

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Sunny. Wind gusting to 30 mph. Morning chills in the teens.
Tonight: Clear.

HIGH: 47 LOW: 27



Noblesville set to move forward with Downtown Streetscape plan

The REPORTER

The Downtown Streetscape project has its origins in the 2018 Streetscape Master Plan – a collaborative community effort that involved a year’s worth of meetings with businesses, residents, and community groups.

This phase of the Downtown Noblesville Streetscape program will focus on Logan Street between Eighth and

10th streets, and Ninth Street between Conner and Clinton streets. The Downtown Streetscape project goals include:

- Support and sustain downtown businesses through significant infrastructure and aesthetic investments
- Preserve and protect historic and charming elements of downtown
- Significantly increase pedestrian friendliness and safety

through widened sidewalks

- Preparation for new residents through extra walking space
- Post-COVID recovery efforts with more outdoor space for businesses to use
- Encourages a healthy lifestyle

City officials talked with many downtown businesses in the fall of 2020 as to preferred project timing in light of last

year’s economic disruptions, and according to city officials, the overwhelming majority view at the time was to move forward with project construction in 2021.

The city and the Downtown District Committee recently completed open house meetings with more than 50 downtown businesses and stakeholder

See Streetscape . . . Page 2



BROOKSHIRE GOLF COURSE

CITY OF CARMEL

Celebrating 50 years of golf at Brookshire

Carmel's official golf course gets new logo, upgrades to course and clubhouse

The REPORTER

The City of Carmel’s official municipal golf course, Brookshire Golf Club, will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year with a new logo, upgrades to the 18-hole public golf course, and new features to the two-year-old Brookshire Clubhouse.

Established in 1971, the golf course – located east of Keystone Parkway near 116th Street and Gray Road – is marking its 50th anniversary season and the first unofficial round of golf ever played on June 25, 1971. The City purchased this golf course in 2007 in order to preserve it as a public amenity, rather than being replaced by private development.

“Brookshire is a fixture in Carmel’s history that we plan to preserve and improve now and in the future; a wonderful community asset,” Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard said. “We hope our residents and visitors use this 50th anniversary to discover, or rediscover, this beautiful course.”

With the new logo, Brookshire chose to incorporate the image of its history with an updated look. The crest of the logo mimics the pillars at the entrance of the Brookshire neighborhood, which is accessible off of Gray Road, just north of 116th Street and along 126th Street, west of Gray Road.

“The golf course is also continuing to see improvements with new bridges going in and we continue to work on getting paved cart paths all the way around the course,” said Brian Ballard, PGA Director of Golf at Brookshire. “We are also installing two state-of-the-art indoor golf simulators in our new clubhouse in hopes of offering year-round golf experiences in Carmel.”

Brookshire is also expanding its pro shop by bringing in new merchandise this season, including T-shirts, pullovers, headwear, polos, tumblers, poker chips, and other items with the new logo. You can also look for new clothing apparel lines like Nike, Bad Birdie, Levelwear, and Black Clover.

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic is still not completely past, Brookshire will continue with safety procedures and precautions put in place last year.

“Our goal is to provide a safe outdoor environment for people to be able to enjoy golf at Brookshire,” Ballard said. “Customers and staff are still wearing masks inside the clubhouse, we continue to fog restrooms and other common areas, as well as disinfecting guest golf carts immediately after they are turned in.”

Tee times and memberships are available. For more information, visit BrookshireGolf.com.



Brainard



Ballard

School districts plan week of ‘walk-ins’

Submitted by Hamilton Heights School Corporation

Hamilton Heights will be among school districts in Hamilton County to participate in “Week of Walk-ins” the week of March 22 to raise awareness and stop current bills making their way through the Indiana Legislature that schools personnel say would have a harmful impact to public education institutions throughout Indiana.

Hamilton Heights joins schools across the state who are advocating on behalf of their students, passing resolutions, and taking other actions related to **HB 1005** and **SB 413**, that if passed, will divert public tax dollars to private schools.

“We support our students and the 94 percent of students who attend public schools in Indiana and oppose any legislation that does not benefit



Photo provided

Educators and administrators from Hamilton Heights at a pre-pandemic legislative rally at the state capital are passionate about issues that impact public education.

public education in Indiana,” said Jennifer Luce, Hamilton Heights School Corporation

Data & Curriculum Integration Specialist and Hamilton Heights Classroom Teacher

Association President.

See Walk-Ins . . . Page 2

Beth Sheller earns state-level certification, strengthens county’s election management

The REPORTER

Hamilton County Elections Administrator Beth Sheller recently completed a Certificate in Election Administration, Technology, and Security (CEATS) through Ball State University. She graduated from the program on March 5.

The program, in cooperation with the Secretary of State’s office and the Indiana Election Division, serves to professionalize interest in election administration, provide instruction and troubleshooting on various voting systems, provide information on technology, security, election personnel training, management, election law, and Election Day reporting.

The program consists of two phases of instruction. The final stage is a capstone project

utilizing information gained throughout the program. Sheller’s project focused on Poll Worker Instruction and included updating current manuals and researching new ways to train poll workers for Election Day.

Sheller received a scholarship from the Secretary of State’s office to cover the cost of tuition. Hamilton County Clerk Kathy Kreag Williams said, “Beth will be able to use the information she learned to administer fair and efficient elections for Hamilton County.”

“The CEATS Program taught me skills for election management that I will use for upcoming elections,” Sheller said. “This was a great opportunity, and I am appreciative for the many things I was able to learn.”



Photo provided

County Elections Administrator Beth Sheller’s certification capstone project focused on finding new ways to train poll workers for Election Day.

Carmel students in grades 6-12 will not return for full in-person learning this school year

WISH-TV | wistv.com

Students in grades 6-12 at Carmel Clay Schools will not return to full in-person instruction during the remainder of the school year, according to an update posted to the school’s website on Wednesday.

“We have determined that it is in the best interests of our students to remain in the hybrid

model for the remaining 8 weeks of the school year,” said Carmel Clay Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Beresford in a statement posted online.

Beresford cited social distancing, transportation, and class size and balance as the reasons for the decision.

The school said it plans to return to full-time, in-person

learning in the fall.

“We will continue to work with our medical community and follow the safety precautions moving forward,” the statement read. “We will also work with the school community at CHS and each middle school to create additional social opportunities and events where students who feel comfortable

can safely gather before the end of the school year.”

The school also apologized for any additional stress or pressure the continuance of the hybrid model was putting on the students, staff, and families.

Turn to Page 4 to read the full statement from Superintendent Dr. Michael Beresford.



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STREETSCAPE

groups, including Noblesville Preservation Alliance, Chamber, Nickel Plate Arts, Downtown Restaurant Association, and Main Street to get additional feedback on the project.

With the evolving situation involving COVID, and based on getting more merchant and public feedback and details of the design and engineering work, the city has now moved its focus to 2022 for the construction season. City officials say that waiting a year also is optimal for the coordination of other developments and projects, particularly involving some of the aging wastewater in-

frastructure downtown.

The city plans to move forward this year with preparatory work and some smaller-scale steps to beautify the Downtown Square. Between now and when construction starts in 2022, the city will continue to engage with downtown merchants, residents, and other key stakeholders to get their feedback and explain the strategies the city is pursuing to make downtown a more pedestrian-friendly space and to help drive more business to valued restaurants, retailers, and service providers.

Bid letting for this project

will be held later this year.

With the redesign of Logan Street, some parking spaces will be reallocated to a number of places in close proximity to the Downtown Square, including surface lots, on street and the Levinson (which is scheduled to open Aug. 1 with more than 200 parking spaces for the public), and the future Hamilton County Parking Garage (which would be open to the public on evenings and weekends once completed).

City officials say that these plans will result in a net increase in overall parking downtown.

WALK-INS

“Our public schools provide vital services supporting our children and families in our community,” continued Luce, a fact that has never been more evident than during this past year. “We all greatly benefit from strong public schools – district families, business owners, and our community overall, and we are deeply concerned about the negative impact these two bills could have on public education in Indiana.

HB 1005 sets aside \$33 million dollars in 2022 and 2023 for Choice Scholarships. Choice Scholarships are tax deductions provided to the parents of students who would leave public school and enroll in a private or parochial school.

In addition, HB 1005 sets up an Educational Savings Account for parents who have children in accredited private or parochial schools. The Educational Savings Account allows the parents to deposit money in the account for Special Education services, tuition, or other supplies. The parent can claim this deduction on their yearly Indiana tax return.

SB 413 allows foster children to receive a Choice

Scholarship.

“There’s more. A new department in the Treasurer’s Office will need to be created to monitor and oversee these education savings accounts,” Luce added. “The Legislative Service Agency estimates this new office will increase the size of the state government with a cost of over \$5 million dollars a year. Voucher expansion in the form of the Choice Scholarships and Education Savings Accounts divert significant monies away from public schools and lack oversight and accountability.”

The bottom line, school officials say, is public schools provide a strong educational environment for Indiana’s children. If these bills pass, enacting Education Savings Accounts and expanding school vouchers would put local public schools at risk by directing resources away from those schools to nonpublic schools and/or home schools that are not subject to the same rigorous scrutiny for their use of taxpayer resources.

The community is invited to participate with this effort and [reach out](#)

to their legislators about these school choice bills. At the walk-ins, educators will have a petition to sign asking legislators not to pass these two bills. The tentative schedule is as follows:

- Monday, March 22: Sheridan Community Schools
- Tuesday, March 23: Hamilton Heights School Corporation
- Wednesday, March 24: Noblesville Schools
- Thursday, March 25: Westfield Washington Schools
- Friday, March 26: Hamilton Southeastern Schools

At this point, HB 1005, and SB 413 have not passed both houses of the Indiana General Assembly and will be introduced for consideration into the Senate in the next couple of weeks. #SupportINPublicSchools #ES-AisNotOK #WeAreHuskies


If you share this concern and believe that HB 1005 and SB 413 should not be enacted into law, please reach out to your legislator and request they do not support this legislation for the final vote. Go to iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators to contact your legislators.

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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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- Disinfecting wipes

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



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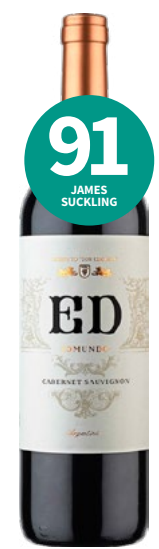
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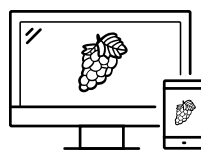


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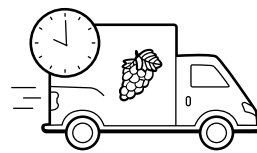
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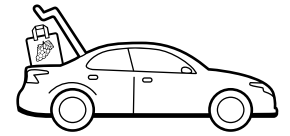
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happy to provide you with one.

Beresford explains Carmel Clay Schools' plan for attendance

The REPORTER

Editor's note: The following statement from Superintendent Dr. Michael Beresford was posted on the Carmel Clay Schools website Wednesday.

Dear CCS Family,

Our administrative team in cooperation with the Carmel Teachers Association has gone through a very detailed evaluation of how we might return grades 6-12 to every day learning. Through this evaluation, we have determined that it is in the best interests of our students to remain in the hybrid model for the remaining 8 weeks of the school year for the following reasons:

Class Size and Balance

We were not able to combine our student cohorts and keep classes balanced. Excluding typically large classes like band, choir, and orchestra, when we combined classes for everyday learning, CHS had 6 classes with over 50 students, 12 classes with 40-47 students and 8 classes with 35-37 students. We had very minimal opportunities to change student schedules to better balance classes and keep students with their current teachers.

At the middle school level, we had similar issues with each school having 30 to 50 classes with 35-43 students enrolled. The balancing process would result in over 100 students requiring a change of teacher.

Social Distancing

The larger classes noted above make any social distancing unmanageable. At CHS our current average lunch period now has approximately 560 students. Combining our cohorts would result in lunch periods of 1100-1200 in each of 4 lunch periods. This would require expansion into other areas of the building to create 3-6 feet of distance.

In our middle schools, the larger classes noted above make any social distancing unmanageable as well. Our middle school lunch periods currently have an average of about 110 students. Lunch periods would increase to 220-260 students again requiring expansion to other areas of the building to create 3-6 feet of distance.

Transportation

Increased ridership as a result of combining the cohorts would result in over-crowding of buses which is already compounded by the shortage of bus drivers. We would anticipate an increase in the number of double bus routes where busses would pick up groups of students early, drop them off at school and go back out to pick up students on another route potentially causing delays in the start of school



Beresford

and in returning students home in the afternoon.

Moving Forward

Our plan moving forward is to maintain the current hybrid schedule for the

rest of the school year with the intention of returning to full-time, every day learning in the fall.

We will continue to work with our medical community and follow the safety precautions moving forward. We will also work with the school community at CHS and each middle school to create additional social opportunities and events where students who feel comfortable can safely gather before the end of the school year. In addition, we will continue to help students who may be struggling academically. Please reach out to your student's school counselor/social worker if you student needs support of any kind.

We are sorry for any additional stress or pressure this process has put on our students, staff, and families. We appreciate the feedback we have received from our school community from all sides. We will continue to communicate in real-time as this pandemic environment evolves and eventually comes to an end. Thank you for your patience, kindness and support through these complex and difficult times.

Noblesville playing host to collegiate basketball watch party Saturday

The REPORTER

The city of Noblesville will hold a free community-wide watch party to celebrate Indiana as the exclusive tournament site and enjoy the collegiate basketball games being played in the opening round.

The public is welcome to gather from noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 20, at Federal Hill Commons, 175 Logan St., Noblesville.

The intent of the watch party is to celebrate the collegiate basketball tournament with family, friends, and the community in a socially-responsible way in the outdoors. While there is no admission fee to attend, capacity will be limited to 1,000



people, which is 25 percent of the park's event lawn capacity. This is part of the city's Hoops at the Hill series of events throughout March.

In addition to the basketball games on a large LED screen, the event includes Noblesville-themed giveaways, oversized games like Jenga and Connect 4, food trucks, a DJ, photo stations, and Indy Beer Taps – along with Pop-a-Shot and a cornhole tournament sponsored by Wings, Etc.

As part of the overall health and safety plan for the event, groups will be in seating pods with heaters and hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the park.

Letter to the Editor

Kraft calls for explanation of cost of Noblesville's new logo

Dear Editor:

After reading the [front-page article in the Hamilton County Reporter](#) about the new Etch A Sketch logo design for the City of Noblesville, I felt compelled to respond.

If it were the First of April, it would qualify as a first-class attempt at "fooling everyone..." Sadly, I understand that this simplistic, bland design, which would have taken a junior high student no more than 10 minutes to draft using any one of a dozen graphics software packages available, cost the citizens of Noblesville \$20,000!

I do remember reading several months ago that five "final drafts" were chosen for local citizens to vote on to select the unnecessary step to replace the "old" logo. But who selected this simple doodle as the new logo, as none of the five final alternatives were even considered?

This morning as I ate breakfast, I casually read the usual fodder on the side of the cereal box. Incredibly, there was a design for the company that distributed the cereal very similar to the new logo. Reminds me of the days of my youth when we used to cut out the circled star bursts from the top of the cardboard cereal box and send them in for a Captain

Midnight decoder ring.

Perhaps cutting out the new logo and sending it to the Mayor's Office you will get a sugar-coated explanation defending this \$20,000 solution for a problem that did not exist.

Frankly, cereal box aside, the only thing this "new sterile logo" is missing is the bar code!

Admittedly, the old logo was dated a bit. But why not blend an artistic rendering of the Courthouse with whatever those expensive consultants can pull out of their file drawer for a "newer" logo?

Oh, and one more thing. Outside of Indiana, how many people know where Noblesville is? In an era when we think internationally, globally, and beyond, wouldn't you imagine it would have been helpful to inscribe the word "I-N-D-I-A-N-A" somewhere in the logo? At least the "designer" of the old logo was quick-witted enough to include that! For \$20,000, I think the Mayor can go back to his cronies at the consulting firm and like a savvy *Wheel of Fortune* contestant, buy four vowels and three consonants to further identify Noblesville's location.

John Kraft

*Fifth Generation Noblesville Native
Noblesville High School 1963
Tallahassee, Fla.*

Centier Bank welcomes Marshall to its Carmel mortgage team

The REPORTER

Michael E. Schrage, CEO and Chairman of Centier Bank, has announced the recent appointment of John Marshall as Mortgage Loan Originator in the Greater Indianapolis area.

Marshall joined Centier in February after spending over 20 years in similar roles at other financial institutions. He is a graduate of Western Illinois University and holds a bachelor's degree in finance. Marshall holds a certification in Construction Management

and Dale Carnegie Sales Management.

"I am excited to mentor and learn from other loan originators at Centier, and I am very impressed with the camaraderie,"

Marshall said. "I specialize in new construction and look forward to working closely with builders in the Greater Indianapolis area to help clients build their dream homes."



Marshall

Marshall is an active participant in Homes for Humanity, BAGI, and a member of St. Elizabeth Cathedral. He resides in Carmel with his wife, Lisa.

For more information about John Marshall, email jmarshall@centier.com, call (317) 490-1246, or go to easyfinancingwithjohn.com. For more information about Centier Bank, go to centier.com.

Meeting Notices

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St., Carmel.

The Sheridan Community Schools Board of Trustees will participate in a joint meeting with other public subdivisions for the purpose of community planning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, in the cafeteria at Sheridan Elementary School, 24795 Hinesley Road, Sheridan.

Now Hiring Full Time General Laborer

The Town of Arcadia is currently accepting applications for a dependable individual to fill the position of a Full Time General Laborer. This is an entry level position, duties include but not limited to; mowing, snow removal, water main repair, storm and sanitary sewer repair, tree removal, experience in running equipment (bobcat, backhoe and tractor) and other tasks as assigned.

Salary negotiable based on experience ranges between \$38-42K per year

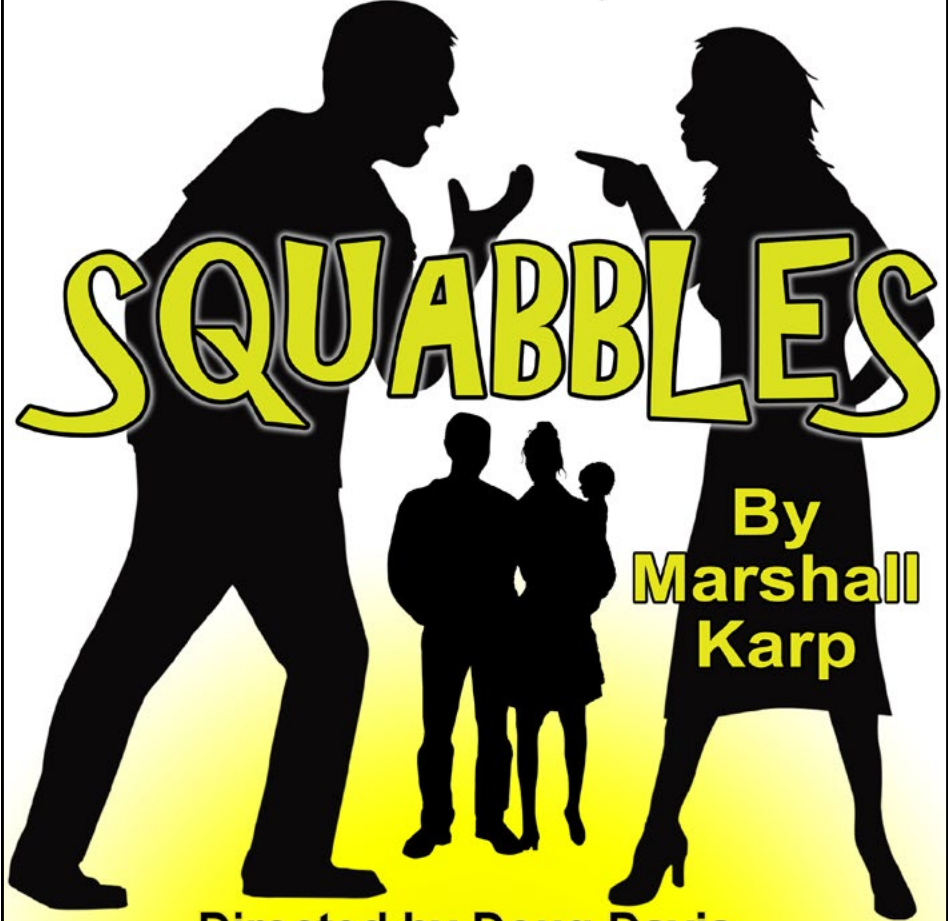
Applicants must possess a valid Indiana Driver's License. Resumes submitted without an application will not be considered. The job description is available for viewing at <https://tinyurl.com/yd2o4777>

**Applications are available at the Arcadia Town Hall
208 West Main Street Arcadia, Indiana 46030.**

Applications will be accepted at the Clerk's Office until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 2, 2021.

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Bill sponsored by Rep. Schaibley to improve sexual assault investigations could soon be law

The REPORTER

Legislation sponsored by State Rep. Donna Schaibley (R-Carmel) to improve sexual assault investigations across the state can now be considered by the governor to be signed into law.

According to Schaibley, officers who regularly investigate sexual assault against adults would re-

ceive specialized training on how the brain reacts to trauma, and the best investigatory techniques to use in order to build trust and rapport with victims, while collecting stronger evidence. She said trauma-informed interviewing frames questions in a way that helps the victim understand what they are being asked, and in an at-

titude that does not jump to conclusions or judgement.

"Sexual assault survivors endure some of the most horrific experiences no one should ever have to face, and perpetrators of this crime must be held accountable



Schaibley

for their actions," Schaibley said. "This bill has the potential to provide law enforcement with better tools to gather evidence without further traumatizing the victim and solve more of these cases."

Developed by police

officers using information from medical studies, Schaibley said the robust, trauma-informed training is a continuation of efforts to strengthen the prosecution of sexual assault cases and the support for victims.

The Indiana Law Enforcement Academy would adapt its current sexual assault training to meet the

new standards.

According to the Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking, one in five Hoosier women have been sexually assaulted, while 85 percent of assaults are not reported to police.

Senate Enrolled Act 81 is now eligible for action by the governor. Visit iga.in.gov to learn more.

Stop for School Buses Act reintroduced in U.S. Senate

The REPORTER

U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Gary Peters (D-Mich.) announced on Wednesday the reintroduction of the *Stop for School Buses Act*. In 2018, in Rochester, Ind., **a driver struck and killed** three young siblings and injured a fourth student while they were boarding a school bus. This bipartisan legislation requires a comprehensive evaluation of methods to prevent the dangerous and illegal passing of school buses at loading zones.

"The school bus tragedy that occurred in Rochester in 2018 was unimaginable, and my heart broke for the parents of those young chil-

dren. We cannot allow that to happen ever again," Sen. Young said. "The *Stop for School Buses Act* will help prevent the illegal passing of school buses and keep our children safe on their way to school."

U.S. Representative Jackie Walorski (R-Ind.-02) introduced a companion bill in the House.

"Children are our future, and we need to make sure they get to and from school safely so they can learn, grow, and find the path to success," Rep. Walorski said. "In far too many communities across the country – including Fulton County here in northern Indiana – we have seen the tragic con-

sequences of illegally driving past a stopped school bus. The *Stop for School Buses Act* is a bipartisan step we can take to reduce illegal school bus passing and help save lives. This commonsense bill will build on efforts already underway to study innovative technologies, increase public awareness, and help states and local schools develop the best policies to keep students safe."

The bipartisan *Stop for School Buses Act* would require the National Highway Transportation Safe-



Young

ty (NHTSA) to review and report on existing school bus passing laws and current school bus safety technology to prevent illegal passing. NHTSA would be required to conduct a comprehensive review and report to Congress on best practices.

NHTSA would be required to:

- Identify illegal passing laws in every state, including penalties.
- Review the effectiveness of safety countermeasures to protect school bus loading zones.

• Evaluate and recommend best practices for deterring illegal school bus passing.

• Review driver education materials to determine whether states can improve driver education regarding illegal passing of school buses.

• Implement a public safety messaging campaign to highlight the importance of school bus safety.

"The National School Transportation Association thanks Senators Young and Peters for introducing this important legislation," said John Benish, President, National School Transportation Association. "While school bus transportation

remains the safest form of transportation over all other modes, the pervasive problem of other vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses continues to put children in harm's way. The *Stop for School Buses Act* will provide a comprehensive set of solutions. NSTA looks forward to working with the Congress to get this bill included in the infrastructure package."

In 2019, Senators Young and Peters, along with Representative Walorski, met with the National School Transportation Association to discuss the state of school bus safety technologies. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

U.S. Senate Republicans say President Biden escalating border crisis by unlawfully freezing border wall funding

Submitted by U.S. Senator Todd Young

Amid the rapidly escalating crisis along the southern border, President Joe Biden violated existing law by halting construction of the border wall, U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) said Wednesday.

Sen. Young joined Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W. Va.), and 39 Republican U.S. senators, in sending a **letter** to GAO Comptroller Gene L. Dodaro highlighting President Biden's suspension of border wall funding and construction without lawful justification, as required by the *Impoundment Control Act*.

"On January 20th, in one of the first official acts of his presidency, Joseph Biden suspended border wall construction and ordered a freeze of funds provided by Congress for that purpose," the senators wrote. "In the weeks that followed, operational control of our southern border was compromised and a humanitarian and national security crisis has ensued. The President's actions directly contributed to this unfortunate, yet entirely avoidable, scenario. They are also a blatant violation of federal law and infringe on Congress's constitutional power of the purse."

The senators continued, "We write regarding these actions. We believe they violated the *Impoundment Control Act* (ICA), as inter-

preted by your office, and we request your legal opinion on the matter. Prompt action to end these violations is required to restore order at the border."

Due to efforts by the Trump Administration to secure the southern border with new infrastructure, illegal crossings in the Yuma Sector decreased by 87 percent from Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) to FY20 in areas with new border wall system.

In the Rio Grande Valley Zone 1, an area that did not previously have border infrastructure, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) saw a 79 percent decrease in apprehensions and a 26 percent decrease in narcotics seizures after completion of the border wall.

Additionally, in El Paso Zone 14 and 15, CBP saw 60 percent and 81 percent decreases in apprehensions, respectively, when comparing the second half of FY20 to the first half of FY20.

Since President Biden's election in November 2020, CBP numbers have increased significantly.

In February 2021, CBP had 100,441 border encounters, amounting to a 39 percent increase from 71,946 encounters in October 2020 and a 173 percent increase from the 36,687 encounters in February 2020 – just one year prior. Additionally, there have been 325,012 border encounters since November 2020, while there were only 220,563 in the four months prior – a 68

percent increase.

Currently, CBP is overwhelmed. Reports indicate that nearly all border patrol sectors are above 100 percent capacity, with some sectors double, triple, or even at significantly higher levels of overcapacity.

The letter was also signed by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Senators Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Bill Haggerty (R-Tenn.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), John Kennedy (R-La.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Mitt Romney (R-Utah), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), John Thune (R-S.D.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Pat Toomey (R-Penn.), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.).

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

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Wendy L. Morrison

January 10, 1958 – March 16, 2021

Wendy L. Morrison, 63, Noblesville, passed away early Tuesday morning, March 16, 2021 at Riverview Health in Noblesville. She was born on January 10, 1958 in Waukegan, Ill., but grew up in Indiana.

Wendy was a homemaker and loved gardening. She could grow anything you gave her! Her favorite flowers were "Crazy Daisies" because she said the kaleidoscope of colors told a story about life and love. She also loved feeding the local wildlife and enjoyed sitting on the porch soaking up the sun. Wendy was a master at *Jeopardy!* (she seemed to know EVERY answer) and she also enjoyed a friendly game of Monopoly.

Wendy never met a stranger and would do anything for anyone. Even through her own struggles, Wendy made sure she was making others feel comfortable in their own skin and made sure everyone knew they were loved. Her upbeat attitude and love for life will be missed by so many that love her, especially her best friend and husband, Jim. Wendy loved music and asked that everyone celebrate her life with a dance.

Wendy is survived by her husband, Jim Morrison; daughter, Stephani Woods; son, Anthony Woods; three stepdaughters, April Morrison, Charity Morrison, and Tracey Goff; nine grandchildren; her mother, Kay (Suttie) Robinson; and her brother, Douglas Robinson.

Wendy chose cremation and the family has entrusted Randall & Roberts Funeral Homes with her care.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



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Donna Busse

Roger Bryan Egle

March 23, 1963 – March 16, 2021

Roger Bryan Egle, 57, Indianapolis, passed away on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at IU Health North Hospital in Carmel. He was born on March 23, 1963 to Eldon and Alberta (Brumley) Egle in Marion.

Bryan received his associates degree from IUPUI in Indianapolis. He was a Global E-learning Specialist for RCI where he created and taught training materials and e-learning sessions for various positions at the company. Bryan attended The Garden Church in Indianapolis. He volunteered for Operation Christmas Child and participated in many walks to support local charities. Bryan enjoyed music, a glass of fine wine, going to restaurants, and attending the master gardener sale every year with his dad and brother.

He is survived by his parents; brother, Jeff (Carrie) Egle; uncles and aunts, Sharen O'Neil, David (Susan) Brumley, Albert (Carolyn) Brumley, Jr., Dale (Debby) Egle, and Bernard (Mildred) Brumley; nephew, Jeffrey (Toni) Egle; nieces, Nicole (Dustin) McGlothlin and Cassie (Brandon) Keller; grand-nieces and grand-nephews; many cousins; special friend, Amy McGrew; and many other special friends.

Bryan was preceded in death by his grandparents, Albert and Dorothy Brumley, and Roy and Gwen Egle; and uncles, Tom O'Neil, Roger Egle, and John Brumley.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at CrossRoads Church of Westfield, 19201 Grassy Branch Road, Westfield, with Pastor Eric Lohe officiating. Visitation will be held from 3 p.m. to the time of service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Operation Christmas Child, Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607, or samaritanaspurse.org/our-ministry/memorial-giving.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING

But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

Romans 15:23-24 (NIV)

Ethel Alberta Gibson

July 23, 1926 – March 16, 2021

Ethel Alberta Gibson, 94, Westfield, passed away on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at Copper Trace in Westfield. She was born on July 23, 1926 to Walter and Martha (Broberg) Kauck in Chicago, Ill.

Prior to starting a family with her husband, George, Ethel worked at the Chicago Board of Trade and other companies based in Chicago. She was then a homemaker, Girl Scout leader, and school room mother for many years. When her daughters were approaching college age, Ethel returned to work to help them pay for their tuition. Ethel was a member of Christ's Community Church in Fishers.

She is survived by her daughters, Laura Gibson and Barbara Gibson (Keith Potter).

In addition to her parents, Ethel was preceded in death by her husband, George A. Gibson, in 2020; infant daughter, Deborah Gibson; and her sisters, Elaine Arcus and Lucille Evans.

Burial will be at Oakridge Cemetery in Hillside, Ill., at a later date. Ethel's care has been entrusted to Randall & Roberts Funeral Homes.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 50 E. 91st St., Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46240.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



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Boys volleyball

Royals beat 'Hounds in five-set match

By RICHIE HALL

CARMEL - The Hamilton Southeastern boys volleyball team won its second all-county match in as many days on Thursday, coming back to beat host Carmel in five sets.

The final score was 14-25, 25-22, 23-25, 25-16, 15-10. The Royals trailed in the fourth set, at one point getting down 9-4, before rallying to take the set. Southeastern was then able to grab a lead in the fifth set and hold off a comeback by the Greyhounds to win the match.

"We're young," said Royals coach Jon Harmon. "Our outsiders are both first-year varsity players. Their experience level's a little bit off, so our consistency's not great. But when they're on, they're pretty good. And they're going to get much, much better."

Carmel had the momentum in the early going, going up 8-0 right away in the first set. Jackson Leeper, the Greyhounds' tall middle hitter, hit a kill and made two blocks. Southeastern was able to work its way back into the set, with Caden Marchione and Ethan Hendrick putting down kills and Noah Hanline serving an ace. But the 'Hounds were able to secure the first set.

The Royals took the lead in the second set, going up 12-5, then withstood a push from Carmel late in the set. With HSE holding three set points at 24-21, Leeper hit a kill to save one, but Marchione responded with his own kill to give the Royals the set.

The third set turned out to be the tightest one of all. Southeastern led 7-2, with Marchione hitting an ace along the way. The Royals expanded that lead to 13-7 before the Greyhounds rallied, tying the set at 16-16; kills by James Marr and Ben Hastings pulled the set even.

Southeastern jumped ahead 19-16, but Carmel won four straight points to lead 20-19. The back-and-forth continued, with the Royals leading 22-21 after Drew Berry served an ace. But the 'Hounds got back ahead, and Leeper's kill finished the third set.

"Jackson Leeper's an animal, their middle over there, 35, and so is James Marr," said Harmon. "They're just phenomenal players. "But we were making mistakes. Our left back and our right back were too far back behind our block, so as a result of that, Jackson was just getting a lot of kills because we were giving up the real estate. Once our players made the adjustments, got outside of the block, then they were able to get some digs."

Carmel led 9-4 in the fourth set, but Hendrick's kill started a huge run by the Royals. Southeastern would win 13 of the next 14 points to lead 17-10. The 'Hounds cut it to 17-13, but the Royals were able to finish out the set with an 8-3 run. Ben Harris ended the set with a kill.

In the fifth set, Carmel led 4-2 early. Southeastern took over from there with a 10-2 run, giving the Royals a 12-6 lead. The Greyhounds made one last push, cutting the lead to 12-10, but HSE finished the match in style, with a kill by Marchione, an ace from Ethan Carmona and a kill by Berry.

The victory gave Southeastern a 4-1 record for the season. The Royals return home on Monday to host Franklin Central.

"If we can develop a little more consistency, a little more discipline, then I think we're going to have a nice year," said Harmon.

Leeper hit 14 kills and had four blocks for Carmel, with Marr collecting 13 digs and hitting 11 kills. Hastings made two blocks and Quinn Lewis had 17 digs.

"This is a really exciting team," said Greyhounds coach Matthew Nance. "There's a lot of dynamic play. With dynamic play means there's ups and downs. We're really going to battle from here on out to make sure those downs happen less often and the really great moments that we saw tonight happen over and over again."

Carmel is 5-2 and plays at Guerin Catholic on Tuesday.



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

ABOVE: Hamilton Southeastern's Riley Leppert (right) is congratulated by manager Ben Hanks after the Royals beat Carmel in five sets.

BELOW: Carmel's Jackson Leeper (35), Ben Hastings (1) and James Marr (47) stand ready at the net after the Greyhounds serve.



Carmel boys lacrosse beats GC, is 2-0

The Carmel boys lacrosse team improved its record to 2-0 on Thursday with a 17-6 win at Guerin Catholic.

The Greyhounds jumped out to an 8-0 lead in the first quarter, with Matthew Rodgers scoring several of the early-period goals. Carmel extended its lead to 15-1 by halftime. The Golden Eagles fought back in the second half, but the 'Hounds were able to hang on for the win.

Carmel's three faceoff men, Daniel Seed, Jacob Katz and Zach Arbuckle,

combined for 20 wins and seven losses on the night.

"I loved the sideline energy from the entire team from the start to finish of the game," said Greyhounds coach Jack Meachum. "I think the black uniforms got the team going, and it was great to see us continue to play fast."

Both teams are back in action tonight. Carmel hosts Hamilton Southeastern, while Guerin Catholic welcomes Noblesville.

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Boys basketball semi-state preview

Carmel takes on Gary West Side, Guerin Catholic faces Silver Creek

By RICHIE HALL

The Crawley Athletic Center at Lafayette Jefferson High School has been a favorite place for the Carmel boys basketball team over the past few years.

The Greyhounds will be making their third straight appearance at the Crawley Center on Saturday in the IHSAA Class 4A north semi-state. Carmel, the No. 2-ranked team, will play No. 10 Gary West Side at 3:45 p.m. for the semi-state championship and a ticket to the April 3 Class 4A state championship game. The Greyhounds-Cougars game will follow the 1 p.m. 1A semi-state game between Southwood and Kouts.

Gary West will come to Lafayette Jeff with a 22-4 record. The Cougars hosted Sectional 1 this year and ran through it unopposed, beating Merrillville 66-46, Lake Central 58-29 and Munster 49-29 in the championship.

That sent Gary West to the Michigan City regional. The Cougars zoomed past Elkhart 68-34 in the semi-finals, then came back to beat South Bend Riley 58-43 in the championship game. The Cougars trailed Riley 34-30 in the third quarter, but came back to lead 42-38 by the end of the period, then cruised through the fourth quarter by outscoring the Wildcats 16-5.

Junior Jalen Washington led Gary West with a double-double of 21 points and 10 rebounds, followed by senior Quimari Peterson with 16 points and senior Chrish-

awn Christmas with 12 points. All three players are averaging in double figures scoring for the Cougars: Peterson puts in 13.6 points per game, Washington scores 12.8 points and Christmas 10.5 points. As a result, Gary West won its sixth regional title, and its first since 2005.

Christmas is the Cougars' leading rebounder with 6.2 per game, followed closely by Washington with 6.0 per contest. Peterson dishes out 4.0 assists per game.

Carmel will come into the semi-state with a 24-2 record. The Greyhounds repeated as sectional champions by beating Hamilton Southeastern 46-33 and Westfield 53-27 in the championships. That sent Carmel to the Logansport regional, where it took care of No. 1-ranked Homestead 60-49 and edged out No. 8 Lafayette Jeff in a 50-49 thriller for the title. Senior Brian Waddell made two free throws with under 20 seconds to go to clinch the game.

Waddell is the Greyhounds' leading scorer with 15.7 points per game, followed by junior Peter Suder with 12.0 points per game. Suder leads the rebounding list with 6.5 per contest, followed by Waddell with 6.2 and junior Charlie Williams with 4.3. Senior Connor Gioia is dishing out 3.4 assists per game, with Suder handing out 3.1.

GUERIN CATHOLIC-SILVER CREEK

In Class 3A action, No. 6-ranked Guerin Catholic will travel south to Sey-

mour on Saturday to play No. 2 Silver Creek for the semi-state championship. The game tips off at 1 p.m., to be followed by the 4A game between Lawrence North and Bloomington South.

The Silver Creek Dragons are 23-4 for the season. Silver Creek won the Charles-town sectional to begin the post-season, blasting Corydon Central 77-42, holding off North Harrison 44-41, then taking care of Madison 83-71 in the championship for its fourth straight sectional crown.

That sent the Dragons to the Washington regional, where they won two tough games to claim the regional, their second in three years and fourth overall. Silver Creek beat No. 4 Heritage Hills 52-48 in the semi-finals and Connersville 31-30 in the championship.

The Dragons have two players averaging double-doubles. Senior Trey Kaufman-Renn pours in 25.5 points and collects 12.1 rebounds per game, while senior Kooper Jacobi adds 21.6 points and 11.1 rebounds. Kaufman-Renn also averages 3.8 assists and 1.8 blocks per game.

Junior Branden Northern is another prolific scorer, contributing 15.5 points per contest. He is also far and away the assists leader, dishing out 7.0 per game.

"Silver Creek has a very experienced program," said Golden Eagles coach Bobby Allen. "They have a tremendous coaching staff that has prepared their players to perform at a high level and they have incredible athletes from top to bottom. It is no surprise that they have had the season that they are having. We have been preparing all week for this opportunity, we know the magnitude of this game and we are fully aware of the weapons they have

on their team. We need to control the tempo of this game and force them to take difficult shots and limit them to one shot opportunity."

Allen said his team is focused and has bought into the game plan, "and now we need to go execute."

Guerin Catholic is 21-3 for the season. The Golden Eagles won the Lebanon sectional by beating the host Tigers 49-30 in the semi-finals and Circle City Conference rival Brebeuf Jesuit 44-36 in the championship. It was the first sectional title for GC in six years, and the Golden Eagles followed that with their first regional title in six years, defeating host Greencastle 52-41 in the semi-finals and Northview in the championship 59-43.

Senior Joseph Bobilya, who broke the Guerin Catholic 3-point record by making 10 triples during the Northview game, is leading GC in scoring with 17.7 points per game. Senior Kaleb Edwards is averaging 15.4 points, 5.2 rebounds and 1.0 blocks per game, with senior Matt Gillis putting in 11.1 points and collecting 7.1 rebounds per contest.

"We have a great group of young men on this team and we are led by eight seniors," said Allen. "This experience has been life changing for them and we are creating memories that will last a lifetime. They understand the importance of this week and the preparation that is needed to win. Silver Creek is a great team and has earned the right to be in this game, but we have also been playing well and we feel like we have earned the chance to play for a spot in the state finals as well. It is going to be a battle, and I am excited to watch our guys play their hearts out again."

Huskies track splits dual with Lebanon

The Hamilton Heights track and field team split a dual meet with Lebanon on Tuesday.

The Huskies girls won 73-58. Kelsey Smith was a standout, winning two individual events. She set a new school record in the high jump at 5 feet, 4.5 inches and took the 400 dash as well. Smith was also part of Heights' first-place 4x400 relay, with Camryn runner, Morgan Guthrie and Maria Mitchell.

Mitchell was a double winner as well, cruising to victory in the 1600 and 800 runs. Taylor Standridge tied the school record in the pole vault with a leap of 8-6. Other winners were Ella Ewing in the long jump, Jayla Logan in the 300 hurdles and the 4x100 relay team of Victoria Lopez, Jenna Peterson, Samera Henson and Ewing.

The Huskies boys fell to Lebanon 84-43. Nate Jozsa won three events, sweeping the 100 and 200 dashes in addition to a victory in the long jump. Peyton McQuinn was first in the pole vault, while Josh Russell took the 3200 run. Heights also placed first in the 4x100 relay.

GIRLS MEET

Team score: Hamilton Heights 73, Lebanon 58.

High jump: 1. Kelsey Smith 5-4.5, new school record, 2. Camryn Runner 4-6.

Long jump: 1. Ella Ewing 16-5.75, 3. Samera Henson 13-11.5.

Pole vault: 1. Taylor Standridge 8-6, ties

school record, 2. Mady Hutcherson 6-6.

4x800 relay: 2. Heights (Morgan Guthrie, Teegan Madara, Allyson Dinwiddie, Juliana Springman) 11:39.

100 hurdles: 2. Ewing 17.9, 4. Jayla Logan 18.2.

100 dash: 2. Jenna Peterson 13.7.

1600 run: 1. Maria Mitchell 5:12, 3. Madison Dotlich 6:49.

4x100 relay: 1. Heights (Victoria Lopez, Peterson, Henson, Ewing) 55.1.

400 dash: 1. Smith 1:04.0, 2. Runner 1:05.5.

300 hurdles: 1. Logan 55.1, 3. Standridge 56.4.

800 run: 1. Mitchell 2:23, 2. Guthrie 2:44.

200 dash: 2. Peterson 27.1.

3200 run: 2. Madara 13:36, 3. Springman 13:55.

4x400 relay: 1. Heights (Runner, Smith, Guthrie, Mitchell) 4:28.

BOYS MEET

Team score: Lebanon 84, Hamilton Heights 43.

Long jump: 1. Nate Jozsa 19-8.5, 3. Trey Ehman 16-11.

Pole vault: 1. Peyton McQuinn 11-6.

Shot put: 3. Josh Brown 36-9.

Discus: 2. Brown 121-0.

4x800 relay: 2. Heights 9:43.

100 dash 1. Jozsa 11.3.

1600 run: 3. Clay Forrer 5:42.

4x100 relay: 1. Heights 46.5.

400 dash: 2. Landon Steele 1:01.0, 3. Tyler Runyan 1:05.0.

200 dash: 1. Jozsa 24.4.

3200 run: 1. Josh Russell 11:33, 2. Drew Monnin 11:57.

4x400 relay: 2. Heights 4:07.4.



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Philadelphia	28	13	.683	-
Brooklyn	28	13	.683	-
Milwaukee	26	14	.650	1.5
Miami	22	19	.537	6.0
Atlanta	21	20	.512	7.0
Charlotte	20	20	.500	7.5

New York	21	21	.500	7.5
Boston	20	20	.500	7.5
Chicago	18	21	.462	9.0
Indiana	17	22	.436	10.0

Toronto	17	23	.425	10.5
Cleveland	15	25	.375	12.5
Washington	15	25	.375	12.5
Orlando	13	27	.325	14.5
Detroit	11	29	.275	16.5

Western Conference				
Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
Utah	29	11	.725	-
L.A. Lakers	28	13	.683	1.5
Phoenix	26	13	.667	2.5
L.A. Clippers	26	16	.619	4.0
Denver	24	16	.600	5.0
Portland	24	16	.600	5.0

San Antonio	21	16	.568	6.5
Dallas	21	18	.538	7.5
Golden State	21	20	.512	8.5
Memphis	18	19	.486	9.5

Oklahoma City	17	24	.415	12.5
New Orleans	17	24	.415	12.5
Sacramento	16	24	.400	13.0
Houston	11	28	.282	17.5
Minnesota	10	31	.244	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 Jackson Wilttrout has committed to play lacrosse at St. Amrbose University.
Pictured: Sara Wilttrout (Mother), Jackson Wilttrout, Joe Wilttrout (Father).

Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

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