

THURSDAY, JAN. 14, 2021

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Partly to mostly cloudy.
 Tonight: Cloudy. Rain showers, mixing with snow showers after midnight.
 HIGH: 43 LOW: 30



Noblesville HS honored for top athletic website in Midwest

The REPORTER

Noblesville High School recently received an award for being the "most deeply connected sports community" in the Midwest from VNN – the national sports media company who partnered with the Noblesville Athletic Department to develop and manage the official athletic website.

VNN analyzed the official athletic websites and platforms of more than 2,500 partner high schools in the nation and voted for national, regional and state champions based on criteria including: Posted website content popularity (clicks and likes), coach involvement (article posting and score reporting), and student body engagement.



Photo provided
 (From left) VNN Indiana State Manager Chris Brelage, NHS Sports Information Director Andrew Trisler, NHS Athletic Director Leah Wooldridge and VNN VP of Sales Chris Shidler of VNN.

The Noblesville athletic website has consistently been in the Top 20 most viewed websites in Indiana and Top 50 in VNN's national network. Chris Brelage, the Indiana State Manager, presented Chris Shidler, VNN's Vice President of Sales, and

Fishers approves \$3.2M contract for part of the Nickel Plate Trail

By LARRY LANNAN
 LarryInFishers.com

The contract for the next phase of the Nickel Plate Trail has been awarded to Meyer Najem. The Fishers Board of Public Works and Safety voted in favor of the \$3.2 million public-private partnership Tuesday.

Mayor Scott Fadness says the agreement calls for any cost savings to be split, with 80 percent going to the city and 20 percent to Meyer Najem. This agreement includes a pedestrian bridge, according to the mayor.

The board also voted to acquire



Fadness



Gebhart

vehicle license plate readers for the Fishers Police Department. Chief Ed Gebhart told the board 95 percent of the cost for this technology will be underwritten through grants. Gebhart

also said there are specific regulations on how this information is used. It will not be recording every vehicle at a given location and all data will be wiped clean after 30 days.

A change order of \$433,000 received board approval to handle unforeseen issues in replacing the concrete streets in Burberry Estates.

Finally, the board voted to allow the Department of Public Works to purchase a radio-controlled mower for just under \$50,000. The department told the board this mower will save the city roughly 600 hours a year, with a return on investment in about a year.

Three new members take their places on Noblesville school board

The REPORTER

Laura Alerding, Christi Crosser and Stephanie Lambert were officially sworn in as new board members at the Jan. 12 Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees meeting.

Laura Alerding was elected to the school board in November 2020 and began serving in January 2021. She is the owner of a promotional products business, Creative Promotions at Work.

Alerding holds a degree from Ivy Tech and has volunteered with several local organizations, including Nickel Plate Arts, Hamilton County 4-H, Riverview Hospital Foundation, Habitat for Humanity and the Hamilton County Juvenile Detention Center. She has an active election poll worker, precinct commit-



Photo provided
 (From left) Christi Crosser, Laura Alerding and Stephanie Lambert were sworn in as the newest members of the Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees.

teeman and treasurer of the Hamilton County Republican Women's Club. She has two grown children, four adult stepchildren and 18

grandchildren with her husband Jim.

Alerding will serve

on the following committees: Hamilton East Public Library, High Ability,

See School Board... Page 2

Noblesville partners with Patch Development to propose business park along State Road 37

The REPORTER

Mayor Chris Jensen announced his support on Tuesday for a new project that would create a master planned business and innovation park on 75 acres along State Road 37, north of 146th Street. Patch Development is proposing the Washington Business Park on currently undeveloped farm land.

"Washington Business Park will attract innovative



Jensen



Chittenden



Murray

and dynamic companies that create world class products and services that will add high-paying advanced

employment opportunities to the community and will provide a home for world class companies to easily

relocate to Noblesville," said Pat Chittenden, Owner of Patch Development.

The development plans provide the city flexibility with seven to 11 lots – ranging from two-acre to 22-acre sites. The buildings anticipated sizes range from 10,000 square feet to 250,000 square feet depending on the needs of the future tenants.

See Business... Page 2

Rep. Spartz releases statement on her impeachment vote

The REPORTER

Representative Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) made the following statement regarding her vote against articles of impeachment on Wednesday:

"I appreciate a variety of opinions, but any accusations must go through the proper due process, whether it is election fraud or an impeachable offence. As someone who did not



Spartz

support objections to the certification last week, I will not support this political charade today. The rule of law and due process are vital to what our Constitutional Republic stands for.

"Congress should stop playing divisive politics and start working on delivering good policies for the American people."

Video of Rep. Spartz's remarks can be found [here](#).

COVID vaccine open to those 70 and over

The REPORTER

The Hamilton County Health Department announced on Wednesday that Hoosiers age 70 and over can now begin scheduling appointments to receive the COVID-19

vaccine.

Appointments can be made at [ourshot.in.gov](#). Those needing assistance can call 211. A caregiver or loved one can also make an appointment on their behalf.

Heirbrandt heads Board of Commissioners for '21

By FRED SWIFT

ReadTheReporter.com

County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt has been elected president of the Board of Commissioners. He will serve during 2021 under the annual rotation system used by the three board members. Christine Altman served as the president in 2020. Steve Dillinger was elected vice president, and he will also serve as the chairman of the County Drainage Board.

The board held its reorganization meeting Monday.

Michael Howard will continue to serve as the board's attorney and Dan Stevens remains as director of commissioners' administration.

There were no changes in department heads under commissioners' jurisdiction. Bradley Davis continues as highway director and Jim Neal as county engineer.

Sheena Randall was

reappointed director of human resources.

Also reappointed was Stephen Wood as director of buildings and grounds, Chris Martens as manager of information systems, Steve Nagy as Weights and Measures inspector and Lisa Charles as Veteran Service Officer. Sean Fleck continues as representative to the county alcoholic beverage board.

There were two new members appointed to county library boards:

James Hunter for the Hamilton North Public Library and Jake Bates for the Hamilton East Public Library.

Dr. Bradley Sutter was reappointed to the county Board of Health and Steve Holt and Greg Murray will continue as Riverview Hospital trustees.

Larry Roudebush was named to a new term on the county park board, and Frank Habig remains on the county planning commission.

NHS Alumni Board cancels 2021 banquet

The REPORTER

The Noblesville High School Alumni Board at its Jan. 11 meeting made a decision by unanimous vote to cancel the 2021 NHS Alumni Banquet scheduled for April of this year.

The NHS Alumni Board released the following statement:

"We feel that your health and safety is our top priority. Since we have no way to determine what the future holds regarding the COVID-19 virus, and how long we should be concerned about holding large groups and meetings, we felt it would be irresponsible on our

part to hold an event that could put you at risk.

"We will still be mailing our annual newsletter in March paid members. We also will have a form in our newsletter for those of you who still plan on donating to our scholarship fund. We will miss seeing all of you. Hoping to see all of you again, next year on April 30, 2022.

"The mailing address for those that may not get our newsletter in March, but still want to contribute to our scholarship fund, or join the alumni association, is NHS Alumni P.O. Box 818 Noblesville, IN 46061."

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SCHOOL BOARD

from Page 1

Noblesville Redevelopment Commission, and Wellness.

Christi Crosser was elected to the school board in November 2020 and began serving in January 2021. She and her husband Craig own Nova 29, a property management company in downtown Noblesville.

Crosser attended Indiana University and has held leadership positions in the community with multiple organizations including: Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, Riverview Health Foundation, Meals on Wheels of Hamilton County, Prevail and the Crosser Family Foundation. She has also served with the Noblesville Redevelopment Commission, Noblesville Equity Advancement Team, Hamilton County Community Foundation Opportunity/Equity/Inclusion Committee, and the Boys and Girls Club of Noblesville. She is a 2019 graduate of the Noblesville Schools Miller Ambassadors program, has been a Noblesville resident for over 20 years and has two children who are recent graduates of Noblesville High School.

Crosser will serve on the following committees: Athletic Review, Diversity, and Safe Schools.

Stephanie Lambert was elected to the school

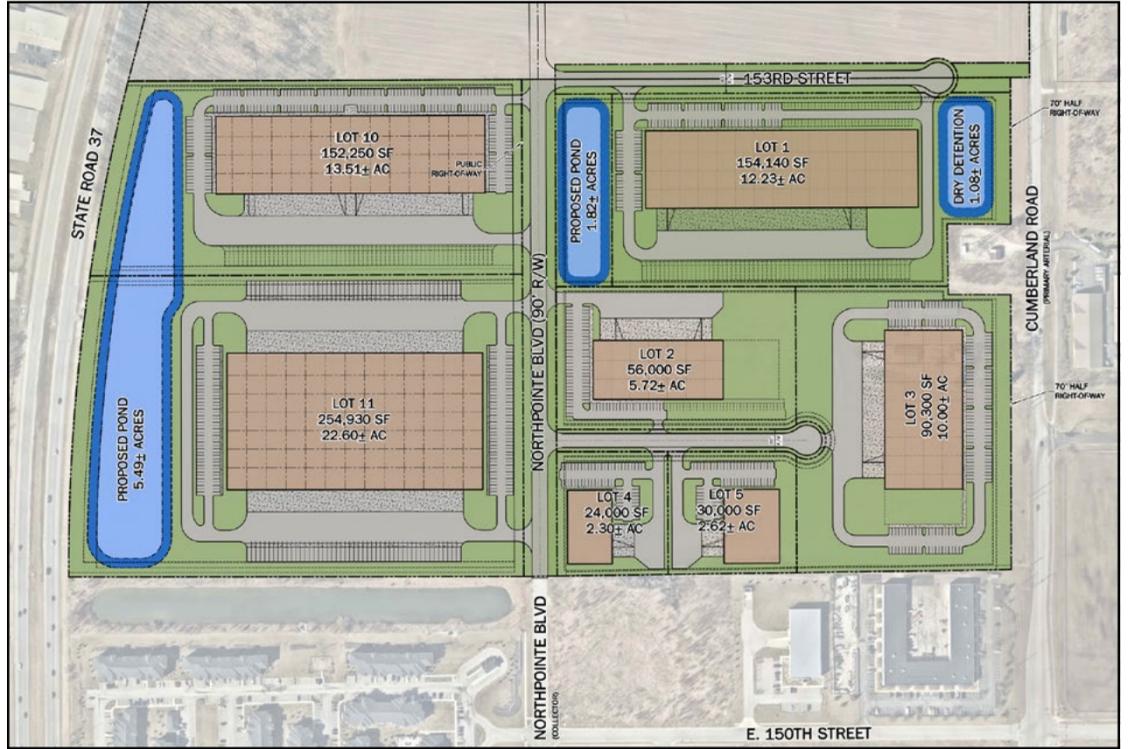
board in November 2020 and began serving in January 2021. She is a former forensic DNA analyst with the Indiana State Police and former substitute teacher for Noblesville Schools.

Lamber holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Indiana University-Bloomington and a master's degree in forensic science from the University of Alabama-Birmingham. She has served as a tutor with Noblesville Youth Assistance, treasurer of the Noble Crossing Elementary PTO, representative on the Noblesville Schools Elementary Digital Learning committee, and board member of the Noblesville Marching Millers Band Boosters. She is also a 2019 graduate of the Noblesville Schools Miller Ambassadors program and volunteers with Hamilton County as a court-appointed special advocate. She and her husband Nate attend Northview Church and have lived in Noblesville for 10 years. They have three children, a sophomore at Noblesville High School, an eighth grader at Noblesville West Middle School and a fourth grader at Noble Crossing Elementary.

Lambert will serve on the following committees: Attendance Review, Noblesville Youth Sports Alliance, and Safe Schools.

BUSINESS

from Page 1



Map provided

“We expect that more than 800,000 square feet of office/building will be developed within the next five years,” Jensen said. “We also anticipate more than 500 new jobs will come from building this business park.”

If approved, the city will pursue a \$6.7 million bond, which will be developer backed and purchased. The new area will

become a TIF district, where the proceeds will be split 65 percent with the developer and 35 percent with the city. Proceeds will be applied to utilities, stormwater and infrastructure improvements like the extension of North Pointe Boulevard and 153rd Street.

“Site selection and business location is a very competitive process.

Washington Business Park will make Noblesville even more attractive to companies as a result of this investment in infrastructure improvement,” said Noblesville Economic Development Director Andrew Murray. “Ultimately, it is about attracting the right jobs to Noblesville and having a response to the demand and importance of speed to market site and

facility options under our current environment.”

Murray said the project has zero risk to taxpayers.

The project plan and economic development agreement will be presented to the Noblesville Common Council at an upcoming public meeting.

The development team plans on breaking ground on the project this summer, if approved.

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WEBSITE

from Page 1

both the Midwest Champions Trophy and the Indiana State Champion Plaque to Athletic Director Leah Wooldridge and Sports Information Director Andrew Trisler.

The Millers are thankful to coaches for providing

rosters, results, and various other content, as well as the Noblesville community for their support of Noblesville students. Thank you also to retired Athletic Director Tony Oilar, who assisted in generating content for the website.



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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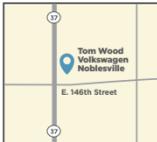

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Dining out (or carrying out) can make a difference

For some families, the COVID-19 pandemic has created added stress about work schedules, schooling and child-care. For others, the pandemic has turned their lives upside down.

The worry the pandemic brings to a family is real. It impacts those who get the virus, their loved ones and the health care providers that work hard to support them.

But the pandemic also has been difficult for the more than 17,000 employees who once worked in Hamilton County in the restaurant industry. Final totals won't be in until months from now, but it's likely that number of persons employed in the hospitality industry dropped considerably in the past year. Local tourism was down more than 35 percent through the end of 2020, which likely also impacted hospitality employment numbers.

Pre-pandemic, these chefs, servers, front-desk, and back-of-the-house support staff comprised more than 10 percent of the county's workforce, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

They work early in the morning, nights and on weekends so we can all enjoy their great food and hospitality.

The Associated Press (AP) reports that nationally, higher-wage workers have actually seen an *increase* in available jobs in 2020, while these front-line workers who hustle to serve have seen available work decline more than 20 percent.

The AP also reports that nationally, spending on restaurants and hotels is down more than 36 percent compared to January 2020. It is estimated that almost 29 percent of all small businesses that closed

GUEST COLUMNIST



BRENDA MYERS
Hamilton County
Tourism President/CEO

during the lockdown have not yet reopened. Many of these are restaurants.

Hamilton County Tourism's *The Great Dine Out* promotion is one of many community-sponsored campaigns seeking to encourage dining out or in during the coming bleak weeks of winter – at a time when the pandemic and challenging weather would likely inspire us to stay home and heat a frozen pizza.

Our community has already lost several iconic restaurants to this crisis. Statewide, one in five restaurants already has closed. These are the very places that make a community *home*. These are where birthdays, graduations and anniversaries are celebrated. Where memories are made.

We hope you will thoughtfully and purposefully plan to increase spending at our local restaurants as much as your budget will allow this winter. If dining “in” does not feel comfortable to you, almost every restaurant has developed creative ways to take their delicious food “out” for you to enjoy safely at home.

And while you're at it, tip generously if you can.

That front-line employee working on a frigid Saturday night to give you safe curbside service for your delicious pub burger or breaded tenderloin deserves our thanks and welcome support.

We know you're up for this challenge, Hamilton County. You got this.

Thank you for supporting our local restaurants, breweries and hospitality establishments so that next summer they'll be there for you to enjoy.

Visit DineOutHamiltonCounty.com to learn how you can make a difference.

Meeting Notices

The Hamilton County Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, in the County Council Chambers / Commissioners' Courtroom on the first floor of the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville. An executive session will precede at 6:30 p.m.

Only 12 members of the public will be allowed to attend due to COVID-19 restrictions. You can also listen to the meeting by calling (219) 225-8177 and entering conference ID# 584-168-238.

The Noblesville Common Council Downtown District Committee will meet at 9 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 19, 2021. Those who wish to listen in may call (469) 998-6201 and enter conference ID 988 296 090# when prompted.

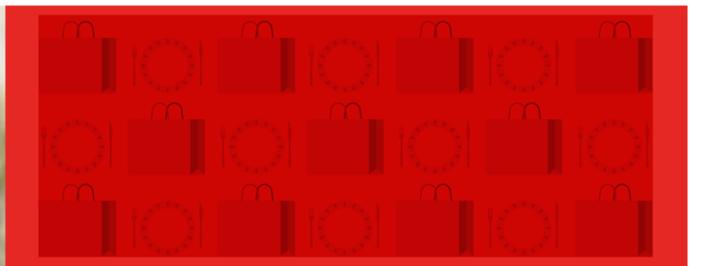
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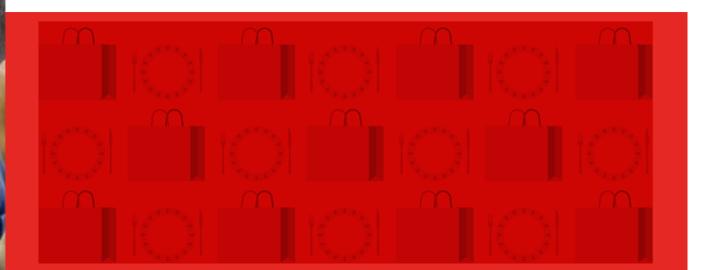


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6.47



Apothic Red California 750ml
6.97



Oliver Blueberry Moscato, Cherry Moscato Indiana 750ml
6.97



Matua Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough New Zealand 750ml
6.97



Ecco Domani Pinot Grigio Italy 750ml
7.47



Kendall Jackson Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay California 750ml
8.97



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Noblesville police officers Kline, Hargrove promoted to Sergeant

The REPORTER

On Dec. 16, 2020, Noblesville Police Chief John Mann petitioned the Noblesville Police Merit Commission to consider two merit promotions within the police department.

Chief Mann requested that Patrol Officers April Kline and Mike Hargrove be promoted to the rank of Sergeant. The Police Merit Commission approved the request and Kline and Hargrove were officially sworn-in at their new rank during an internal ceremony on Monday, Jan. 11, 2021.

Sgt. April Kline was hired by the Noblesville Police Department (NPD) on Aug. 26, 2010. Prior to her promotion, Sgt. Kline served in the Criminal Investigations Division as a Detective since 2017. She began her career in the Patrol Division and served on night shift prior to her appointment as a detective, where her focus was crimes against persons. In addition, Sgt. Kline serves the department as a member of the agency's mentoring program, as a RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) instructor, and as a de-escalation instructor. Sgt. Kline will be assigned to the Patrol Division on Nights A where she will serve as a field supervisor.

Sgt. Mike Hargrove was hired by NPD on Aug. 6, 2012. Sgt. Hargrove previously

served as a police officer with the Warsaw Police Department since 2006 and is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Prior to his promotion, Sgt. Hargrove served in the Support Division as a School Resource Officer at Noble Crossing Elementary since 2020. He began his career in the Patrol Division and served on night shift prior to his appointment as a detective in 2017, where he served as the Crime Scene Investigator and Property Room Manager. In addition, Sgt. Hargrove has served the department as a Field Training Officer, Evidence Technician, and Bike Patrol Officer. Sgt. Hargrove will be assigned to the Patrol Division on Days A where he will serve as a field supervisor.

Advancement to the rank of sergeant and lieutenant are merit promotions within NPD. Patrol officers and detectives are eligible to apply for the sergeant promotion process while officers currently holding the rank of sergeant are eligible to apply for the lieutenant process. Interested candidates



Kline



Hargrove

for either process must submit to a formal evaluation process. The process is comprised of a number of components to include a written examination, oral interview, assessment exercises, and a review of past work performance. The process is extremely competitive and is administered every two years in order to establish an eligibility list. If the promotion request is approved by the Police Merit Commission, the officer is required to serve a one-year probationary period.

The Noblesville Police Merit Commission is charged with making final decisions on promotions, hiring, and disciplinary matters relating to members of the police department. The commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. at Noblesville City Hall, and the public is welcome to attend.

All other advancements in rank within the police department are considered appointments (deputy chief and assistant chief) and are made by the Chief of Police and those appointees serve at his discretion.

Fishers Parks spring softball registration now open

The REPORTER

Registration for Fishers' Parks Spring 2021 Coed Adult Softball season is open now. Register your team by Sunday, March 28.

This is a team registration program. The individual who registers the team is considered the Team Manager and can invite players to the team's 12-person roster once registration is complete. Free agents are encouraged to contact Fishers Parks to be matched with a team.

Fishers Parks' Adult Softball Leagues offer weekly scheduled games and a two-day tournament to follow for registered 12-person teams. The program consists of an A, B and C League, and anyone 18 and older is welcome.

See the spring schedule, learn more about leagues, and read through the COVID-19 health and safety guidelines [here](#).

Fishers residents have performed more than 1,100 Acts of Kindness

The REPORTER

Fishers residents have performed 1,153 Acts of Kindness over the past month as part of the 2,000 Acts of Kindness Challenge, launched by Mayor Scott Fadness to encourage residents to support one another and local businesses during this difficult time.

Residents can share their kind act, or nominate someone who has performed a kind act, through an [online form](#). As a thank you for their act, residents will receive a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant. City officials have committed to distributing \$100,000 in gift cards from locally-owned restaurants to help to boost the economy and support these businesses during COVID-19 restrictions. City officials encourage residents to dine safely by taking advantage of reduced-contact services, including online ordering, carryout, curbside pickup, drive-thru and delivery.

With only one week left in the challenge, which concludes on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, residents are encouraged to look for every opportunity to give back, from picking up groceries for a neighbor, to holding the door open to a stranger, to donating items to a food pantry or shelter.

For more ideas on ways to give back, follow [#FishersKindness](#) on social media or visit [ThisisFishers.com/Kindness](#).

ATI brings message of acceptance

"I believe books rescue people from the shadow of ignorance."

These are the words spoken by the character Emily Reed in Kenneth Jones' play, *Alabama Story*.

In 1959, the real-life Ms. Reed was the State Librarian in Alabama. She fought a battle against the good 'ol boys of the State Legislature to keep a book from being banned from the shelves. That book was *The Rabbit's Wedding* by Garth Williams, where a white rabbit marries a black rabbit.

In 2019, Actors Theatre of Indiana presented the Indiana premiere of Mr. Jones' play, where I had the honor of portraying librarian Emily Reed. This fearless, unsung hero would be a welcome voice during these trying times in our country today. She fought her battle with dignity and grace, much like Dr. Martin Luther King did during the Civil Rights movement. The racial tensions of that time seem to be repeating themselves today, but I believe that through education, patience and persistence, good will prevail

GUEST COLUMNIST



CYNTHIA COLLINS
Actors Theatre of Indiana Co-founder



Photo courtesy of Ed Stewart
Cynthia Collins as Emily Wheelock Reed in Actors Theatre of Indiana's production of *Alabama Story* by Kenneth Jones.

over evil and those who spread hate will be the minority.

Although we will never fully wipe out racism, forging ahead with a message of acceptance can only make our country a better place for ALL to live.

We hope after watching this powerful, beautifully written play, it will inspire you to have discussions with family and friends about the significance of this piece

– that these real-life events of 1959 are still relevant today.

Let's all make a difference in this world, no matter how large or small.

Audiences can enjoy our Stream-On-Demand from Jan. 18 to Feb. 14. To purchase tickets, please visit our website at [atistage.org](#) or call the Center for the Performing Arts box office at (317) 843-3800. Tickets are \$35.

Letter to the Editor

Hodgson disagrees with Lannan; says we need more leaders like Sen. Mike Braun

Dear Editor,
Regarding [Larry Lannan's column](#) on Sunday, Jan. 10, I found the article rambling and alarming.

Mr. Lannan is evidently against Senator Braun having used his constitutional authority joining other GOP Senators challenging the Electoral College results. I say rubbish, as would 75 million other Americans. My understanding of his column is that Mr. Lannan claims Senator Braun shouldn't question the process by making arguments rejected by all the states where challenges were filed.

However, there are countless news reports that voting "irregularities" have been found in all five battleground states. Many lawsuits have been dismissed because of "technicalities." Nearly all the many witnesses of wrongdoing have not been heard in any of the five states. GOP state legislators have criticized the voting process and results in all five states.

Finally, and I'd think most importantly, millions of Americans across this country believe democracy failed, and their votes have been disenfranchised. So, no sir, I believe Senator Braun and other GOP Senators were the last line of defense. By their voices they have shown they care about our democracy, they certainly haven't injured democracy!

As Mr. Lannan says, "... America will not be seen by the rest of the world as a

beacon of democracy for a long time to come, if ever."

I agree, but that problem began with a three-and one-half year attempt to overthrow the 2016 election with a phony Russia collusion charge. That's the beginning of the true embarrassment! That embarrassment continues on now with America's government allowing, even encouraging, the purge and desecration of freedom of speech with actions taken by big tech and others since Jan. 6.

Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and the French government expressed alarm today that President Trump has been banned from social media. The crisis and horrific divisiveness extend much further with GOP voters and Trump supporters being threatened every day with a new national outrage including several Enemies Lists, lifetime no-fly ban and social media bans by big tech.

I see millions of Americans, our global allies, and foes alike realize we haven't just lost our status as Mr. Lannan says "beacon of democracy" – the question is do we still have a democracy, if so for how long?

This is an extraordinarily precarious time. America desperately needs more brave leaders like Senator Braun and fewer vengeful hypocrites.

George Hodgson
Noblesville

Letter to the Editor

Morris says county's mayors should look to Austrian economics rather than taking on more debt

Dear Editor:
I read [Mayor Jensen's justification for increased borrowing](#), and also noted that Mayor Brainard justified increased borrowing with the same reasoning: "interest rates are at historic lows."

I am a follower of the [Austrian School of Economics](#), where Ludwig von Mises, Murray Rothbard, and Nobel Prize winner Friedrich von Hayek have posited the [Austrian business cycle theory](#). This suggests that interest rates set artificially low by a central bank, in our case the Federal Reserve, can lead to a cluster of errors by borrowers because they assume that the pool of real savings is actually deeper than it is, since interest rates naturally occurring help coordinate the timing of economic decisions.

These artificially low interest rates lead to what the Austrian economists refer to as "[malinvestment](#)."

Much of what the Mayors say seem like they are falling into these same errors: "This approach enables Noblesville to accelerate its investment in public in-

frastructure, economic development projects and quality of life for all residents."

Maybe these long-dead economists are wrong and our esteemed local mayors are correct, but Mises was right that communism would die on its own in 1920, due to the [economic calculation problem](#).

The mayors continually state we have low taxes, but if their central planning and "investments" were working as well as they posit, not only would the rates remain "low," but they would actually be dropping, and you would assume so much in fact that actual overall tax bills, accounting for the increased assessed values, would also be dropping precipitously. Neither is true, so I will keep believing more in Mises than Jensen, Cook, Fadness and Brainard.

The only thing that is "positive" from this excessive borrowing are the contributions by cronies to the campaign finance accounts of these snake oil salesmen.

Eric Morris
Carmel

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Letter to the Editor

Joe Plankis gives detailed, in-depth response to letter from Linda Naas

Dear Editor,

I find it necessary to respond to Ms. Naas's recent December [Letter to the Editor](#) in order to correct a certain narrative.

She appears to be making the following points:

Mayor Cook is not "listening to the people," and "We might have had better projects if you had welcomed more input."

Who is he not listening to, Ms. Naas? Were they residents who were turned away for any reason from participating in some activity for the betterment of Westfield? Give us some names so we can reach out to them and encourage them to get involved. I would be happy to personally help them learn about how they could contribute to our wonderful community. There have been many opportunities available over the years to do so and I personally don't know of anyone who was not encouraged to be engaged in such an activity when they inquired about it.

First some historical perspective. A number of residents from the area of 161st Street and Spring Mill Road became engaged in the early 2000s, regarding the rezoning efforts going on at that intersection at the time. They formed a group to oppose the project, which ultimately was approved by the Town Council. In hindsight, it is a wonderful amenity for those of us that live west of U.S. 31.

That citizen effort, which divided the community at the time, led to many residents being energized to seek to update the Washington Township/Westfield comprehensive land use plan.

In 2005, a number of residents pushed the administration at the time to establish a committee to do just that. Residents were urged to provide a resume to the town manager if they were interested in serving the community by working on the Steering Committee which would lead that effort. Over 100 resumes were submitted and 16 residents from that list were selected to be members of the Steering Committee for updating the Comp Plan. After being selected to serve as a member of that committee, I was privileged and honored to be selected by my peers as the chairperson for that Steering Committee. Over 275 persons participated in that effort over the next TWO years before the updated plan was approved by the Town Council in February 2007.

Ms. Naas attended some of the meetings, but unfortunately, the only person on the current City Council that strongly participated was Cindy Spoljaric, who was a member of the APC (Advisory Plan Commission) and the BZA (Board of Zoning Appeals) at the time.

At the same time, work was started on doing something about the Downtown area, which all parties agreed needed help. Again, residents were encouraged to get engaged, and many stepped up to contribute to a high degree, and those residents formed the Grand Junction Task Group (GJTG). They met every week for THREE years, called on numerous resources for assistance, and always, always, were encouraged to participate by Councilor Cook, later Mayor Cook, who was elected as mayor starting in 2008, when we became a city.

A number of residents did answer the

call, but Naas and Patton were not among those who did.

A number of citizen groups were formed as part of the development of Grand Park. Those residents investigated operating needs of a sports park, construction requirements, financing methods, food service, and many other aspects of such a project. They traveled to Minnesota, Illinois, Florida and other places, and at their own expense for the most part. At the same time, Mayor Cook reached out to local land owners regarding the location for such a facility. All those efforts resulted in the magnificent facility that we have today.

Springmill Crossing was another area where Mayor Cook reached out and supported a community effort to determine how the intersection and the four corners of 161st and Spring Mill should be developed. That committee continues to review any proposals for that area and we are better off because of their efforts.

Every one of these examples I've given, are efforts that are driven from the ground up, by residents of Westfield. One would be hard pressed to find an example of another city in Indiana where the mayor of that city has done anything near what Mayor Cook has done to engage the members of the community to plan and assist the Community Development Department in meeting the Comp Plan that the community itself developed in 2007.

To suggest that the mayor does not listen to the people is ludicrous and just not true. With your comments, Ms. Naas, you also have, quite frankly, insulted the residents of Westfield who participated in developing the wonderful amenities we now have in Westfield and are still being built, all according to the Comp Plan. They committed hours and hours of their own personal time for the betterment of the community. They should be commended for their efforts. I know how hard they worked on the task, because I was out there with them, supporting their efforts, asking for their input, along with having the fantastic support of the dedicated and professional City Staff.

To suggest that we would have had "better projects" is truly insulting to all those residents that contributed of their time and talent. The results are phenomenal and we continue to attract more and more people who want to live in Westfield, and businesses who want to locate in our wonderful community of Westfield. Westfield has been recognized nation-wide, with a number of awards, such as the best place to live, to raise a family, etc. I personally appreciate and thank those residents who gave of their time to make Westfield what it is today.

Again, all this took place according to the Comp Plan.

We are also proud to be the home of the Indianapolis Colts summer camp, a huge win for the City, thanks to the development of Grand Park.

All those citizens' efforts have also played a major role in attracting many businesses. That was a key part of our Comp Plan going forward, and it is working as planned. Grand Park would be the catalyst for business development which would change the mix of our assessed value, adding more commercial properties,

and ultimately lower tax rates for our citizens in the future.

Keep in mind, that just after the Comp Plan was approved by the Town Council in 2007, we entered the second most severe recession in 2008-2009 that the United States has ever experienced. Being the first Economic Development Director for the City of Westfield, starting in 2008, became a most difficult assignment. However, as part of a team led by Mayor Cook, we implemented plans to go forward and I can truly say those efforts have been very successful, but just a little slow in coming, due to the severity of the recession, and the reconstruction of U.S. 31.

So, what types of businesses is Westfield attracting? Here are some examples:

Bastian Solutions/Toyota Advanced Logistics, part of the Toyota family of companies headquartered in Japan, has invested \$8 million in Westfield's Northpoint, with future plans to expand further and will grow initially to over 100 good paying, new jobs in Westfield. Relationships with the Japanese business community were first established in 2007 with my trip to the Midwest US Japan Association meeting in Tokyo, Japan as well as with subsequent meetings with Japanese government and business leaders in Chicago and elsewhere. Membership in JASI (Japan America Society of Indiana) was also established to aid in that networking process.

Taranis, an AG Tech and Precision Scouting Firm is relocating their Global Headquarters from Tel-Aviv, Israel, with the addition of 60 high paying jobs and an initial investment of \$10.5 million. Westfield is a great location for them to interact with their agricultural customers.

We are proud to have Abbott, a fortune 500 company, and medical device powerhouse, who is investing \$38 million in Westfield to make Abbott's Mitra-Clip, a heart device that is 'fueling new growth for the company'. The company will create up to 477 new, high paying jobs in Westfield in this first phase of development.

All the Westfield projects that Ms. Naas seems to complain about, are exactly the projects citizens worked on, supported, and has been the impetus for all these international businesses locating in Westfield.

We should all remember what Downtown used to look like. It consisted of junk autos, parked cars seemingly everywhere, rundown homes, few businesses that would be lucky to last for more than a year or two, and a downtown area that was prone to major flooding. All those issues have been addressed as part of the creation of the Grand Junction Plaza.

As to the future of the Grand Junction Plaza, the first major investment will be an investment of \$32 million by Old Town Companies for a multi-use project which will break ground later this year as a major "anchor" to Grand Junction. That project is certain to jumpstart other investments in the downtown area and will help support the restaurants and other businesses that are now located there. None of this would have happened without Mayor Cook's vision, and that of prior city councils, to develop Grand Junction, supported by the input of hundreds of Westfield residents.

The best part of all this development: It matches what the Comp Plan identified as the vision back in 2007, along with subsequent addendums.

Reviewing 2019 Westfield election results:

I would like to switch gears for a moment. To support her arguments in her letter to the editor, Ms. Naas provides a beautiful chart of the election results for the November 2019 election showing the number of votes for Mayor Cook, Patton, Spoljaric and Gossard. She would have you believe that it illustrates that the newly-elected councilors and the Clerk-Treasurer are very popular and the Mayor suffered at the ballot box while the candidates she supported, received some sort of overwhelming mandate from the voters.

As Paul Harvey (if you are too young to know about Paul Harvey, please Google him) used to say on his radio show, "...and now the rest of the story." Let's dig a little deeper into the numbers.

What Ms. Naas does not tell us is that the only one with an opponent in the November election was Mayor Cook. Patton, Spoljaric, and Gossard ran unopposed in November. Of course he received fewer votes. When you add the votes together for Mayor Cook and his opponent, it totals 5,159 votes.

Based on county election data, 5,223 registered voters participated in the Westfield election with a turnout of 17.2 percent. Those results indicate that 98.8 percent of those who voted in the election voted in the mayoral race. Obviously, when there is a challenger in the mayoral race, there tends to be more voter interest and voter participation in that race.

The vote totals for those running unopposed – Gossard, Spoljaric and Patton – gathered a voter participation rate of 85.6 percent, 74.3 percent and 64.6 percent, respectfully, of the total votes cast in Westfield. So basically, the data shows that almost 100 percent of the voters did vote in the mayoral race, but less than 75 percent even bothered cast a ballot for the council candidates. That also indicates that many voters split the ticket in the general election, but many also ignored the down ballot races, and that certainly doesn't indicate any kind of a mandate for the newly-elected council candidates.

Regardless, Mayor Cook won his mayoral race with 61.4 percent of the vote in November. With that plurality, it certainly is not an indicator that the majority of voters wanted a change in leadership or in the direction the City is taking, a direction developed by dedicated Westfield citizens through our Comp Plan and subsequent projects. The Comp Plan is supported further with our long-term financial plan.

Perhaps the members of the City Council might want to consider a new approach to governing, focusing on the betterment of Westfield and its great citizens, instead of distrust and divisiveness. Ultimately, continuing to implement the Comp Plan will result in lower taxes for Westfield and a wonderful community with great amenities, many of which are already in place. We are all thankful for what has already been accomplished.

Joe Plankis

Westfield Economic Development Director (Retired)

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Romans 6:15-18 (NIV)

Danny Ray Woten Sr.

December 18, 1956 – January 7, 2021



Danny Ray Woten Sr., 64, Sheridan, passed away on January 7, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Noblesville on December 18, 1956 to his late father Lloyd Woten and his mother Virginia Woten, who survives him.

Danny loved being outdoors. He looked forward to his camping and fishing trips with his family and friends. After a day of fishing and sitting around the campfire, that evening the fish tales would start to be told. He enjoyed his walks and taking in nature. This was relaxing to him, especially when he needed to clear his mind.

Danny will be missed by his loving family, including his devoted children, Josh (Bethanee) Woten and Danny Ray Woten Jr. He was a proud grandfather to Nicole, Kahren, Emalee, Sara and Charlotte. He is missed by his loving mother, Virginia Woten, and his siblings, Frank (Lana) Woten, Jody (Joe) Greathouse and Regina Woten. He was a nephew to Elnora Hamack, Sandra Swanks, Dottie Bishop. Danny is also survived by his nieces, Angela, Payten, Kaylee (TJ) Blackledge; his nephews, Mike and Chris Greathouse, Travis (Baylee) Blackledge and Austin Blackledge; as well as several cousins. Preceding Danny in death is Earl and Fayola Wills, Alonzo (Lilly) Woten and his uncle, Don Wills.

A celebration of Danny's life will be scheduled for a later date. In memory of Danny, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Everyone is invited to sign the online guest book, leave a condolence or share a memory of him at fisherfunerals.com. Fisher Family Funeral Services is honored to serve the Woten family.

Fishers PD notifies public of upcoming 'property destruction'

The REPORTER

The Fishers Police Department (FPD) will conduct its annual property destruction after April 6, 2021.

Property that is identified as having no evidentiary value and remains unclaimed by its rightful owner will be destroyed.

Any property that is associated with an active case which has not been adjudicated will not be destroyed and cannot be released to its owner. Any evidence that is considered illegal to possess by Indiana Statute will not be released.

FPD's goal is to provide enough notification of this process so that the community is aware of the upcoming property destruction. Please contact the Fishers Police Department Property Room at (317) 595-3300 to schedule an appointment to collect your property no later than April 1, 2021.

FPD's goal is to provide enough notification of this process so that the community is aware of the upcoming property destruction. Please contact the Fishers Police Department Property Room at (317) 595-3300 to schedule an appointment to collect your property no later than April 1, 2021.

AG Todd Rokita hires two Carmel residents to leadership positions

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has selected two Carmel residents to serve on his staff: Michael Chopp as Human Resources Director and Mike Ward as Director of Investigations at the Office of the Attorney General.

In addition to Ward and Chopp, the newly-elected Attorney General appointed Molly Deuberry Craft as Communications Director.

"These public servants will be tremendous assets to the office and to the people of Indiana," Rokita said.

"All three bring a wealth of public sector experience, and I am excited to bring them into an office already full of dedicated and skilled employees."

Michael Chopp served as Director of Human Resources for 12 years at the Office of the Indiana Attorney General under Greg Zoeller and Steve Carter before moving to the private sector in 2016. Chopp graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor Arts in Political Science. He lives with his family in Carmel.

Mike Ward worked as Director of Special Investigations at the Office of the Attorney General for more than three decades. Ward graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology and holds a Master's Certificate from the IUPUI School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Originally from Indianapolis, Ward now resides in Carmel.

Also named to a leadership position was Molly Deuberry Craft, who has over a decade of communications experience in government and non-profit organizations. A native of Northwest Indiana, she is a graduate of Huntington University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and History. She resides with her family in Indianapolis.

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Boys basketball

Irish hand 'Hounds first loss

By RICHIE HALL

CARMEL - Carmel dropped its first game of the season on Wednesday, as the Class 4A No. 2 Greyhounds fell to 4A No. 5 Cathedral 51-50 in an exciting, truly back-and-forth contest at the Eric Clark Activity Center.

It was a game of runs from the get-go. Carmel scored the first six points, with Connor Gioia getting the first basket and Charlie Williams hitting back-to-back field goals.

The Irish worked their way back into the game, and went up 12-10 when Tayshawn Comer hit a 3-pointer. But the Greyhounds' Sam Orme answered that with a triple at the end of the quarter, and Carmel led 13-12.

Orme's 3 started a 10-0 run for the 'Hounds. Brian Waddell opened the second period with his own 3-pointer, then Williams again made back-to-back lay-ins. Just like that, Carmel led 20-12.

The Greyhounds still led 22-15 with just over five minutes left in the second quarter. But Cathedral took over with the game's biggest run, a 15-0 stretch that kept going well into the third period. Comer took over the game by scoring six straight points, then Jake Davis nailed a 3 to put the Irish ahead 24-22. That would be the halftime score.

"I love our team," said Carmel coach Ryan Osborn. "I think we do a lot of good things, but I think they came in more aggressive in the first half. They had seven offensive rebounds that turned into a lot of points. Finished with nine, they out-rebounded us by seven. That's a hustle thing, that's a toughness thing. We didn't shoot a free throw in the first half. We weren't driving it."

Cathedral then opened the second half with back-to-back triples by Davis and Jaron Tibbs, giving the Irish their biggest lead at 30-22. Carmel quickly closed the gap with its own 7-0 run, which began with a three-point play by Peter Suder. Waddell and Suder then each made a pair of foul shots.

Suder would later make a 3-point basket to get the 'Hounds back in front 34-33. The teams traded the lead for the

remainder of the third period, which ended on a 3 by Davis and a 38-36 Cathedral lead.

Orme opened the fourth quarter with another triple, and Carmel was back in front 39-38. The game continued in that fashion for the entire period, with eight lead changes. A bright spot for the 'Hounds was the return of Josh Whack, who had missed a few games due to injury. Whack played a few minutes in the fourth quarter and had an immediate impact once he got in the game: He made a steal, then sent the ball to Williams, who scored and got Carmel up 45-42.

Five quick points by the Irish put them ahead 47-45, and the basket-trading began again. Orme nailed his third 3 of the game to put Carmel up 48-47. Cathedral's Vincent Brady answered that with two foul shots, and his team led 49-48.

Gioia scored on a layin, getting Carmel back in front 50-49. About a minute later, Brady made a putback, and the Irish were ahead 51-50. Brady's basket turned out to be the last one of the game. The Greyhounds had one last look with around 10 seconds left, but the shot didn't go, and the Irish cleared the rebound and ran out the clock.

"They were the more aggressive team," said Osborn. "They were better than us tonight. We had 14 turnovers and that's just another thing. I think their pressure and trying to force us to one side of the floor kind of took us out of what we do, and we panicked a little bit."

Waddell scored 15 points to lead the Carmel scoring, with Williams adding 12 and Suder 10. Orme had nine points on three 3-pointers. Williams collected five rebounds and blocked two shots, while Gioia dished out seven assists.

Comer also had 15 points for Cathedral, with Davis and Brady scoring 14 points. Davis had four 3s.

"I think a game like this where we're challenged in a different way than what we have been in the past is not a bad thing," said Osborn.

The Greyhounds are 10-1 and will next play on Tuesday at Perry Meridian.



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Carmel's Connor Gioia had seven assists and four points for the Greyhounds during their game with Cathedral Wednesday at the Eric Clark Activity Center.

CATHEDRAL 51, CARMEL 50					
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Connor Gioia	2-3	0-0	4	4	
Peter Suder	3-8	3-3	10	4	
Brian Waddell	6-13	2-3	15	0	
Bryce Beery	0-0	0-0	0	1	
Charlie Williams	5-8	2-2	12	3	
Sam Orme	3-7	0-0	9	2	
Wil Leary	0-0	0-0	0	0	
Nick Frische	0-0	0-0	0	0	
Josh Whack	0-0	0-0	0	1	
Totals	19-39	7-8	50	15	
Score by Quarters					
Cathedral	12	12	14	13	51
Carmel	11	11	14	14	50
Carmel 3-point shooting (5-14) Orme 3-7, Waddell 1-4, Suder 1-2, Gioia 0-1.					
Carmel rebounds (17) Williams 5, Suder 4, Gioia 3, Waddell 2, Orme 2, Beery 1.					

Westfield hires new cross country coaches

Westfield High School has announced the hiring of new girls and boys varsity cross country coaches.

Whitney Bevins is the new girls cross country coach. Bevins is a 1999 graduate of Westfield High School and was a senior on the 1998 Girls Cross Country State Championship team and was All-State four times between track and cross country. She competed as a scholarship athlete at Indiana University in cross country and track and would eventually compete in the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials finishing 30th in the country in 2016. One of her favorite running accomplishments as an athlete was winning the 2012 Monumental Marathon.

As a coach, Bevins is in her second full year of being back at Westfield High School. She was also an assistant coach at Westfield in 2003 and 2010 and



Bevins



Wachtel

coached individual runners while training in Colorado. Bevins is a Registered Dietitian and Child Nutrition Director at Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Indianapolis. When she isn't working or coaching, she is a dog mom to seven animals.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to have been an athlete at Westfield and to now

See Westfield . . . Page 9

Carmel girls beat Anderson for third straight victory

The Carmel girls basketball team ran its win streak to three games in a row Wednesday with a 70-38 victory at Anderson.

The Greyhounds outscored the Indians in each quarter, slowly building a lead throughout the first three periods. Carmel led 16-11 after the first quarter and 33-21 at halftime. The 'Hounds then led 47-32 after three periods, then finished the game with a strong defensive fourth quarter, holding Anderson to six points.

Kate Clarke had a phenomenal night, scoring 28 points. Mackenzie Thomas added 16 points and came close to a double-double with nine rebounds. Riley Pennington added nine points.

Thomas had two blocked shots. Emily Roper collected 10 rebounds and made four steals, Hannah Lach pulled six rebounds and Erin Baker had five rebounds. Clarke handed out five assists and Tori

Tomalia had four assists.

Carmel is 11-5 and hosts Fort Wayne Carroll on Saturday.

CARMEL 70, ANDERSON 38					
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Erin Baker	0-2	0-0	0	0	
Kate Clarke	13-21	0-0	28	0	
Hannah Lach	0-6	2-2	2	4	
Mackenzie Thomas	7-7	2-4	16	1	
Emily Roper	3-5	0-0	6	2	
Tori Tomalia	1-5	1-2	3	4	
Riley Pennington	4-7	1-1	9	3	
Laura Valiente	0-0	0-0	0	0	
Maya Berglund	1-1	0-0	2	0	
Sophia Shepherd	2-2	0-0	4	0	
Totals	31-56	6-9	70	14	
Score by Quarters					
Carmel	16	17	14	23	70
Anderson	11	10	11	6	38
Carmel 3-point shooting (2-13) Clarke 2-7, Lach 0-4, Tomalia 0-2.					
Carmel rebounds (38) Roper 10, Thomas 9, Lach 6, Baker 5, Pennington 3, Tomalia 2, Clarke 2, Berglund 1.					

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Noblesville Elementary wrestling team places eighth at ISWA Elementary Dual state championship

The Noblesville Elementary wrestling team finished in eighth place at the Indiana State Wrestling Association Elementary Dual wrestling state championship, which took place Jan. 2 and 3 at the Gathering Place in Greenwood. It's the highest finish ever for the program. Noblesville coach Michael Weimer said the teams wrestlers and coaches "have done a phenomenal job, working and preparing for this moment."

The team's roster is listed in the picture below. Coaches for the team are Nate Suddarth, Dale Bailey, Brian Kincaide, Travis Hargis, Willie Young, Chris Yates and Michael Weimer.



Photos provided



WESTFIELD

from Page 8

have the opportunity to take over the program from Scott Lidskin, who was my coach and mentor," said Bevins. "Running has taken me all over the world. I am thrilled to share my experiences and passion for running with Westfield student athletes, who are only just beginning their running journey."

Josh Wachtel is the new boys cross country coach. Wachtel graduated from Westfield High School in 2010 and from Indiana University in 2014 with a degree in English. He ran cross country and track for Westfield starting in sixth grade and was a team captain and varsity letter winner for both the Westfield High School cross country and track teams.

Josh started as a volunteer assistant coach for the Westfield boys cross country and track teams after graduating from IU in 2014 and became a full time assistant coach for Westfield track team in 2016. In addition, he coached the Westfield Middle School cross country and track teams. Josh is currently an English teacher at Westfield High School.

"I am thrilled and honored to be chosen as the next head boys cross country coach for a program that has made such a positive impact on my life - providing me with valuable traits that I took with me into my post-high school life, and providing me with lifelong friendships and

memories that I value just as much today as I did when I was in high school," said Wachtel. "I am excited to follow in the footsteps of Coach Greg Albert and Coach Roger Wachtel, two of the best role models that anyone could hope for, and I am ready to continue to foster a team culture where people strive to fulfill their potential in all aspects of life. I look forward to continuing the tradition of helping to produce excellent young men who are prepared for anything they might experience in life after high school, and cannot wait to get started!"

"WHS has been blessed to have incredible leaders and mentors coaching our girls and boys cross country programs," said Westfield athletic director Andy Tebbe. "Scott Lidskin and Roger Wachtel are coaching icons at WHS. Not only have they served our athletic programs with excellence and class, they now leave a piece of their legacy to take over our cross country programs. For years they have mentored athletes into quality young women and men and Whitney and Josh are shining examples of the fruits of their labor. We are excited to have Whitney and Josh lead our cross country teams. They are the true definition of Shamrock Pride and our cross country programs are in great hands."

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NBA standings

Wednesday's games
 Dallas 104, Charlotte 93
 Milwaukee 110, Detroit 101
 Brooklyn 116, New York 109

Memphis 118, Minnesota 107
 L.A. Lakers 128, Oklahoma City 99
 L.A. Clippers 111, New Orleans 106
 Portland 132, Sacramento 126

Eastern Conference

Atlantic	W	L	PCT.	GB
Boston	7	3	.700	-
Philadelphia	8	4	.667	-
Brooklyn	7	6	.538	1.5
New York	5	7	.417	3.0
Toronto	2	8	.200	5.0
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Milwaukee	8	4	.667	-
Indiana	7	4	.636	0.5
Cleveland	5	7	.417	3.0
Chicago	4	7	.364	3.5
Detroit	2	9	.182	5.5
Southeast	W	L	PCT.	GB
Orlando	6	5	.545	-
Charlotte	6	6	.500	0.5
Atlanta	5	5	.500	0.5
Miami	4	5	.444	1.0
Washington	3	8	.273	3.0

Western Conference

Northwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Utah	7	4	.636	-
Portland	7	4	.636	-
Denver	5	6	.455	2.0
Oklahoma City	5	6	.455	2.0
Minnesota	3	8	.273	4.0
Pacific	W	L	PCT.	GB
L.A. Lakers	10	3	.769	-
L.A. Clippers	8	4	.667	1.5
Phoenix	7	4	.636	2.0
Golden State	6	5	.545	3.0
Sacramento	5	7	.417	4.5
Southwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Dallas	6	4	.600	-
San Antonio	6	5	.545	0.5
Memphis	5	6	.455	1.5
New Orleans	4	6	.400	2.0
Houston	3	6	.333	2.5

Heights second at IHSWG South regional

On Jan. 8, Hamilton Heights placed second at the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling South regional, which took place at Franklin Community. Junior Reagan Ward was the highest-placing Heights wrestler, finishing second at heavyweight.

Junior Samera Henson finished fourth at 113 pounds, while junior Jayla Logan took fourth at 132 pounds. Sophomore Cora Cain was fifth at 106 and senior Haley Jones took sixth at 126. Ward, Henson and Logan all qualified for the IHSWG state championship, which takes place Friday at Hamilton Heights.

Carmel placed fifth at the regional as a team. Haley Mattingly was the runner-up at 120 pounds, while Tay Coatic finished as the 126-pound runner-up. Roni Ledzema finished fifth at 98 pounds. All three qualified for Friday's state finals.

The girls state finals begin at 4 p.m. Attendance is limited to two parents only, and masks are mandatory. The event will be livestreamed here: <http://www.track-wrestling.com/tw/Stream.jsp?eventStreamId=954353135>

HEIGHTS HOSTS NORTH VS. SOUTH DUAL

Hamilton Heights hosted the first-ever IHSWG North vs. South Dual Meet on Dec. 30.

Seven Heights girls powered the South team to the dual meet win. The South team trailed 34-18 before making a comeback and winning the meet 48-46. The wrestlers at the meet were some of the best women wrestlers in Indiana.



Photo provided

Hamilton Heights had seven wrestlers compete on the South team during the first-ever Indiana High School Girls Wrestling North vs. South Dual Meet, which Heights hosted on Dec. 30. The South team came back to win the meet 48-46. Heights would later finish second at the IHSWG South regional at Franklin Community and qualify three wrestlers to Friday's state meet at Hamilton Heights.

Three county players receive Player of the Week honors

Three Hamilton County basketball players have honored as the IBCA/Franciscan Health Player of the Week over the past month.

Fishers' Katie Burton won the award for Girls District 2 for her efforts during Week 8 (Dec. 21-26), while Noblesville's Ashlynn Shade received the award for Girls District 2 for her play during Week 9 (Dec. 28-Jan. 2). Hamilton Heights' Gus Etchison earned the Boys District 2 honor after his performance during Week 10 (Jan. 4-9).

Burton is known for putting up big efforts in tough games, and on Dec. 21 she did just that, as the Tigers knocked off previously unbeaten Frankton, 71-62. The 5-9 guard was steady shooting it, knocking down 13-20 shots from the field, 2-3 from long range, plus she made 3-4 from the charity stripe, scoring 31 points in success. Burton, who has committed to the Big East's St. John's University, collected 10 caroms to post a double-double, plus she added a pair of assists and a pair of steals.

Shade helped the Millers to four wins

during the week of Dec. 28, including the Greensburg Tournament title. First, though, the Millers hosted Avon on Dec. 28 for a Hoosier Crossroads Conference matchup, escaping with a hard-fought 59-52 victory. Shade had to work for her 13 points, but she posted a double-double with 10 rebounds, plus she added five assists and four steals in the big conference win. It was Dec. 30 when they finally headed to Greensburg, knocking off a solid New Palestine group 70-55 in the first round. Shade stepped up in a big way, scoring 27 points on 11-16 shooting, grabbing eight rebounds, handing out a pair of assists, and collecting five steals.

Later that evening, the Millers won the tournament by defeating the host Pirates, 60-37. Greensburg hounded Shade, but she still managed another double-double...her sixth of the year already. The sophomore scored 13 points, grabbed 11 rebounds, passed out seven assists, and stole the ball four times. On Jan. 2, Noblesville travelled to Martinsville to take on a very good Artesians team. The Millers won 73-47 to move to

12-3 on the year. Shade was again dialed in, as she made 10 total field goals, plus 7-8 free throws, on her way to 28 points. She added eight rebounds and eight steals in victory.

Etchison is no stranger to the big game, and last Saturday he added another one to his long list of accomplishments, but he also posted a nice pair of additional outings leading up to the weekend. On Jan. 5, the Huskies headed to Lebanon to earn a 60-33 win. The senior guard scored 21 points and grabbed eight rebounds, as Heights improved to 4-1 on the season.

Friday night, the Huskies travelled to Northwestern for a Hoosier Conference game. After 32 minutes of action, plus 17 points, five rebounds, five assists, and four steals by Etchison, Hamilton Heights won 69-47 to start the conference year 1-0. The very next day, however, was when Etchison erupted for 43 points. The 6-0 guard did everything in his power to help his team to a victory, but it wasn't enough, as the Huskies fell, 99-87, to Indianapolis Herron. In defeat, the Western Michigan University commit

also contributed five rebounds, seven assists, plus five steals.

This is the second time that Etchison has won the award this season. He shared the Boys District 2 honor after his play during the first week of the regular season, scoring 39 points in a tough 83-78 loss to a quality Mount Vernon team on Nov. 28. Etchison knocked down 13-24 shots, 5-9 3-pointers, and went 8-11 from the free throw line. He also added six rebounds, a pair of assists, a pair of steals, and a pair of blocked shots.

This is the 13th season for the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association Player of the Week program, but the first season it is presented by Franciscan Health, a corporate sponsor of the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association.

Player of the Week winners are chosen each week from each of the IHSAA's three districts. Girls winners will be chosen through the Monday following the IHSAA Girls State Finals. Boys winners will be chosen through the Monday following the IHSAA Boys State Finals.

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