

THURSDAY, FEB. 11, 2021

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy, with scattered snow showers.
Tonight: Scattered snow showers until late evening.
HIGH: 21 LOW: 11



Finkam awards Campbell for her service to Carmel



Photo provided by City of Carmel
Carmel City Council President Sue Finkam (right) recently presented past Council President Laura Campbell (left) with a plaque commemorating her service to the Carmel City Council. Finkam and others noted Campbell's strong leadership under the pressures and unique challenges of the COVID pandemic.

Mayor Andy Cook files lawsuit against Westfield Clerk-Treasurer Cindy Gossard

The REPORTER

Westfield Mayor Andy Cook has filed a lawsuit against Clerk-Treasurer Cindy Gossard. Cook alleges Gossard failed to provide information on a city-wide audit recently requested by Cook.

The lawsuit was filed mid-January in Hamilton County Superior Court 2.

Cook alleges Gossard "actively interfered" with the mayor's operation of the city by denying access to information.

Both parties have now agreed that Gossard will provide auditors with access to the data required at an on-site visit to her office today.

Gossard has asked Hamilton County Superior Court 2 Judge John Brown to disqualify the law firm of Taft Stettinius & Hollister from serving as Cook's counsel in further matters involved in the suit due to violating ethical rules and principles.



Cook



Gossard

Timmons: "Vote their sneaky asses out of office"

Reps. Goodrich, Cook, Jeter, Schaibley vote against government transparency

I'd like to take a moment to commend Tim Timmons, publisher of a competitor newspaper, *The Times*, for a recent column he authored about a push from the state legislature to remove public notice advertising from newspapers.

House Bill 1498 proposed government notices be published on individ-



JEFF JELLISON
Publisher's Perspective

ual government websites instead of publishing them in newspapers.

Voting in favor of H.B. 1498 were local state lawmakers Chuck Goodrich, Tony Cook, Chris Jeter and Donna Schaibley.

Timmons, in his column, asked his readers to vote the four lawmakers out of office. "Vote their

sneaky asses out of office," wrote Timmons.

I agree with Timmons — publishing public notices on government websites limits exposure.

How many people wake up each day and say to themselves, "I need to check the websites of nearly thirty different government offices and entities in Hamilton County to see what's happening"? My guess is the number is far less than the number of people who get a local

newspaper delivered each morning.

I can't speak for Mr. Timmons, but I'm willing to give you a newspaper for free, public notices included; however, the same legislative body that wants to limit public notice advertising requires me to charge you to read local news.

That's right.

Lawmakers say for me to be a newspaper, I must charge you to read it.

Let's also remember there is a large number

of older taxpayers in this community who aren't computer savvy. They find it difficult to surf the web. And, on a statewide level, not everyone has access to high-speed internet, which creates even more of a problem. Also consider the cost of internet far exceeds the \$12 annual subscription fee for *The Reporter*.

State lawmakers will point to advertising cost to justify their reasoning for no longer publishing notices in newspapers. They

also say newspaper readership is declining. Timmons said "poppycock" to their line of thinking. I say their statement is uneducated and foolish.

At a time when an increasing number of people distrust government, how do lawmakers justify limiting the transparency of their work?

H.B. 1498 failed; however, it may be revisited, and it is not the only proposed bill regarding public notices in this session.

HSE Superintendent Bourff apologizes for previous statement on Black Lives Matter

By LARRY LANNAN
LarryInFishers.com

Saying that HSE Schools has emphasized Black Lives Matter, Superintendent Allen Bourff issued a new message the district's faculty on Tuesday.

"At Hamilton Southeastern Schools, we will not debate the humanity of any individual," Dr. Bourff wrote.

He says the intention of his original message was to provide instructional guidance in discussing the

Black Lives Matter movement in the classroom.

"I understand that the impact was hurtful, and for that I apologize," wrote the HSE Schools superintendent.

"That we have families that do not wish for us to have these discussions has been made clear," according to Dr. Bourff's latest message. "However, we are limiting our students if we do not provide them the tools to explore a social cause, research its origin and un-



Bourff

Online petition calls for Bourff to resign

According to the Reporter's newsgathering partner WISH-TV, more than 1,000 people have signed an online petition calling for Hamilton Southeastern Schools Superintendent Allen Bourff to step down.

The petition created by parent Amber Welch calls for Bourff's replacement to be, in her words, someone of higher character, preferably a person of color. Welch also said current events and history need to be taught from a more honest perspective.

The petition comes after Bourff announced in December that he will retire at the end of the current 2020-21 school year.

derstand its significance."

Racial Equity Community Network (REC�) and others in the community were critical of Dr.

Bourff's original message to the faculty, which can be found at [this link](#).

See Bourff . . . Page 2

Council minutes with Ken Alexander

Editor's note:

This is the first in a new series of monthly columns provided to the Reporter by Hamilton County Councilman Ken Alexander. He is serving in his first term on the Council, representing District 4, which includes Adams and Washington townships, and part of Clay Township. A Purdue University graduate, he is currently working with IU Health on its multi-billion-dollar consolidation of the Methodist and University Hospital campuses in downtown Indianapolis. Ken and his wife Jenni are raising three children in Westfield.



KEN ALEXANDER
County Councilman

sion statements, departmental goals, business plans, return on investment and KPI's are all common focuses in business. I and other newcomers to the Council believe government should reflect more of that bottom-line mentality.

The County Council is essentially the fiduciary body that approves budgets and appropriations for Hamilton County and consists of seven members. While we have ultimate decision-making power regarding fiscal affairs for the county, our counterparts are the three-member Hamilton County Commissioners that provide day-to-day direction of the county. This checks-and-balance function is true in all of Indiana's 92 counties.

The Council meets on the first Wednesday of the month and is livestreamed. There were three important takeaways from February's Hamilton County Council meeting.

County parking garage

We are the midst of planning for a parking

Fishers has provided 3,000 COVID vaccinations, could do up to 2,000 a day with enough doses

By LARRY LANNAN
LarryInFishers.com

Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness and the Board of Works and Safety acknowledged the lease for the mass vaccination site in Fishers on Tuesday, which is allowed under emergency law provisions tied to the COVID pandemic.

Fadness says the site, located in a former Marsh grocery store on 116th

Street just east of Brooks School Road, has already administered 3,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine.

"With this new facility, we should be able to scale up 1,600 to 2,000 people a day," Fadness said. "Unfortunately, right now, from a vaccine capacity perspective, we're only at about



Fadness

1,000 a week."

The lease on this building is for six months, with the city holding an option to lease the space an additional six months. If the city wishes to lease beyond that time, City

Attorney Greisl says city officials would need to have further conversations with the landlord.

Board of Works member Jason Meyer says the cost of the lease, at \$5 per square foot, is very reasonable.

Greisl told the board the majority of the costs for the mass vaccination site will be reimbursable by the state and/or federal government.

Fadness voiced his concern about how long the vaccinations will last, and what the city may face if there is a need to vaccinate people once again into 2022.

See Council Minutes . . . Page 2



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COUNCIL MINUTES

garage near the square in downtown Noblesville. Last year, the Council approved moving forward with a four-story parking garage to serve county employees and visitors. The parking garage represents more than just a structure; it is a three-way commitment that provides a safe place for our county workers to park, allows for a developer to build a residential development and supports Noblesville's vision of its downtown. Hopefully this can help support Noblesville's downtown businesses, especially the restaurants that have been devastated by the pandemic shutdowns.

During our February meeting, we discussed adding a fifth floor to the garage while still in the planning stages. While the original design called for four floors – is there demand for a fifth floor? Will people be working in offices post-COVID? On the one hand, four floors are sufficient for our current county employees and demand; on the other hand – what will our growth be in the future?

The cost of adding a fifth floor now, while in planning, is significantly less than building a four-story garage only to add another level several years down the road (not to mention the inconvenience to the staff who will need to find alternative

parking while the garage is closed.)

There was lots of discussion about the right decision. While many items we discuss are shuttled to committee meetings to be vetted, I brought this matter to the full Council to have an open conversation. The discussion will move to the Finance Committee, on which I serve, to be vetted before being brought back to the Council for a decision.

These are the kind of decisions we often have to make: Forecasting long-term needs vs. immediate demands.

Emergency rental relief

Another item of interest: Hamilton County was awarded \$10 million in emergency rental relief assistance from the federal government to be directed to people struggling to stay in their rental homes. As we have seen during the pandemic, renters make up a large portion of the service and entertainment industries that have been economically decimated. Kudos to the Hamilton County Auditor Robin Mills and the Hamilton County Commissioners for securing these desperately needed funds, as we were only one of a handful of communities across the state to secure this grant.

To not duplicate government services,

the Commissioners reached out to the Hamilton County Township Association (HCTA) to support this effort since one of the townships' main purposes is providing poor relief and emergency assistance. As the President of the HCTA, Westfield Washington Township Trustee Danielle Carey Tolan will oversee the administration of the federal funds to ensure we are efficient and get the dollars to those in need. She has hit the ground running, and has already pulled together a coalition of churches and housing organizations, as well as administrative and advisory groups. She will work closely with the other eight township trustees to ensure a smooth program.

Having worked with Danielle, I am confident she will do an outstanding job. Stay tuned for more on this.

County debt

The final interesting topic was the restructuring of some of our county debt. Like many of you may have already done, the financing opportunities to restructure a home loan are extraordinarily favorable to the borrower. Without extending the term of our debts, we have restructured three bonds that will net a savings of approximately \$4,400,000. This is the kind of fiscal stewardship that is often not shared or highlighted, but I see daily in my interactions with our county government leaders and employees.

Lastly, I want to congratulate the Hamilton County Health Department on expanding the COVID vaccine site at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds. It will be a huge success, and it has greatly expanded our ability to deliver more vaccines to Hoosiers safely and efficiently.

My goal with these monthly columns is to inform you of county-level issues and to invite you into the conversation. It is easy to say we have all the answers, but I see myself as a gatherer of facts elected to promote business principles in government. I welcome your questions at ken.alexander@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.

BOURFF

from Page 1

Bourff's entire message sent to HSE staff on Tuesday follows:

Dear Faculty:

Black Lives Matter.

At Hamilton Southeastern Schools, we will not debate the humanity of any individual.

We have emphasized that Black Lives Matter, and this remains an emphasis in our equity work as we move towards creating and sustaining safe places for our students to learn and teachers to teach.

The intent of yesterday's letter to the faculty was designed to provide instructional strategies to discuss and teach Black Lives Matter; one of the most significant issues of our time. I understand that the impact was hurtful, and for that I apologize. The letter was designed to provide guidance for teachers to lead these discussions and to assist students as they develop their own positions on this important social issue.

That we have families that do not wish for us to have these discussions has been made clear. However, we are limiting our students if we do not provide them the tools to explore a social cause, research its origin, and understand its significance. We have staff that work every day to prepare our students to assume their places as local and global contributors. Anything less is breaking our compact with the community.

I am not requesting that teachers abandon their passion for a social cause, that social issues not be discussed, or that students not be allowed to express themselves. On the contrary, I am requesting that we affirm publicly through our instructional practices that Black Lives Matter, that all humans have value, and that we stand in solidarity against injustice, racism, and violence, at all times. When that affirmation is challenged by those who contend that we have overstepped our mission, I will be able to say that our attention has been on the development of thoughtful processes enabling our students to positively influence their community.

Respectfully,
Allen Bourff

Deputy Clerk Position

The Cicero Clerk Treasurer's office has a full-time position opening for a Deputy Clerk. The Deputy Clerk will be responsible for various clerical, payroll, Human Resource functions, bookkeeping, and utility activities. Process bi-weekly payroll, pension, and deductibles, maintain all payroll records, and on-line filings. Payroll experience is a plus. The position will also be the assistant to the clerk treasurer for budget, attend meetings as necessary, filing, preparing reports, and serve and assist with utility billing activities, answering phones, waiting on customers and other duties as assigned.

Applications will be accepted through **Friday, February 12, 2021.**

Please send résumé to
Rhonda Gary
331 E. Jackson St., P.O. Box 650,
Cicero, IN 46034
rgary@townofcicero.in.gov.

To apply, the Town's application will be required which may be accessed online at www.ciceroin.org under the Government tab – Job Opportunities or requested by e-mail.

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

– Mike Bragg, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville

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

- Individually packaged snacks
- Lysol
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- Disinfecting wipes

Drop off items at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, 14701 Tom Wood Way.

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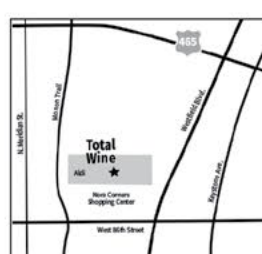
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Single-vehicle crash claims life of Noblesville man

The REPORTER

At 7:50 a.m. on Wednesday, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Crash Team is handling the investigation and working diligently to determine all factors associated with the crash. If you have any information about this crash, please email Lt. Kevin Fessel at kevin.fessel@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or call (317) 773-1282.

Harris of Noblesville. The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Crash Team is handling the investigation and working diligently to determine all factors associated with the crash. If you have any information about this crash, please email Lt. Kevin Fessel at kevin.fessel@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or call (317) 773-1282.



Photos provided

How to celebrate Valentine's Day in Hamilton County

The REPORTER

Local businesses are offering creative ways to safely celebrate Valentine's Day this year. Whether you're planning a romantic evening with your significant other or a fun day with your family and loved ones, there are plenty of things to do in Hamilton County.

Book a staycation at a local hotel for a change of scenery. The Cambria Hotel Westfield Valentine's Staycation package includes 20 percent off standard rates plus free delivery of a ro-

mantic sushi dinner from Chiba. The Hilton Garden Inn Carmel Valentine's Day Package features a discounted room rate, bottle of champagne and breakfast for two. Or splurge and book an overnight stay at the Hotel Carmichael and receive \$50 to use for in-room dining or at Vivante French Eatery.

Celebrate at home with the Nickel Plate Arts "Take-Out Date Night Kit." Each

kit supports five or more Noblesville artists or arts businesses. Or, enjoy the "Couples Play" package from Moonshot Games and Books & Brews Noblesville, which includes a two-player game, appetizer, two entrees and six pack of beer.

Families can have fun in the kitchen at home with cookie decorating kits from Cone + Crumb or Rosie's Place, or bundle up for a Heart Hike scavenger hunt

at Ritchey Woods Nature Preserve Feb. 13.

If you celebrate "Galentine's Day" on Feb. 13, check out Carmel City Center's Valentine's Day Sip + Shop and Food Drive or stream the virtual production of Civic Theatre's *Pride & Prejudice* for a ladies' night. For more information on these activities and other ideas, visit visithamiltoncounty.com/plan/seasons/valentines-day.

Changed stop condition on Centennial Road at 193rd Street

Effective Tuesday, Feb. 16, weather permitting, the traffic pattern will be changed so that traffic on Centennial Road will stop at 193rd Street, and traffic on 193rd Street will not stop at Centennial Road. Advance warning signs will be installed to alert drivers to the new traffic pattern.

Meeting Notices	
<p>The Clay Township Board will meet to discuss the annual report at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at the John W. Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Ave., Indianapolis.</p>	<p>MEETING NOTICE</p> <p>Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners will meet virtually on Monday, February 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. to consider the extension of the Local Emergency Proclamation and other county business as required. To access this meeting dial 1-219-225-8177 Conference ID 912846244#</p> <p>/s/ Robin M. Mills Hamilton County Auditor RL4188</p> <p>2/11/21</p>

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Letter to the Editor

Westfield reader supports additional cigarette taxes

Dear Editor:

I feel a response is needed in regards to **Mari Briggs' letter to the editor** on Wednesday, Feb. 3.

While it is true that The RAISE IT FOR HEALTH PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS are again asking for funding from the cigarette tax, I disagree with Mari and DO feel it is time for actions to be taken. The cigarette tax has not been raised in 14 years.

The Alliance for a Healthier Indiana's supporters – almost 200 leading health, business, youth and community organizations – DO support raising the cigarette tax by \$2 per pack. The desire is to invest the increased revenue – \$360 million in the first year alone – to improve the health of Hoosier kids, families, communities and employees.

Although Mari feels this is an unfair burden upon lower-income smokers, the ultimate goal of raising cigarette taxes is to improve public health and extend lives.

In response to Mari's concerns:

1. The tax does not deter lower income smokers.
2. Cigarette smoking would be their only source of relaxation.

Cigarettes actually wire your body more.

Within seconds of inhaling, nicotine alerts your body to release adrenaline that increases your heart rate and blood pressure. Your liver actually releases sugar to get ready for activity.

Neurotransmitters are also released that warn your body that it is being exposed to stress. All these events make your body more "wired" NOT relaxed. The relief smokers feel is not relief from stress. It's the relief from having a nicotine withdrawal between smokes.

A few facts I would like to note:

- If smokers were completely unresponsive to price changes, tobacco taxes would not be helpful, but increasing the tobacco tax by \$2 per pack is proven to reduce smoking rates. Reducing our smoking rate is key to saving Hoosier lives and the Indiana economy.
- Smoking kills more Hoosiers than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicide combined. A tobacco tax increase is proven to help people quit smoking. It will save Hoosier lives.
- The increase in the tobacco tax is estimated to generate over \$300 million in revenue to help Indiana address improving public health and other critical needs. In addition to the revenue, it will save the Indiana economy billions in healthcare and productivity costs.

I do support a tax on cigarettes.

I am proud to be a supporter of the Raise It for Health campaign and a member of the Tobacco Free Hamilton County Alliance.

Let's Raise It for Health.

Margaret Meyer MSN, RN
Westfield

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.

Help find mascot for Fishers Parks

The REPORTER

Fishers Parks is looking for input in its search for a mascot. Now through Friday, Feb. 12, **submit your idea** or design for the city's Mascot Design Challenge.

The city is challenging the Fishers community to help find the perfect, clever name and character idea that best represents **Fishers Parks**. The perfect mascot will reflect what the department does in the community and will have a strong presence in programming, marketing, and at events.

After all submissions are received, city officials will kick off the final phase of the contest by opening up a series of public polls for a bracket-style competition on the Fishers Parks **Facebook page** to determine a winner. The creator behind the winning mascot will earn bragging rights and a special meet and greet with the new mascot at a later date.

All ages and artistic skill levels welcome.

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Osteopathic family physicians join Indiana Physician Coalition

The REPORTER

A new alliance of medical professionals advocating for patient care continues to grow in support among Hoosier physicians. The Indiana Chapter of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (IN-ACOFPP) has joined the **Indiana Physician Coalition**.

Since launching in 2020, the coalition's members include many of the largest medical associations and specialty societies in the state and represent the vast majority of nearly 17,000 practicing physicians and 2,000 medical students. Its mission is to educate the public about how physician-led care protects patients from harm, increases access to quality care and helps control health care spending.

"From our experience, patients are best served by teams of medical professionals who work together to deliver the highest level of care – when that team is led by a physician," said

Rachel Shockley, DO, president of IN-ACOFPP. "We're proud to join our fellow colleagues in the Indiana Physician Coalition to advocate for physician-led care."

One of the founding members of the coalition is the Indiana Osteopathic Association (IOA), which represents Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine, or DOs, from all specialties in medicine.

"We appreciate the dedication of our osteopathic family physicians," said Brian Black, DO, president of IOA. "Through our coalition, osteopathic physicians can share our collective expertise to help guide lawmakers on policies that will lead to healthier outcomes for all Hoosiers – and not just our individual patients."

Medical school matters

Patients are often confused by the various titles of medical professions – and sometimes don't even realize DOs are highly trained

physicians, even though they complete rigorous structured preparation.

New DOs, the same as their Medical Doctor (MD) counterparts, accumulate up to 16,000 clinical hours by the time they complete their training. It takes seven to 12 years of preparation for practice, including four years of medical school and three to eight years of residency and fellowship training in a medical or surgical specialty.

And yet, in an independent survey of Indiana residents, the coalition found that one out of every four Hoosiers were not confident that the provider who had seen them over the past few years was a physician, DO or MD, rather than an advanced practitioner such as a nurse anesthetist (CRNA) or nurse practitioner (APRN).

"Regardless of this confusion, Hoosiers trust Indiana physicians to manage their health care," said Dr. Black. "A recent survey

from around the state found that more than three out of four citizens over the age of 40 feel that physicians should have primary responsibility for leading and coordinating their health care. It's no surprise that they want oversight by a professional with the highest level of training and preparation – and that's a physician."

Other findings of the quantitative survey include:

- **83%** of Hoosiers believe physicians and nurse practitioners need to work in a coordinated manner to ensure that patients get the care they need.

- **76%** of Hoosiers believe in the event of a medical complication or emergency, a physician's education and training are necessary to ensure patient safety.

- **73%** of Hoosiers believe nurse practitioners treating patients with one or more chronic diseases should be overseen by physicians.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 10:8-15 (NIV)

Mary Frances (Biddle) Baird

December 13, 1921 – January 30, 2021

Mary Frances (Biddle) Baird, 99, Fishers, formerly of Sheridan, passed away on Saturday, January 30, 2021. She was born on December 13, 1921 to the late Ken and Velma (Hughes) Biddle in Baltimore, Md.

Mary Frances graduated high school in 1939 from Cleveland, Ohio. Mary Frances followed in her father's footsteps and went to work for his company in Sheridan, Biddle Precision Components, learning the business. She started out working as her father's secretary for many years, then eventually became President of the company in 1980. She ran it for many years, finally retiring in 1991. Mary Frances, like her father, loved the town of Sheridan and was very involved with the community. She continued to serve her father's legacy while serving on the board of the Biddle Memorial Foundation, which has contributed millions to Sheridan and Hamilton County philanthropies.

Mary Frances was a woman of faith, and she was a member of Sheridan United Methodist Church, and also a member of Sheridan Eastern Star.

When Mary Frances was not busy with her humanitarian efforts, she enjoyed gardening and showing off her garden. Mary Frances loved her family, and she looked forward to spending time with them and teaching them the values of hard work and faith.

Mary Frances leaves behind two daughters, Darlene Myers, Fishers, and Kay (Bob) Palmer, St. Augustine, Fla. She was a loving grandmother to Roger (Tammy) Myers, Fishers, Brian Myers, Carmel, John (Laurie) Myers, Charlestown, N.H., Greg (Andrea) Palmer, St. John, Fla., and Holly (Jeff) Snell, Noblesville. Mary Frances was a proud great-grandmother to Jake, Josh, Lydia, Audrey, Corbin, Alexa, Justin, Jordan, Kayla, Jaelyn, Madison and Meaghan, and a great-great-grandmother to Nora.

Mary Frances is preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Baird, in 1999.

A celebration of Mary Frances' life will be scheduled for a later date. Everyone is invited to sign the online guest book, leave a condolence or share a memory at fisherfunerals.com.



BUSSELL FAMILY FUNERALS

1621 E. Grayhound Pass
Carmel, IN 46032
(317) 537-2001
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INDOT named 'owner of the year'

The REPORTER

The editors of Engineering News Record (ENR) have named the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) as 2020 Owner of the Year for ENR Midwest. ENR is a leading news publication for the engineering and construction industries across the country. Each year ENR identifies and recognizes project owners for excellence in planning, design, construction and project management of large-scale construction projects.

"Our unprecedented commitment to infrastructure continues to receive national attention, both from industry experts and from job creators," Governor Eric J. Holcomb said. "A long-term, fully funded plan for maintaining our highways, historic investment in local roads and determination to deliver on transformational projects like I-69 and expanding the South Shore Line are making Indiana an even better place to do business and create jobs."

"Despite all of the challenges of living and working during a pandemic, the Indiana Department of Transportation made 2020 a great year for infrastructure," ENR Midwest Editor Jeff Yoders said. "The editors of ENR are proud

to name INDOT ENR Midwest's Owner of the Year."

"Our INDOT team, along with our consulting and contracting partners, are working harder than ever to deliver high-quality transportation improvement projects as safely as possible and at the best value to Hoosiers," INDOT Commissioner Joe McGuinness said. "I am pleased that ENR chose to recognize Indiana for its leadership in building and maintaining our transportation network."

Highlights from INDOT's 2020 include:

- Record \$2.08 billion investment in more than 1,400 capital construction projects on Indiana's state highway system and \$462 million investment in 560 local road, bridge, sidewalk and trail projects through Governor Holcomb's Next Level Roads plan.

- Approximately 750 bridges reconstructed or rehabilitated and replaced approximately 700 centerline miles of pavement on the state highway system.

- Traffic impacts from COVID-19 allowed INDOT to rephase approximately 20 state highway construction projects. The most significant rephasing involved a project to replace about 75 miles of pavement and 28

bridge decks on Interstate 70 in Indianapolis. INDOT authorized contractors to close all lanes in the construction in one direction at time to complete work faster. This rephasing reduced the project completion time by three months and saved taxpayers approximately \$3.5 million.

- I-69 Finish Line (Section 6). Indiana is in the final stage of the longest interstate extension project currently under construction in the country. I-69 Finish Line is the sixth and final section of the Interstate 69 connection between Evansville and Indianapolis. The project upgrades the existing State Road 37 to interstate standards from Martinsville to Indianapolis. The project eliminates more than 200 at-grade crossings and driveways, constructs or rehabilitates over 70 bridges, builds 35 miles of new local access road connections and adds 10 new interchanges. The I-69 extension is the realization of 75 years of studies and discussion about an improved, multi-lane highway connecting southwest Indiana. The route will reduce crashes in the region by more than 1,300 annually and generate a \$4.1 billion economic impact over 20

years. When work is complete, I-69 will run continuously from the Canadian border at Port Sarnia, Mich., to Evansville, Ind., with Indiana an important piece of the planned national corridor.

- I-65/I-70 North Split Reconstruction. The project is reconstructing the I-65 and I-70 interchange located in downtown Indianapolis. As one of the most heavily traveled interchanges in Indiana, many structures have exceeded their service life after nearly 50 years in operation. The approximately \$383 million project is replacing 32 aging bridges and 27 miles of pavement. When complete, the North Split project will reduce congestion, improve safety for the community and travelers, and provide a maintenance-free infrastructure for decades to come. Comprised of four sections – the south leg, west leg, east leg, and interchange – this design-build project will replace all pavement, reconfigure the interchange into three levels, eliminate two ramp movements, replace numerous bridge structures, install a new drainage system, improve local streets, replace ITS facilities, and provide new aesthetic and landscape features.



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Sports



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It comes down to free throws - again...

Sheridan holds off Prairie in overtime

“Hey, Silas. Since I made the game-winning free throws last night, do you want to make them tonight?”

“Sure, Ethan. Thanks.”

This conversation probably didn’t happen. But it does seem like lately, the players on the Sheridan boys basketball team have been taking turns making the clutch free throws at the end of the game.

It was Silas DeVaney’s turn on Wednesday, as his foul shots with a few seconds to go pushed the Blackhawks in front by one point. Sheridan was then able to hang on for a 55-54 overtime win over Hoosier Heartland Conference rival Clinton Prairie at Larry Hobbs Gym.

“The kids are figuring out ways to win games when they’re not used to winning games,” said Blackhawks coach Tod Windlan. That’s one of the coach’s goals, “trying to change the culture as much as we can. We’re slowly getting it done. It was a great team win. We had a lot of contributions.”

The game ended regulation in a 47-47 tie. Sheridan went up 53-47 after back-to-back 3-pointers from Cayden Hunter and Ethan Moistner, who made the game-winning free throws Tuesday in the Hawks’ win over Frankfort. (Moistner made some history on Wednesday - more about that in a minute).

The Gophers came back to lead 54-53 with 17 seconds left. DeVaney then took the ball inside, got fouled going to the basket, and made both of his free throws. Prairie had one more chance to score, but missed free throws at the end.

The Blackhawks outscored the Go-

phers in each of the first three quarters, leading 14-11 after the first period after being down 9-2 early. Sheridan then went up 28-23 at halftime, then extended its lead to 39-33 after three periods. Prairie outscored the ‘Hawks 14-8 in the fourth to force overtime.

Moistner finished the game with 24 points on eight 3-pointers, tying the school record for most 3s in a game. The senior made two triples in each of the first three quarters, then one more in the fourth. Moistner also pulled four rebounds and blocked two shots.

DeVaney scored nine points, while Hunter threw in two 3s on his way to eight points. Hunter and Kyle Eden both dished out four assists. Keenan Warren had seven points and four steals.

Sheridan is now 3-2 in the conference standings and 9-6 overall. The Blackhawks travel to Carroll on Friday to continue HHC play.

SHERIDAN 55, CLINTON PRAIRIE 54 (overtime)					
Sheridan	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Corbin Murray	1-5	0-0	3	4	
Kyle Eden	2-5	0-1	4	5	
Cayden Hunter	3-3	0-0	8	2	
Keenan Warren	3-4	1-4	7	2	
Ethan Moistner	8-14	0-0	24	1	
Silas DeVaney	2-4	5-7	9	2	
Evan Grinstead	0-0	0-0	0	0	
Totals	19-35	6-12	55	16	
Score by Quarters					
Clinton Prairie	11	12	10	14	7 - 54
Sheridan	14	14	11	8	8 - 55
Sheridan 3-point shooting (11-20) Moistner 8-12, Hunter 2-2, Murray 1-3, Eden 0-2, DeVaney 0-1.					
Sheridan rebounds (13) Moistner 4, Eden 3, DeVaney 3, Murray 2, Hunter 1.					



Photo by Si DeVaney III

Sheridan's Silas DeVaney made two free throws in the final seconds of the game on Wednesday, and that sent the Blackhawks to a 55-54 overtime win over Clinton Prairie. It's the second night in a row that Sheridan made crucial free throws to get the victory.

Remembering Danny Gray

The Dream Season of the Boys from the Old Southside of Noblesville

By DR. TERRY COOMER

I grew up in the Old Southside of Noblesville right across from South Side Park. The park was the center of attention for whatever sport was playing. It was a huge city block between 4th Street on the east, 3rd Street on the west, Pleasant Street on the north, and Washington Street on the south.

Many of the great athletes from Noblesville High School have come from the Old Southside of Noblesville. It was a man-building neighborhood! As an example, we did not play flag football, we played real tackle football! I remember the Camp boys, Jimmy Camp, a great running back for Noblesville High School. The Bradfield, Harber, Pryor, Nethery, McKinley, Schoolcraft, and Wariner boys. Yes, that’s right Steve Wariner of country music fame grew up on the Old Southside of Noblesville. Jim Tittle, Denry Russ, Ray Dixon, Jimmy Atwell, and I am sure I am missing some. There were a lot of tough boys in the Old Southside. We never played football without someone getting a bloody something or other.

It was tackle football at its best. Coach Jim Belden and Phil Shelby would have loved it! Line up and hit hard! No pads and some fights!

Baseball was big as well. I owe a lot to the boys in the neighborhood as I played against the older boys every day when it was warm enough to play and they helped me to get better. Jimmy Atwell and I played many hours of catch. In 1973, I was the 78th player taken in the Major League Baseball draft by the San Francisco Giants as a pitcher. The first player in Indiana. However, this article is not about baseball or football. It is about basketball!

Recently, I read the obituary of Danny Gray, who grew up on the Old Southside of Noblesville. It made me think about “The Dream Season.” The year was 1968 and I was starting into the eighth grade. I had played basketball on the seventh grade Junior High School basketball team.

Another place that was especially important to the boys of Noblesville at the time was the Noblesville Boys Club. It

was located above Kirk’s Hardware, on the square, up a mountain of stairs on the third floor. Basketball was played along with some real tough murder (dodge) ball games. I knocked plaster off the wall several times! Noblesville’s population at the time was around 7,000 people.

In 1968 the boys of the Old Southside had a discussion. What do you guys think about playing basketball for the Boys Club this year instead of the school system? Just some guys from the “Neighborhood” deciding to have some fun playing together as childhood friends. Honestly, we did not think about “winning anything” but just having some fun together.

Danny Gray, to me, was one of the most inspiring sports stores I have ever seen. Danny was going into ninth grade and the rest of us were going into eighth grade. The core of the team was Danny Gray, Larry Stidham, Joe McKinley, and me, Terry Coomer. We were the starters along with different boys from the neighborhood playing the fifth spot.

Remember, it was all about fun, not necessarily winning and it was about

our friendship together and where we all grew up.

As the season started, we won a few games. Winning is always fun. Danny was taller than the rest of us, so he played center. This season was a big deal for Danny as it inspired him to want to play basketball. He was not a great athlete, but he did put in the work. As the season wore on, we continued to win. We went to Anderson and played the Wilson Boys Club. It was an intimidating gym, and it was packed for the game. Huge crowd and a lot of noise. Many people circling the court. They took their basketball seriously. A young man who many might remember was playing for Wilson Boys Club. His name was Harry Morgan, who later went to star at Indiana State University with Larry Bird. I remember that night as people were screaming from the stands, “Fling some elbows Harry, fling some elbows!” He did! This was our first loss of the season by two points. We were not too disappointed, remember, it was

See Dream Season . . . Page 7

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DREAM SEASON

from Page 6

all about fun, but we now realized we were playing well together, and we were surprisingly good. Hey, we stayed in the game and did not get blown out. Danny held his own in the middle with the “big boys”.

The Boys Club season was structured pretty much the same as the high school tournament at the time. There was a sectional, regional, semi-state and then the state finals. Only they had different names for it. We practiced every night at the Boys Club gym.

We got to the final game of the sectional. Noblesville was the host. Because you had to have a regulation gym size, the tournament was held at North Elementary School which was new and had a regulation gym. Guess who we got to play in the championship game? You guessed it, Wilson Boys Club from Anderson!

A couple of interesting things happened. Our coach had a job transfer and was required to leave immediately for his new job. So, here we were in the championship game and no coach. Walter Smith was the Director of the Noblesville Boys Club at the time. Walter was a kind and gracious man. He came into the huddle and said, “Boys, I don’t know that much about basketball, but you are doing pretty good, so just keep doing what you are doing! I am rooting for you!”

Another thing we did, and remember we were young boys, we decided not to wear any shoes or socks for the game. Hey, we had better traction, but it did hurt when someone stepped on your foot! Just having fun and it distracted the Anderson boys. They were laughing at us, but they did not do so as the game continued. We only lost by two points the last time. The game came down to the end of regulation and was tied. There were eight seconds left. We had the full length of the floor to go. In the huddle the whole game Walt just listened to us talk and devise plays and what we were going to do. Then he would say “sounds good!” We devised the play at the end of the game, where Joe McKinley would throw the ball into



Varsity Basketball Team, Front Row; Ray Lyttle, Mike Swaynie, Gary Parks, Coach Hoffer. Second Row; Rex Wallace, Gary Robinson, Danny Gray, Wavren Grimes, Paul Pass. Third Row; Mark Hood, Bruce Gilliam, Greg Dashiell, Craig Marks.



Photos provided by Terry Coomer

Danny Gray (center of team huddle) used hard work to help the Noblesville Boys Club team reach the state championship game, and later made the Noblesville High School team.

me. Danny Gray lined up at the foul line under the basket (left side) with his back to the basket. I lost my man, and Joe got me the ball. Larry Stidham went to the other side of the foul line with his back to the basket. As soon as Joe got me the ball, Danny and Larry spun backward and crossed the lane. Their men got tangled up and just as I threw the ball the length of the court Danny went up got the ball and laid it in for the Noblesville Boys Club to win the championship! Perfect

play designed by young boys to win a big game! I had never seen such a big smile on Danny’s face. What poise, he caught the ball perfectly and laid it in under pressure to win the game! And nobody even stepped on his foot which they were trying to do all night!

I remember Walter Smith just standing on the side lines smiling big and clapping his hands and I ran over and gave him a big hug and thanked him for letting us play. There had been some discussion about not playing because we lost our coach.

We went on and won the regional, semi-state, and the first game in the state championship where we played a Boys Club out of Gary, Indiana. The state finals were held in Shelbyville. All the teams had warm-up clothes and uniforms. We had whatever we were wearing. Money was difficult for our Boys Club at the time and no one figured we would get close to this far. We looked at the size of those boys from Gary and figured the season was over. We hit several shots from the outside and won by eight points and Danny got his fair share of rebounds. We lost the State Championship game by six points to Shelbyville. But what a season! A “dream season!” The winter of fun with just boys from the “neighborhood.” By the way we wore shoes for all the rest of the games because our feet were killing us for a week after that Anderson game! Dumber than all get out, but we had fun!

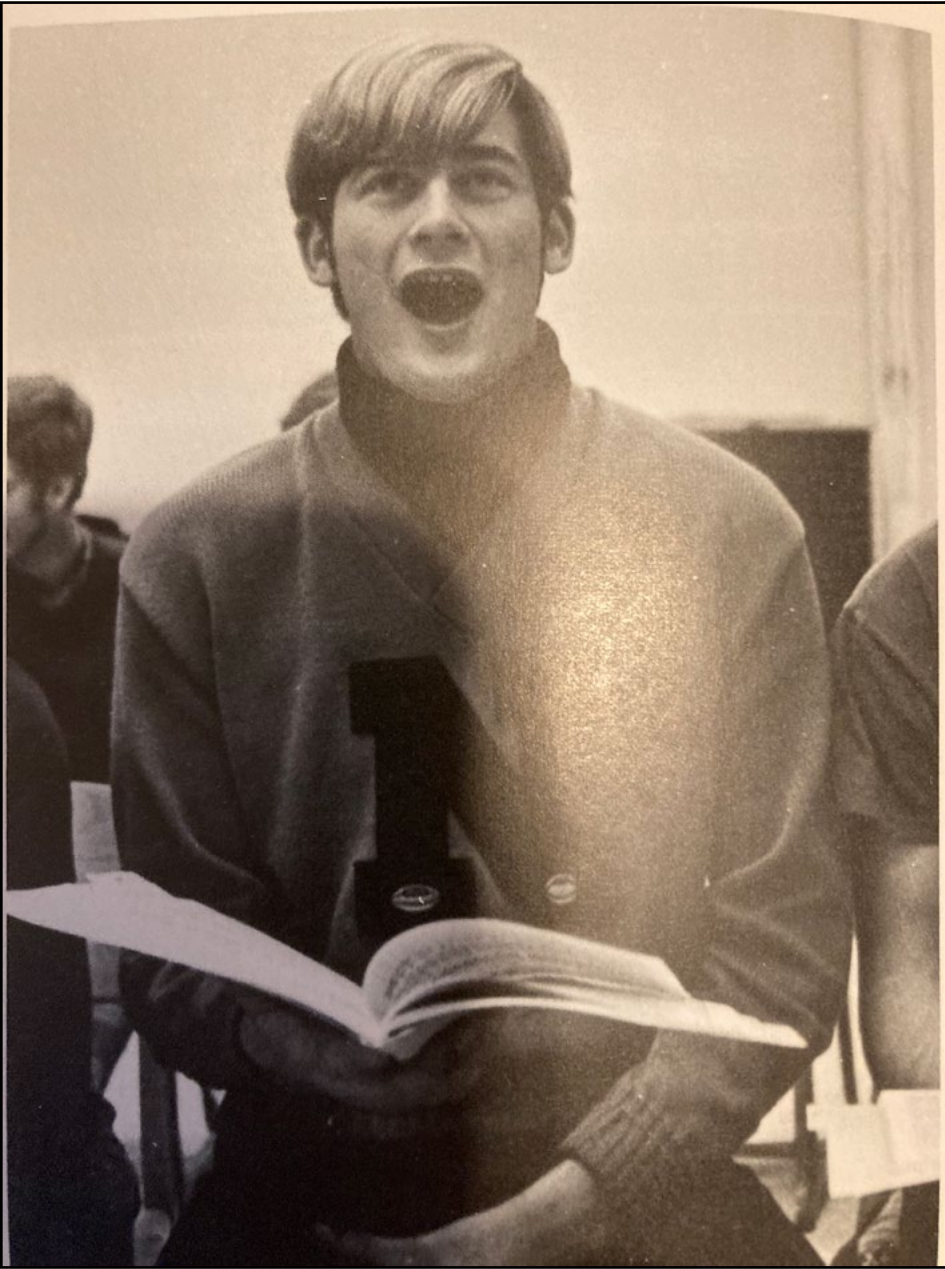
What about Danny Gray? He went out for the Noblesville High School basket-

ball team the next season and was the last player cut and did not make the squad. This bothered Danny greatly. He wanted to make the team and play.

All through that winter Danny played basketball every night. Many nights he was down at the old Third Ward school playing. Rain, snow, it did not matter. If there were guys to play, they played games. If not, Danny would practice shooting and rebounding. He many times took a snow shovel with him and shoveled off the court so he could practice. The next Noblesville High School basketball season came around and Danny made the team!

I remember going by seeing Danny down at Third Ward just shooting on very cold evenings. He inspired me about hard work and fulfilling his dream. He made it happen. His determination was well-known. Thanks, Danny, for showing all the guys in the “neighborhood” and others what hard work really meant and that nothing is impossible with hard work. As we grew up and moved away from each other, this season kind of reminded me of the movie called *The Sandlot* where the boys from the “neighborhood” played. I do not know where all the boys from the “neighborhood” are now, but Danny Gray is now gone, but I wanted to share his memory and the inspiration he was to all of us. Thank you, Danny!

Dr. Terry Coomer may be reached at drterrycoomer19@gmail.com



Danny Gray was also a singer in the Noblesville High School choir.

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NBA standings

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic	W	L	PCT.	GB
Philadelphia	18	7	.720	-
Brooklyn	15	12	.556	4.0
Boston	12	11	.522	5.0
Toronto	12	13	.480	6.0
New York	11	15	.423	7.5
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Milwaukee	16	9	.640	-
Indiana	12	13	.480	4.0
Chicago	10	14	.417	5.5
Cleveland	10	16	.385	6.5
Detroit	6	18	.250	9.5
Southeast	W	L	PCT.	GB
Charlotte	12	14	.462	-
Atlanta	11	13	.458	-
Miami	10	14	.417	1.0
Orlando	9	16	.360	2.5
Washington	6	16	.273	4.0

Wednesday's games	
Toronto 137, Washington 115	L.A. Clippers 119, Minnesota 112
Dallas 118, Atlanta 117	Chicago 129, New Orleans 116
Brooklyn 104, Indiana 94	Denver 133, Cleveland 95
Memphis 130, Charlotte 114	Phoenix 125, Milwaukee 124
	L.A. Lakers 114, Oklahoma City 113

Western Conference				
Northwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Utah	20	5	.800	-
Portland	13	10	.565	6.0
Denver	13	11	.542	6.5
Oklahoma City	10	14	.417	9.5
Minnesota	6	19	.240	14.0
Pacific	W	L	PCT.	GB
L.A. Lakers	20	6	.769	-
L.A. Clippers	18	8	.692	2.0
Phoenix	15	9	.625	4.0
Golden State	13	12	.520	6.5
Sacramento	12	12	.500	7.0
Southwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
San Antonio	14	11	.560	-
Memphis	10	10	.500	1.5
Dallas	12	14	.462	2.5
New Orleans	11	13	.458	2.5
Houston	11	13	.458	2.5

Pacers have rough night in Brooklyn

By BRENDAN ROURKE
Courtesy nba.com/pacers
The Pacers (12-13) had hopes of stopping its losing skid Wednesday night against the slumping Brooklyn Nets (15-12). But it just wasn't their day from the start.

The Blue & Gold shot just 11-of-43 (25.6 percent) from the floor in the first half en route to scoring a season-low 30 points after two quarters. Finding themselves in a 62-30 halftime hole, the club attempted to claw its way back. However, the deficit was just too large to overcome, and Indiana fell to the hosts, 104-94.

"A lot of things," coach Nate Bjorkgren answered when asked what went wrong in the first half. "I didn't think we were moving the ball there with a purpose. I thought we got frustrated. There was a number of things that I would have liked to take back."

Five Pacers players finished in double figures, with Domantas Sabonis leading the way with 18 points and nine boards. Brogdon added 15 and six assists, while T.J. McConnell had a bench-high 13 points to go along with a season-high seven rebounds.

But nobody was as impressive as Kyrie Irving tonight. The nine-year NBA veteran tallied a game-high 35 points on 8-of-17 shooting to lead the Nets to the win. He also finished a perfect 17-for-17 at the free-throw line. He had six more free-throw attempts than the entire Pacers squad combined.

Indiana started just 2-of-12 from the field, notching just six points over the first 6:58 of game time. During a 4:01 Pacers scoreless streak, Brooklyn recorded eight consecutive points to stretch its lead to 14-6. DeAndre Jordan provided the highlight of the run, finishing an alley-oop slam off Irving's lob at the 5:02 mark of the quarter.

The Pacers were ready to close the gap after Justin Holiday nailed a triple with 3:44 left in the first. The 26-footer from the left wing cut the Pacers' deficit to 16-11. After Jordan notched a put-back layup, Sabonis drilled another trey from the left corner to bring Indiana to within four of the lead.

However, that would be as close as they'd get for the remainder of the period. A pair of James Harden free throws with 11.8 seconds to go pushed the Nets ahead 27-18 before time expired. Harden finished the night with a double-double, recording 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Indiana's story remained the same in the second as they continued to misfire. A pair of Joe Harris threes 30 seconds apart sandwiched a trey from Aaron Holiday and gave the Nets a 35-25 lead with 8:17 remaining.

After Holiday's three fell, the Blue & Gold suffered another lengthy scoreless streak of 4:03. Meanwhile, the Nets scored 15 straight, including six from Irving, to extend their lead to 47-25 with 4:40 to go. A pair of Brogdon free throws

finally ended the drought.

But his trip to the line did little to spark Indiana's offense. Meanwhile, the Nets kept finding ways to get to the paint and draw fouls. Four consecutive free throws from Irving eventually put the Blue & Gold into a 62-30 hole with 50.8 seconds to go.

The night looked lost early in the third after consecutive triples from Harris and Irving pushed Brooklyn's lead to 68-33 at the 10:12 mark. Frustrations showed on the Pacers' faces, as Myles Turner was called for a technical foul after arguing a call moments later. Naturally, Irving hit the ensuing free throw.

However, Turner's emotion appeared to spark Indiana for the remainder of the frame. The Blue & Gold rattled off a 16-5 run, including four 3-pointers, over a 3:56 span to trim Brooklyn's lead to 74-49 with 5:45 remaining in the third.

After Irving halted the run with a reverse layup, Indiana kept on fighting. A Justin Holiday snipe from the right side started a string of 12 unanswered Pacers points that cut the once 36-point deficit to just 76-62 with 1:17 to play in the frame. McConnell and Sabonis were the stars of the run, scoring 10 combined points. But, Brooklyn closed out the quarter strong, tallying six unanswered to push the Nets' lead back to 20 as the clubs entered the fourth.

Indiana quickly chipped into the lead in the early moments of the fourth. Goga

Bitadze's driving baseline layup with 9:33 to go trimmed Brooklyn's lead to 68-84. Just over a minute later, Doug McDermott notched his 10th point of the frame on a finger roll layup and cut the deficit to 87-72. McDermott finished with 12 points, which all came in the final frame.

After Brooklyn managed to extend the lead back to 20, back-to-back treys from Brogdon and Justin Holiday trimmed it down 94-80 with 5:42 to go. But that was the last breath of Indiana's comeback attempt.

Irving then found six straight Nets points from the charity stripe to erase any momentum. The trips to the line gave Brooklyn a 100-80 lead with 3:58 to play and ultimately sealed the Pacers' fate. A solid effort from the deep bench to close out the game helped give a more respectable final score.

Although back-to-backs are often stressful, the Pacers hope the quick turnaround to tomorrow's game against the Detroit Pistons can help the team dispel any lingering thoughts of this game moving forward.

"We're already ready to play," McDermott said. "It was a frustrating one tonight. But the good news is we have another opportunity in less than 24 hours. So, we don't have to dwell on it too much. We can get to Detroit, get some sleep, wake up, and get ready to play some basketball."

Wednesday high school boys basketball scores

Courtesy John Harrell's website
www.johnharrell.net

Churubusco 67, Fort Wayne Wayne 64
Cowan 80, Wes-Del 64
Eastside 87, Hamilton 35
Fort Wayne Dwenger 62, East Noble 32

Highland 54, Hammond Gavit 30
Illiana Christian 51, Calumet 50
Indianapolis Ritter 49, Beech Grove 47, OT
Lake Station 86, Hammond Science & Tech 54
Sheridan 55, Clinton Prairie 54, OT
Southwestern (Shelbyville) 47, Tri 43

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