

Concerned Noblesville citizens ask officials to reconsider bypass plan

Noblesville Bypass Coalition asks Jensen to evaluate Pleasant Street alternative route to prevent job loss, increased costs

The REPORTER

A group of concerned citizens of Noblesville is asking Mayor Chris Jensen to take time to evaluate his suggested alternative route to extend Pleasant Street west over the White River. The Noblesville Bypass Coalition charges that the Mayor's plan would add an unnecessary roundabout and force a major employer out of Noblesville. Their campaign is called "Pick The Right Route."

The Coalition is being led by IDI Composites International, a high-tech manufacturer in Noblesville, and its employees

who say they will have no choice but to move from their current location on 7th Street where they have been for over 50 years.

Mayor Jensen is proposing a new alternative to the Pleasant Street Extension called B-1 that adds a second roundabout within 100 yards of the first roundabout at 8th St. and then cuts through IDI's campus. The Coalition supports an extension of Pleasant Street to reduce traffic through downtown Noblesville, but they do not believe the Mayor has taken enough

time to evaluate his suggested route to find the best alternative. The B-1 alternative route is intended to go around the newly designated historic neighborhood of Plum Prairie.

"We believe there are better alternatives to what the Mayor is suggesting, but he seems unwilling to listen to his constituents to find the best solution," said Tom Merrell, President and CEO of IDI Composites International. "We value our community and we want to stay in Noblesville. But if Mayor Jensen's plan is approved, we will be forced to

move our facility in which we have invested over \$15 million since 2012. The Mayor's Pleasant Street Extension design ruins both the functionality of our operations and the desired visual aesthetic we wish to convey to our high-tech, Fortune 500 visitors from around the globe."

IDI Composites International, which began in 1966, employs almost 100 people at its manufacturing, research and development, and world headquarters in Noblesville at an average

See Bypass . . . Page 2

Jensen says IDI is misrepresenting facts

"It is disappointing to see a long-standing Noblesville business misrepresent facts and information about the project. The Mayor's Office and the project design team have met with IDI representatives on at least eight occasions to discuss the project, get their input, and adjust our project plans to minimize the impact on their operations. We have accommodated or offered solutions for all of their operational concerns. To suggest that the city has not listened to IDI's concerns is simply false. The project alignment, which has been approved by the state, impacts only the south portion of IDI's parking lot, representing around 15 percent of their total property.

We have made multiple offers to find and improve alternative parking solutions that would provide a net increase in space and parking capacity. Let me be clear – we do not want IDI to leave the City of Noblesville, and we remain committed to working with them to find an agreeable solution while moving forward with this vital infrastructure and public safety project. Our project design does not require the company to relocate. In the unfortunate event that they end up leaving the city, it will be their choice and not anything that was forced upon them."

– Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen



Noblesville city officials explain new bypass route

The REPORTER

Editor's note: This story was updated at 12:57 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 27.

A statement issued to the Reporter by Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen on Wednesday explained the city's consideration for re-routing the planned Pleasant Street Bypass.

The City of Noblesville's statement said the following:

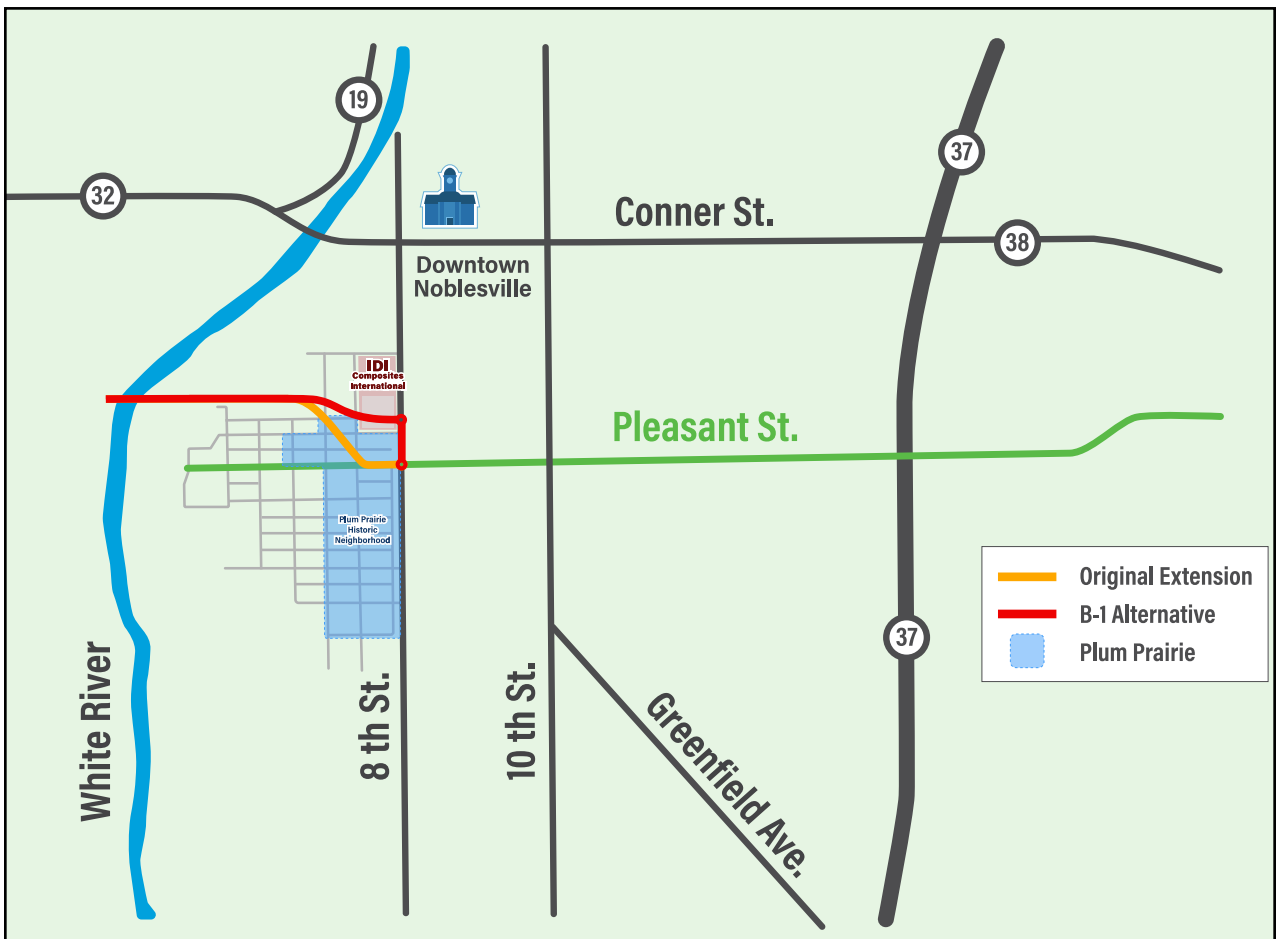
"The city has been analyzing a new East-West Corridor for more than 30 years. In-depth analysis, design work and consideration of alternative alignments has been performed in coordination with our team of environmental, historic preservation, and infrastructure design professionals, for many years.

"The B1 alignment was identified as the only feasible route to meet the purpose and needs of the project and serve the greater good of the entire community. The B1 alignment was approved

following the extensive environmental process that is required by the state and federal governments.

"This process and the relevant factors has been explained in Public Information Meetings and Community Advisory Committee meetings. A copy of the city's preferred alternatives analysis is available on the city's website at [this link](#).

"As we have explained to IDI and others, it is our understanding following extensive consultations with State and Federal government representatives that the B alignment, which cut through the middle of the Plum Prairie Historic District, would disqualify Noblesville from not just state and federal funding for all three phases of this project, but could also disqualify Noblesville from state and federal funding for all future projects, a risk we do not believe is appropriate or in the best interests of our residents."



Map provided

Noblesville city officials say that the original planned extension would not have been able to receive state or federal project funding because it ran through the Plum Prairie Historic District. The new planned extension, called "B-1 Alternative" runs through part of the property currently owned by Industrial Dielectrics, Inc. See Page 2 for a letter from IDI President and CEO Tom Merrell addressed to Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen, as well as numerous local, state and federal officials.

Fishers Health Dept. officials expect COVID cases to triple over next month

By LARRY LANNAN
[LarryInFishers.com](#)

If you want to know just where Fishers stands with the COVID-19 outbreak, check out the [latest video](#) from Monica Heltz of the city's Health Department. During five days in the past week and a half, the city has registered 100 positive COVID tests on each of those five days.

The Fishers Health Department is forecasting positive COVID cases tripling locally before Christmas. "That would mean possibly 2,500 to 6,500 new cases over the next month, which is pretty serious," Heltz said.

Local hospitals are seeing a decrease in the number of Intensive Care Unit beds available, and more of those beds are taken by patients testing positive for COVID.

Bottom line: Local Fishers COVID transmission continues to see a rapid increase, according to Heltz.

The demand for testing at the Fishers testing site has been on the rise. As of Monday, Nov. 23, it takes two to four days to get an appointment and one to five days to receive the results.

The state and county health departments have issued rules, but in Fishers, the public health order is generally more restrictive compared to the state and county.

All this leads the Fishers Health Department to encourage local residents to be careful during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Carmel Mayor Brainard participates in phone call with Biden, Harris

The REPORTER

On Monday afternoon, Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard joined other mayors on a call with President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris to discuss priorities. The call was facilitated by the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM). [Click here](#) to read the full USCM release.

members of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board of the USCM. Brainard is serving as a Trustee and Co-chair of the Energy Independence and Climate Protection Task Force for the USCM. Also joining the meeting was the incoming Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Julie Chavez Rodriguez.



Brainard

The call included mem-

See Call . . . Page 2

HSE Schools Foundation prepares for Giving Tuesday

By LARRY LANNAN
[LarryInFishers.com](#)

It has been tradition for many years that the Tuesday following Thanksgiving is designated as Giving Tuesday. It is a day when non-profit organizations make a special appeal to spread holiday cheer their way.

The Hamilton Southeastern Schools Foundation is getting a head start with

continuing their annual fundraising campaign for Giving Tuesday.

Teachers in local schools are toiling under some very tough working conditions during this pandemic, and a gift to the foundation is a way of saying thanks. The HSE Schools Foundation has been supporting teachers, students and the work they all do in classrooms (and, in this environment,

also from home virtually). This year's campaign includes encouraging a "Sunselfie Sign" once you donate.

See below for the information from the foundation on how to participate Tuesday, Dec. 1:

STEP 1: Make a donation online at hsefoundation.org.

STEP 2: Post a pic or video proclaiming why you

gave using the [Unselfie sign](#). Use #HSEUnselfie and tag @hsefoundation on social media on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

STEP 3: Feel good about yourself this holiday season. Because of you, local schools, teachers and students will not only benefit from foundation funding and initiatives, but also feel the support from the entire community.

Happy Thanksgiving from The Reporter!

In order for the staff at The Reporter to enjoy the holiday with their families, we will not publish a Friday edition this week. The Reporter will resume its normal publishing schedule on Saturday.



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Happy Thanksgiving!



Letter to the Editor

An open letter to the Mayor of Noblesville

Dear Mayor Jensen,

On Thursday, Nov. 12, representatives of Industrial Dielectrics, Inc. (IDI) attended an open meeting of the Community Advisory Committee regarding the proposed East-West Corridor Project on Pleasant Street.

Not one of the 20 or so people in attendance, other than the hired presenters of the Mayor, endorsed the City’s currently preferred route (Plan B-1), and many concerned questions were asked. At the conclusion of the meeting, the moderator said that the City would move forward at the next meeting to recommend Plan B-1, ignoring the entire discussion raised by the audience.

It became clear that the City and its contractors had already made up their minds and had no genuine intent to consider legitimate issues raised or alternatives.


This roadway will be used, hopefully, for the next 100 years, and the “best” plan needs to be developed. Apparently, no consideration will be given to concerns raised in this regard. With all due respect, it is more important to do this right than to do this fast. We need to pick the right route.

IDI endorses an improvement to Pleasant Street, generally along the lines of the route presented, with the following exceptions:

1. Mayor Jensen and the City must take the time to study alternatives to the suggested B-1 route to find the best solution. We do not believe the impact of the recently adopted Historic District designation has been evaluated in any detail in the existing plan.

2. Several alternative routes have been suggested, including one by a current City Council member, which are better for the driving public, can be achieved with only one roundabout instead of two, and with minimal displacement in the Historic District and to the IDI site.

3. Further study should be made of the new road’s alignment to avoid IDI from having to move its worldwide headquarters. IDI currently employs almost 100 workers at this location at an average salary of \$73,000. IDI has plants at two other locations in the United States (Iowa and Montana) as well as in Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, France, China and Mexico City. Since 2012, IDI has invested over \$15 million dollars to improve its Noblesville location to make it a suitable headquarters for visitation by the Fortune 500 companies with whom IDI does business, and to make it a more inviting facility to the neighborhood. Plan B-1 makes IDI’s Noblesville operation unworkable.



Merrell

IDI is proud of its Noblesville heritage, and to that end, has donated over \$1 million to community and civic projects in Noblesville over the last several years. But IDI expects the City to promote the best solutions to problems like this. Rather than rushing through a plan that is flawed, why not take the time to consider other alternatives in light of the issues created by the new Historic District.

Let’s work together to pick the right route.

Tom Merrell
IDI President and CEO

Cc: Noblesville City Council
Hamilton County Commissioners
Former Mayor Ditslear
State Representative Goodrich
State Senator Baldwin
Congresswoman-elect Spartz
Senator Mike Braun
Senator Todd Young
Commissioner Joe McGuinness,
Indiana Department of Transportation
Daniel W. Bortner, Director,
Indiana DNR
Jim Schellinger, President,
Indiana Economic Development Corp.
Brian Burton, President,
Indiana Manufacturer’s Association

BYPASS

from Page 1

salary of \$73,000 plus benefits. The company has said that it likely would not relocate in Noblesville due to the high cost. IDI has also contributed over \$1 million in community and civic projects in recent years.

Members of the Coalition attended a Community Advisory Committee meeting on Nov. 12 where consultants for the City presented its B-1 alternative route. Despite a number of questions and concerns from the audience, the consultants indicated that they had already settled on their suggested route.

The Coalition is asking the Mayor to slow down and study the best alternative rather than rush to get the B-1 route approved.

Pick The Right Route invites members of the public to view their website at picktherightroute.com.

CALL

from Page 1

“It is important to be able to have direct conversations with our nation’s future leaders to share with them how their decisions and direction will affect cities across the nation,” Brainard said. “During the call, we were able to talk about key issues facing our nation, review the response to COVID-19 and address cities’ needs for improvements to roadways and bridges. The new administration also expressed their desire to rejoin the global discussion regarding climate change. I look forward to continuing the conversation throughout the transition and during their term of office as they expressed a desire to create strong federal-local partnerships.”

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

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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:

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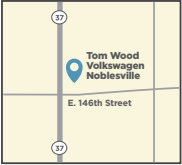

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Happy Thanksgiving, Hamilton County!



PrimeLife Enrichment, Inc. suspending on-site activities

The REPORTER

Due to the growing serious health threat of the coronavirus, PrimeLife Enrichment is suspending on-site fitness and social activities at its Center, located at 1078 3rd Ave. SW, Carmel, effective Wednesday, Nov. 25. The target date to lift the suspension is Jan. 18, 2021.

"Given the warnings from so many local, state, and national health ex-

perts about how serious the COVID threat will be over the holidays, we have decided to take this proactive step with the safety and health of our members and staff in mind," said PrimeLife Interim Executive Director Gary Wagner. "We will continue our popular online fitness and art classes, as well as our transportation service for medical and other essential trips. Currently, we also plan to

continue delivery of weekly lunches to seniors in need and will also offer virtual community outreach services. Our sincere thanks to all the seniors we serve and their families for their support and understanding as we look forward to re-instating our fitness and social activities on a limited basis in mid-January."

PrimeLife Enrichment has served Hamilton County seniors since 1977. Its

Carmel facility is the hub of services, programs and activities that enable county residents age 50 and beyond to lead healthy, active and productive lives, and stay in their homes.

For many seniors, PLE is the first line of defense against ageism and the physical and emotional health challenges seniors face. Visit our website at primelifeenrichment.org for more information.

Supt. Arrowood thankful for strong Heights community

With the Thanksgiving Holiday break upon us, I want to let you know how incredibly thankful I am for your support and cooperation during what has been one of the most challenging school years faced by Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

In this season of gratitude, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the people who work and volunteer to make Hamilton Heights an empowering place for our over 2,200 students. Every day, teachers, support staff, volunteers and administrators are prepared to provide impactful and meaningful learning experiences for our students.

I am thankful for all of our staff members who inspire our students, ensure they are well prepared for their futures, and have an undaunted commitment to keeping them happy, healthy, and safe; for our coaches who spend tireless hours teaching our young student-athletes not only a sport, but also what it means to be a good team member, have fun, and represent our school and community in a positive way; and for our students who generously give of themselves by doing their part to help make life a little better

for their classmates, friends, and neighbors.

I am also thankful for a community that is supportive, and generously contributes their time, talents, and treasure to provide the best for our students. I know I am surrounded by blessings as a member of the Hamilton Heights family and this community, and am beyond thankful for the many, many examples of good things happening in and around our district, too numerous to list. The point is our school system is full of wonderful, committed people and innovative programs that provide students with unlimited opportunities for success beyond our hallways that even a global health crisis cannot overshadow.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of this holiday by taking some time to unplug and care for yourself and your family. Thank you for doing your part to be mindful and safe in the season we are in. The decisions we make after school, on weekends, and during break impact our ability to keep our doors open and our students learning in school.

We look forward to seeing our students and staff back on campus after this break on Monday, Nov. 30. **#WeAreHuskies**

COLUMNIST



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD
Heights Superintendent

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON STRATEGIC PLAN AND GRANT APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that the Arcadia Town Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on December 7, 2020 at the Arcadia Town Hall located at 208 W. Main St., Arcadia, Indiana. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the creation of a new strategic plan and the submission of a grant application to the State of Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs to help fund it. Taxpayers of the Town of Arcadia appearing at the hearing shall have a right to be heard in respect to this project and its grant application. Dated this 27th day of November 2020.

TOWN OF ARCADIA

/s/ Jennifer Pickett, Clerk Treasurer

11/23/2020, 11/27/2020

RL3933

LEGAL NOTICE

Board of Zoning Appeals

The Cicero/Jackson Township Plan Commission will meet on December 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Cicero Red Bridge Park Community Building located at 697 West Jackson Street, Cicero, Indiana 46034, in order to hear the following petitions:

Docket No. PC-1120-015-AG

A Minor Subdivision with two (2) waivers application has been submitted concerning Article 4 of the Cicero/Jackson Township Zoning Ordinance in order to subdivide one (1) eighteen (18) acre parcel into two (2) nine (9) acre parcels. Waiver A - Petitioner is seeking relief from Article 4.2 that requires a shared drive.

Waiver B - Petitioner is seeking relief from Article 4.2 that requires a minimum drive separation of four-hundred fifty (450) feet.

Project Address: 0 East 266th Street Arcadia, IN 46030
Legal Description: Acreage 18.00 Section 18, Township 20, Range 4
The petition may be examined at the office of the Cicero/Jackson Township Plan Commission, 331 E. Jackson St., Cicero, IN 46034.

Interested parties may offer an oral opinion at the Hearing. However due to current social distancing guidelines seating will be limited. Therefore, interested parties are encouraged to file written comments. Comments may be mailed to Cicero/Jackson Plan Commission at P.O. Box 650 Cicero, IN 46034. Comments may also be dropped off in the Cicero Utilities payment drop box located at 331 E. Jackson St. Cicero, IN. Comments may also be emailed to ctaylor@townofcicero.in.gov. Comments must be received by 3:00 pm on the date of the hearing. Written comments will be read aloud during the public hearing and entered into the record of the Hearing.

The Hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary. Petitioner's Name: Paul Vondersaar Date: 11/23/2020

RL3948

11/26/2020

Letter to the Editor

Thank you to Mark LaBarr for generous \$1,000 donation to CICF support fund

Dear Editor,

This is the season of giving, and I have a wonderful story I would love share with your readers.

The coronavirus pandemic has hurt a lot of people in so many ways causing physical, emotional and financial harm. While there are some resources to help support those most impacted by the pandemic, I have found that students are among several groups where resources and sup-

port are lacking.

As a result, over the course of several months, I have partnered with the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF) and Meticulous Design + Architecture to establish a support fund for Ball State students of color to help subsidize costs for books, tuition, rent, food and other living expenses during this pandemic.

Mark LaBarr, Fishers resident and Community Relations Manag-

er for Duke Energy, has given our CICF support fund with a \$1,000 donation! During this season of giving, I would love to publicly express our gratitude for Mark and Duke Energy's generosity. Mark contributes so much to Hamilton County and it would be fitting to share that his generosity continues during this pandemic.

Lisa Sobek

Noblesville

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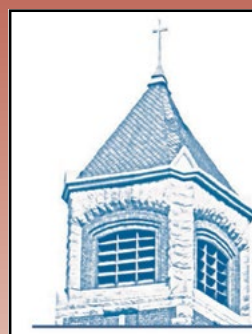


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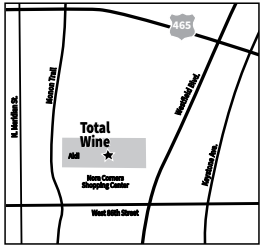
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Photo provided
(From left) Isabel Jensen (Carmel), Governor Eric Holcomb, Alana Halsted (Westfield), Gabe Anderson (Westfield), and Lucy Schenk (Guerin Catholic) were present at the statehouse when young people from across the state gathered for the kickoff of the vape-free Indiana program in January.

Students working to make their generation tobacco-free

The REPORTER

High school students from across the county have joined with the VOICE Indiana initiative to help educate their peers about the dangers of nicotine use and abuse in partnership with Breathe Easy Hamilton County.

The Reporter spoke with Breathe Easy Hamilton County Program Coordinator Stacy London about the work these young people have been doing and are continuing to do as they try to promote a tobacco-free generation.

VOICE Indiana is Indiana's statewide initiative to engage, educate, and empower teens to celebrate a tobacco-free lifestyle. The VOICE movement began in the spring of 2002.

According to London, VOICE Indiana Director Amanda Irizarry coordinates statewide actions like Red Ribbon Week, Indiana's participation in the Great American Smoke-out, and in May they will work on World No Tobacco Day. The local kids create initiatives for those

larger programs tailored for Hamilton County on their own.

"The kids decide what they are going to do. They have meetings and move forward with the goal of getting other youth to get involved," London said. "They have a core team that is selected from funded counties throughout the state. We have five youth that represent Hamilton County. They are commissioned to engage, empower and educate their peers on vaping prevention and getting involved in preventing smoking and vaping to hopefully be a tobacco-free generation."

The local group calls themselves The Action Five, a name they chose early this year when meeting Gov. Holcomb in Indianapolis during Holcomb's advocacy day for youth in January.

"While they were at the statehouse the kids asked if they could create an Instagram account and they did it that after they met the governor," London said. "Their social media kicked

off immediately and they have been using it to educate their peers."

One example of that is Noblesville High School's Kaelyn Hart and Maddie Stuckwisch, who designed and painted a mural for the Breathe Easy Hamilton County program, the banner version of which is being displayed in schools across the county.

"They are also working on meeting with local and state legislators," London explained. "State Sen. J.D. Ford, IN-29, has said he think he can meet with them as long as everybody wears a mask. State Rep. Chick Goodrich has said he would like to have a Zoom call with the kids. The kids are all really excited."

If you want to join Breathe Easy Hamilton County, email London at slondon_TPC@gsnlive.org or visit breatheeasy-hamiltoncounty.com for more information.

Information for parents and educators on the vape-free Indiana program is available at in.gov/vape-freeindiana.



Photo provided
(From left) Guerin Catholic High School Principal James McNeany, Riley Garrison, Kinley Callahan, Ben Grissom, JD Haskett, Jake Heck and Delaney Klee took a moment to pose for the camera with the Breathe Easy Hamilton County banner before proudly displaying it in their school. See more photos at ReadTheReporter.com.

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Meeting Notices		
The Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals – North District will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020, in the County Council Chambers of the first floor of the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.	The Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals – South District will not meet as scheduled on Dec. 9, 2020, due to lack of an agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021.	The Westfield Washington Schools Board of Trustees will meet in an executive session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020, in the Community Room at Washington Woods Elementary School, 17950 Grassy Branch Road, Westfield. The purpose of the meeting is to receive information about an interview prospective employees, IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(5).



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SCAN ME

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

Acts 28:4-5 (KJV)

James C. "Jim" Hession

November 20, 1947 – November 20, 2020

James C. "Jim" Hession, 73, Indianapolis, passed away peacefully on November 20, 2020. He was born on November 20, 1947 in Lafayette, son of the late George and Frances (Jarka) Hession and was a graduate of Central Catholic High School.

As a veteran of the U.S. Army, Jim was a helicopter pilot who served multiple tours in Vietnam. He was also a grateful member of AA for 40 years and served as the administrator of Progress House for several years.

In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by sisters, Veronica Parks and Helen Hession.

Survivors include daughter, Lauren (Nick) Jehs; five sisters, Mary Frances Hession, Theresa Caldwell, Ann Louise (Greg) Mauck, Alice Hession and Margaret "Margie" (Joe) Goodman; four brothers, George A. (Rose) Hession, Edward "Matt" Hession, Robert "Bob" Hession and Paul Hession; and more than 70 nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church.

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

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



AG Curtis Hill: Scammers are stealing Hoosiers' identities to claim unemployment benefits

The REPORTER

A growing number of scammers are filing claims for unemployment benefits using other people's names and identities, Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill said Monday. Over the course of 2020, he said, the Office of Attorney General has recorded an exponential increase in the number of consumer complaints involving this type of fraud.

The scammers are stealing personal information such as dates of birth, Social Security numbers and home addresses – and routing benefit payments to accounts over which the scammers have control.

"These deceivers steal the identities of others, who are generally employed, in order to file fraudulent claims," Hill

said. "If someone uses your name in this fashion, you may learn about it from your employer or from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, which processes unemployment claims. In many cases, payments may already have been regularly deposited into someone else's account by the time you learn of the fraud."

From April 18 to May 18 this year, the Office of the Attorney General received just three unemployment-related identity theft complaints. Cases trended upward throughout 2020, and from Oct. 18 to Nov. 18, the office received 157 such complaints.

Certain patterns seem to



Hill

indicate the scammers are targeting the identities of people they know are busy working during the COVID-19 pandemic, Hill said, such as doctors, nurses and others in health care.

While the wrongfully taken funds come from the public treasury, the person whose identity has been stolen by scammers can also suffer negative consequences. Besides having fraudulently filed for unemployment benefits, the scammers might also have the personal information needed to gain access to victims' bank and other accounts as well.

In addition, if left unresolved, these instances of fraud could interfere with

people's legitimate efforts going forward to apply for unemployment benefits should they lose their jobs.

If you learn that your identity has been fraudulently used in a claim for unemployment benefits, you should report it to the Office of the Attorney General via this [online form for reporting identity theft](#).

Additionally, you should report it to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development [via that agency's website](#). Finally, you should also file a report with local law enforcement and the Indiana State Police, which offers [an online form](#) that that can be filled out and emailed to uifraud@isp.IN.gov.

You may read more about this type of scam on the [Federal Trade Commission's website](#).

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

Boys basketball

Tough Tindley defense wears down Millers

By RICHIE HALL

NOBLESVILLE - There is quite a bit of potential for the Noblesville boys basketball team this season, but there are also quite a few things a relatively young Millers squad will need to learn.

Noblesville opened its season Wednesday at The Mill by hosting Tindley, another young team with a ton of potential. The Millers led for most of the game, but the Tigers' tough defense wore them down, allowing Tindley to take the lead in the fourth quarter and hang on for a 56-55 win.

"You got to give them credit," said second-year Noblesville coach John Peckinpaugh of the Tigers. "They came out and played hard. I didn't think we did a very good job of valuing the basketball and valuing possessions."

The Millers led for the entirety of the first half. Senior Josh Durham opened the game with a 3-pointer and two free throws, senior Noah Harris threw down an impressive slam dunk, and sophomore Luke Almodovar – talk about potential – scored on a layin and a 3.

Durham's layin was the last basket of the first quarter, which ended with Noblesville ahead 14-11. Almodovar drained another triple to open the second period, and he made another 3 with less than a minute in the quarter to give the Millers their largest lead at 27-18.

Durham and Almodovar are relatively new faces for Noblesville on varsity. Durham got into a few varsity games last season, while Almodovar was making his debut at the varsity level.

"Luke is very, very talented," said Peckinpaugh. "Really good athlete. Shoots it really well. He's got a bright future. He's been thrown in a role where he was a JV starter last year and now he's a varsity starter and has to assume some of that leadership that we lost with that senior class last year. I think he's only going to keep getting better."

Tindley's Jashawnn Bates made a 3-pointer to end the first half. Still, Noblesville led 27-21 at the break. In the third quarter, a 3 by Aaron Humphrey tied the game at 31-31, but two baskets by freshman Aaron Fine and a free throw from Harris got the Millers back ahead 36-31.

Peckinpaugh pointed out that for the majority of the game, Noblesville had two sophomores and a freshman on the floor. Almodovar joined fellow sophomore Preston Roberts, who was a solid varsity player for the Millers as a freshman, in a starting role. Fine came off the bench and provided many quality minutes.

"Those three are going to learn a lot, get better as the year goes on," said Peckinpaugh.

Harris, meanwhile, is one of three seniors on the Noblesville team this year. He joins Durham and Evan Wilson, who was out Wednesday night with an injury. Harris and Wilson were key players for the Millers last season, as were returning juniors EJ Smith and David Lloyd.

"Noah's been pretty good for us," said Peckinpaugh. "He had a great off-season. Just needs to step and be more of a vocal leader in the locker room and in practice. And then once we get Evan Wilson back that'll help a lot as well."

Noblesville led 38-35 going into the fourth, and Almodovar made a free throw at the beginning of the period to give the Millers a four-point lead. But the Ti-



Reporter photos by Kent Graham

Noblesville sophomore Luke Almodovar scored 20 points for the Millers in their season-opening game with Tindley Wednesday night at The Mill.

gers took over after that, tying the game on a Billy Brown 3-pointer, then finally pulling ahead with 5:08 left after Jayden Pinkston hit a free throw.

Bates gave Tindley its largest lead at 51-44 with three free throws, this after fouled during a 3-point shot attempt. Noblesville tried to make a comeback in the final minutes, with Roberts making a steal and a dunk with less than a minute left to get the Millers within 53-52. But Brown answered that with a 3-pointer to put the game out of reach.

"We got a young group and that kind of has shown in practice," said Peckinpaugh. "We've got to start to learn how to do it in practice first and value possessions in practice and that would hopefully carry over to games. We're not at that point. We got a long ways to go. I think we have a good group of kids. I think we're going to be able to win some games down the stretch. But right now, we're just not there yet."

Almodovar led Noblesville with 20 points, including three 3-pointers. Durham and Fine both added 10 points. All seven players that took to the floor for the Millers scored at least three points.

Noblesville is back at The Mill on Saturday to host Columbus East.



Noblesville sophomore Preston Roberts makes a dunk during the fourth quarter of the Millers' game with Tindley.

TINDLEY 56, NOBLESVILLE 55					
Noblesville	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Josh Durham	3	2-3	10	5	
EJ Smith	1	1-2	3	0	
Noah Harris	2	1-2	5	3	
Luke Almodovar	6	5-7	20	3	
Preston Roberts	2	0-1	4	3	
Aaron Fine	5	0-1	10	1	
David Lloyd	1	0-0	3	1	
Totals	20	9-16	55	16	
Score by Quarters					
Tindley	11	10	14	21	- 56
Noblesville	14	13	11	17	- 55
Noblesville 3-pointers (6) Almodovar 3, Durham 2, Lloyd 1.					

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Gilbert: "One of the most validating feelings in sports"

Westfield football preparing for Class 6A state championship game

By RICHIE HALL

When high school football fans talk about teams that consistently do well in the state tournament, it's easy to name schools that are usually always make it to the state finals.

These teams range from the Class 6A powerhouses like Carmel and Center Grove to the middle enrollment schools working their way up the class ladder - New Palestine has been a 4A and 5A state champion. There are also the small schools like Pioneer, which has been in four 1A championship games since 2014.

It's an elite list, and it's time to add one more program to it: Westfield. The Shamrocks were a 5A state finalist in 2013, then a 5A state champion in 2016. After winning state, Westfield made the jump to the biggest class, and now will play for a 6A state title, taking on Center Grove Friday night at Lucas Oil Stadium. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

By making it to back to the big game, the Shamrocks are now only one of 12 schools to qualify for a state championship game three times since 2013. Jake Gilbert, in his 10th season as coach of the Shamrocks, will be leading them down there again, as he did with the previous two appearances.

"It's been an incredible journey," said Gilbert. "Our first year we went 5-6 and people literally wanted to throw a parade in my honor. If that happens next year parents will want me fired. Expectations have raised to say the least."

That first year for Gilbert was 2011, so it was in third season that the 'Rocks made it to state. They lost to Cathedral 42-18, but it also marked the beginning of a great run for Westfield, as it won four consecutive sectional championships, culminating in a state championship in 2016. The Shamrocks beat Columbus East 16-13 to claim their first ever football state title.

The move to 6A in 2017 brought with it a few inevitable growing pains, but Westfield persevered and continued to build its program. Not only is the varsity having enormous success, but the Shamrocks' junior varsity and freshman teams both finished undefeated this season.

"Going undefeated on the Freshmen



Kirk Green/File photo

Westfield junior Micah Hauser leads the Shamrocks in rushing with 941 yards and 11 touchdowns and on defense with 100 tackles. Westfield plays Center Grove Friday night for the Class 6A state championship.

and JV level, winning our conference, and making it to the State Championship is evidence of years of daily work and character," said Gilbert. "Our program is clearly working and I am grateful for every youth, middle school, and high school player and coach who has helped us build this. We are trying to build an empire. I believe we are on our way. I hope I can pause for a second and enjoy that someday."

There hasn't been much time for Westfield to pause this week. The Shamrocks

are busy preparing for Center Grove, the undisputed No. 1 team in 6A.

The Trojans are 13-0 for the season and have only been truly challenged once during their unbeaten campaign. That was in Week 9, the final week of the regular season, when Cathedral led Center Grove late before the Trojans came back to win 17-13. The Irish are playing Zionsville on Saturday for the 5A state title.

Center Grove's other games have not been close. The Trojans beat Decatur Central 56-14 to open their season, then

cruised their way through the Metropolitan Conference. Center Grove's MIC game scores are as follows: Warren Central 20-0, Carmel 42-0, Ben Davis 35-12, North Central 47-0, Lawrence Central 66-0, Pike 57-14 and Lawrence North 28-13.

The Trojans have had little resistance navigating the post-season as well. Center Grove won Sectional 8 by beating Columbus North 42-7 in the semi-finals and Columbus East 55-7 in the title game.

See Westfield . . . Page 9

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Will run cross country and track . . .

Hamilton Heights' Maria Mitchell signs with Huntington University

Maria Mitchell, Hamilton Heights senior, has signed a letter of intent to run cross country and track for Huntington University in Huntington, Ind. Huntington University is a member of the Cross-roads League and is a NAIA athletic institution. She is the daughter of Matt and Michelle Mitchell.

Mitchell has been running since the sixth grade but says she didn't fall in love with the sport until her sophomore year. It was then when she realized what she was able to accomplish as an athlete. Since joining both the track and field and cross country teams at Hamilton Heights, Mitchell proved she was a force with which to contend. She has been able to further develop her skills by continuing to work hard every day whether running alone or with a group. "I try to think of the end goal that I ultimately want to accomplish and make every run count."

It has paid off for Mitchell in a big way. She was named to the All-Conference Cross Country Team all four years, All-State Track and Field (1600 and 800), was the 2019 Cross Country Fall Athlete of the Year, Individual Section Champion (2019), holds records in cross country for the 1600 and 800 meters and was the Cross Country Conference Champion three of her four years on the team.

Mitchell, who is a member of the National Honor Society, Kindness Club, student athletic advisory committee member, and attends Harbour Shores Church, will follow in her sister's footsteps as a HU Forester. "My sister, Molly, attended Huntington University and absolutely loved the atmosphere," said Mitchell, who is excited about college but is undecided about her major. "Huntington University seems to encompass a solid faith aspect along with strong academics and competitive athletics. In terms of athletics, the coach is building up a great cross-country program that I would like to be a part and continue to progress as a



Photo by Jen Kauffman

Hamilton Heights' senior and cross-country stand-out, Maria Mitchell, has signed a letter of intent to run cross country and track for the Huntington University Foresters in Huntington, Indiana. Mitchell (seated) is pictured with (left to right): Bill Trachtman, Hamilton Heights Cross Country Coach; Lauren Johnson, Huntington University Assistant Cross Country / Assistant Track & Field Coach; Nick Johnson, Huntington University Head Cross Country Coach; Todd Jones, Hamilton Heights Track and Field Coach; Travis Kauffman, Hamilton Heights Soccer Coach.

runner at the collegiate level."

Mitchell credits her parents as being a major influence as a student athlete. "My parents always support me and encourage me to be better in whatever I am doing," she said. "They display hard work and set a good example for me to follow. Another strong influence in my life is my brother Blaine, who helps me through the ups and downs. He gives me lots of advice and always believes I can

accomplish things that may seem way out of reach in my mind."

"Maria has been the poster-child for a dual sport athlete at Hamilton Heights," said Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights Athletic Director. "When I think of the sacrifices she had to make (along with her parents) to hustle to a Hamilton Heights girls soccer game immediately after finishing a tough cross country race, I'm always amazed that she did that... FOR

4 YEARS!! Then, after the exhausting fall dual sport season, she jumps in the pool to swim for Heights' Girls team and then in the spring, she runs track & field. The fact that she's not only a tremendous athlete but at the top of her class scholastically, speaks volumes concerning her work ethic, her drive and commitment to what's important. She is truly a special kid. Huntington College should feel privileged, that's for sure."

WESTFIELD

That set up MIC re-matches in the next two rounds, but CG got through those with no trouble: Warren Central 38-0 in the Regional 4 championship and Ben Davis 48-13 in the south semi-state.

"CG has a great program and culture," said Gilbert. "They have earned the right to be where they are over the course of years by developing their players and teams from the bottom up. This particular team has an amazing defensive line and a great pair of running backs among other things."

The Trojans' running backs are Carson Steele, who has gained 1,539 yards and scored 29 touchdowns this season, and Daniel Weems, who has rushed for 827 yards and eight TDs. Meanwhile, three Center Grove defenders have double-digit tackles for loss this season: Caden Curry with 21.5, James Schott with 11 and Trey Clark with 10. Curry leads the overall tackles list with 48.5 and has

the most sacks with eight.

Tayven Jackson is the Trojans' quarterback, and he has been very efficient, completing 105 of 167 pass attempts for 1,635 yards and 15 scores. Connor Delp is his top receiver with 38 catches, five for touchdowns.

Westfield will enter Lucas Oil Stadium on Friday with a 12-1 record. The Shamrocks lost their season opener to Cathedral 56-20, but have won every game since then.

Westfield beat Harrison 34-10 in Week 2, then sailed into Hoosier Cross-roads Conference play with wins over Zionsville 49-16, Noblesville 24-10 and Hamilton Southeastern 14-3.

Then came Week 6 and what is arguably the turning point of the Shamrocks' season. Westfield went to then unbeaten Brownsburg and won in overtime 43-42. The victory put the 'Rocks in the driver's seat of the HCC championship race.

Indeed, the Shamrocks put the pedal to the floor after edging out the Bulldogs. Westfield beat Avon 59-33 in Week 7, then claimed the HCC title with extraordinary dispatch in the final two weeks, beating Fishers 45-6 and Franklin Central 35-0.

In the post-season, the Shamrocks easily won Sectional 4 by beating Noblesville 35-0 in the semi-finals and Fishers 31-0 in the championship game, marking Westfield's third straight shutout. In the Regional 2 championship, Homestead got an early score on the 'Rocks before they snapped back to win 42-9.

After that was a trip to Merrillville for the north semi-state championship. The Pirates also put up some first-half resistance before Westfield took control in the third quarter and won 41-23.

"Friday night was awesome," said Gilbert. "We expected to win, so we weren't shocked to be in that situation, but when it actually hits you that after all the work you get the opportunity to play for a State Championship, it's one of the most validating feelings in sports."

from Page 8

The Shamrocks' main offensive threat is junior quarterback Maximus Webster, who has been outstanding both throwing and running the ball. Webster is 127-of-190 through the air with 2,023 yards and 27 touchdowns, and has rushed for 813 yards and scored 14 times.

Junior Micah Hauser is the busiest man on the Westfield team, as a stand-out both on offense and defense. He's also a leader, as he tops the rushing list with 941 yards and 11 touchdowns, and has the most tackles with 100, including three for a loss. Senior Mason Piening leads the receptions with 43, including 12 for TDs. Junior Popeye Williams has the most tackles for a loss with 10 and the most sacks with five.

"We had a good Monday," said Gilbert. "We spent time honestly addressing how to deal with the enormity of the moment, the venue, the opponent, etc., but then we got back to the simplicity of playing football. Every day is the last practice for that day of the week of the season. We are grateful that we get to end the year on our terms. Monday was a great practice."

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