

Hamilton County once again receives AAA bond credit rating

The REPORTER

In spite of the challenging financial times, Hamilton County's superior bond credit rating will continue.

Hamilton County received the coveted AAA bond rating from S&P Global credit-rating service, which allows the county to maintain low interest rates when repaying bonds.

"The pandemic has created financial challenges for everyone, including Hamilton County Government," said Hamilton County Auditor Robin Mills. "The AAA bond rating means the citizens of Hamilton County will be saving money due to the careful, fiscal stewardship of the county's leadership."

Hamilton County's bond rating offers insight into the county's financial strength. Bonds get rated for much the

same reason consumer agencies rate products, to gauge and communicate quality. If the bond rating is good, the county is strong enough to pay its obligations, which include expenses, payment of debts, and dividends.

"The AAA rating is evidence of Hamilton County's strong fiscal foundation and its ability to face and overcome adversity," Mills said. "Hamilton County is the only local income tax county in the state to receive the highest possible rating, which is a testament to the thoughtful management versus crisis management approach we have taken toward county government."

In assigning a rating for



Mills

practices of the governing body and administration

In its rating report S&P Global noted: "We consider the county's economic fundamentals to be very strong. The county's population has increased in recent years as have the employment opportunities. The county's tax base is primarily residential and commercial – we view income taxes as a revenue stream that could be more susceptible to economic swings

General Obligation Bonds, the rating agency assess factors such as:

- Economy
- Debt Structure
- Financial Condition
- Demographic Factors
- Management

and the long-term implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. But we also recognize that economic growth in the county has persisted and, as a result, the county anticipates continued revenue growth in future years as a result, which we view likely."

A tangible example of savings resulting from the county's bond rating is the recent reissuing of the county's bonds at a lower interest rate, which will yield roughly a \$4.5 million savings.

"I am thrilled that Hamilton County has been able to maintain this bond rating in such trying times," Mills said. "The county is always working hard to meet the needs of the residents, but even more so when faced with challenges such as those posed by the current pandemic."

I'm not cool and I'm okay with it

If you're a member of the sandwich generation, at some point you have to realize that you're just not cool anymore. Okay, I'll admit, I haven't been cool for decades. Sometimes, however, you're slapped in the face with just how "uncool" you are.



I'm sure many of my readers are familiar with the Holderness Family. According to their website, their videos have resulted in over a billion views and 4.5 million followers across social media. Their family is one of the most sought-after content creators for family brands.

The Holderness Family has brought me tremendous joy, especially during this pandemic. However, a couple of weeks ago, they reminded me of just how uncool I really am thanks to their "Quit Throwing Shade on Her Part" video.

This video, sung to the tune of "Quit Playing Games with My Heart" by the Backstreet Boys, features lyrics saying that, according to the family's teenage daughter, parting your hair on the side, wearing skinny jeans, and using the face with tears of joy emoji are all "out."

I wasn't exactly laughing as I adjusted my skinny jeans ... and readers can take a look at my photo that clearly shows I part my hair on the side. Guess what my favorite emoji is?

First of all, if I part my hair in the middle, it makes my already not-so-tiny nose look huge. I've tried it in the past and it just ain't happenin'.

Second, dang it, I've finally gotten my weight managed despite being in perimenopause. (Thanks, intermittent fasting!) My go-to "uniform" is a T-shirt, jacket, boots, and ... skinny jeans. (Once again, see photo in this paper.) I love how easy it is, especially in our more casual society.

Finally, the crying and laughing out loud emoji is just so dang fun. According to the video, the "in" alternative is the skull, or "dying with laughter" emoji. Um ... no. Skulls belong in a science lab ... or on a front porch for Halloween ... or, you know, surrounding your brain and holding up your face. And I don't see this supposedly funny skull in my lineup of emojis on my phone.

Let's face it – we've got enough going on in the sandwich generation without worrying about how cool we are. True, we want to take care of ourselves, look our best, and express ourselves well. But I personally am not going to change who I am thanks to what teens are saying on TikTok. And NO, I'm NOT a "Boomer!"

Now, excuse me – I have a client meeting soon ... better throw on my skinny jeans and check my side-parted hair. 😂

HSE Supt. announcement delayed

By LARRY LANNAN
LarryInFishers.com

Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) school officials had been saying that the new superintendent would be named

at the March 24 board meeting, but the current superintendent, Dr. Allen Bourff, announced at the March 10 board meeting that the announcement will be delayed.

The new leader for the

school corporation will be announced after spring break. HSE students return from spring break on Monday, April 12.

HSE School Board President Janet Pritchett told the Re-

porter's newsgathering partner, Larry Lannan, that the search is down to two potential superintendent candidates.

Dr. Bourff is planning to retire as HSE superintendent at the end of June this year.

Fishers dealership accused of deceptive advertising reaches agreement with state

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has **reached an agreement** with a Fishers motor vehicle dealership that deceptively advertised its vehicles on Craigslist and other online platforms.

The Office of the Attorney General alleged that, in its advertisements, Moto Cars USA LLC represented its vehicles as being sold by private parties selling their personal vehicles. Dealers are explicitly prohibited from advertising as individual owners under Craigslist's terms of service.

"Hoosier consumers de-

serve honest, transparent information when purchasing a motor vehicle," Rokita said. "I am pleased that this dealer has agreed to truthfully advertise its vehicles online, and I am comforted knowing that Hoosiers who buy vehicles through this dealer will now be given accurate information, which is essential when making such a substantial purchase. We will continue to take action against entities engaging in bad business practices on behalf of



Rokita

pictured vehicles parked on residential streets rather than on a dealership's lot, further creating the impression the vehicles were being sold by their private sellers. Additionally, the ads instructed consumers interested in the vehicles

consumers across Indiana."

Moto Cars misleadingly listed its vehicles to lure consumers who preferred to do business with private sellers over dealerships, the Office alleged. Moto Cars' advertisements

to "call Dave at ..." and listed a private cell phone number, rather than the dealer's phone number. The Craigslist advertisements did not reference Moto Cars in any way.

This behavior constituted a violation of Indiana's Deceptive Consumer Sales Act, the Office alleged. As part of an agreement with the Office, Moto Cars agreed to prominently represent in advertising that its vehicles are being sold by Moto Cars, and to cease advertising in the "For Sale by Owner" section of Craigslist. Moto Cars also agreed to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty.

Westfield firefighters keep fire from spreading



Photo provided

Early Wednesday morning, Westfield firefighters responded to an apartment fire near State Road 32 and Spring Mill Road on Tricia Lane. First arriving fire crews reported heavy fire conditions; however, they were able to prevent the fire from spreading to adjoining apartments. Westfield firefighters were assisted by Carmel, Noblesville, and Sheridan fire departments.

Teachers, school staff members can get vaccine starting next week

WISH-TV | wistv.com

Hamilton County teachers, along with other Indiana teachers, aides and other staff can soon sign up for the coronavirus vaccine.

The announcement Wednesday afternoon came as a surprise to the teachers union. "I will tell you, this is one we didn't see coming," said Keith Gambill, president of the Indiana State Teachers Association.

Starting Monday, the association's battle is over; teachers and other personnel, including licensed child care providers, will be eligible to sign up to get the



Gambill

vaccine anywhere in Indiana.

The list of educators and support staff is defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and includes:

- Teachers and staff in prekindergarten through high school
- Child care centers
- Head Start and Early Start programs
- Licensed child care providers, including center-based and family care providers

See Teachers . . . Page 2

Carmel Fire Department reminds you to change your clock, change your batteries

The REPORTER

Daylight saving time starts at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 14.

The Carmel Fire Department (CFD) encourages residents to change the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, test the alarms, and remind friends, family, neighbors, and fellow community members to

do the same. With the peak time for home fire fatalities occurring between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most families are sleeping, this simple step can help save their lives and the lives of those around them. A working smoke detector is your first line of defense in a fire.

Tragically, fire can kill selectively. Those most at risk include:

- **Children** – On average, home fires kill 500 children ages 14 and younger each year. Roughly three-quarters of fire fatalities for children younger than age 15 occurred in homes without working smoke alarms.
- **Seniors** – Adults 75 and older are 2.8 times more likely to die in a home fire.

See Clock . . . Page 2

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TEACHERS

from Page 1

• Classroom aides, bus drivers, janitors, counselors

• Administration staff, cafeteria worker, and substitute teachers

“We believe that getting educators vaccinated so that we can get all of our students back into the classroom and get that process back to a little bit more normal is what’s best for students and their families,” Gambill said.

Up until now, state health officials had maintained their approach was purely based on risk factors for COVID-19 death or severe complications; Indiana officials kept teachers ineligible until a federal program at Meijer, Walmart, and Kroger opened to educators last week.

Gov. Eric Holcomb said Wednesday’s announcement isn’t a change.

“Well, I would say it wasn’t a 180 on our part. We had a plan. We were executing that plan very methodically; I would use the word ‘perfectly’ or ‘flawlessly.’”

But, federal authorities made it clear Indiana had to open the system up fully to teachers as surrounding states have done.

“We were using data to drive our decisions about who was most at risk,” the governor said. “The administration, our federal partners, have said you need to add in to any site, so we will do that.”

The teachers’ association leader said, “Thanks to President (Joe) Biden for his leadership in making sure this became a reality.”

CLOCK

from Page 1

• **Low-Income Households** – Many low-income families are unable to afford batteries for their smoke alarms. These same households often rely on poorly installed, maintained or misused portable or area heating equipment – a main cause of fatal home fires.

The most commonly-cited cause of non-working smoke alarms is worn or missing batteries. Smoke alarm maintenance is a simple, effective way to reduce home fire deaths. Children and senior citizens are most at risk, and a working smoke alarm can give them the extra seconds they need to get out safely.

Changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year, testing those alarms and reminding others to do the same are some of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries.

Additionally, the International Association of Fire Chiefs recommends that smoke alarms in homes should be replaced every 10 years and having both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are best to alert people to all types of home fires. If both types of smoke alarms or a combination alarm are not available, the Carmel Fire Department recommends photoelectric alarms with a 10-year lithium battery. The battery in this alarm never needs changing, but the alarm needs to be replaced every 10 years.

Likewise, carbon monoxide detectors need to be replaced every seven to eight years. If you need assistance changing or testing your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, please contact your local fire department.

Thirty-one years ago, Energizer and the International Association of Fire Chiefs recognized a disturbing trend that many home fire fatalities were taking place in homes without working smoke alarms. Please do your part in checking, changing, and testing your smoke detectors.

Fire statistics were obtained from reports by the Fire Analysis and Research Division of the National Fire Protection Association. See nfpa.org for more information.


Hello, Hamilton County



Click to play video
Paul will be sleepless in HamCo when we spring ahead Sunday

News. Sports. Views. Events.

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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:

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- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes


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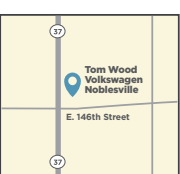
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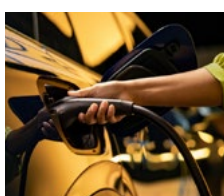
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Barefoot Cellars Pinot Grigio 1.5L	7.47
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Black Box Chardonnay 3LBox	14.99
Bota Box Pinot Grigio 3LBox	14.99
Franzia Chardonnay 5LBox	13.99
Mezzacorona Pinot Grigio 1.5L	8.97
Woodbridge Mondavi Cabernet 1.5L	8.97
Woodbridge Mondavi Chardonnay 1.5L	8.97
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14 Hands Cabernet 750ml	6.97
14 Hands Hot To Trot Red 750ml	5.97
19 Crimes Red Blend 750ml	6.97
Alamos Malbec 750ml	6.97
Apothic Crush 750ml	6.97
Bogle Cabernet 750ml	5.97
Bogle Chardonnay 750ml	5.97
Bogle Merlot 750ml	5.97
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Butter Chardonnay 750ml	11.47
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Josh Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon 750ml	10.47
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Mark West Pinot Noir 750ml	7.97
Martini & Rossi Asti 750ml	8.47
Menage a Trois Red 750ml	6.47
Mirassou Pinot Noir 750ml	5.97
Mondavi Prvt Sel Cab Bourbon 750ml	9.97
Oliver Blueberry Moscato 750ml	6.97
Oliver Cherry Moscato 750ml	6.97
Oliver Sweet Red 750ml	5.97
Oliver Sweet Red Lime 750ml	5.97
Oliver Sweet Rose 750ml	5.97
Oliver Sweet White 750ml	5.97
Oliver VS Moscato 750ml	6.97
Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc 750ml	7.47
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4,874 spirits



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15.99

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34.99

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Basil Hayden's Bourbon 750ml	26.99
Bulleit Bourbon 750ml	19.99
Early Times 1.75L	15.99
Evan Williams 1.75L	19.99
Four Roses Bourbon 750ml	15.99
Jim Beam 1.75L	23.99
Wild Turkey 101 1.75L	34.99
Woodford Reserve 750ml	26.99
Cordials, etc.	
Carolyn's Irish Cream 750ml	9.99
Jagermeister 750ml	16.99
Kahlua 750ml	14.99
Gin	
Beefeater 1.75L	26.99
Seagram's Gin 1.75L	14.49
Rum	
Bacardi Superior 1.75L	15.99
Capt Morgan Spiced Rum 1.75L	19.49
Malibu Coconut Rum 1.75L	18.99
Ronrico Silver 1.75L	11.99
Sailor Jerry Spiced Rum 1.75L	22.99
Scotch	
Johnnie Walker Black 750ml	28.99
Johnnie Walker Red 1.75L	27.99
Tequila	
1800 Silver Tequila 1.75L	29.99
Jose Cuervo Especial Silv Tequila 750ml	12.99
Jose Cuervo Gold 750ml	12.99
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Absolut 1.75L	24.99
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Fireball Cinnamon Whisky 750ml	10.99
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Seagram's V.O. 1.75L	14.99
Skrewball Peanut Butter Whiskey 750ml	20.99
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2,693 beers



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New Belg Voodoo Rngr Imp IPA 12-12oz btls	13.99
Yuengling Traditional Lgr 24-12oz loose btls	13.99
12oz Cans	
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Founders Centennial IPA 15-12oz cans	14.49
Natural Light 30-12oz cans	14.99
Rhinegeist Bubbles 6-12oz cans	7.99
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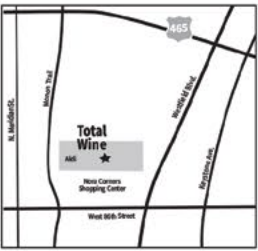
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Humane Society of Hamilton County gets grant assistance

The REPORTER

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in early 2020, Central Indiana animal welfare organizations were hard hit. Mandated shutdowns, reduced operations, staff illness, furloughs, and falling revenues stressed organizations even as needs among pet owners surged. Job losses and housing insecurity made it difficult for pet owners to pay for food, basic wellness care or spay/neuter surgeries.

With ingenuity and emergency funding, including \$295,000 from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Central Indiana animal welfare organizations creatively adapted to safely help struggling owners and pets. Now, the Trust is awarding an additional \$745,000 to organizations that are caring for Central Indiana’s cats and dogs and supporting pet owners as the pandemic effects endure.

The Trust awarded \$495,000 to major animal welfare organizations FACE Low-Cost Animal Clinic, FIDO, Friends of Indianapolis Animal Care Services Foundation and IndyHumane. The Trust also is providing \$250,000 in smaller grants of \$10,000 to \$25,000 to 11 area organizations, including the Humane Society for Hamilton County.

“In the face of their own incredible challenges, each of these organizations stepped up and adapted their operations so they could safely keep serving Indy’s pets,” said Trustee Kent E. Agness. “Because of their efforts, animals at risk of homelessness or euthanasia are remaining with their families, unplanned litters are being avoided, and cats and dogs are receiving wellness care. We are proud to support their great work.”

Some adaptations organizations made when the pandemic hit include FIDO establishing drive-thru pet food and supplies pick-up, delivery to quarantined or ill pet owners, and working with social workers from several nonprofits to provide pet food and basic supplies for its clients. Though it suspended surgeries for three months, FACE still managed to accomplish over 6,800 spay/neuter surgeries in 2020 after implementing a new software system and launching a curbside pet drop-off/pick-up service for safe client interaction.

After temporarily suspending in-person services, IndyHumane also started a curbside service, which enabled it to resume spay/neuter and other services. In collaboration with FIDO and IACS, it held a free drive-thru vaccine clinic for dogs, treating more than 900 dogs and helping pet owners schedule follow-up low-cost or free spay/neuter surgeries.

While the sporadic shutdowns in services caused a substantial decrease in spay/neuter surgeries and adoptions in 2020, intake at Marion County shelters fell 37 percent and euthanasia decreased 44 percent, signaling the increased efforts to help pet owners reduced the number of surrendered and abandoned pets.

The Trust’s recent grant funding is intended to expand organizations’ ability to meet the ongoing demands of the pandemic and begin to return to normal operations. Activities include increasing free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and vaccines, continuing to provide curbside pet food pick-up and delivery, hiring surgical teams to restore staffing, purchasing essential medical supplies and pulling animals from large shelters to provide medical care and prepare them for adoption.

Since 2012, the Trust has invested nearly \$7 million in animal welfare in Indiana. To learn more about the Trust’s animal welfare initiatives, visit ninapulliamtrust.org/programs/animal-welfare-initiatives.

Honor K9 veterans at CIK9 event Saturday in Zionsville

The REPORTER

The Central Indiana K9 Association Inc. (CIK9) will hold a hybrid in-person and virtual event to honor National K9 Veterans Day and to spread awareness about the organization’s mission.

The event will take place from 3 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 13. The host location for those wanting to attend in-person will be Hotel Tango Zionsville, 10615 Zionsville Road. CIK9 will use the covered outdoor area, and the maximum capacity for this space is 24 people.

There will be three main topics covered during this event:

1. What is the CIK9?
2. What is National K9 Veterans Day?
3. What is the CIK9 Shadow Fund, and how is it already helping K9s in Central Indiana?

There will be appearances from notable K9s and their handlers, including Brian Calvert and Dixie the Praying Dog. Brian and Dixie recently chose CIK9 as their featured nonprofit while competing on the Amazon Prime reality show, *The Pack*. The program will also include a brief video from Justin Melnick, star of the CBS show, *SEAL Team*.

This event is free and open to the public. Social distancing will be required at Hotel Tango, and masks will be mandatory unless attendees are seated while eating or drinking.

Those interested in viewing the online version of this event can watch the livestream on the [CIK9 Facebook page](#).

About CIK9

The Central Indiana K9 Association is a volunteer-driven, nonprofit organization founded in 2019. Its programs – funded by public donations, events, and grants – serve a three-fold mission: To assist, train, and honor K9 working dogs who serve faithfully, vigilantly, and selflessly within Central Indiana. Learn more about [CIK9.org](#).

Thanks for reading
THE REPORTER

Letter to the Editor

Indiana Senate Bill 5 is a dangerous experiment Hoosiers would soon regret

Dear Editor:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to [Senate Bill 5](#), which is currently being considered by the Indiana House of Representatives. Our organizations represent more than 1,300 local health department employees and thousands of other doctors, nurses and public health professionals in Indiana.

Guided by facts, science and a single-minded mission to keep you and your community healthy, local public health officials take very seriously the responsibility to protect human health and the important balancing act between science, economic impact and personal freedoms.

SB 5 is a direct response to actions taken by local health departments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Supporters would argue their intent is to protect the rights of business owners and ensure economic health, but the reality is that weakening health oversight can have terrible impacts on local businesses by risking the health of the consumers and workers who keep those businesses operating.

While sometimes it may seem that public health is pitted against economic vitality, it really is not health versus economy, but rather the long-term protection of economic success through smart, evidence-based strategies designed to reduce disease transmission with short-term protection strategies. And while some critics claim overreach, a large majority of public health orders or sanctions use at least a restrictive approach.

If legislators were to pass SB 5, Hoosiers should expect dangerous consequences on several fronts.

First, the bill gives politicians full control over major public health decisions, most of whom lack the expertise needed to properly engage in unusually complex public health subject and regulatory matters.

These elected officials would now be responsible for restaurants experiencing outbreaks of E. coli, norovirus and hepatitis A. They would be responsible for legionella in hospital settings and tuberculosis mandates for infectious patients who are uncompliant. This oversight would expand to lead in our drinking water, deadly bacteria in our public swimming pools and leaking storage tanks buried under our ground.

In a twist of sad irony, we’ve spoken to several city and county officials around the state who would prefer not to have these added responsibilities. Unfortunately, if SB 5 were to pass, that choice would be made for them.

Another major concern is shifting the appeals process from courts to city and county boards. This would require significant additional infrastructure on the city and county level and would also add another cumbersome layer for public health officials to navigate.

Even worse, until an appeal is heard by a city or county board, the entity in question would be allowed to stay open, even if it is not following health orders. With a process lasting potentially weeks or months, this provision alone could lead to catastrophic disease within a community.

We understand no one likes being told what to do. But when actions can do harm to yourself or others, everyone can see why a shared set of public health rules are important. This is why we have traffic lights, standards for food preparation, and laws banning public urination.

Measures taken during the pandemic were hard on us all, but we must remember that public health officials exist to manage and react to crises like COVID-19. Consider what we do when a home or business catches fire. We call the fire department, experts working on behalf of the public to limit damage and protect lives. Public health officials are the experts trained to deal with infectious diseases.

We must continue to trust data and science. The negative impacts of COVID-19 could and would have been much worse had it not been for the difficult decisions made by public health officials to protect their communities. We have accomplished a great deal.

SB-5 would most certainly threaten those accomplishments and expose Hoosiers to even greater harm in the future. Please contact your local state representative and ask them to vote no.

Jeremy P. Adler, M.D.
President, Indiana State Association of County and City Health Officials (INSACCHO)
Health Officer, Tippecanoe County Health Department

Susan Jo Thomas, JD, MSW
President, Indiana Public Health Association (IPHA)
Executive Director, Covering Kids & Families of Indiana

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Letters to the Editor should be 400 words or less. Letters over the word limit may be cut at the editor’s discretion. All letters are subject to editing for style, mechanics and grammar. Letters containing language or content that is offensive, or that the editor feels is inappropriate, will not be published. A maximum of two (2) letters will be published by any individual in any calendar month. This includes responses to previously published letters. Readers are encouraged to post responses and comments regarding individual letters on our website, ReadTheReporter.com. There is no limit on the number or length for online responses.

Meeting Notices

The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at the Noblesville Schools Educational Services Center, 18025 River Road, Noblesville.

The Noblesville Firefighter Merit Commission meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, has been canceled.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Romans 15:1-4 (NIV)

Tom S. Baker

September 24, 1963 – March 8, 2021

Tom S. Baker, 57, Noblesville, passed away peacefully into God's loving arms in Heaven on Monday, March 8, 2021. He was born on September 24, 1963 in Fort Wayne.



Tom attended Smith Green School Corporation and graduated from Carroll High School in Fort Wayne. He owned True Blue Pool Service in Roswell, Ga., for 12 years. Tom enjoyed playing golf, basketball, and bowling. He loved the outdoors and spending time with his daughters and granddaughters.

Tom is survived by his mother, Patricia R. (Hal) Beck; father, William D. Baker; wife, Donna Baker; daughters, Sarah Baker and Lauren Baker; sister, Tamara (Michael) O'Gorman; brother, Terry (Cheryl) Baker; stepsisters, Lisa (Mark) Innis and Michelle (Richard) Hornsby; granddaughters, Skylar Baker, Ashlynn Baker, and Emery Baker; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 3 p.m., with visitation from 1 p.m. to the time of service, on Friday, March 12, 2021 at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers, with Dwayne Hartup officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Riverview Health Foundation, 395 Westfield Road, Noblesville, IN 46060.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Sen. Young reintroduces bill to address trucking safety, driver shortages

The REPORTER

U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Jon Tester (D-Mont.) on Wednesday reintroduced the *Developing Responsible Individuals for a Vibrant Economy (DRIVE-Safe) Act* to address the driver shortage in the trucking and logistics industry, and enhance safety training and job opportunities for young truckers.

U.S. Senators Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), Angus King (I-Maine), Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) joined as original cosponsors of the bill.

Though 49 states and the District of Columbia allow individuals to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL) at the age 18, federal law currently prohibits those operators from moving goods from state to state until they are

21. The *DRIVE-Safe Act* establishes an apprenticeship program that would allow for the legal operation of a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce by CDL holders under the age of 21.

"Today, 18-year-olds can drive more than 200 miles from New Albany to Gary and back, but they aren't allowed to drive two miles from New Albany to Louisville," Sen. Young said. "The *DRIVE-Safe Act* will eliminate this ridiculous regulation and in doing so address the driver shortage while providing new career opportunities for young Hoosiers."

The apprenticeship training program would help ensure these drivers are trained beyond current standards while instituting rigorous safety standards



Young

240 hours of driving time with an experienced driver in the cab with them.

All trucks used for training in the program must be equipped with safety technology, including active braking collision mitigation systems, a video event capture sys-

tem, and a speed governor set at 65 miles per hour or below.

U.S. Representative Trey Hollingsworth (R-Ind.-09) introduced a companion bill in the House.

"DRIVE-Safe creates more career opportunities for hard-working Hoosiers to get involved in a growing, 21st century economy workforce," Rep. Hollingsworth said. "This bill also breaks down barriers for small businesses who want to grow and hire qualified employees."

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

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Carmel prepares for 1 vs. 2 clash with Homestead, GC to take on host Greencastle



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Carmel's Connor Gioia is averaging a team-leading 3.4 assists per game for the Greyhounds. Carmel will travel to Logansport's Berry Bowl on Saturday to play Homestead in the regional semi-finals.

By RICHIE HALL

Logansport's famous Berry Bowl will host the basketball version of the irresistible force paradox Saturday morning.

The top two teams in Class 4A will meet in the first game of the Logansport regional – No. 1 Homestead and No. 2 Carmel. The game tips off at 9:30 a.m., with the winner headed to the championship game, which starts at 8 p.m.

The second semi-final game, between No. 8 Lafayette Jefferson and Fort Wayne Carroll, is set for 12:15 p.m. The Berry Bowl will be cleared in between the two semi-final contests.

In the case of Homestead and Carmel, the Spartans would be the irresistible force with their high-powered offense, which is averaging 76.2 points per game. Meanwhile, the Greyhounds are the immovable object, having held their opponents to an average of 39.3 points per game this season.

Homestead has never scored fewer than 54 points in a contest this season and broke the century mark once, beating Fort Wayne North Side 107-61 on Jan. 22. The Spartans also scored in the 90s four times.

Homestead is 25-0 for the season and cruised through the Columbia City sectional without breaking a sweat. The Spartans took care of Huntington North 62-37, Fort Wayne South Side 74-44 and New Haven 75-56 in the championship.

"Homestead is, no question, the most high-powered offense we've seen all year," said Carmel coach Ryan Osborn.

The Spartans are led by junior Fletcher Loyer, a Purdue recruit that is averaging 24.3 points, 5.0 rebounds and 4.6 assists per game. Senior Luke Goode, who is also Big Ten bound with his commitment to Illinois, is pouring in 19.6 points per game, along with 8.5 rebounds and 5.2 assists.

"We'll need to bring our best defensive effort of the year," said Osborn. "They can really fill it up. We've certainly played against some talented players this season, but I don't think we've had to defend two guys that can shoot it at such a high level."

Loyer is shooting at 53 percent for the year, with Goode making 46 percent of his attempts. Both can shoot the three-ball as well: Loyer has made 78 triples and Goode has drained 70. Another junior, Andrew Leeper, has 5.4 rebounds and 1.6 blocked shots per game.

The Greyhounds are 22-2 for the season. Carmel triumphed at its own sectional last week with two solid defensive performances, beating Hamilton Southeastern 46-33 in the semi-finals and Westfield 53-27 in the championship game.

The 'Hounds have a solid 1-2 punch in senior Brian Waddell, who averages 15.3 points and 6.1 rebounds, and junior Peter Suder, who puts in 12.2 points and collects 6.4 rebounds per game. Carmel also distributes the ball well, with Greyhounds senior Connor Gioia dishing out 3.4 assists and Suder handing out 3.1 assists.

Carmel won its seventh consecutive sectional title last week, continuing its remarkable run. The Greyhounds were one of 64 sectional champion teams that saw their season come to a halt last year when

the COVID-19 pandemic forced the IH-SAA tournament to be canceled.

Osborn said the "journey" of every team he's coached has been different.

"This one a little bit more so, given the circumstances and challenges of the year," said Osborn. "I honestly wouldn't say the abrupt end of last season has really impacted this team. Like other years, we enjoyed that run, and put it away when the season was over. We understood and totally accepted the situation at the time. It was unfortunate, but there really wasn't anything we could do about it."

"This group has their own story - and one they should be proud of. This season is something these guys are going to remember and talk about for the rest of their lives. I've tried to be more intentional about celebrating the wins and recognizing the successes of this team. They deserve it. I've grown and learned just as much from these guys - in this situation - as I hope they've learned from us. We're in it together. It's not easy, but we're going to be able to look back and say we're better because of the challenges we've all faced. And because of that...I want to enjoy it...and even more so - I want them to celebrate it."

GC PLAYS THE HOST

Guerin Coach is back at the regional level for the first time in six years. The Class 3A No. 6 Golden Eagles will travel to Greencastle for the noon semi-final game, which tips off after the 10 a.m. first semi-final between Beech Grove and Northview. The championship game is at 8 p.m.

So, who is Guerin Catholic playing? The host itself, Greencastle. The Tiger Cubs won their second sectional title in the past three years last week, breezing past North Montgomery 54-30, Danville 66-51 and host Frankfort 58-31 in the championship.

Greencastle is 21-6 for the season. The Tigers are led by senior Brody Whitaker, who pours in 23.2 points per game and pulls 7.9 rebounds per contest. Whitaker has committed to Marian University and recently became the Tiger Cubs' all-time leading scorer.

"We have seen a lot of film on Greencastle and have talked to some people that have seen them live," said GC coach Bobby Allen. The coach noted that just like his team, the Tiger Cubs are led by experienced seniors.

"They are a team that does not get rattled in tough situations and they have one of the state's best scorers in Brody Whitaker," said Allen. "Their coach does a great job putting him in different positions to score and they have great players around him that can knock down perimeter shots if we commit to many guys to help stop him. We need to have great awareness on the defensive end and force their entire team to take difficult and contested shots."

Allen said that his team's defense "has been improving all season," and said if his team does defend well, then he thinks it will have a chance to win the game late in the fourth quarter.

The Golden Eagles are 19-3, and triumphed at the Lebanon sectional by beating the host Tigers 49-30 and Brebeuf Je-

See *Regional* . . . Page 7



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Carmel's Tomi Taiwo joins Hawkeyes in Big Ten semi-finals

Photo by Joshua Herd

The Women's Big Ten Basketball Tournament is taking place this week at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. The University of Iowa has made its way into the semi-finals, beating Purdue 83-72 in Wednesday's first round and Rutgers 73-62 in a Thursday quarter-final game.

Tomi Taiwo, a Carmel graduate and junior for the Hawkeyes, played significant minutes for Iowa in both games. On Wednesday, Taiwo collected three rebounds for the Hawkeyes against Purdue and handed out one assist in both of Iowa's tournament games.

Taiwo has played in 19 of the Hawkeyes' 25 games, averaging 3.8 points and 1.6 rebounds per contest. Taiwo has made 13 3-pointers for the season.

Iowa will play Michigan State today in the semi-finals.



REGIONAL

from Page 7



Kent Graham/File photo

Kaleb Edwards, shown here during Guerin Catholic's regular-season game with Brebeuf Jesuit, is averaging 15.7 points, 5.1 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.0 blocked shots for the Golden Eagles this season. Guerin Catholic will travel to Greencastle on Saturday to play the host Tiger Cubs in the regional semi-finals.

suit 44-36 in the championship game.

Senior Joseph Bobilya is the top scorer for Guerin Catholic at 17.1 points per game, while senior Kaleb Edwards is averaging 15.7 points per game. Edwards also has 5.1 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.0 blocks per game. Senior Matthew Gillis adds 10.9 points and is the leading rebounder at 7.0.

"The coaching staff could not be more proud of the team and our seniors," said Allen. "They have sacrificed for each other and developed a trust in one another that is evident in the way they play. Winning the Sectional championship was

an incredible accomplishment and a very emotional experience, but we immediately realized that this group wanted the opportunity to achieve more. They have been focused all week on Greencastle and learning their style of play and focusing on the keys to be successful this weekend. Our seniors have stepped up in tremendous fashion to keep everyone locked in. We are heading to Greencastle Friday night to have practice in their gym. It is going to be an incredible atmosphere in one of the state's greatest high school gyms. We are looking forward to having a lot of our fans supporting us."

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NBA standings

Thursday games		Miami 111, Orlando 103	Oklahoma City 116, Dallas 108
Charlotte 105, Detroit 102		Philadelphia 127, Chicago 105	L.A. Clippers 130, Golden State 104
Brooklyn 121, Boston 109		Milwaukee 134, New York 101	Phoenix 127, Portland 121
Atlanta 121, Toronto 120		Minnesota 135, New Orleans 105	Sacramento 125, Houston 105

Eastern Conference				
Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
Philadelphia	25	12	.676	-
Brooklyn	25	13	.658	0.5
Milwaukee	23	14	.622	2.0
Boston	19	18	.514	6.0
Miami	19	18	.514	6.0
Charlotte	18	18	.500	6.5

New York	19	19	.500	5.5
Atlanta	17	20	.459	8.0
Toronto	17	20	.459	8.0
Indiana	16	19	.457	8.0

Chicago	16	19	.457	8.0
Washington	14	21	.400	10.0
Cleveland	14	22	.389	10.0
Orlando	13	24	.351	12.0
Detroit	10	27	.270	15.0

Western Conference				
Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
Utah	27	9	.750	-
Phoenix	25	11	.694	2.0
L.A. Lakers	24	13	.649	3.5
L.A. Clippers	25	14	.641	3.5
Denver	21	15	.583	6.0
Portland	21	15	.583	6.0

San Antonio	18	15	.545	7.5
Dallas	19	17	.528	8.0
Memphis	17	16	.515	8.5
Golden State	19	19	.500	9.0

Oklahoma City	16	21	.432	11.5
Sacramento	15	22	.405	12.5
New Orleans	15	22	.405	12.5
Houston	11	24	.314	15.5
Minnesota	8	29	.216	19.5

Teams in positions 7-10 in their respective conferences will compete in a play-in tournament at the end of the season.

Noblesville athletic college signings



Noblesville's Aidan Walker has committed to play football at Wabash College. Pictured: Ava Walker (sister), Aidan Walker.

Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

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