had one more touchdown to score, and that would be the opening play of the fourth quarter. Carson Voorhis got the 'Rocks into the red zone with a 22-yard run. Hauser did the honors on the next play, making a nine-yard rush into the end zone. "Once I got in, there was nothing but adrenaline and love for teammates," said Hauser. "That just kept me going." Hauser was unable to play in last week's regional game due to injuries on his left ankle and right knee, but got back in for the semi-state. "I can't feel anything right now with

all the adrenaline, but it's totally worth every bit of it," said Hauser. Merrillville scored one more touchdown with 2:19 left in the game, when Lavarion Logan made a six-yard run. But Westfield had the game in hand by then, finally getting past the dangerous Pirates. "They stopped us in short yardage a couple times," said Gilbert. "We fumbled once when we could've really taken the game over. That happens. We got to just keep chopping wood and our guys had the resolve to know we're playing all the way through to the finish. We did what we do, eventually." Webster completed 10 of 15 passes for 126 yards, while rushing for an additional 130. Wasserstrom had the most catches with four, while Voorhis totaled 64 yards rushing. Sullivan made five extra-point kicks on the night. Westfield is now 12-1 and will play Center Grove next Friday for the 6A state championship. The Trojans beat Ben Davis 48-13 to win the 6A south semi-state.

from Page 7

WESTFIELD 41, MERRILLVILLE 23

Score by Quarters					
Westfield	7	13	14	7	- 41
Merrillville	7	6	3	0	- 23

Team Stats	WF	MV
First Downs	16	21
By Rush	9	12
By Pass	6	7
By Penalty	1	2
Rushes-Yards	38-223	36-175
Yards Passing	128	193
Comp-Att-Int-TD	11-16-0-2	13-30-2-2
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	7-45	8-42
Punts-Average	2-28.5	4-31.5

Westfield scoring

First Quarter
3:39 - Reid Schepers 12-yard pass from Maximus Webster (Sean Sullivan kick)
Second Quarter
7:28 - Webster 3-yard run (Sullivan kick)
3:09 - Jackson Wasserstrom 20-yard pass from Webster (kick blocked)
Third Quarter
4:13 - Webster 48-yard run (Sullivan kick)
3:16 - Webster 2-yard run (Sullivan kick)
Fourth Quarter
11:53 - Micah Hauser 9-yard run (Sullivan kick)

Westfield individual stats

Rushing: Webster 18-130, Voorhis 11-64, Ryan Creager 2-19, Hauser 1-9, Porter Rode 4-11, Hunter Harris 1-0, Cole Ballard 1-minus 10.
Passing: Webster 10-15-126, Ballard 1-1-2.
Receiving: Wasserstrom 4-71, Schepers 3-32, Voorhis 2-19, Nic Depasquale 1-7, Piening 1-minus 1.

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Friday night football scores

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CLASS 6A

Westfield 41, Merrillville 23
Center Grove 48, Ben Davis 13

CLASS 5A

Zionsville 27, Valparaiso 9
Cathedral 32, Castle 7

CLASS 4A

Hobart 49, Marion 20
Roncalli 42, Mooresville 14

CLASS 3A

Bishop Chatard 18, Mishawaka Marian 13
Danville 30, Southridge 7

CLASS 2A

Bishop Luers 42, Pioneer 34
Western Boone 42, Evansville Mater Dei 7

CLASS 1A

South Adams 42, Lafayette Central Catholic 9
Covenant Christian 55, West Washington 8

State finals schedule

Friday, Nov. 27

11 a.m. - 2A championship, Bishop Luers vs. Western Boone
3 p.m. - 4A championship, Hobart vs. Roncalli
7 p.m. - 6A championship, Westfield vs. Center Grove

Saturday, Nov. 28

11 a.m. - 1A championship, South Adams vs. Covenant Christian
3 p.m. - 3A championship, Bishop Chatard vs. Danville
7 p.m. - 5A championship, Zionsville vs. Cathedral

Girls basketball

Royals win in OT

Hamilton Southeastern toughed out an overtime win at Fort Wayne Carroll on Friday, by the score of 51-47.

The Class 4A No. 4 Royals led 11-6 after the first quarter, breaking the Chargers' full-court press. Southeastern then led 27-23 at halftime, but Carroll took control in the third, allowing the Royals only two points.

As a result, the Chargers led 30-29 after three periods. Southeastern trailed by three with less than a minute to go,

but converted a three-point play to tie the game, then made a defensive stop in the last seconds. The Royals then used free throws to ice the game in overtime.

Riley Makalusky scored 13 points to lead HSE, followed by Lydia Self with 10, Ryan Viele with nine, Makayla Hinchaw and Lauren Stewart with six each and Olivia Brown with five.

Southeastern is 4-0 for the season and plays next Friday at Carmel.

Huskies beat Lebanon for season-opening win

The Hamilton Heights girls basketball team finally got to play its first game of the season on Friday.

It was worth the wait for the Huskies, who traveled to Lebanon's Rosensthal Gymnasium to take on the Tigers. After falling behind in the first quarter, Heights came back in the second period, and eventually won 48-43.

The Huskies trailed 13-7 after the first, but roared back in the second to lead 20-18 at halftime. Freshman Camryn Runner helped out with nine points in that quarter, including two 3-pointers. Heights then held on the second half, outscoring the Tigers 15-11 in the fourth period. Jillian Osswald took over the game in that half, pouring in 20 points.

Osswald was the Huskies' leading scorer with 22 points, while Runner finished

with 15. Ella Hickok added eight points.

Heights will go back on the road tonight to play at Danville.

HAMILTON HEIGHTS 48, LEBANON 43

Heights	FG	FT	TP	PF
Ella Hickok	3	1-2	8	1
Jillian Osswald	7	7-9	22	3
Camryn Runner	6	1-2	15	2
Syd Runyan	0	0-1	0	3
Kaylee Rhoton	0	0-0	0	3
Hadleigh Cherry	1	0-0	3	2
Cassidy Felger	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	17	9-14	48	14

Score by Quarters

Heights	7	13	13	15	- 48
Lebanon	13	5	14	11	- 43

Heights 3-pointers (5) Runner 2, Hickok 1, Osswald 1, Cherry 1.

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