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TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Mostly sunny.
Tonight: Clouding up, with a few overnight showers.

HIGH: 47 LOW: 38

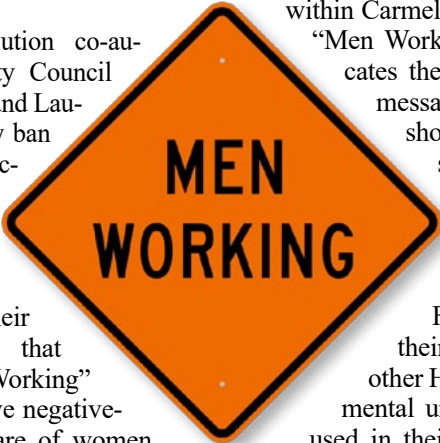


No more ‘Men at Work’ in Carmel

The REPORTER

A proposed resolution co-authored by Carmel City Council members Sue Finkam and Laura Campbell will likely ban gender-biased construction signage within Hamilton County's largest city.

Finkam and Campbell state in their proposed resolution that signs such as "Men Working" or "Men at Work" have negatively impacted the welfare of women



within Carmel. And "Men at Work" or "Men Working" signage communicates the false and unacceptable message that women cannot or should not work in the construction trades or other related fields.

In addition to regulating signage in their own community, Finkam and Campbell, in their proposal, encourage all other Hamilton County governmental units to examine signage used in their jurisdictions and take



Finkam



Campbell

any actions they believe are appropriate to promote equality and remedy gender bias.

Carmel holding first webinar today to discuss land use moving forward

The REPORTER

Carmel's Department of Community Services is launching a new update of the comprehensive plan for the city's growth that will guide city planners and decision makers for the next decade or longer.

The last update took place in 2009 and, according to city officials, has served the growing city well. With recent growth in the central corridor and changes seen in business and residential patterns, the time has come for another update.

The city has engaged the team of Greenstreet and YARD & Company to assist city planning staff and leadership in updating the comprehensive plan around growth management, land use, transportation, and environment.

The community is invited to be part of this project by signing up for the four-part "Talk of the Town" interactive discussions focused on the future of Carmel. During these meetings, the project consulting team will present key aspects of the plan update process and answer questions about the planning process via a live webinar format.

The meetings will be held on the following dates with these topics:

- **Today at noon – Leverage your own gravity**
 - March 12 at noon – Move in, not out
 - March 26 at noon – Unlock complementary growth
 - April 9 at noon – Shape the growth
- [Click here](#) to register for one of these discussions.

Registered participants will be able to submit questions during the webinar. Each discussion will also be broadcast live on [Facebook](#) and will be recorded and saved to the city's [YouTube channel](#) and on the [project website](#). You can submit comments and questions after the live event by posting comments below the video on YouTube.

Carmel's ‘Feed the Frontlines’ brings over 12K meals to healthcare workers

The COVID-19 pandemic brought challenges to all of us. But amongst the challenges and heartbreaks, there were examples of how communities joined together to help one another. Feed the Frontlines Carmel was one of those examples, and I was privileged to help with it.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Feed the Frontlines programs were started across the country. The City of Carmel knew it would be a good program for our city as it provided an opportunity to help our locally-owned restaurants as well as support the frontline healthcare workers working with COVID-19 patients in our two local hospitals, IU North and Ascension St. Vincent.



SUE MAKI

The City of Carmel partnered with the Rotary Club of Carmel to implement the program. Carmel Rotary and the Rotary Central Indiana District Foundation were the non-profit fiscal agents for the program; this was the perfect partnership as contributions made to the Foundation were tax deductible, and with the Carmel Rotary Club managing the ordering and invoicing process, the meals furnished by the restaurants were tax-exempt.

See Frontlines . . . Page 2

County death investigations up 23% this year

Coroner John Chalfin frustrated with state's new reporting system

By JEFF JELLISON
Reporter Publisher

The Hamilton County Coroner's Office logged a record-breaking number of cases in 2020.

According to Hamilton County Coroner John Chalfin, his office recorded a total of 511 cases in 2020, up 23 percent from the previous year.

Chalfin predicts the number will grow in 2021. "Based on current statistics, the office could see 560 to 600 cases," he said.

Chalfin contributed the increase to the growing population in the county. "COVID-19 did not impact our numbers significantly," he said. "A majority of those deaths were people under a doctor's care,



Chalfin

which most often, does not warrant a coroner investigation."

A new statewide death reporting system, DRIVE, was implemented in January. It's used by coroners, physicians, health departments, and funeral homes, and it has Chalfin frustrated.

"Under the old system it took 15 to 20 minutes to certify a death with the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)," he said. "Now, under the new system, it takes nearly an hour if everything goes smooth."

In Indiana, death certificates are administered by the local health departments and require the signature of a physician or coroner. Death certificates are needed for families to settle final affairs of the deceased.

"The new system has delayed the issu-

Coroner Cases by the Numbers	
Type	2020
Homicides	6
Accidental Drug Overdoses	31*
Suicides	26
Accidents	23
Natural	416
Other	9
Autopsies	172

*Includes fatal motor vehicle accidents

ance of death certificates, making it difficult for families to move forward with final arrangements," Chalfin said.

See Coroner . . . Page 2



Photo provided

House Speaker Todd Huston (center, sitting) and State Reps. Chris Jeter (right, standing) and Jerry Torr (right, sitting) join Gov. Eric Holcomb (left, sitting) as he signs Senate Enrolled Act 1 into law on Feb. 18. This new law was fast-tracked through the legislative process to give Hoosier businesses more confidence to reopen without getting hit with lawsuits related to COVID-19.

Local lawmakers join governor in providing COVID liability protection

The REPORTER

Gov. Eric Holcomb recently signed legislation into law supported by House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) and State Reps. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers) and Jerry Torr (R-Carmel) to provide COVID-19 liability protections to businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Huston said [Senate Enrolled Act 1](#) will provide orga-

nizations and individuals with immunity from civil liabilities if someone is exposed to COVID-19 at their business or where a service was provided. According to a survey conducted by the National Federation of Independent Businesses, 55 percent of Hoosier small businesses considered the possibility of pandemic-related legal action a concern.

"We heard from business owners that the potential for lawsuits related to COVID-19 was a key concern as they reopen their doors," Huston said. "No one could have ever predicted a year ago we would be in this position, and employers should be confident operating while continuing to take the proper precautions to protect their employees and customers."

According to Jeter, who sponsored the new law, this protection does not apply to those accused of gross negligence or wanton or willful misconduct on the part of the organization or individual.

"Hoosiers are eager to keep their doors open and continue serving our communities," Jeter

See Liability . . . Page 2

HSE school board, teachers' union issue statement aimed at state lawmakers

By LARRY LANNAN
LarryInFishers.com

In a brief board meeting Tuesday, Hamilton Southeastern Schools joined the local teachers' union, the Hamilton Southeastern Education Association, in opposing legislation under consideration by the General Assembly that both groups view as a threat to Indiana public school funding.

The board voted unanimously to issue the joint statement, which urges "legislators to op-

pose these bills, and any other legislation that directs funding away from

Indiana public schools." The bills include [HB 1005](#), [SB 412](#) and [SB 413](#).

Board member Sarah Donsbach, the board's Legislative Liaison, reviewed the details of how the proposed legislation would increase funding for families with children in nonpublic schools and would increase the income range, allowing families with higher incomes to qualify for state sub-

sidies for nonpublic schools.

"It greatly expands the income eligibility for students to be able to participate in this Choice program," Donsbach told fellow board members. "That risks the public schools losing a large amount of funding in the process."

HB 1005 has passed the Indiana House by a vote of 61-38. It is now under consideration in the Senate.

On another matter, President

Janet Pritchett says the board has started interviewing candidates for superintendent, with those interviews starting last week and wrapping up this week. The board expects to make a choice, enter into contract negotiations, and "hopefully" announce the new superintendent March 24.

"I just want to reiterate how pleased we are with our candidates," Pritchett said. "They are very strong and we are very, very excited to have them and we're going to have a really, really dif-

ficult choice."

Current Superintendent Allen Bourff has announced his intention to retire at the end of June this year.

You can view the entire joint resolution opposing the three education bills below.

JOINT RESOLUTION
BETWEEN THE HAMILTON
SOUTHEASTERN

See Resolution . . . Page 2



HomeAutoBusinessLife

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Community News

Support HSE/Fishers FFA at Wayne-Fall Lions' Bean Supper

The Wayne-Fall Lions Club will hold its annual Ham & Bean Supper from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27. This year's supper will be drive-thru style, so be sure to stay in your car.

All proceeds will benefit the Hamilton Southeastern/Fishers FFA, so please make your free will donations.

The menu includes ham and beans, cornbread, cole slaw, a drink, and a cookie. Hot dogs will also be available.

The Ham & Bean Supper will be held at the Wayne-Fall Lions Club, 11940 E. 191st St., Noblesville.

FRONTLINES

from Page 1



Photos provided

(Above) Rosie's Place making a delivery to Ascension St. Vincent hospital. (Below) Agave Bar & Grill making a delivery to IU North Hospital.

CORONER

from Page 1

Chalfin said his frustration with the new system is attributed to inadequate training by ISDH, timing of implementation, and the lack of physicians registered in the DRIVE database.

"They rolled this out right in the middle of a pandemic," he said. "What use to be a simple process is now an arduous task for everyone involved. On top of that, the new system did not initially recognize the newly formed Fishers Health Department."

Barb Hathaway, Vital Records Registrar for the Fishers Health Department, confirmed her office did not come online with ISDH's new system until mid-February, which created a backlog in the issuance of death certificates for deaths occurring in Fishers.

Chalfin said the new system has tasked his staff. "An average number of

hours worked per coroner case is 14. With a case load expected to be nearly 600 this year, it is easy to see the additional workload the new system will create," he said. "We are the fourth largest county in Indiana by population. Unlike some of the larger counties, we do not have a staff person assigned to processes death certificates. Much of our time is spent investigating cases and conducting autopsies. We will need to make some changes if the bugs aren't worked out of the DRIVE system."

Chalfin also pointed out some death certificates are being delayed due to toxicology reporting. "In death investigations requiring toxicology examinations, results from testing laboratories are taking four to six weeks due to a nationwide increase in overdose deaths," he said.

LIABILITY

from Page 1

said. "This new law protects those who are following the necessary protocols that are proven to help stop the spread of this virus while helping our state recover economically."

Torr said this law does not cover non-COVID-19 related claims or let facilities off the hook if they fail to meet the proper standard of care to patients.

"Businesses owners across our state are ready

to fully reopen and bounce back, but many are worried about potential lawsuits that could worsen their financial situation," said Torr, sponsor of the bill. "The General Assembly and governor's swift action on this legislation further demonstrates our commitment to getting Indiana back on track."

Senate Enrolled Act 1 is effective immediately. For more information, visit iga.in.gov.

LIABILITY

from Page 1

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RESOLUTION

from Page 1

EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AND THE HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN SCHOOLS IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1005, SB 412, AND SB 413

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during its 2021 legislative session is considering HB 1005, SB 412, and SB 413.

WHEREAS, HB 1005, SB 412, and SB 413 establish Education Savings (or Scholarship) Accounts (ESAs) and dramatically increase funding for school choice scholarships; and,

WHEREAS, there is no urgency to pass these measures during a pandemic that is already imposing severe financial constraints on public schools; and,

WHEREAS, parents in Indiana have an array of state-funded options for schooling, including high quality public schools, choice scholarships, tax deductions for private school and home school education expenses, charter schools, innovation schools, and virtual schools; and,

WHEREAS, continued expansion of vouchers has negatively affected public school students and their programs in Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, voucher funding impairs Indiana's constitutional obligation to fund a uniform system of schools wherein tuition shall be without charge; and,

WHEREAS, the Parties believe that this type of legislation does not give real choice to families, as private and religious schools can discriminate in whom they educate; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation would direct re-

sources to nonpublic schools that are not accountable to taxpayers for the expenditures they make with public funds, not audited by the State Board of Accounts, do not publish annual financial or performance reports, are largely exempt from an extraordinary array of federal and state mandates, regulations and reporting requirements that are imposed on public schools, do not receive federal accountability ratings, and are not even required to employ licensed teachers.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties strongly oppose HB 1005, SB 412, and SB 413 and urge legislators to oppose these bills, and any other legislation that directs funding away from Indiana public schools.

Hello, Hamilton County



Click to play video
This button...right here...

412, AND SB 413

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during its 2021 legislative session is considering HB 1005, SB 412, and SB 413.

WHEREAS, HB 1005, SB 412, and SB 413 establish Education Savings (or Scholarship) Accounts (ESAs) and dramatically increase funding for school choice scholarships; and,

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

- Mike Bragg, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville

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

- Individually packaged snacks
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- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes


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



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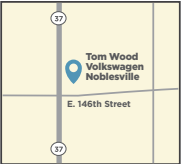
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Avoid stirring the pot!

I'm going to delve into a somewhat difficult topic that I think a lot of sandwich generation members face — people who LOVE to “stir the pot” about our situation. In particular, about how one of the siblings seems to shoulder most of the responsibilities of caring for an elderly parent.

Now, I do know that there are situations where that is definitely true. But I've actually found it to be more of the exception than the norm. Of course, those of you who are only children do carry the responsibility by yourself — hopefully with help from spouses and your own children. However, from what I've observed, most situations involve family members sharing different roles in caregiving.

I've written about how fortunate I am to have both my sister and brother helping to care for my mother, who lives in an assisted living facility here in Hamilton County. But people see me here in Indiana and know that my siblings are in Florida and don't un-

derstand how we can possibly be a team.

Vicky actually filled the main caregiving role years ago when she lived close to Mom in Mishawaka. Mom had knee replacement surgery in one incident and broke her foot in another. I couldn't help much during either time, as I had two little boys to manage, but I did visit when I could to give Vicky a break on weekends. She spends lots of time with Mom now whenever she comes up from Florida on vacation.

Her son Brian and his wife lived just three blocks from Mom, so they were Godsenders for years with things like shoveling snow, fixing things around her house, etc.

Once we knew Mom couldn't live by herself any longer a little over four years ago, my brother Mark and his wife Janie stepped in to research assisted living facilities in Central Indiana. They found her current facility, which is just a five-minute drive from my house, and we were all happy with how things turned out.

Mark and Janie continue

to handle Mom's finances and insurance, something I don't want to touch with a 10-foot pole. Mark is her power of attorney representative. They both took care of the sale of her house, although I did help when I could on weekends. They also filled out her medical forms so Mom could get her COVID-19 vaccines.

Last Friday, Mark helped with a big miscommunication that occurred at Mom's facility. While things were a bit worrisome for a while, his calm demeanor prevailed and all worked out.

Some people don't see or understand all of that, however. So when they run into me sometimes and ask about Mom, I'll often hear “Oh, you've got most of the burden. That's so unfair.”

I'll admit, in the beginning, these comments did get me going. But as time has gone on, I've recognized that no, I'm actually quite blessed and fortunate to be a part of a team caring for Mom. Everyone uses our strengths to help her and it's been amazing.

So now, whenever I run into anyone who wants to “stir the pot,” I simply remember how truly lucky I am and I take away the spoon!

COLUMNIST



AMY SHANKLAND
Sandwiched

Meeting Notice

The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, in the Noblesville Schools Educational Services Center Board Room, 18025 River Road, Noblesville.

ACCURATE
BALANCED
LOCAL NEWS

Public Notices

NOTICE

The Town Council of the Town of Cicero will hold a special meeting to discuss advanced lifesaving (ALS) services on March 2, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Red Bridge Community Building located at 697 W. Jackson St, Cicero, Indiana.
RL4283 2/26/21

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners will meet virtually on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the extension of the local emergency proclamation and other county business if necessary. To access this meeting dial 1-219-225-8177 Conference ID 877639148##
/s/ Robin M. Mills
Hamilton County Auditor
RL4284 2/26/21

Thanks for reading!

Spring Break

IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK



If there was ever a year for a staycation, this is the year! Hamilton County attractions, hotels, and restaurants are following the Hoosier Hospitality Promise Health & Safety Guidelines, so staying close to home is not only safe, it's affordable. It's also a great way to support local, independent businesses.

Check out everything there is to see and do at VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Spring-Break

Committed to supporting our young Hoosiers

Editor's note: The Reporter supports Cook's bill to post AP exams, ILEARN scores or other factors on the DOE website, but adamantly disagrees with any effort to eliminate posting school performance reports in local newspapers.



TONY COOK
State Representative

and allow members in the House to consider Senate bills and the Senate to examine House bills.

As a former teacher and school superintendent, supporting students continues to be a priority of mine as I author bills that would incorporate civics education into the middle school curriculum and increase transparency of school performance.

We know our democracy is dependent on Hoosiers engaging in every level of government. Students usually take a government class their senior year of high school, but

House Bill 1384 would incorporate civics education into students' curriculum sooner. Under this legislation, students would be required to take at least one semester of a civics education course in grades 6, 7, or 8. This legislation comes from the Civics Education Task Force, which I served on last year, to identify specific, actionable, recommendations based on research and ideas from around the country and state.

Another bill I am working on this session aims to increase transparency in school performance. **House Bill 1514** would require schools to publish their overall scores from benchmark assessments on a statewide dashboard

on the Indiana Department of Education's website. When AP exams, ILEARN scores or other factors are posted online, parents have an opportunity to better understand how their school's performance compares to others around the state. This bill would also do away with the costly and ineffective state takeovers of schools that receive failing account-

ability grades. Under this legislation, schools would also be held harmless for from ILEARN test results and receive a "null" grade during the 2021-2022 school year.

These bills are critical in making sure students are ready to be civically engaged in their community and families understand how their child's school is performing in comparison

to other districts around our state. Both House bills still have a long way to go, as we are set to begin the next half of our legislative session. I am committed to seeing these bills cross the finish line.

If you have any input about legislation or how I can better serve you and our community, feel free to reach out to me at H32@iga.in.gov.

Still time to submit your opinions on Carmel's redevelopment projects

The REPORTER

There is still time for you to **share your thoughts** for a new comprehensive community survey as part of a new study on the City of Carmel's historic use of Tax Increment Financing.

Known as TIF, this method partnering with the private sector has been used to pay for several high-profile redevelopments. City

leaders feel these projects have become magnets for economic growth and private investment, but they want to hear from you.

A new study being conducted by Community Data Platforms seeks to provide data to determine if decisions made over the past few decades on projects such as the Palladium, Center for the Performing Arts, Midtown Plaza, and

other notable redevelopment efforts have produced a good return on investment.

The **survey** takes about 15 minutes to complete online. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary and all responses will be kept confidential. No personally identifiable information will be associated with your responses in any reports of this data.

Joyce Redeemar tapped to serve as general manager of Mockingbird Hill Recovery Center in Anderson

The REPORTER

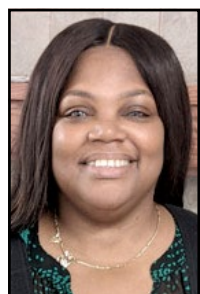
Joyce Redeemar, a veteran manager and human resources expert in health-care and nonprofits, will be General Manager of the Mockingbird Hill Recovery Center in Anderson, Aspire Indiana Health has announced.

Redeemar holds bachelor's and master's degrees in human resources management from IUPUI and Indiana Wesleyan University, respectively. As general manager she will oversee day-to-day non-clinical

operations of the center, which opens in March and will eventually house 92 men recovering from substance use disorder.

She previously held management, human resources, and career specialist positions with a reproductive health services nonprofit, state blood bank, and metropolitan school system.

"Joyce is a terrific ad-



Redeemar

dition to our team, someone who brings both workplace and life experience to the important mission of addiction services," said Aspire CEO and President Barbara Scott. "Mockingbird Hill will become a beacon of hope under her leadership and an asset to the local recovery community."

Learn more at AspireIndiana.org.



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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 12:6-16 (NIV)

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Frank M. Morris

August 28, 1936 – February 24, 2021



Frank M. Morris, 84, Atlanta died at 6:33 a.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at IU Health Tipton Hospital. Frank was born on August 28, 1936 in Moss, Tenn., to Ned and Ollie Belle (Savage) Morris. He married Gussie Fultz on January 4, 1958, and they enjoyed 63 years of marriage together.

Frank worked at Norfolk & Southern Railroad for 42 years before spending 11 years with the Hamilton Heights High School custodial department. He was a member of Center Road Church of Christ in Kokomo.

He is survived by his wife, Gussie; two sons, Gary Morris and wife Mia, Ft. Wayne, and Mike Morris and wife Joy, Brazil, Ind.; siblings, Shirley Anderson, Nashville, Tenn., and Floyd Morris, Moss, Tenn. He is also survived by five grandchildren, Ross Morris, Kylie (Matt) Sheck, Mara Morris, Brighton (Tori) Morris, and Natalie Morris; and nine great-grandchildren, Ethan, Jesse, Amelia, Alexa, Kaleesi, Ava, Addison, Oaklyn, and Perrie.

Frank's funeral service will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 27 at Young-Nichols Funeral Home with Pastor Micah Powless presiding. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery. Visitation will also be on Saturday from noon until the service time.

Proper wearing of masks or face coverings as well as social distancing will be required at the funeral home. The funeral will be livestreamed and also recorded for watching later on Frank's obituary page at young-nichols.com, where condolences may be left for his family.

Memorial contributions in Frank's memory may be made to the Alzheimer & Dementia Association, 50 E. 91st St., Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46240.



Mitchell Lee Russell

November 25, 1953 – February 23, 2021



Mitchell Lee Russell, 67, Arcadia, passed away on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born on November 25, 1953 to Richard "Jack" Jackson Russell Jr. and Virginia L. (Pass) Russell in Noblesville.

Mitch attended Hamilton Heights High school, where his most precious memories were of him playing football, basketball, and baseball. After high school, Mitch decided to follow in the footsteps of his older brother and become a police officer, starting in Arcadia as a Deputy Marshal. Mitch spent 29 years with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, where he retired as a Lieutenant in 2006. After retiring, he was appointed Marshal of the Arcadia Police Department. Mitch has always had a love for his small town, and he enjoyed serving the people in it. In 2012, Mitch took a job as director of Security for Riverview Health in Noblesville, where he stayed until his passing. Mitch loved the people of Riverview and proudly served them.

Mitch met the love of his life, Melanie Anne (Logan) Russell, in 1979 and they were married in 1983. Anyone who knew Mitch knew that Melanie and his family were the most important things in his life. Mitch loved spending time coaching his kids and grandkids in sports, serving his community as President of the Arcadia Town Council, attending Kiwanis, running the baseball and softball board in Arcadia, talking to anyone who would listen, watching IU basketball, and driving his grandkids all over town in his golf cart. There wasn't much Mitch wouldn't do for Melanie, his kids, or his precious grandbabies.

Mitch will be remembered for being a wonderful police officer, a man of integrity, helping any and everyone who needed it, his infectious smile and laugh, and for always being there for the people of his community and his family. A good friend once said, "We should all live to be loved like Mitch."

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Melanie Anne Russell; children, Abby Russell (Jack Kruse), Amanda Engle (Cody), Mollee Russell (Michael Baglione), and Matthew Russell (Breanna Bender); brother, Paul Russell (Peggy); seven grandchildren, Ellie Engle, Maggie Engle, Reese Engle, Hallie Engle, Sutter Russell, Chace Kruse, and Gavin Kruse; and many nieces, nephews, and beloved family members.

In addition to his parents, Mitch was preceded in death by his brother, Richard "Dick" Jackson Russell III.

Visitation will be from 3 to 7 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at the funeral home, with Rev. Stanley R. Sutton officiating. Burial will be at Arcadia Cemetery in Arcadia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Arcadia Splash Pad, % Jennifer Pickett, P.O. Box 578, Arcadia, IN 46030.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Randall & Roberts
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Hamilton Southeastern's Chris Huppenthal announces retirement

Longtime Royals girls basketball coach mentored four Indiana All-Stars, led HSE to 2019 state championship

By RICHIE HALL

Hamilton Southeastern girls basketball coach Chris Huppenthal is retiring.

The longtime Royals coach announced his decision earlier this week during the Royals' girls basketball season-ending banquet. With that, Huppenthal took his final bow in a remarkable, highly successful career that has seen him win numerous championships – including a state title for Southeastern – and coach several Indiana All-Stars – including a Miss Basketball.

Huppenthal has been a basketball coach for 31 years, including 25 years as a head coach. He called his decision to retire “a family decision,” and acknowledged that a basketball coach puts in many hours, noting that some people would say it's a second job. Huppenthal also teaches math at Hamilton Southeastern; he will continue to teach at the school.

Chris Huppenthal's daughter Kalee played basketball for the Royals. She lives in Denver now. His son Cody was a football player, he will be a senior at Indiana University next year.

“I've been coaching since they were born, so they really don't know this life or my life any different,” said Huppenthal. The coach said that when family members start to move away time becomes “a little bit more precious.”

Huppenthal just finished his 16th season as a coach for the Royals. He joined the team in the 2005-06 season after spending the 2004-05 season at Kokomo, where he supervised the Wildkats to a 19-6 record and a regional title. Prior to that, Huppenthal coached for eight seasons at his alma mater, Highland, leading

it to four regional titles.

Once at Southeastern, Huppenthal had immediate success there as well. His first team compiled a 22-4 record and won a regional championship. The Royals would then win a sectional title in 2006-07, finishing 25-1 for the year.

That was just the beginning of a long run for HSE. In Huppenthal's 16 seasons, the Royals never had a losing record. He also coached the 2018-19 team to a 27-1 record and the Class 4A state championship.

Huppenthal finished his career with a 282-86 record at Southeastern and was 457-124 overall.

“Coach Hupp is a leader in our athletic department, he is a Hall of Fame basketball coach, but more importantly he is a Hall of Fame educator and person,” said Southeastern athletic director Jim Self. “He will be a tremendous asset for our next head coach, he wants nothing more than to see our program succeed at the highest level.”

“I appreciate our athletic directors, our administration, the support from the community for our girls basketball program,” said Huppenthal. “And if anybody asks me if this is a good job, or a good situation, it would be an emphatic ‘yes.’ I say that on many levels. The kids are awesome. I can say that one of the things that made the decision hard is to walk away from the kids we were coaching.”

Southeastern has had some incredible players come through its program over the years. Huppenthal coached four Indiana All-Stars: Courtney Osborn, Taya Reimer, Amaya Hamilton and Sydney Parrish, who won Miss Basketball for



Kirk Green/File photo

Hamilton Southeastern girls basketball coach Chris Huppenthal has announced his retirement. Huppenthal coached the Royals for 16 years, mentored four Indiana All-Stars, and guided HSE to the Class 4A state championship in 2019 (shown here).

2020 and is having a standout freshman season at the University of Oregon.

“When you're in the coaching world, if you're not dealing with good kids and good families, it can make for a miserable situation. But I've been fortunate that in the 16 years I've been here, we've had some incredible kids with some very supportive families. As I look back on my career, I wouldn't change one thing in that I got to move our family to this community and this school system,” said Huppenthal.

In addition to the four All-Stars at HSE, Huppenthal also coached an Indiana All-Star at Highland, Jenny DeMuth. She is now the athletic director at Shelbyville High School. Seeing his players succeed in life after high school has been one of the more gratifying experiences for Huppenthal.

“It's one of the things that really, you look back on a career and makes you smile,” said Huppenthal. “A lot of people think coaches are in it for the wins and losses.” Instead, Huppenthal said that seeing his players come back and then seeing how successful they are is more

exhilarating than any win or personal accomplishments.

“I've been fortunate to see a lot of my past players move on to bigger and better things than winning basketball games,” said Huppenthal. “And that's exciting.”

Huppenthal will now be adjusting to a new schedule come the fall, one where the first day of Fall Break is, for him, no longer the first day of practice. No more Thanksgiving week swings where he coaches the Royals against Carmel on Friday afternoon after a tough game with Brownsburg on Tuesday. The coach acknowledged the Bulldogs, a fellow Hoosier Crossroads Conference team, making the Class 4A state finals. “Good luck to them Saturday,” he said.

But Huppenthal will always be a Royals fan, and would encourage anyone to apply for the Royals girls basketball coaching job. He noted three aspects that make Hamilton Southeastern a good place.

“The biggest advice I'd give to them is, it's a great place to teach, it's a great place to coach and it's an awesome place to raise your family,” said Huppenthal.

WHMB-TV to air Sectional 8 games

WHMB-TV 40 will broadcast all five boys basketball games from the Class 4A Sectional 8 at Carmel next week.

The games will air at 8 and 9:30 p.m. Dave Nicholson and Howard Kellman will be on the call.



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Westfield's Jake Gilbert wins AFCA Region 3 Power of Influence Award

Jake Gilbert has helped develop the Westfield football team into one of Indiana's premier programs over the past several years.

Under Gilbert's leadership, the Shamrocks have reached the state championship game three times in the past eight years. Also under Gilbert's leadership, Westfield has been making major contributions off the field, with several charitable and community service initiatives.

All these accomplishments are getting recognized on a national level. Gilbert was named the winner of the 2020 Region 3 Power of Influence Award late last year. The award is presented by the American Football Coaches Association and the American Football Coaches Foundation, and was designed to "honor deserving high school football coaches," according to the AFCA's website.

The Power of Influence award recognizes coaches "for their impact on their team, as well as the legacy they leave with the school and surrounding community," said the AFCA's website. It pointed out the award "is not based on wins and losses," although it said that "coaches of powerful influence have longevity and success."

Gilbert has been the head coach at Westfield since 2011. During that time, the Shamrocks have reached the state championship game three times, in addition to winning five sectional and three regional championships.

"It's an amazing accomplishment that is truly humbling," said Gilbert. "There are 244,000 high school football coaches. To be a finalist for the highest honor a high school coach can get is mind boggling. This is an honor for our entire program and our administration that has allowed us to run our program this way."

There are five different regional winners of the Power of Influence Award, and all five of them were made finalists for the national award, which was given



Kirk Green/File photo

Westfield football coach Jake Gilbert (at left, in green shirt), won the 2020 Region 3 Power of Influence Award, given by the American Football Coaches Association and the American Football Coaches Foundation. The win honors coaches who have made an impact on their team and the legacy they leave with the school and the surrounding community.

out during the AFCA's virtual convention in January. Don Smolyn, the coach of Lenape (N.J.) Valley Regional High School, received the national award.

In addition to on-field success, the Power of Influence Award also takes into account off-field activities, where Westfield has stepped up in a major way. The Shamrocks have been solid contributors to their community.

"We are trying to build a culture of family and commitment," said Gilbert. "We are here to outwork and outlove who we were yesterday. Our kids have served each other and our community on a major scale. We have hosted yearly Special Olympics clinics, given more blood than anyone in the state, held several food drives, and raised thousands of dollars to fight cancer. We've helped Wounded

Warriors, Habitat for Humanity, and Indiana Women in Need. Our players have confronted teen suicide, opioid abuse, and racism. We've sent 14 people to Haiti and 10,000 meals to Africa. Our kids have made a difference and I am so proud of them. All the while we've been to the State Championship three times in eight years. God has been so good to us. I am so very blessed to be here."

Boys basketball

'Blazers win regular-season finale at Chatard

The University boys ended the regular season on a high note with a 48-33 road win over Indianapolis Bishop Chatard.

The University defense stepped up and held Chatard to its lowest scoring output of the season. The Trojans had put up 85 and 99 points in the last week, but the 'Blazers limited Chatard to just 18 points over the last 24 minutes of the game.

Senior Camden Brown led the Trail-

blazers again with 18 points, six rebounds and three assists. Sabien Cain added 12 to give University two in double figures.

"It is always nice to end the regular season with a win, especially when it's on the road against a quality opponent like Chatard," said University coach Brandon Lafferman. "It was a real team effort tonight on both end of the floor. Everyone did their job, our energy was great and hopefully we got something to build on

as we head in to next week."

University looked good early, jumping to a 9-3 lead behind three pointers from Cain and Brown and a Cain steal and layup. University's offense then ran dry, with the Trojans scoring the last 12 points of the period to take a 15-9 lead after the first quarter.

Chatard stretched its scoring run to 14 early in the second quarter before the Trailblazers turned the momentum. A basket by Brown, a hook shot from Larry Pierce and two Kasey Ash-Simpson free throws off a steal had University within 17-15. AJ Roseman had a steal and basket for Chatard leading to a University timeout with 2:42 left in the first half.

The Trailblazers scored the last seven points of the half to lead 22-19 at the break. Ash-Simpson grabbed an offensive rebound, passed to Pierce who fed Brown for a basket. The 'Blazers went on top 20-19 when Seth Hogg hit a three pointer from the corner and closed the scoring with seven seconds left when Brown scored.

The teams were tied at 26 early in the third quarter before University went on a 16-2 run to take control of the game. Brown scored five straight points to put the Trailblazers ahead for good, scoring at the rim on a three pointer from the left wing off a Matt Jones pass. Nate Jeffrey scored through contact at the rim and a Jones three pointer late in the period gave University a 36-28 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Cain and Jeffrey executed a textbook give and go from the top of the key to open the fourth quarter with Cain scoring at the basket. Cain then found Brown for a three pointer and a 42-28 lead early in the fourth quarter.

University milked the clock and clamped down on defense the rest of the way, never letting Chatard getting closer than nine points. Ash Simpson had four points down the stretch and Cain iced things by releasing deep on an inbound pass for an uncontested basket.

University closes the regular season with a 14-6 record. The Trailblazers will play in the Sectional 42 lid-lifter Tuesday night at Heritage Christian against the host Eagles. Tipoff is 6 p.m.

UNIVERSITY 48, BISHOP CHATARD 33

University	FG	FT	TP	PF
Kasey Ash-Simpson	2-5	2-2	6	1
Nate Jeffrey	1-1	0-0	2	0
Sabien Cain	5-8	1-1	12	0
Matt Jones	1-4	0-0	3	0
Larry Pierce	2-7	0-0	4	0
Camden Brown	7-13	1-2	18	1
Seth Hogg	1-1	0-0	3	0
Mitchell Martin	0-0	0-0	0	2
Totals	19-39	4-5	48	4
Score by Quarters				
University	9	13	14	12 - 48
Bishop Chatard	15	4	9	5 - 33
University 3-point shooting (6-17) Brown 3-5, Jones 1-4, Cain 1-3, Hogg 1-1, Ash-Simpson 0-2, Pierce 0-2.				
University rebounds (23) Brown 6, Cain 4, Pierce 4, Ash-Simpson 3, Jones 3, Hogg 2, Jeffrey 1.				

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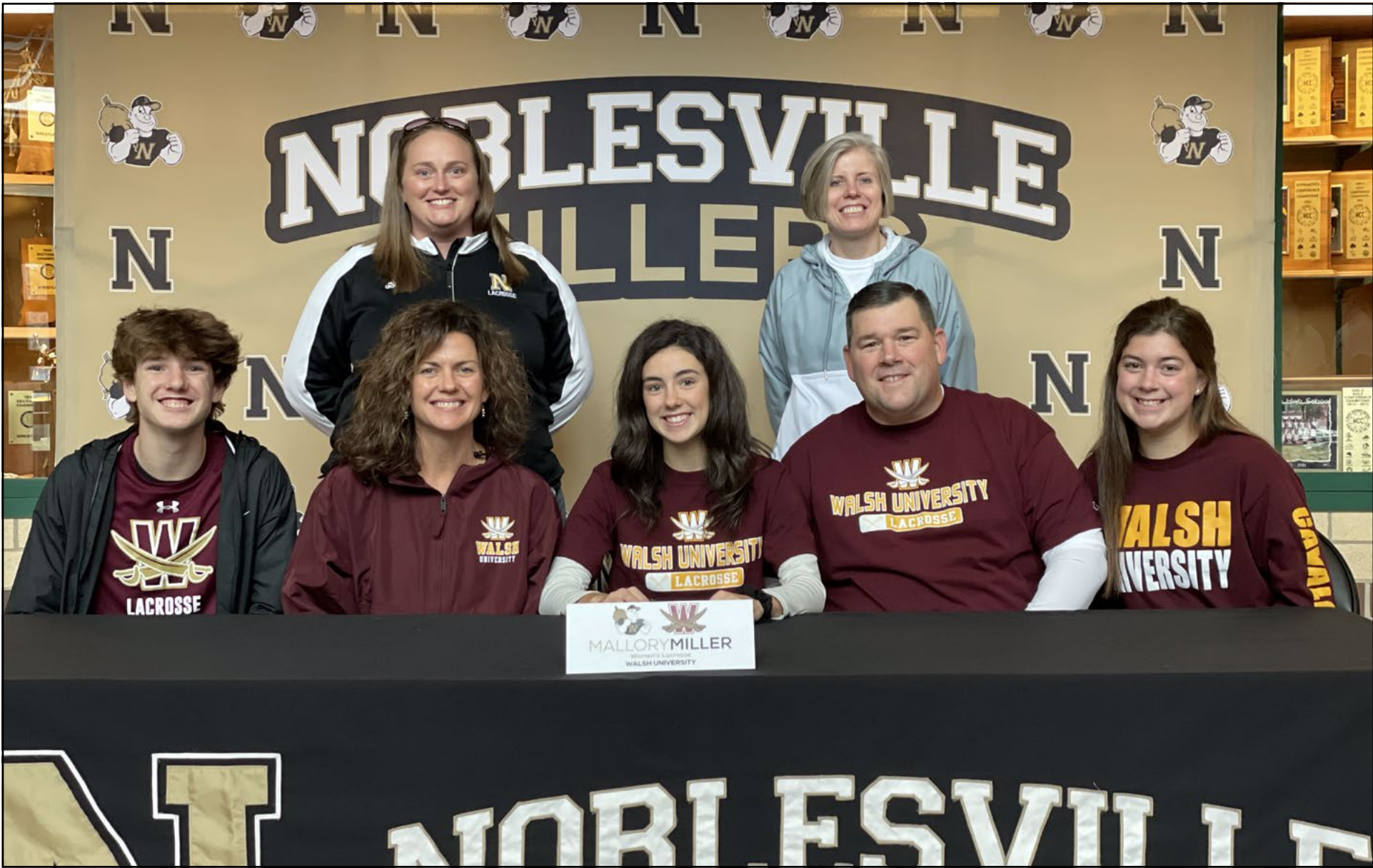
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NBA standings

Thursday's games Philadelphia 111, Dallas 97 Brooklyn 129, Orlando 92 New York 140, Sacramento 121	Memphis 122, L.A. Clippers 94 Washington 112, Denver 110 Milwaukee 129, New Orleans 125
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Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic	W	L	PCT.	GB	Northwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Philadelphia	22	11	.667	-	Utah	26	6	.813	-
Brooklyn	22	12	.647	0.5	Portland	18	13	.581	7.5
Toronto	16	17	.485	6.0	Denver	17	15	.531	9.0
New York	16	17	.485	6.0	Oklahoma City	13	19	.406	13.0
Boston	15	17	.469	6.5	Minnesota	7	26	.212	19.5
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB	Pacific	W	L	PCT.	GB
Milwaukee	20	13	.606	-	L.A. Clippers	23	11	.676	-
Indiana	15	15	.500	3.5	L.A. Lakers	22	11	.667	0.5
Chicago	15	16	.484	4.0	Phoenix	20	11	.645	1.5
Cleveland	12	21	.364	8.0	Golden State	18	15	.545	4.5
Detroit	9	23	.281	10.5	Sacramento	12	20	.375	10.0
Southeast	W	L	PCT.	GB	Southwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Charlotte	15	16	.484	-	San Antonio	16	12	.571	-
Miami	15	17	.469	0.5	Memphis	14	14	.500	2.0
Atlanta	14	18	.438	1.5	Dallas	15	16	.484	2.5
Washington	12	18	.400	2.5	New Orleans	14	18	.438	4.0
Orlando	13	20	.394	3.0	Houston	11	19	.367	6.0

Noblesville athletic college signings



Noblesville's Mallory Miller has committed to play basketball and lacrosse at Walsh University in Canton, Ohio. Pictured: Front Row (Left to Right): Max Miller (Brother), Melinda Miller (Mother), Mallory Miller, Doug Miller (Father), Meredith Miller (Sister). Back Row (Left to Right): Noblesville Girls Lacrosse Head Coach Veronica Mitchell, Noblesville Girls Basketball Head Coach Donna Buckley.

Thursday high school boys basketball scores

Courtesy John Harrell's website www.johnharrell.net	Dugger Union 53, Washington Catholic 36 Eastern (Greentown) 64, Carroll (Flora) 53 Eastern Greene 55, Edgewood 53, OT Edinburgh 74, Brown County 41 Evansville Central 43, Evansville Memorial 40 Evansville Christian 57, Northeast Dubois 48 Evansville Mater Dei 52, Evansville Harrison 49 Fort Wayne Blackhawk 95, Fort Wayne Northrop 53 Franklin Central 52, Perry Meridian 50	Gibson Southern 46, North Posey 35 Hanover Central 61, North Newton 33 Illiana Christian 63, River Forest 59, OT Indianapolis Lutheran 60, Bethesda Christian 43 Indianapolis Manual 63, Christel House Academy 51 Indianapolis Scecina 79, Cascade 78 Lawrence Central 71, Southport 48 Lawrenceburg 54, Oldenburg Academy 43 Liberty Christian 71, Tri-Central 59 Linton-Stockton 54, North Putnam 38 Loogootee 53, North Knox 40 Madison 57, Switzerland County 36 Mishawaka Marian 85, Marquette Catholic 56 Munster 70, Victory Christian 45 New Haven 57, Fort Wayne South 43 North Decatur 60, Rushville 42 North Judson 45, Culver 39 North White 65, Faith Christian 38 Oregon-Davis 57, Bremen 39 Owen Valley 51, North Central (Farmersburg) 45	Princeton 67, Tecumseh 48 Richmond 70, Franklin County 44 South Bend Washington 63, Kokomo 59 South Central (Union Mills) 64, South Bend Career 31 South Dearborn 72, Hauser 41 South Knox 55, Wood Memorial 44 South Spencer 52, Mount Vernon (Posey) 46 South Vermillion 70, Shakamak 67, 2OT Southridge 42, Boonville 24 Springs Valley 69, Cannelton 44 Taylor 82, Elwood 54 Terre Haute South 86, Riverton Parke 59 Tipton 71, Lapel 47 Trinity Lutheran 55, Southwestern (Shelbyville) 37 University 48, Indianapolis Chatard 33 Vincennes Lincoln 61, Pike Central 49 Waldron 67, Indiana Deaf 49 West Vigo 51, Fountain Central 41 White River Valley 47, Vincennes Rivet 31 Yorktown 68, Pendleton Heights 64
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