

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Mostly sunny.
Tonight: Clear.

HIGH: 48 LOW: 25



Westfield Clerk Treasurer goes on record

Cindy Gossard responds publicly to Mayor Cook's lawsuit

Submitted

Editor's Note: 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, thus "actively interfering" with the mayor's operation of the city.

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

Gossard has now chosen to publicly address the lawsuit brought against her by Cook in the pages of the Hamilton County Reporter. The following is Gossard's statement released to the Reporter in its entirety.

Unfortunately, statements have been made about me and my office that I have failed to provide information to the Mayor's review team, which was the alleged basis for the Mayor's lawsuit.

As Clerk Treasurer, I have consistently provided information to the citizens of Westfield, City officials

and members of Council. I believe in the transparency of government and cooperated with the Mayor's review team, by providing requested information by the end of October 2020.

Since the case was pending, I wanted to refrain from making any public comment; however, I feel that it's important to inform the citizens of Westfield, as your elected Clerk Treasurer, how this case came about and my concerns about the Mayor's review.

At the beginning of 2020, I requested an investigative audit of Grand Park by the Indiana State Board of Accounts during our state and federal annual audits. Prior to that time, the City Council had raised concerns about the operations and the business dealings of parties related to the Mayor at Grand Park.

Based on the findings of the Indiana State Board of Accounts and concerns raised by the City Council, the City Council passed a resolution in August 2020 to conduct an independent

audit of Grand Park. However, before the City Council was able to move forward with its independent audit, the Mayor appointed the law firm of Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP (Taft) to conduct a review of the city records and to purportedly address the City Council's concerns over Grand Park.

Taft entered into engagements with BKD and Baker Tilley to assist in the review, which could possibly shield this information under the protection of the attorney-client privilege between the Mayor and Taft. If this were to happen it would be contrary to my understanding of the City Council's intention to conduct a public, independent audit of Grand Park.

In September 2020, Taft requested that I provide administrator access to the City's financial accounts within two days to the review team. In the



Gossard

approximate 13 years that Mayor Cook has been an official of the City of Westfield, I cannot recall any other such requests, neither from the Mayor or any third party. Administrator access would allow the user to intentionally or unintentionally delete, change or manipulate data. I found this request concerning as the City Council just announced its desire to conduct an independent audit of Grand Park and now the Mayor was seeking administrative access to the City's financial systems.

I provided Taft, BKD and Baker Tilley with requested records and "view only" access to our NAV system, which contains the City's financial records. I also invited the review team to come to my office to obtain any additional information.

Even though Taft had informed me that administrator access was not

necessary for their review, after I declined to provide administrative access to the Mayor and/or Taft, the Mayor sued me. The contents of this are public record, but a portion of the Mayor's request was to provide the Mayor and his staff unlimited access to all financial information of the City, under the allegation that I was not cooperating with the Mayor's review team.

After I received the Mayor's Complaint, I still did not agree to provide "unlimited access," which would require me to provide administrator access, but I again agreed for the review team to come to my office and get any additional information purportedly needed for the review. This agreement was filed with the Court and then used to suggest that the Mayor's lawsuit was necessary to compel my cooperation with the review team. In my opinion, these allegations detract attention from the Mayor's request for administrator access to the

City's financial and payroll systems after the City Council requested a financial audit of Grand Park.

As Clerk Treasurer, my duty is to maintain and safeguard the integrity of our City's financial accounts, and as such, I do not believe that providing unfettered access to Taft, BKD, Baker Tilley and/or the Mayor, under these circumstances, is in the City's best interest. I am hopeful that the City Council will continue its efforts to conduct a true independent audit of Grand Park, that will be transparent, and available to the citizens of the City of Westfield for review. I will continue to safeguard the financial records of the City, as is my lawful duty, and fulfill my responsibilities as Clerk Treasurer. I want to thank my legal team at Webster & Garino LLC for their assistance in this matter, and for more information about this case, please visit webster-legal.com/cookvgossard.

Cindy Gossard,
Clerk Treasurer for
the City of Westfield



Photo provided by WISH-TV

To ensure good response time in case of an emergency, the Noblesville Fire Department built this temporary structure on the west side of the Carrigan Road bridge.

Carrigan Road bridge closure raises concerns, poses challenges for firefighters

By CAMILA FERNANDEZ
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

The closure of Carrigan Road bridge over Morse Reservoir is raising concerns among some Noblesville residents and new challenges for the Noblesville Fire Department.

"You're used to having the convenience, and all of a sudden it's gone," said Sherry Stepp, a Noblesville resident.

Hamilton County officials say the Carrigan Road bridge will be closed to replace the bridge deck and clean the beams. The closure started Monday and is scheduled to run through May 29.

The \$1.3 million project is now making it harder for res-

idents to get where they need to go.

"I can see me forgetting starting that way and then, oh my gosh, I have to go all the way around and then being late for an appointment," Stepp said.

On top of that, the Noblesville Fire Department says the project made their jobs a little harder.

"With that bridge closed down, it really affected our response time to this section of town, and so we wanted to make sure that we are still operating under the same guidelines that we normally did," said Noblesville Fire Department Assistant



Biddle

Chief Adam Biddle. The fire department built a temporary structure on the west side of the bridge, where they'll keep a fire engine to protect residents on both sides. "There's just a couple of areas to travel to get to this part of town and with one of the significant bridges to this area being out, it does pose a very unique challenge," Biddle said. "Harbour Town Apartments, they became a really good partner in this, and then also the adjacent parking lot where we were able to build the structure."

There's also a heater and a

generator that will help prevent the water inside the engine from freezing. They say firefighters will also be living at Harbour Town Apartments near their equipment, and according to Biddle, it'll be quite the challenge.

"The firefighters that are tasked with responding out of here - this certainly took them outside their comfort zone, the fire station that they're used to being in," Biddle said.

County officials say that during the closure, local traffic should use the signed detour route of Little Chicago Road, State Road 38, and Hague Road. Property owners will continue to have access to their properties through the construction area.

Crask recognized or impaired driving enforcement actions

The REPORTER

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute recognized 23 law enforcement officers as part of the annual Indiana Drug Recognition Expert Awards Program.

Locally, Hamilton County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Kevin Crask was honored as Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), which is a police officer who has received specialized training to help identify drivers under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



Crask

Now in its sixth year, the awards program was created by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to recognize the contributions made by Indiana's DREs.

County gets \$1M to support local affordable housing

The REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded Hamilton County \$1,092,260 in grant money to support local affordable housing.

The grant is part of \$5.5 billion in federal funding to local affordable housing programs throughout the country. The funding is provided through HUD programs, including the Community Development Block Grant program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, Home Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, and Recovery Housing Program.

Fishers COVID community risk rating lowered to Level 3

By LARRY LANNAN
LarryInFishers.com

After many months at the Level 4 - or red, the highest COVID community risk level - Fishers is now lowered to Level 3, or orange, based

on an announcement Tuesday evening by the Fishers Health Department (FHD).

"It's definitely been a long winter where we saw huge spikes in (COVID) cases, case incidence rate and other metrics," said

FHD Epidemiologist Joshua Robinson in a video update posted late Tuesday evening. "Thankfully, rates have been declining over the last few weeks, and this is definitely due in part to your continued support following public

health mitigation strategies."

Robinson urges Fishers residents to continue the mitigation strategies of wearing masks, social distancing and hand washing. He says the major metrics have been going down over

the past few weeks.

Over the past 14 days, 133 new COVID cases have been reported in Fishers. Testing remains available within a day, with test results coming back in less than two days.

The health care capacity numbers continue to be favorable, according to Robinson, with hospital bed usage in our geographic area declining.

[Click here](#) to watch the entire video message.



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INDOT to use ‘zipper merges’ this construction season

CrossRoads Church’s Pizza & Punchlines goes virtual

The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Transportation will transition from merging early to merging late with more widespread use of zipper merges in work zones this construction season.

What is a zipper merge?

Zipper merges are used when a lane is closed ahead due to road construction or maintenance work. Zipper merges are designed to keep traffic moving by allowing drivers to use both lanes until reaching the merge point.

How does a zipper merge work?

Zipper merges work exactly as they sound – like a zipper.

As drivers see “lane closed ahead” signs, they should stay in their current lane up to the designated merge point. Then drivers should take turns moving into the open lane. This practice is much safer than merging early, which causes congestion and more significant changes in speed.

When a zipper merge is in place, be respectful of other drivers who wait to merge until just before the lane ends – they’re doing it right.

Zipper Merge vs. Early Merge

Most drivers tend to merge at the first sight of a “lane closed ahead” sign, however many slow too quickly, which can lead to unexpected lane switches, serious crashes and road rage.

Zipper merges provide several benefits to the trav-



Graphic provided by INDOT

eling public. Risks decrease when motorists use both lanes until reaching the defined merge area and then alternate or take turns moving to the open lane in a zipper-like fashion.

What are the benefits of a zipper merge?

- Reduces speed differences between two lanes
- Reduces queue length by up to 40 percent
- Reduces congestion and keeps traffic moving smoothly
- Creates “a sense of fairness and equity” that all lanes are moving at the same rate
- Brings order to the merging process

When should zipper merges not be used?

In situations where traffic is flowing at highway speeds with no or minimal back-ups, drivers should merge early to the open lane. Not all work zones are conducive to use of a zipper merge. Signage will be present if a zipper merge is present, and motorists should continue to merge when it is safe to do so.

Visit the [INDOT website](#) to learn more.

The REPORTER

Once again, CrossRoads Church at Westfield will hold its popular annual comedy night. Pizza & Punchlines – Zoom Edition is a FREE family-friendly event that will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 13 and will take place on Zoom and can be viewed from your home. Featuring top-notch comedians, the show will be virtual this year.

Please register to get your event Zoom link that will allow you to see the show on the night of the event. Each family or viewing group only needs one link for the show. Register at [ForOurNeighbor.Life](#) or at [this link](#).

This year’s lineup of comedians features nationally-known comics Jeff Allen, Rhonda Corey, Rick Roberts, Daren Streblow, Jason Earls and Ross Bennett. Attendees are in for a real treat with this fast-paced fun event.

Now in its fifth year, Pizza & Punchlines is a free annual event for the local community produced and funded by CrossRoads Church at Westfield. In non-COVID times, it is an in-person event with free pizza and an amazing night of fun. However, this year, you get the pizza and CrossRoads Church will bring the laughs.

CrossRoads Church at Westfield, led by Pastor Eric Lohe, exists “For Our Neighbor.” This is an effort of the church to engage local neighbors to meet, know, enjoy, and serve those in their community.

If you would like to find out more about CrossRoads Church or if you would like to help serve local neighbors, check out [ForOurNeighbor.Life](#) or email [forourneighborinfo@gmail.com](#).

This year, Greeks Pizzeria, 231 Park St., Westfield, is offering a 15 percent discount the night of the event. Call (317) 804-7777 to place an order. Thanks to owners

FREE Virtual Comedy Event

The 5th Annual

Pizza & PUNCHLINES

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Jason Earls

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This free event is presented by:

CrossRoads Church at Westfield 19201 Grassy Branch Rd Westfield

Online at [ForOurNeighbor.Life](#)

Graphic provided

Curt and Jen Whitesell.

The Comedy Lineup

Jeff Allen – Jeff’s rapid-fire humor, which centers on marriage and family, is a hit with all ages. A live comedy favorite, Jeff has appeared on Showtime, Comedy Central, VH1, and more.

Rik Roberts – Rik Roberts is a Nashville, Tenn.-based comedian and speaker who focuses on providing 100 percent clean comedy, noting that there are enough real-life situations that everyone can laugh at without going “below the belt.”

Daren Streblow – Daren’s unique style of observational stand-up comedy has been entertaining hundreds of thousands of people throughout the United States and around the world since he first stepped on the stage in 1995.

Jason Earls – Jason joins Pizzas & Punchlines for the first time with his highly energetic, animated, and insightful comedic style. It is said that Jason is “an innovative breath of fresh air.” In addition to comedy, Jason is passionate about presenting the gospel in a relevant and exciting way.

Rhonda Corey – Rhon-

da appeared live at Pizzas & Punchlines two years ago and is a crowd favorite. Her wit and charm are captivating, and attendees are fortunate to get to spend an evening with her again.

Ross Bennett – Ross has arranged and hosted Pizzas & Punchlines for the past four years and will serve as host for this event. He made it big after he was on the *Late Show with David Letterman*. Ross is a member of the CrossRoads congregation.

The lineup is subject to change depending on the COVID status of the comedians.

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

gift





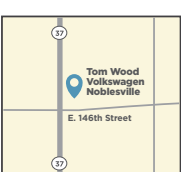
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HELP FIND DEVAN EDMONDS



Photos provided

On Feb. 27, the Carmel Police Department listed Devan Edmonds, 23, Carmel, as a missing person. Edmonds was last seen on Feb. 18 with her family in Carmel. Edmonds is approximately 5-foot-2, weighs 180 pounds, and was last seen with her hair in an afro and wrapped in a scarf. Edmonds' whereabouts are currently unknown. At this time investigators do not have reason to believe Edmonds is in danger, but are still actively trying to locate her. If you have any information on this person, please contact Detective L. Smiley at the Carmel Police Department at (317) 819-7212, or call Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana at (317) 262-8477 (TIPS). Please reference CPD case number 2021-14175.

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4-H offering four SPARK Camps over Spring Break

The REPORTER

Are you already dreaming of Spring Break? Check out camps being offered to youth in third through eighth grades during Spring Break at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville.

- **Style Engineers** will learn about fashion design and create a Runway Fashion Show.
- **Students of Chef Uni-**

versity will practice food preparation techniques and compete in a "Chopped" contest.

- **Crime Investigators** will analyze crime science and conduct an investigation.
- **Clover Gamers** will explore the science of games and create their own prototypes.

The cost is \$30 per camp. Participants may at-

tend one or any combination of camps desired. 4-H membership is not required. The deadline to register is March 29. Space is limited and virtual options are available. To register, visit bit.ly/SpringBreakCampsRegistration or call (317) 776-0854. For more information, email Erin Allen, Program Assistant, Purdue Extension Hamilton County, at allen563@purdue.edu.

Sen. Todd Young highlights what he calls "wasteful spending" in \$1.9T COVID bill

The REPORTER

U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) on Tuesday laid out his opposition to Democrats' *American Rescue Plan* due to hundreds of billions of dollars of what he calls wasteful pet projects and spending unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic. In an **interview with Neil Cavuto on Fox News** and again in a **speech on the Senate floor**, Sen. Young pointed to "blue state bailouts," a Silicon Valley subway, and Paycheck Protection Plan loans for Planned Parenthood as reasons for his opposition.

Sen. Young was one of 10 Republican Senators who met with President

Biden on Feb. 1 to present what they called a more **targeted COVID relief proposal**, and he has been outspoken on the need for the next COVID-19 relief package to be bi-partisan.

"What we should not do in the United States Senate is pass this so-called American Rescue Plan — \$1.9 trillion, which 90 percent of which has nothing to do with health-related expenditures," Sen. Young said during his interview on Fox News. "In fact, we need to focus on just a few things. We have got to get our kids



Young

back to school, we have to get people back to work, and on top of all of that we have to get as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible."

Later Tuesday, Sen. Young reiterated his concerns on the Senate floor, highlighting the bill's price tag and other provisions unrelated to COVID relief contained in this package.

"There is no doubt that some Hoosiers and many Americans are still hurting. We can and we will and we must help those people," Sen. Young said on the Senate floor. "But President Biden and the national Democrats' so-called American Rescue Plan is not the way to do it ... We are not going to just let national Democrats cram unrelated policies into what should be a bill squarely targeted at the crisis. We need a bill just like the five bills that we passed in a strongly bipartisan fashion just last year."

Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CONFIRMATORY RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA
The City of Fishers, Hamilton County, Indiana ("City"), hereby provides NOTICE that the City's Common Council ("Council"), at its January 19, 2021, meeting, approved Resolution No. R011921C - Declaratory Resolution Establishing Certain Real Property (8766 East 96th Street) As An Economic Revitalization Area and Authorizing Abatement ("ERA"). Pursuant to Ind. Code §§ 6-1.1-12.1-2.5 and 5-3-1 et. seq., the City hereby provides notice that on March 15, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., during its duly noticed and regularly scheduled meeting, the Council will hold a hearing on the ERA designation and will receive and hear all remonstrances and objections from interested persons. Following the hearing, the Council will consider whether to adopt a confirmatory resolution to establish the ERA and grant a tax abatement to ScanDigital, Inc., and ScanCafe Indiana Holdings, LLC, (jointly, "Memory Ventures"). A depiction of the affected area is available and can be inspected in the Office of the Hamilton County Assessor. Please note the following:
SEATING AT CITY HALL IS LIMITED TO COMPLY WITH LOCAL AND STATE GUIDELINES REGARDING COVID-19. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ENCOURAGED TO VIEW THE MEETING VIA LIVE STREAM AND SUBMIT COMMENTS TO THE BOARD VIA FORM SUBMITTAL.
THE PUBLIC MAY STREAM THE MEETING BY GOING TO:
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SUBMIT COMMENTS BY GOING TO:
https://townoffishers.formstack.com/forms/public_meeting_comment_form
RL4295 3/4/21

Meeting Notice

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold its monthly Board of Trustees meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

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Claire Chamberlain Bryant

November 29, 1929 – March 1, 2021



Claire Chamberlain Bryant, 91, died peacefully at Copper Trace Nursing Home on March 1, 2021 in Westfield.

Claire is survived by her children, Brad (wife Deena, boys, Sean and Grant), and Bob (wife Brandee, boys, Baxter, Owen, and Aiston, and girl, Joanna Claire, due this month). She is preceded in death by her husband, Paul Bryant, and sister, Shirley Rathkopf.

Claire was born in 1929 in Lake Bluff, Ill., to Grant and Louise Chamberlain. She graduated from Colorado College with a degree in art and education. She married Samuel Paul Bryant, Jr. in 1957 after he called on her father's commercial flower farm in Stuart, Fla., where they raised their two boys before later moving to North Carolina.

Claire was an accomplished artist, publishing over 100 needlework design books and founding the family business, The Berry Patch. Prior to her career in the needle arts and crafts industry she was an elementary school teacher. A truly adventurous spirit, Claire rode an elephant in Asia, a camel in Egypt and taught school in San Francisco, Hawaii, Germany, and Japan. Though afraid of flying, she was a flight attendant for United Airlines in the 1950s when a trip from New York to Los Angeles required a refueling stop. She poured herself into her two boys and encouraged them to be thoughtful, respectful, and caring young men.

She was a servant and follower of Jesus and spent many years in Bible study as well as volunteering for church youth programs and helping in the foundation of two churches in Pinehurst, N.C. Her children remember her as a kind, loving, loyal, artistic, and resilient woman who gave them confidence and support throughout their lives.

A Celebration of Life will be planned at a future date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The 500 Festival Foundation, 21 Virginia Ave., Ste. 500, Indianapolis, IN 46204 (500festival.com/foundation/donate), or to Food For The Hungry at fh.org/give.

Condolences can be sent to The Bryant Family, 4883 Snowberry Bay Court, Carmel, IN 46033.

The family would like to thank the staff and residents at Sanders Glen Assisted Living and at Copper Trace Nursing Home for their dedication, care, and love during a very challenging time.

Arrangements entrusted to Bussell Family Funerals Westfield-Carmel.

Thomas N. Davidson

July 28, 1952 – March 2, 2021



Thomas N. Davidson, 68, Lebanon, passed away on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at Hendricks Regional Health in Danville. He was born on July 28, 1952 to Maurice and Eugenia (Coclan) Davidson in Johnson County.

Tom served as a law enforcement officer with the Indiana State Police from 1971 to 1999, then was currently a practicing attorney for the Indiana Public Retirement System since August 1999. He was an adjunct faculty member and teacher with the University of Indianapolis, Indiana Wesleyan University, IUPUI, Marian College, and Concordia University at Indianapolis. Tom was a graduate of the FBI National Academy, was a hostage negotiator for the Indiana State Police, was on the bomb squad, and was currently the attorney for the Indiana Association of Hostage/Crisis Negotiators and the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys. He authored four books: *Seven Steps for Organizational & School Violence Management: Assessment to After Care*, a book in the popular Complete Idiots' Guide series, *(CIG) to Home Security*, *To Preserve Life: Hostage Crisis Management*, and *Ten Forty-One: The ISP Years*.

He is survived by his wife, Suzie, whom he married on September 14, 2004; daughter, Julia (David) Stump; daughter-in-law, Shayna Davidson; stepdaughter, Shelly (Dan) Smith; stepson, Michael (Erica) Baumer; brother, Andrew (Lea) Davidson; 12 grandchildren, Lauren (Uriel) Lopez, Tommy Dowden, Abby Stump, Jennifer (Michael) DeLopa, Mina Davidson, Rachel Davidson, Levi (Hannah) Baumer, Lauren (Jaiden) Owens, Luke Baumer, Laci Baumer, Wyatt (Maggie) Althoff, and Michaela (Casey) Mershon; and his great-granddaughter, Aaliyah Spears.

In addition to his parents, Tom was preceded in death by his son, Neale Davidson; and his brother, Michael Davidson.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., with visitation from 11 a.m., on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville, with Chaplain Rick Kassel officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christmas Shop With A Cop, P.O. Box 204, Columbus, IN 47202; or the Indiana State Police Alliance, 1415 Shelby St., Suite A, Indianapolis, IN 46203.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Romans 14:1-12 (NIV)

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Sens. Young, Kaine introduce bill to repeal 1991 & 2002 AUMFs in Iraq

The REPORTER

U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Tim Kaine (D-Va.) on Wednesday reintroduced their bipartisan legislation to repeal the 1991 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMF) against Iraq.

The bill would formally end the authorizations for the Gulf and Iraq wars – 30 and 19 years, respectively, after these AUMFs were first passed – reasserting Congress' vital role in not only declaring wars, but in ending them. The repeal of these authorizations also recognizes the strong partnership the United States now has with a sovereign, democratic Iraq. The bill is also cosponsored by Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), Mike Lee (R-Utah),

Chris Coons (D-Del.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), and Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

"It has been 30 years since the first Gulf War began and 19 years since the United States went back into Iraq. In the years since, Congress has been operating on autopilot when it comes to our essential duties to authorize the use of military force," Sen. Young said. "The fact that authorities for both of these wars are still law today is illustrative of the bipartisan failure of Congress to perform its constitutionally-mandated oversight role. Today, Senator Tim Kaine and I have re-introduced our bipartisan legislation to continue our fight to repeal these outdated war authorities. Congress

must not shy away from this debate and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to advance this important legislation."

"Last week's airstrikes in Syria show that the Executive Branch, regardless of party, will continue to stretch its war powers," Sen. Kaine said. "Congress has a responsibility to not only vote to authorize new military action, but to repeal old authorizations that are no longer necessary. The 1991 and 2002 AUMFs that underpinned the war against Iraq need to be taken off the books to prevent their future misuse. They serve no operational purpose, keep us on permanent war footing, and undermine the sovereignty of Iraq, a close partner. I call

on Congress to promptly take up this measure and for the Biden Administration to support it to finally show the American people that the Article I and II branches can work together on these issues."

This bill is an effort to prevent the future misuse of the expired Gulf and Iraq War authorizations and strengthen Congressional oversight over war powers. For years, Young and Kaine have been leading voices in Congress raising concerns over the use of military force without congressional authorization.

Repealing these authorities will not impact ongoing U.S. operations to counter ISIS.

[Click here](#) to read the full text of the bill.

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Four county players named to IBCA girls basketball "Supreme 15" lists



Kirk Green/File photo


Fishers' Katie Burton was named to the 2021 IBCA/Franciscan Health Supreme 15 Senior girls team earlier this week. Burton has committed to play at St. John's University.




HAMILTON COUNTY TELEVISION

IHSAA Boys Basketball Sectional 8

Friday March 5



6:00 pm - Carmel vs Hamilton Southeastern



ROYALS



8:30 pm - Noblesville vs Westfield



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Four Hamilton County girls basketball stars are among the 15 seniors and 15 underclass players that have earned IBCA/Franciscan Health "Supreme 15" All-State honors for 2020-21, it was announced earlier this week.

Fishers' Katie Burton is one of the players on the 2021 IBCA/Franciscan Health Supreme 15 Senior girls' team. Burton averaged 21.9 points and 5.4 rebounds per game for the Tigers, leading them to a 17-5 record. She has committed to play at St. John's University, a Division I school in New York City that is a member of the Big East Conference.

The other members of the Supreme 15 Senior team are, listed alphabetically: Ally Becki, Brownsburg; Madelyn Bischoff, Roncalli; Courtney Blakely, Hammond Noll; Trinity Clinton, Penn; Tyra Ford, Anderson; Lilliann Frasure, North Judson; Marissa Gasaway, Silver Creek; Hanna Knoll, Angola; Meg Newman, North Central (Indianapolis); Vanessa Shafford, Linton-Stockton; Brynn Shoup-Hill, Goshen; Jayla Smith, Lawrence North; Trinity Thompson, Michigan City; and Ariana Wiggins, Heritage Christian.

Meanwhile, three county players are on the 2021 IBCA/Franciscan Health Supreme 15 Underclass girls' team: Carmel junior Kate Clarke, Westfield junior Alyssa Crockett and Noblesville sophomore Ashlynn Shade.

Clarke has been a force for the Greyhounds since her freshman year, and stepped up big this season, scoring 18.1 points per contest while helping Carmel to a 15-7 record. Clarke has committed to play at the University of Michigan.

Crockett is also entertaining several offers from Division I schools, which is no surprise considering her play over the past three seasons. This year, she contributed 17.2 points, 7.6 rebounds and 1.5 blocks per game, leading the Shamrocks to a Hoosier Crossroads Conference championship.

Shade is only a sophomore, but has been gaining attention nationally for her performances for the Millers team. Shade averaged 23.9 points, 8.1 rebounds, 4.3 steals and 4.2 assists for Noblesville, leading them to a 21-5 record and its first sectional championship in six years.

The other Supreme 15 underclass players are, listed alphabetically: Kuryn Brunson, Franklin; Jessica Carrothers, Crown Point; Laila Hull, Zionsville; Rashunda Jones, South Bend Washington; McKenna Layden, Northwestern; Ayanna Patterson, Homestead; Amiyah

Reynolds, South Bend Washington; Mila Reynolds, South Bend Washington; Ali Saunders, North Harrison; Lilly Stoddard, Crown Point; Josie Trabel, East Central; and Tanyuel Welch, North Central (Indianapolis).

The IBCA also named Large School All-State teams (15 seniors, 15 underclass) and Small School All-State teams (15 seniors, 15 underclass).

Carmel's Bridget Dunn was named to the Senior Large School All-State team. Dunn has committed to play at Kent State University and was having a solid season before it was ended by injury.

Two county underclass players earned honors as well. Hamilton Heights freshman Camryn Runner is part of the Underclass Large School All-State team; Runner was an integral part of the Huskies' sectional championship run this year. University sophomore Kelsey DuBois was named to the Underclass Small School All-State list; DuBois averaged a double-double and led the Trailblazers to a regional title.

The "Supreme 15" is the top honor awarded, and players were voted to that group without regard to school size. The Large School and Small School all-state teams are secondary accolades -- the Large School group including players from Class 3A and Class 4A schools and the Small School group including players from Class A and Class 2A schools. Players who make the Supreme 15 are not considered for Large School or Small School honors.

In addition, 90 more seniors and 90 more underclass players were selected honorable mention all-state. The honorable mention laurels are awarded without regard to school size. Hamilton Heights' Jillian Osswald, a Taylor University commit, was named to the senior honorable mention list, while Fishers sophomore Hailey Smith was named to the underclass honorable mention roster.

The IBCA/Franciscan Health All-State teams are selected through a process organized by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association and presented by Franciscan Health Sports Medicine.

All IBCA-member head coaches have the opportunity to nominate players. A panel of 20 IBCA coaches -- 16 from the current regional areas, three district representatives (one each from IHSAA Districts 1, 2 and 3) and the committee chairman -- then meets to review the nominations, vote and finalize the selections.

Three county girls basketball seniors invited to Top 60 Workout

Three Hamilton County girls basketball players will participate in the 40th annual Top 60 Senior Workout, which takes place Sunday at Beech Grove High School.

Fishers' Katie Burton and Audra Emerson and Hamilton Heights' Jillian Osswald will all participate in the workout. Carmel's Bridget Dunn was also selected, but is injured and cannot participate.

Two sessions of the Workout will be hosted by Hoosier Basketball Magazine, in conjunction with the IHSAA and the IBCA Half of the Top 60 girls, primar-

ily from northern and southern Indiana, will participate in the first session, which takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. The remaining players, primarily from central Indiana, will compete during the second session, set for 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The Top 60 Senior Workout includes the state's top two scorers— Courtney Blakely, Hammond Noll (31.7 ppg) and Ariana Wiggins, Heritage Christian (27.6)—along with 11 other senior standouts who averaged more than 20 ppg.

Coach Kristin Raker (Beech Grove) will direct both sessions. Other outstanding Indiana girls' high school coaches from the IBCA have been invited to join the 2021 Top 60 staff— Vanita Golston (Hammond Noll), Scott Schoen (Silver Creek), Scott Smith (Jac-Cen-Del) and Kristi Ulrich (Penn).

Both sessions are open to the public for admission fee of \$8, or \$5 for students.

Three county girls soccer players to play in High School All-American Game

Three Hamilton County girls soccer players have been selected to play in the 10th annual High School All-American Game, which takes place May 29 in St. Louis.

Carmel's Erin Baker, Noblesville's Jenna Chatterton and Guerin Catholic's Quincy McMahon will all play as part of the 2020 West All-American Team. A total of 45 elite players from across the United States will play at this event.

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NBA standings

Wednesday's games
Detroit 129, Toronto 105
Indiana 114, Cleveland 111
Philadelphia 131, Utah 123

Brooklyn 132, Houston 114
Atlanta 115, Orlando 112
Charlotte 135, Minnesota 102
Chicago 128, New Orleans 124

Dallas 87, Oklahoma City 78
Portland 108, Golden State 106
Sacramento 123, L.A. Lakers 120

Eastern Conference

Atlantic	W	L	PCT.	GB
Philadelphia	24	12	.667	-
Brooklyn	24	13	.649	0.5
Boston	18	17	.514	5.5
New York	18	18	.500	6.0
Toronto	17	18	.486	6.5
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Milwaukee	21	14	.600	-
Indiana	16	18	.471	4.5
Chicago	16	18	.471	4.5
Cleveland	14	22	.389	7.5
Detroit	10	25	.286	11.0
Southeast	W	L	PCT.	GB
Charlotte	17	18	.486	-
Miami	17	18	.486	-
Atlanta	16	20	.444	1.5
Washington	13	20	.394	3.0
Orlando	13	23	.361	4.5

Western Conference

Northwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Utah	27	9	.750	-
Portland	20	14	.588	6.0
Denver	20	15	.571	6.5
Oklahoma City	14	21	.400	12.5
Minnesota	7	29	.194	20.0
Pacific	W	L	PCT.	GB
Phoenix	23	11	.676	-
L.A. Clippers	24	13	.649	0.5
L.A. Lakers	24	13	.649	0.5
Golden State	19	17	.528	5.0
Sacramento	14	21	.400	9.5
Southwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
San Antonio	18	13	.581	-
Dallas	18	16	.529	1.5
Memphis	16	15	.516	2.0
New Orleans	15	20	.429	5.0
Houston	11	23	.324	8.5

McConnell's triple-double leads Pacers to comeback win

By BRENDAN ROURKE
Courtesy nba.com/pacers

Malcolm Brogdon may have had a team-high 29 points on an impressive 12-of-15 shooting. Cleveland's Collin Sexton may have had a game-high 32 and 10 assists.

But the best stat line of the night belonged to T.J. McConnell.

From the minute he stepped off the bench, the human sparkplug provided fireworks. When the Pacers were struggling, he kept them in it. With 1:06 to play, his 10th and final steal helped seal the deal. Indiana (16-18) both ended a four-game skid and halted a four-game Cavaliers (14-22) winning streak with a 114-111 victory at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse Wednesday night.

"It's very big," coach Nate Bjorkgren said of the win. "There's no quit in this team. I've been saying it all year."

McConnell's 16-point, 13-assist, and 10-steal triple-double is just the sixth such performance in NBA history and the first since Mookie Blaylock in 1998. It's the first in NBA history from a player coming off the bench. His nine first-half steals also set a new NBA record. To boot, he finished a perfect 8-of-8 from the field. Although, none of these personal accolades made him stray from his prototypical mindset.

"My teammates enabled it," he humbly stated of his performance. "The way they were pressuring the ball, letting me get in the passing lanes, making shots, and getting me the ball. So, all credit to them."

With his team up 108-106 and 1:18 to play, McConnell lined up against Dylan

Windler at the top of the key. Windler attempted to drive and pass to the left, but McConnell poked the ball free. The loose rock fell into the hands of Brogdon, who finished an easy layup for the 110-106 advantage. When the Cavaliers threatened again, Brogdon remained clutch, sinking a 17-footer and a pair of free throws to finish off the game. The Blue & Gold trailed by as many as 19 in the second half before climbing back in the fourth.

In a statistical anomaly, the Pacers found themselves trailing 61-51 after the first half. McConnell's nine steals led to Cleveland committing 18 first-half turnovers that turned into 28 Pacers points. Even still, the Cavs outscored Indiana 33-23 in the second frame behind 22 points in the paint, 12 from Sexton alone.

"Honestly, in the first half, (I) was just trying to do anything I can to will our team back into the game," McConnell said of his record-setting performance.

The Blue & Gold did not miss a shot to start until the 7:55 mark of the game. A turnaround hook from Sabonis with 6:38 to play gave Indiana a brief 15-14 lead. However, Jarrett Allen's and-one alley-oop layup pushed the Cavaliers back ahead by two. The finish started a 10-0 Cleveland run that extended the lead to 24-15 with 5:05 to play.

Then, McConnell checked in. Playing in-sync with Edmond Sumner the squad tallied 13 unanswered points to take a 28-24 lead with 2:33 to go. McConnell collected four points, three steals, and three assists during the run, spotting Sumner for three consec-

utive buckets. But Cleveland would get the final buckets of the frame, tying the score at 28 before the second period began.

Five unanswered in 44 seconds, including a tough and-one finish from Jeremy Lamb, gave Indiana a 33-28 lead and early hope in the second. But the Cavs continued their push.

With the Pacers leading 35-30, Cleveland rattled off a 10-2 spree to grab a 40-37 lead on Sexton's reverse layup with 7:53 remaining. Later, McConnell swiped his sixth steal of the half for an easy fast-break layup to pull within one, 42-41, with 6:21 to go. His seventh steal of the half then led to a Lamb layup that grabbed a one-point advantage for the Blue & Gold.

But Cleveland began finding success in the paint. A floater from Darius Garland, followed by a fast-break layup from Sexton, started a late 17-4 Cleveland run that pushed the hosts in front 59-47 with 51.9 seconds remaining. Indiana appeared to end the half on a high note by notching consecutive buckets, including Brogdon's layup off McConnell's ninth steal, to pull within eight, 59-51, with 15.2 seconds to go. However, a shooting foul on Lamb was called with 0.1 seconds left and held up upon review. Allen sank two free throws to push Cleveland's lead to double digits before the break.

The Blue & Gold had hoped McConnell's incredible first half would ignite the team's defense from there. However, that was not the case early on. Three triples from three different Cavaliers pushed the Cavaliers' lead to 72-58 by the 8:08 mark of the frame. An and-one finish from Garland then pushed their lead to 17, 77-60, with 7:24 to play.

After the Cavs held a comfortable lead for a spell, Myles Turner then provided some spark for Indiana.

The Texan connected on a three from the right wing and followed with a swat on the defensive end. He then tallied a put-back layup to cut Cleveland's lead to 83-71 with 3:36 to go. The string of plays ignited a 10-0 Indiana run that cut the Cavs' lead to 83-76 with 2:41 to play.

After Taurean Prince tallied a triple

from the right corner, the squad recorded five more unanswered to trim the lead to four, 86-82, on Turner's second trey of the period at the 1:23 mark. However, Cleveland managed to take a 90-82 lead into the final frame behind two late dunks from NBA veteran JaVale McGee.

After a cold start to the fourth, the Pacers managed to cut Cleveland's lead to five, 92-87, with 8:56 to go. Less than a minute later, the squad trimmed the deficit to two after McConnell notched a layup and Domantas Sabonis connected on 1-of-2 free throws on consecutive offensive possessions. The All-Star added two more from the charity stripe at the 7:02 mark to pull within one.

With 6:36 to play, Indiana grabbed its first lead since the second quarter. Sumner picked off Cleveland's inbound pass and finished on the other end to push the Pacers in front 96-95.

Tied at 99, Sabonis and Lamb scored on consecutive possessions to stretch the lead to four. After Allen hit a layup, McConnell drilled his eighth and final bucket of the night, a turnaround jumper in the paint, to keep Indiana's lead at 105-101 with 4:19 to play. But, five straight points from Sexton pushed the Cavs back in from 106-105 with 2:25 to go.

Indiana then caught a break. Two over-and-back violations by Cleveland on consecutive possessions granted them extra opportunities. With 1:18 to play, Sabonis spotted Justin Holiday on the left wing for a triple. Despite struggling all night, he nailed it with ease, giving the Pacers the lead for good.

McConnell and Brogdon then carried Indiana to the victory. Beginning with his layup off McConnell's steal, Brogdon notched the final six Pacers points. Leading 110-107, "the President" fired a 17-footer. It sank without a doubt and extended the Blue & Gold's lead to five with 38.4 seconds remaining.

With 3.0 seconds remaining, Sexton fired off a trey, hoping to tie, but it was no good. Although Windler collected a bucket at the rim, Brogdon iced the game with one second left at the charity stripe.

Indiana takes on the Denver Nuggets tonight to round out the first half of its season.

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