

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021

ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN  
CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD



## TODAY'S WEATHER



Today: Mostly sunny.  
Tonight: Clear.

HIGH: 46 LOW: 25



## Cindy Durr wins Sheridan Library reading contest



**The Adult Winter Reading Program was a success at Sheridan Public Library. Each week, one lucky participant was awarded a prize for their logged books. Cindy Durr (right) was the winner of SPL's Grand Prize of a Kindle Fire. Library Director Kim Riley presented Durr the prize.**

Photo provided



**Howard Stevenson presides over the Fishers Plan Commission for the first time as president.**

## Fishers Plan Commission makes history, Stevenson will serve as president

By **LARRY LANNAN**  
[LarryInFishers.com](http://LarryInFishers.com)

The Fishers Plan Commission has had the same president for about 30 years, Warren "Butch" Harling. But Mr. Harling died this week. So, the question was, who would replace Warren Harling with the Plan Commission gavel?

Commission members made more history with that selection: Local attorney Howard Stevenson was vot-

ed unanimously as the commission's new president, the first African American to hold that post.

"I want to thank my colleagues on the board for the confidence they have in me," Stevenson wrote in a Twitter message following the meeting. "I also want to thank my predecessor, the late great Warren Harling. There's no way I can fill Warren's shoes, but I'll walk the path he paved to make our

great city even better."

The commission members had a moment of silence in memory of their long-time president, Warren Harling.

Stevenson was appointed to fill out a term on the Hamilton Southeastern School Board, but narrowly lost the election to Mike Bottorff in 2016. Mr. Bottorff resigned his school board seat before his term ended.

See Plan . . . Page 2

## Two county shootings: One injury, one arrest

### Fishers shooting leaves one injured

#### The REPORTER

The Fishers Police Department said a shooting resulted in one person injured with non-life-threatening injuries Wednesday.

The shooting happened in the 13800 block of Boulder Canyon Drive.

According to police, both individuals involved in the incident have

been accounted for, and there was no threat to the community.

An investigation into the shooting is ongoing and police have not announced any arrests.

## Carmel SWAT arrests shooting suspect

#### The REPORTER

At approximately 11:27 p.m. on Wednesday, Carmel Police responded to the 100 block of Meadow Lane regarding a report of shots fired in the area.

Shortly after officers arrived, a person of interest was identified. Offi-

cers attempted to contact the suspect, later identified as Rodney Belcher, 43, but he refused to exit his residence. The Carmel SWAT Team responded and Belcher surrendered peacefully and was taken into custody.

Belcher has been charged with Criminal Recklessness – Level 6

Felony.

If you have any information on this incident, please call the Carmel Police Department at (317) 571-2500, or Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana at (317) 262-8477 (TIPS). Please reference CPD case number 2021-15199.

## Prevail receives \$32,500 grant from Crosser Family Foundation

#### The REPORTER

Prevail, Inc. has announced that it has been awarded \$32,500 from the Crosser Family Foundation, a fund of Hamilton County Community Foundation.

This grant will support Prevail's full housing solutions plan. With this plan, Prevail is working toward a continuum of housing solutions to meet the needs of victims in immediate need of secure housing, those in transition as they develop self-sufficiency, and those who are ready for their own



permanent housing. Prevail thanks the Crosser Family Foundation Advisors for their continued support throughout much of

Prevail's 35 years of providing services to victims. They have enabled a variety of programs at Prevail to reach countless victims and to re-

## Legislative session reaches halfway point with wins for Hamilton County

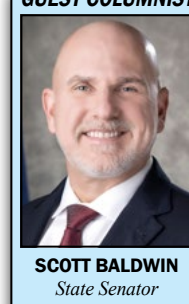
The **Indiana General Assembly** recently reached its halfway point. Bills that passed the Senate will now be considered by the House of Representatives, and bills that passed the House will

come over to the Senate. It was a productive first half, with several important wins for our Hamilton County community, small businesses, workers, and families.

When session began, I sent out a survey asking residents to provide their input on the most important issues facing our community and guidance on specific policy proposals. As we head into the second half of session, I want to share an update on policy action I've taken based on those responses.

One of our top priorities this session is passing a balanced, fiscally responsible two-year state budget. The House recently passed its version of the budget that protects those commitments, and the Senate will consider the budget in the second half of session. One of your budget concerns is ensuring funding for our K-12 schools. I'm pleased to report that the Senate passed a bill I co-authored,

#### GUEST COLUMNIST



SCOTT BALDWIN  
State Senator

**Senate Bill 2**, that would make sure brick-and-mortar schools receive full funding, even if they had to transition to virtual learning for part of the year due to the pandemic.

Based on my survey, many residents also believe we should prioritize COVID-19 relief and support for small businesses. I co-authored legislation, **Senate Enrolled Act 1**, that will provide small businesses with immunity from frivolous lawsuits related to COVID-19 and ensure they have the confidence to re-open. SEA 1 passed both the Senate and the House during the first half of session, and has already been signed into law by Gov. Holcomb.

Another priority you shared in the survey is improving access to high-speed broadband, particularly in rural communities, and I couldn't agree more. Now more than ever, it's critical that our businesses, remote workers, farmers, students, and Hoosiers seeking access to virtual health care and other services have access to reliable, high-speed internet.

See Baldwin . . . Page 2



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# From the desk of Dr. Derek Arrowood

Update #51 from Dr. Derek Arrowood, Superintendent, Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

Here we are at the one-year mark since what has become an unprecedented health crisis entered into our lives and literally changed everything. We have survived, and in some areas, thrived. The pandemic has shown us how to live and learn differently in every aspect of our lives. I feel

COLUMNIST



DR. DEREK ARROWOOD  
Heights Superintendent

confident in saying that this pandemic won't go on forever, but we still need to proceed with caution.

Hamilton County went to the Blue color level this week on the COVID-19 map but remains in the Yellow color advisory and is to still follow the Yellow advisory guidelines until two straight weeks of Blue metrics are met. With the rate of the decline in positivity, hospitalizations, and

new cases, we appear to be moving in the right direction. This is good news and reinforces that we should continue to follow the recommended health guidelines and not fall victim to "pandemic fatigue."

To do our part on this front, we will continue with our hybrid scheduling format at the middle and high schools for an additional four weeks beyond March 12. The current schedule at the elementary school will not change. This decision was made after much review, discussion, and with the intent of giving our stu-

dents the best shot at finishing the year strong and in school. This schedule includes two weeks prior to and two weeks after spring break (March 29 to April 9). We believe this makes the most sense for the season we are in, to best minimize the impact of potential spread from this 16-day break from school while providing the most flexibility for navigating possible COVID-related disruptions after returning from spring break on Monday, April 12.

Beginning on Monday, April 26, students at the middle and high school will

transition to an in-person, four-day week and continue with E-Learning on Wednesdays for the remainder of the school year. This allows the middle school to be able to provide ILEARN testing for their 52 offsite learners more safely using a few staff members within the normal school day.

Last week was National FFA Week. During FFA Week, local chapters highlight their legacy of helping students develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Our FFA

Chapter is a standout. It is among the more than 8,600 chapters across the country with a combined membership of some 700,000 students and one of the largest youth organizations in the nation. Led by Agriculture Teacher Emilie Carson, we have many reasons to celebrate and recognize Heights' FFA program all year long.

We appreciate your grace, partnership, and collective support as we continue to push forward through challenging times to get to the other side.  
#WeAreHuskies

## Westfield Washington Schools opens 2021-22 registration

### The REPORTER

New student registration for the 2021-22 school year is now open at Westfield Washington Schools.

Students who will be five years old on or before Aug. 1, 2021 are eligible to register for kindergarten. Information and registration instructions are available on the [Westfield Washington Schools website](#) and should be submitted electronically. If you need access or assistance signing up, contact your local school or call the district office at (317) 867-8002.

"Our number one goal is to be able to safely bring back our students and staff, full-time, five days-a-week

for next school year," said Interim Superintendent Chris Baldwin. "Our ability to successfully return full-time rests solely on the COVID situation over the summer and heading into the school year as well as the recommendations of local and state health officials."

Below is a list of what you will need to register:

- Original birth certificate (from a country/county of birth health department)
- Driver's License
- Current immunization records



Baldwin

chasing a home: Current tax statement, settlement statement, warranty deed, purchase agreement/builder's contract (settlement statement must be provided within 30 days of closing)

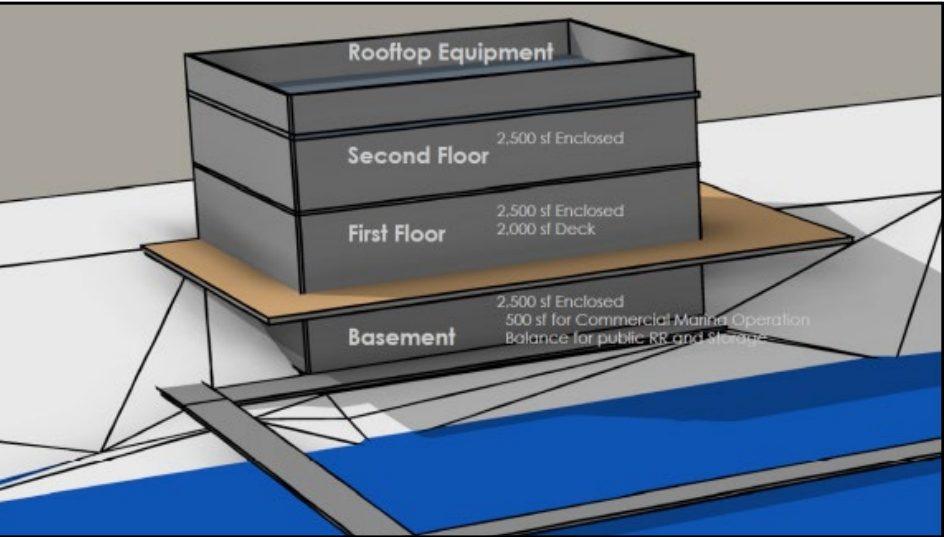
- Name and address of previous school (if applicable)
- Guardianship/custody papers (if applicable)
- IEP/Individualized Education Plan (if applicable)
- Other information to have available when registering:
- Emergency contact names and numbers
- Parents' work/cell numbers

For more information on registration or schools, visit the Parents tab at [www.k12.in.us](#).

- Proof of residency (current occupancy with name and address)
- Renting: Rental/lease agreement or utility bill (gas, electric, etc.)
- Own/purchasing a home: Current tax statement, settlement statement, warranty deed, purchase agreement/builder's contract (settlement statement must be provided within 30 days of closing)

## PLAN

from Page 1



Graphic provided

A general idea of how a future restaurant in the Marina Village development near the Geist Waterfront Park would be designed.

Stevenson was voted to remain on the Fishers Board of Zoning Appeals. Fishers City Councilman Pete Peterson was elected Plan Commission Vice President.

The commission voted a favorable recommendation on two projects Wednesday night.

Mann properties is proposing a senior living project located on the east side of Parkside Drive,

between 126th and 131st streets, at 12915 Parkside Drive. Mann is asking a text amendment to the Planned Unit Developed, amending the parking requirements and minimum unit square footage. Mann is also requesting an amendment to the landscaping requirements that apply to the entire development.

The Marina Village development near the Geist Waterfront Park requests a

text amendment, allowing for a future restaurant, and other site improvements, including the relocation of the existing entrance to align with the City's Geist Waterfront Park on Olio Road. Commission members asked petitioner Gordon Byers to address parking, fencing and potential noise issues with the city planning staff before the request is considered by the Fishers City Council.

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Paul Poteet is a star...  
and we have fishy news

## BALDWIN

from Page 1

To address this challenge, I authored [Senate Bill 359](#), which would provide cities and towns with a new financing tool to invest in broadband projects locally. The bill would encourage local communities to form public-private partnerships to address broadband needs and enable them to pay for projects by leveraging anticipated service fee revenue that the project will generate. SB 359 passed the Senate unanimously and will now be considered by the House. There were several other broadband propos-

als introduced and passed by the Senate, which I was proud to support, that complement my bill and will help improve broadband service in Hamilton County and throughout the state.

Finally, I authored legislation to support our law enforcement officers and first responders. [Senate Bill 194](#) would enhance penalties against someone who threatens public safety by blocking a first responder vehicle on their way to an emergency. [Senate Bill 311](#) would protect law enforcement officers from disciplinary


action if they used force to defend themselves in a life-threatening situation, a policy which a majority of survey respondents support. Both of these bills passed the Senate with bipartisan support, and are incredibly important to me as a former law enforcement officer.




During the second half of the legislative session, I hope to continue to hear from you about the issues that matter to you and your family. You can contact my legislative office at (317) 232-9400 or email me at [Senator.Baldwin@iga.in.gov](#).

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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.







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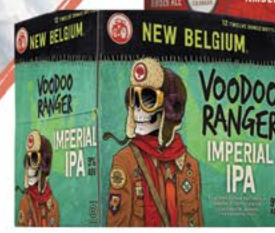


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happy to provide you with one.



# New parking garage could be coming to downtown Westfield



Rendering provided by City of Westfield

The City of Westfield is considering a public/private partnership to construct a parking structure just east of Grand Junction in downtown Westfield. According to city officials, the partnership would create 650 new parking spaces for the downtown area with the parking garage being within the newly-proposed Union Square apartment building. Also new to Union Square would be “The Union,” a food and drink destination. The expansion to the east of Grand Junction would encompass three- to four-story apartments, with the building on Union having storefronts at the bottom as well as additional surface-level parking.

# Hunters spur increase in deer tested for CWD

**The REPORTER**

A total of 893 wild deer in Indiana were tested for chronic wasting disease (CWD) through the end of the 2020-21 deer season, an increase from the 823 tested in 2019.

“While CWD has been found in the neighboring states of Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio, we have not detected CWD in Indiana to date,” said Mitch Marcus, DNR fish and wildlife health supervisor.

CWD is a neurologic disease that affects white-tailed deer. The disease is always fatal to deer and is transmitted directly through body fluids, such as feces, saliva, blood, and urine, or indirectly through the contamination of soil, plants, and water.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there have been no cases of CWD in humans. In areas where CWD is known to be present, the CDC recommends that hunters have deer tested before eating the meat.

Although DNR collects wild deer samples for CWD testing throughout the year, Moriah Boggess, Indiana DNR deer biologist, emphasized that most deer health samples are collected from hunter-harvested deer during the fall.

“Thank you to DNR staff, participating deer hunters, deer processors, and taxidermists for the success of our 2020 CWD surveillance efforts,” Boggess said. “We could not have sampled 893 deer without your assistance and support.”

Any deer hunters who had their harvest sampled for CWD during the 2020-21 deer season can check sample results at [report-sickanimal.dnr.IN.gov/search](http://report-sickanimal.dnr.IN.gov/search).

For information related to CWD surveillance in Indiana, see [on.IN.gov/cwd](http://on.IN.gov/cwd). Information about 2021-22 CWD monitoring efforts during the deer hunting seasons will be available on the website later this year.

# AG Todd Rokita works to successfully shut down charity fraud operation

**The REPORTER**

As part of a coordinated multistate action, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has stopped a massive telefunding operation that bombarded 67 million consumers nationally with 1.3 billion deceptive charitable fundraising calls – mostly illegal robocalls. More than 12 million of those calls were made to Hoosiers.

Associated Community Services (ACS) and related defendants have agreed to settle charges that they duped generous Americans into donating to charities that failed to provide the services they promised.

The defendants collected more than \$110 million using their deceptive solicitations. Rokita was joined in this action by the Federal Trade Commission and 46 agencies from 38 states and the District of Columbia.

The complaint names ACS and its sister companies Central Processing Services and Community Services Appeal; their owners, Dick Cole, Bill Burland, Barbara Cole, and Amy Burland; and ACS senior managers Nikole Gilstorf, Tony Lia, John Lucidi, and Scot Stepek. In addition, the complaint names two fundraising companies allegedly operated by Gilstorf and Lia as spin-offs of ACS – Directele and The Dale Corporation.

“When I ran for attorney general, I promised to protect the people of Indiana from deceptive practices and fraudulent scams,” Rokita said. “We are off to a strong start, and I am deeply grateful for the work of our team.”

Announcing the settlement during National Consumer Protection Week, Rokita pledged to continue his work to stop illegal robocalling.

“These kinds of deceptive, harassing phone calls are more than just a nuisance,” Rokita said. “They are crimes aimed at bilking unsuspecting victims out of their hard-earned money. We will do everything we can to bring perpetrators to justice.”

Collaboration between federal and state governments has been key to successful actions against fraudulent fundraisers, noted Daniel Kaufman, acting director of the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection.

“Deceptive charitable fundraising can be big business for scammers, especially when they use illegal robocalls,” Kaufman said. “The FTC and our state partners are prepared to hold fraudsters accountable when they target generous consumers with lies.”

According to the complaint, the defendants knew the organizations for which they were fundraising spent little or no money on the charitable causes they claimed to support. In some cases, the defendants kept as much 90 cents of every dollar they solicited from donors.

The complaint alleges that the defendants made their deceptive pitches since at least 2008 on behalf of numerous organizations that claimed to support homeless veterans, victims of house fires, breast cancer patients, children with autism and other causes that well-meaning Americans were enticed to support through the defendants’ high-pressure tactics.

Attached are the complaint and terms of settlement in this case, which are pending court approval. Additional documents related to this matter are available upon request.

Consumers who have been targeted by scammers may file complaints with the Office of the Indiana Attorney General either [online](http://online) or by calling 1-800-382-5516.



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# ALS patients no longer need to wait for benefits

## The REPORTER

The *ALS Social Security Disability Insurance Access Act*, introduced by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Senator Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) and signed into law in December, eliminated the five-month waiting period for Social Security disability benefits for those with medically-diagnosed ALS, because due to the quick and devastating effects of the disease many of those diagnosed do not have five months to wait.

Due to how the Social Security Administration interpreted this law, ALS patients who had already applied for the disability benefits they are entitled to were still being forced to wait the five months. Senator Mike Braun (R-Ind.), who co-founded the bipartisan Senate ALS Caucus with

Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.), introduced a bill to clarify this issue, which passed the Senate Wednesday night.

"The financial burden of ALS is staggering, and those who are diagnosed have no time to waste," Sen. Braun said. "With this technical fix, which is expected to be signed into law, we will ensure timely access to Social Security disability benefits is available to ALS patients and the ALS Social Security Disability Insurance Access Act fulfills its promise to help those fighting this terrible disease."

"With this technical fix to the law, we'll finally ensure that ALS patients get the timely financial support they



Braun

the bipartisan ALS caucus last year. We must continue to improve the law to make life easier for ALS patients and their loved ones."

## About ALS

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, is a neurodegenerative disease affecting the ability of the brain to control muscle movements. Individuals with ALS progressively lose the ability to speak, walk, and breathe. There is no effective treatment for the dis-

ease, no known cause, and – currently – no cure.

## About the

### Senate ALS Caucus

The Senate ALS Caucus founded in January 2020 by Senators Chris Coons and Mike Braun. The Caucus brings together senators from both sides of the aisle who share a commitment to working collaboratively to advocate on behalf of ALS patients and their families to: Raise awareness about the difficulties faced by ALS patients and their families; advance policies that improve the quality of life for ALS patients; expand the network of support for those suffering from ALS; and advocate for investments in research that will enhance our understanding of the causes of ALS, identify effective treatments, and eventually discover a cure.

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.  
Romans 14:13 (NIV)

## Lavern M. Parks

April 27, 1934 – February 3, 2021

Lavern M. Parks, Noblesville, passed away on February 3, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on April 27, 1934 to the late Melvin and May LaFern (Glassburn) Parks in Goshen, Ind.

Lavern was a graduate of Goshen High School, Class of 1952. After high school, he enlisted and proudly served in the United States Navy and did so honorably. Lavern married the love of his life, Joyce (Canen) Parks, on November 26, 1955 in Goshen. Lavern was a truck driver; the last 20 years he drove for Tucker Freight in South Bend.

When Lavern finally decided to retire from trucking, he was able to put more time into wood working. He was a skilled wood worker, and he made and repaired furniture. He looked forward to going to Whitehouse Donut Shop every morning to visit with his friends.

Lavern and Joyce loved traveling and had seen several states together. The two of them enjoyed going to Florida. Lavern leaves behind his wife of 65 years, Joyce; their four children, Lori (Daryl) Campbell, Randy Parks, Craig (Kathy) Parks, and Brad Parks. He was a loving grandfather to Joshua, Matthew, Jennifer, Brendan, Ariel, Skylar, and Dakota. He was a proud great-grandfather to Cleo, Troy, and Maive. Preceding him in death is his son, Brian. Everyone is invited to sign the online guest book, leave a condolence, or share a memory at [fisherfunerals.com](http://fisherfunerals.com).

## Meeting Notices

The Cicero Economic Development Committee will meet via Zoom at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. To join the meeting, visit [us02web.zoom.us/j/83581410041](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83581410041). The meeting ID is 835 8141 0041.

The Sheridan Community Schools Board of Trustees will meet for a public work session at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021, in the Media Center at Sheridan High School, 24185 Hinesley Road, Sheridan. A regular meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m.

The Westfield Washington Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, in the Community Room at the Westfield Washington Public Library, 333 W. Hoover St., Westfield. The meeting will also be available on Zoom at [this link](https://www.zoom.us/j/82518771761). The meeting ID is 825 1877 1761.

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St., Carmel. An executive session will precede at 5 p.m.

The Westfield Washington Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, in the Large Group Instruction Room at Westfield Middle School, 345 W. Hoover St., Westfield. The meeting will also be livestreamed at [www.k12.in.us/livestream](https://www.k12.in.us/livestream).

Prior to the regular meeting, an executive session will be held from 4 to 7 p.m., pursuant to the following: Executive session to receive information about and interview prospective employees. IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(4); and, For discussion of strategy with respect to initiation of litigation or litigation that is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing. IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(1)(B).

# Sens. Young, Baldwin, Peters reintroduce bipartisan Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act

## The REPORTER

U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), and Gary Peters (D-Mich.) on Wednesday reintroduced the *Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act*, bipartisan legislation that will codify the U.S. Coast Guard's icebreaking mission on the Great Lakes and increase the icebreaking capacity of the Great Lakes fleet. Icebreaking is critical for commerce in the Great Lakes, and increasing icebreaking capacity will help the many businesses and workers that rely on the maritime industry to transport their goods to market and grow our regional economy.

"Hoosier businesses and workers rely on the Great Lakes to transport goods and services, but commerce can be impeded without icebreaking to clear the pathway during cold weather months," Sen. Young said. "Roughly 28 percent of our

nation's annual economic output comes from the Great Lakes region, and the pandemic has only emphasized the area's importance to our nation's economy. Our legislation will support icebreaking missions to expand capacity to ship goods, create jobs, and strengthen the economy in Indiana and other Great Lake states."

Icebreaking capacity in the Great Lakes supports more than 90 million tons of cargo annually. A study commissioned by the Lake Carriers' Association found that during the 2018-2019 ice season, businesses that depend upon the Great Lakes maritime industry lost over \$1 billion in revenues because of delays caused by inadequate icebreaking. These economic losses resulted in the loss of over 5,000 jobs



Young

throughout the Great Lakes region.

The bipartisan bill would update the outdated U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) Great Lakes icebreaking mission and increase the icebreaking capacity of the Great Lakes fleet.

Specifically, the legislation:

1. Codifies into law the USCG's icebreaking mission in the Great Lakes. Requires the USCG to break ice in the Great Lakes in accordance with the reasonable demands of commerce set forth in the bill. The standards derive from a 1997 Coast Guard study outlining icebreaking requirements on the Great Lakes. They are written to allow the USCG to size its icebreaker fleet to be capable of handling the vast majority of ice seasons while limiting excess capacity.

2. Requires USCG to report to Congress on the icebreaking season. Requires an annual report of USCG activities during the previous winter's icebreaking activities.

3. Requires USCG to coordinate with industry for icebreaking operations.

4. Defines "reasonable demands of commerce." "The safe movement of commercial vessels transiting ice-covered waterways in the Great Lakes, regardless of type of cargo, at a speed consistent with the design capability of Coast Guard icebreakers operating in the Great Lakes."

5. Authorizes \$350 million for the construction of a new Great Lakes Icebreaker and authorizes the USCG to expedite its procurement.

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

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Hamilton County

Sports



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

# Noblesville wrestling ties for first in IHSWCA Academic Challenge

The Noblesville wrestling team showed everyone that it's tough and talented when it won the sectional championship at the end of January at Elwood.

The Millers are also pretty smart, too. That's something the public might not be aware of, but it will be now. Noblesville finished in a tie for first place in the inaugural Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Academic Challenge, which was announced earlier this week.

The Academic Challenge takes all 32 sectional championship teams and adds together the cumulative grade-point average of all 14 student-athletes that participated in the sectional. The IHSWCA then averages together all of the wrestlers' GPAs on a 4.0 scale. The Millers and Columbus East both had GPAs of 3.40, and are thus co-champions.

"It's awesome," said Noblesville coach Michael Weimer. He called the challenge victory "a great accomplishment" for the Millers program.

"I preach being a student-athlete," said Weimer. "You have to have your grades first before you can compete. Our team, they live by that."

"It's another great way to showcase our sport," said Weimer. "It's a combative sport and it's physical, it's tough." But the coach said there are also "very smart kids that do it."

The announcement of the IHSWCA Academic Challenge coincided with the release of the organization's Academic All-State list, which the IHSWCA posted on Twitter Sunday evening. Six Noblesville wrestlers are on the list, as well as many others from Hamilton County as well.

A list of the Hamilton County wrestlers that made the Academic All-State list now follows. Athletes are listed by their grade-point average. You can see the full list by clicking [this link](#).



Photo provided

The Noblesville wrestling team celebrated a sectional championship a few weeks ago. The Millers have even more reason to celebrate, as they won the 2021 IHSWCA Academic Challenge. Noblesville tied with Columbus East for the championship, as both teams' sectional rosters earned a 3.4 grade-point average.

### First Team Seniors (GPAs of 3.75 and up)

- Dakota Arvin, Westfield, 4.19
- Gabriel Scott, Westfield, 4.13
- Ian Watson, Westfield, 4.07
- Harel Halevi, Carmel, 4.06
- Haley Jones, Hamilton Heights, 4.05
- Robert Major, Carmel, 4.02
- Roni Ledzema, Carmel, 3.93
- Tim Alexander, Noblesville, 3.90
- Jacob Shafer, Carmel, 3.76

### First Team Juniors

- Austin McClure, Westfield, 4.20
- Jayla Logan, Hamilton Heights, 4.17

- Bryce Murray, Noblesville, 4.01
- Lucas Farling, Carmel, 3.85
- Cooper Frahm, Noblesville, 3.84
- Jacob Etchison, Noblesville, 3.83
- Alec McLaren, Westfield, 3.83
- Zachary Strueder, Fishers, 3.82
- Curtis Kearschner, Fishers, 3.77

### Honorable Mention Seniors (GPAs of 3.25 to 3.74)

- Luu Nguyen, Fishers, 3.70
- Axel Aleman, Sheridan, 3.63
- Cameron Hovey, Sheridan, 3.59
- Cooper Mansfield, Hamilton Heights, 3.52

- Joey Kitko, Noblesville, 3.47
- William Kepler, Carmel, 3.43
- Haley Mattingly, Carmel, 3.42
- Mekhi Simmons, Carmel, 3.33
- Devonte Henson, Hamilton Heights, 3.27

### Honorable Mention Juniors

- Thadeus O'Neil, Westfield, 3.73
- Cesar Sierra, Noblesville, 3.71
- Cora Cain, Hamilton Heights, 3.71
- Eitan Halevi, Carmel, 3.63
- Noah Ehrie, Sheridan, 3.53
- Jackson Anderson, Westfield, 3.49
- James Carroll, Fishers, 3.37
- John Lienemann, Hamilton Heights, 3.32

## Boys basketball sectional semi-finals are tonight

The boys basketball sectionals continue tonight with the semi-finals, and it will be a case of déjà vu for most of the local teams.

Four of the five contests involving Hamilton County squads will be re-matches, including both of the match-ups at Class 4A Sectional 8 at Carmel. The action at the Eric Clark Activity Center begins at 6 p.m. when the host and No. 2-ranked Greyhounds take on Hamilton Southeastern in the first semi-final. The second semi-final will see Westfield face off against Noblesville, with tip off at 8:30 p.m. (Note that the gym will be cleared in between games.)

Carmel will be back in action for the first time in over a week. The 'Hounds finished the regular season with a 64-32 win at Crispus Attucks, improving their record to 20-2. Carmel has now won at least 20 games in eight of the past 10 seasons.

The Greyhounds hosted Southeastern on Feb. 12, with Carmel winning 49-30. The Royals are coming off a big win over their district rival, as they beat Fishers 44-40 in Tuesday's first round.

Southeastern is 12-10 overall. Both teams are battle-tested, with the Greyhounds playing the third-toughest schedule according to the Sagarin ratings, and the Royals playing the sixth-toughest schedule.

Senior Brian Waddell is leading the Carmel scoring with 15.5 points per game, followed by junior Peter Suder, who is averaging 12.6 points per game. Both Greyhounds are pulling down 6.3 rebounds per contest. Senior Connor Gioia leads the assists with 3.6 per game, followed by Suder at 3.1.

Southeastern senior Vinny Buccilla is the Royals' leading scorer at 12.9 points per game, and also the top assister, dishing out 4.7 per game. Senior Dalton Retzner has a 10.2 points-per-game average, in addition to 4.7 rebounds and 1.2 blocks. Another senior, John McCall, is at the top of the rebound list with 4.9 per game, and adds 9.1 points.

### NEXT CHAPTER

The second game at Carmel will see the next chapter written in the long rivalry between Westfield and Noblesville.

The last chapter was written on Jan. 2, when the Shamrocks beat the Millers 58-42 at The Rock. Westfield is 17-4 for the season and riding a six-game win streak; the 'Rocks opened sectional play with a 61-47 win over Zionsville on Tuesday.

Junior Braden Smith is having a stand-out season for Westfield, with 21.2 points, 6.3 assists and 5.5 rebounds per game. Another junior, Cam Haffner, is contributing 12.4 points and 4.1 rebounds per contest. In terms of long-range shooting, Smith has made 63 3-pointers and Haffner has thrown in 45 triples.

The Millers will be playing their first game in over a week, having finished their regular season with a 48-44 win at Mississinewa. Noblesville is 11-10 for the season.

The Millers have a balanced group when it comes to scoring. Junior E.J. Smith leads that category with 11.2 points per game, followed by sophomore Luke Almódovar at 10.8 points and senior Noah Harris at 10.7 points. Harris is also the top rebounder with 4.3 per contest, while Smith is handing out 3.0 assists per game.

### HUSKIES PLAY OWLS

Hamilton Heights is heading back to

See Sectionals . . . Page 7

HC

HAMILTON COUNTY

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IHSAA Boys Basketball

Sectional 8

Friday March 5

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# NBA standings

Thursday's games			Denver 113, Indiana 103	Phoenix 120, Golden State 98
Boston 132, Toronto 125			Milwaukee 112, Memphis 111	Portland 123, Sacramento 119
Washington 119, L.A. Clippers 117			Miami 103, New Orleans 93	
New York 114, Detroit 104			Oklahoma City 107, San Antonio 102	

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic	W	L	PCT.	GB
Philadelphia	24	12	.667	-
Brooklyn	24	13	.649	0.5
Boston	19	17	.528	5.0
New York	19	18	.514	5.5
Toronto	17	19	.472	7.0
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Milwaukee	22	14	.611	-
Chicago	16	18	.471	5.0
Indiana	16	19	.457	5.5
Cleveland	14	22	.389	8.0
Detroit	10	26	.278	12.0
Southeast	W	L	PCT.	GB
Miami	18	18	.500	-
Charlotte	17	18	.486	0.5
Atlanta	16	20	.444	2.0
Washington	14	20	.412	3.0
Orlando	13	23	.361	5.0

## Western Conference

Northwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Utah	27	9	.750	-
Portland	21	14	.600	5.5
Denver	21	15	.583	6.0
Oklahoma City	15	21	.417	12.0
Minnesota	7	29	.194	20.0
Pacific	W	L	PCT.	GB
Phoenix	24	11	.686	-
L.A. Lakers	24	13	.649	1.0
L.A. Clippers	24	14	.632	1.5
Golden State	19	18	.514	6.0
Sacramento	14	22	.389	10.5
Southwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
San Antonio	18	14	.563	-
Dallas	18	16	.529	1.0
Memphis	16	16	.500	2.0
New Orleans	15	21	.417	5.0
Houston	11	23	.324	8.5

# Pacers fall to Denver, All-Star break begins

By WHEAT HOTCHKISS  
Courtesy nba.com/pacers

The Pacers picked up a much-needed win on Wednesday night in Cleveland, but the Denver Nuggets spoiled their hopes of two straight victories before the All-Star break on Thursday night at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

The Nuggets (21-15) used a 12-0 run midway through the fourth quarter to pull away for a 113-103 victory over Indiana (16-19) and put the finishing touches on a 4-0 road trip.

Myles Turner led the Blue & Gold with 22 points on 9-of-14 shooting, 12 rebounds, and three blocks in the loss, but too many turnovers in the second half doomed the Pacers' hopes of a comeback victory.

"Our turnovers or our missed shots really turned into some easy baskets for them," Pacers head coach Nate Bjorkgren said after the loss. "There was a number of them where they just kind of ran out on us and a loose ball didn't go our way and it turned into two points for them. Those are the plays we're trying to stay away from."

The Nuggets got off to a fast start on

Thursday, hitting their first five shots to race out to a 13-2 lead. Will Barton hit two 3-pointers and a layup while Michael Porter Jr. added a three and a dunk during Denver's early blitz.

But the Pacers quickly answered with 17 straight points of their own — including two treys and a layup from Turner — to surge back in front. Indiana remained in front for the remainder of the opening quarter, though a 7-0 flourish by the Nuggets to close the frame trimmed the lead to 29-28.

The visitors surged back in front at the start of the second quarter, as their reserves outscored Indiana's second unit 14-7 to open the quarter. Denver maintained its advantage for the remainder of the first half, extending the lead to 57-45 with 2:11 remaining in the half following back-to-back 3-pointers by Jamal Murray and Nikola Jokic.

The Pacers chipped a few points off that deficit, but still entered halftime trailing, 61-52.

The Nuggets led by 12 early in the third quarter before the Pacers mounted a

charge. Justin Holiday knocked down two 3-pointers during a 14-2 Indiana run, the latter of which tied the game at 68.

Denver, however, responded with a 10-2 run of its own to rebuild an eight-point lead. That remained the margin at the end of the frame, as the Nuggets took an 82-74 lead into the fourth quarter.

The Pacers trimmed the deficit to 87-81 following Jeremy Lamb's layup with 8:55 to play. But again, the Nuggets had an answer. Porter knocked down his fourth and fifth 3-pointers of the night as Denver reeled off 12 unanswered points to break the game open.

Indiana went without a point over the next 4:22, missing five shots and committing four turnovers over that span, allowing the Nuggets to lock up the victory.

"We've got to put together a complete game," Turner said. "That's been our problem the past couple games...We've got to put together the right amount of stops and scores."

Doug McDermott scored 20 points for the Pacers in the loss, going 8-for-13 from the field and 4-for-7 from 3-point range.

Holiday added 16 points, going 4-for-8 from beyond the arc.

All-Star forward Domantas Sabonis struggled from the field, going 5-for-15, but still managed to tally his fourth triple-double of the season with 10 points, 10 rebounds, and 10 assists, while also collecting four steals.

Fresh off his own triple-double, T.J. McConnell added 10 points, five rebounds, and four assists off the bench on Thursday. Malcolm Brogdon added 10 points and six assists.

Porter (24 points and 11 rebounds) and Jokic (20 points, 12 boards, and eight assists) both had double-doubles for Denver. Murray added 23 points on 8-of-15 shooting, while Barton collected 16 points and six rebounds.

Sabonis will head to Atlanta to participate in Sunday's All-Star Game, where rookie Cassius Stanley will also be on hand to take part in the Slam Dunk Contest. Indiana will return to action a week from Friday, when they open a Western Conference road trip in Los Angeles against the Lakers.

## SECTIONALS

New Castle today for the semi-finals of Class 3A Sectional 24. The Huskies will take on Muncie Burris in the 6 p.m. game, with Delta and Jay County to follow in the second semi-final.

Heights and Burris did not play in the regular season. The Owls are 9-10 for the year, with senior Grant Jones leading the way by averaging 19.6 points and 8.9 rebounds per game. Sophomore Colin McBride has 3.3 assists per contest.

The Huskies are 16-4 and on a five-game win streak. That includes a section-

al-opening victory on Tuesday over Yorktown, 66-53. The victory was the 200th for Chad Ballenger as the Heights coach; he has 277 wins overall.

Senior Gus Etchison, headed to Western Michigan later in the year, has been a dominant scoring force for the Huskies with 31.2 points per game. He also leads the assists category with 3.5 per game and has drained 69 3-pointers.

Two more Heights seniors, Isaac Wilson and Lucas Letsinger, are adding 10.0 points per game. Junior Luke Carroll has

been outstanding on the boards with 7.6 rebounds per game.

**GOLDEN EAGLES AT LEBANON**

Guerin Catholic will travel west to Lebanon today to take on the host Tigers in the second semi-final game of Class 3A Sectional 27 at Rosenstihl Gymnasium. That will follow a 6 p.m. first semi-final game between Bishop Chatard and Brebeuf Jesuit.

The No. 7-ranked Golden Eagles hosted Lebanon Feb. 3, winning 41-38. The Tigers are 10-14 for the season and won their Tuesday sectional opener over Shortridge 68-47.

Guerin Catholic, meanwhile, is 17-3 and winners of its last four games. The Golden Eagles have four players averaging in double figures: Senior Joseph Bobilya has 17.8 points per game, senior Kaleb Edwards scores 16.0 points, senior Matthew Gillis adds 11.1 points and junior Will Grisom contributes 10.3 points.

Gillis is the top rebounder for GC with 7.1 per contest. Edwards collects 5.0 rebounds per game, and also hands out 3.0 assists, and blocks 1.0 shots per game. Bo-

bilya has made 64 3-pointers during the season.

**'HAWKS TAKE ON TAYLOR**

Sheridan will be heading east to Blackford for a 6 p.m. semi-final game with Taylor at Class 2A Sectional 39. The second semi-final will see Tipton take on the host Bruins.

The Blackhawks hosted the Titans on Jan. 29 in a Hoosier Heartland Conference game, with Taylor winning 61-55. The Titans are 11-11 and their top two scorers are seniors: Ryley Gilbert is averaging 11.4 points per game, followed by Jalen Harris with 10.2 points. Two more seniors lead the rebounding list: Nathan Keene pulls 6.0 rebounds per contest and Josh Bowman collects 5.0 rebounds.

Sheridan is 12-10 for the season. Junior Ethan Moistner leads the Blackhawks scoring with 13.8 points per game, and has drained 57 3-pointers this season. Junior Silas DeVaney and senior Kyle Eden each contribute 11.6 points per game. Moistner also leads the rebounds with 6.0 per game, while Eden hands out 4.1 assists per contest.

from Page 6

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