

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

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



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Showers likely, and some thunderstorms possible. Wind gusting to 30 mph.
Tonight: Scattered showers in the evening.
HIGH: 69 LOW: 51



State Rep. Tony Cook (R-Cicero) (second from right) receives the Richard G. Lugar Award for Distinguished Service to Interscholastic Athletics from the Indiana High School Athletic Association alongside his wife, Kathy Cook (third from right), Gov. Eric Holcomb (third from left), Indiana Pacers President Rick Fuson (far left), Indiana Pacers Board Chairman Bob Morris (second from left) and IHSAA Commissioner Paul Neidig (far right).

Rep. Tony Cook receives Richard G. Lugar Award

The REPORTER

State Rep. Tony Cook (R-Cicero) recently received the Richard G. Lugar Award for Distinguished Service to Interscholastic Athletics by the Indiana High School Athletic Association during the Boys Basketball 2A State Finals on April 3 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

According to the organization, this award is given to a Hoosier who exemplifies the highest standard of professional ethics, sportsmanship

and moral character, and carries the endorsement of their IHSAA member high school. Throughout his 40-year career, Cook served 36 years in various leadership roles at Hamilton Heights, Clinton Prairie and Noblesville school corporations.

"As a former football, baseball, and basketball coach and educator, I understand the profound impact athletics can have on a student's overall development," Cook said. "These activities teach young Hoosiers the importance of teamwork, per-

severance, work ethic and time management, which are habits that can stick with them through their academic journey and into adulthood."

Cook gained national attention during the 1980s when he served as principal of Hamilton Heights High School and welcomed Ryan White, who was positive for HIV. During this time, Cook helped educate his community about the myths and realities of AIDS.

"On behalf of the IHSAA Executive Committee and the

410 member schools, we are honored to present Tony Cook with the 2021 Richard G. Lugar Award for Distinguished Service," said IHSAA Commissioner Paul Neidig. "His lifetime of work with education at the core has benefited generations of high school students and student athletes. The IHSAA is proud to honor his contributions through this award."

Other recipients of this award include the late U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, Bob Gardner, Lee Lonzo and Barbara Wynne.

New name, same great local people

Best-One of Indy acquires R&T Tire & Auto Service

Submitted

In the summer of 1965, Ray and Tom Alexander, father and son, opened their first R&T Tire & Auto Service in Sheridan. In 1968, Tom's wife Anita became part of the team. Ray retired in 1982, and a few years later, Tom and Anita's son Brian joined the business. Soon after, Jim Kitchel, their son-in-law, and daughter Tina joined the company.

Between 1987 and 2008, R&T Tire expanded to a total of five locations. Sadly, Brian Alexander passed away in 2017. At that time, the company made the difficult decision to reduce to two locations. The Noblesville and Tipton shops continued, and the Kitchels took over running the day-to-day operations.

Fast forward almost 56 years later, and R&T is transitioning to its next chapter under new ownership. As of April 1, R&T Tire & Auto Service has been acquired by Best-One of Indy, another long standing and



The name may be changing at R&T Tire & Auto Service, but the company and its people say the quality will remain the same.

family-owned Indiana business.

"After 56 years, it was time," said Tom Alexander, owner of R&T Tire & Auto Service. "When I met with the team of Best-One of Indy, I was so impressed that they seemed just like me; their honesty, their close-knit operations, and good customer service. We (my family and I) unanimously decided it was a good time to make a

change. This is an opportunity for our current employees to continue working for a company that cares about them, as we always have."

While the name on the building locations will be changing to Best-One of Indy in Noblesville, and Best-One of Tipton, it is important for customers to understand that it is business as usual with the same

great local people and same great service that R&T Tire's raving fans have come to trust over the years.

Chuck Godby and Daniel Heald remain leading the sales team in Noblesville, while Patrick Henderson and Pete Thomas continue to lead the Tipton team.

See R&T . . . Page 2

Hamilton Southeastern Schools' debt is too high

Carmel has some of the lowest property taxes of any incorporated area in Hamilton County. When I compare Fishers to Carmel, one answer is the difference in school property taxes. Hamilton Southeastern Schools' property tax rate is significantly higher than Carmel Clay Schools. Think about it: If a Carmel homeowner earns the same wages as someone in Fishers, the Carmel homeowner can afford a house that costs about



GUEST COLUMNIST
DAVID GIFFEL

\$5,000 more with the difference in the taxes paid. In 10 years, that difference is thousands of dollars to a Fishers homeowner.

The Reason

The reason Carmel's school tax rate is lower is because of less school debt and fewer buildings. Carmel Schools has fewer debt obligations! Carmel had time to grow into its shoes. Fishers will never be able to achieve the same lower tax rate unless we demand change.

The Future Problem

The problem is the City of Noblesville's growth into Wayne Township. Wayne Township is in HSE's district and projects high growth into the future. Fishers' property owners will continue to carry a high debt burden with the need for new schools as the population grows east of Noblesville into HSE's district. Wayne Township and Noblesville residents should be responsible, not Fishers.

We can see the historical Fishers homeowner growth from 2000 to 2020. In this time

period, HSE's enrollment grew from 8,779 to 22,184 students. HSE Schools will likely have huge enrollment increases sooner than we think. Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen says, "... made it clear his city plans to expand eastward into Wayne Township with both residential and commercial development..." Then let Noblesville pay for it. (Lannan, Larry. "The future of HSE Schools, Noblesville and Wayne Township" Hamilton County Reporter, March 24, 2021.)

See Debt . . . Page 2

Fishers COVID Community Risk Rating remains at 3 on a scale of 4

By LARRY LANNAN
LarryInFishers.com

"COVID-19 is still spreading within the community, at a much lower rate than what it was previously back in the large winter surge we saw in November, December, in the beginning of January."

That's the word from Fishers Health Department Epidemiologist Josh Robinson in his weekly COVID-19 video update. The Fishers Community Risk Level remains at a 3 on a scale of 4 and has remained steady in recent weeks.

According to Robinson, the latest numbers verify that COVID-19 continues to spread within the Fishers area.

The Hamilton County percent positivity rate is at 8.4 percent as of Tuesday morning. The Fishers percent positivity rate is 7.7 percent. The case incidents rate stands at 27.98. Robinson says these numbers have increased over the past few weeks.

Robinson asks local residents to continue taking precautions to slow the spread of the virus. That includes wearing a mask outside your own household, social distancing and washing your hands regularly.

"There have been a lot of projections coming out lately, showing a slight increase in cases across various localities in the U.S.," Robinson said. "There (are) also other projections that these increases may continue for a few weeks and then eventually start to decline again in April."

The Fishers Health Department plans to keep a close eye on local COVID numbers.

Fishers health officials say the availability of testing remains good, with testing appointments available within two days and results ready in two days or less. Contact tracing is also staying current.

Hospital availability in the counties surrounding Marion, including Hamilton, remains good.

If you need to schedule a vaccination or a COVID test, call (317) 595-3211.

[Click here](#) to access Josh Robinson's entire video update posted Tuesday night.

Many say they'll no longer wear masks, but respect businesses' rules

By DEMIE JOHNSON
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

If you walked down Main Street in Carmel, you would find businesses with signs asking customers to continue wearing masks.

But you would also find shops that have removed those signs.

Most of the people in the Carmel Arts & Design District told Hamilton County Reporter's newsgathering partner, WISH-TV News 8, it's because masks are no longer a requirement; they're not planning to wear them at all anymore. However, they said, if a business asks them to put one on, they'll respect those wishes.

Cathy Rowan said she had a pretty serious case of COVID-19 in November, which is why although she will no longer wear a mask most of the time, if someone asks her to put one on, she said she would be glad to do so.

"Oh, I would definitely put it on, and I would also honor people's opinion if they would like me to wear it in their home," Rowan said.

Ben Graves said he feels the same and will not wear masks anymore unless someone asks him to.

"I'm done, but I'd respect the business and wear a mask, no problem," Graves said.

So far, no problems at Silver in the City, 111 W. Main St. Suite 150, Carmel. Manager Claire Shipley said most of the customers came in already wearing masks. Shipley said because Silver in the City also has a Marion County location, the business made the decision to keep the stores the same. "Just for the safety of our staff and customers, at least until everyone is able to get fully vaccinated, and we'll reassess at the end of the month and see how we're feeling," she said.

The Fishers Health Department is also leaving the choice up to businesses. Masks are still required in all Hamilton County buildings.



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R&T

DEBT

from Page 1

from Page 1

Tom and Tina will continue to be part of operations in some capacity, while Jim will be part of sales and operations.

Best-One of Indy employs over 130 team members in total of now 13 locations in Central Indiana, offers the opportunity to get certified technical training while being on the job, and placed in the top 5 in the United States in the 2020 Tire Industry's Best Places to Work program by *Tire Business*.

People at Best-One of Indy say they are excited for the opportunities, but the company remains centered on their mission – “Creating Raving Fans.” During a time of change, one thing that never waivers is their commitment to people.

“We look forward to continuing the legacy that Tom and his family have built in Noblesville and Tipton, and the surrounding communities,” said Rich Elliott, President of Best-One of Indy. “For 35 years, we have been family-owned, and we plan to keep the same family, local feel while delivering superior customer service and being a trusted provider of Retail, Commercial and Ag tires.”

CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE REPORTER ON FACEBOOK!

Hamilton County Schools Debt Obligations					
Unit Name	Principal Outstanding	Interest Outstanding	Lease Payments Outstanding	Federal Credits	Total Current Obligations Outstanding
CARMEL-CLAY SCHOOL CORPORATION	\$44,780,000	\$3,675,504	\$152,408,000	\$0	\$200,863,504
HAMILTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL	\$5,459,768	\$150,799	\$64,797,000	\$0	\$70,407,567
HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN SCHOOL	\$47,175,000	\$3,819,879	\$285,694,500	\$0	\$336,689,379
NOBLESVILLE SCHOOL CORPORATION	\$11,450,906	\$808,234	\$210,669,500	\$161,100	\$222,767,540
SHERIDAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	\$748,963	\$106,960	\$26,372,500	\$0	\$27,228,423
WESTFIELD-WASHINGTON SCHOOL	\$21,615,000	\$2,415,559	\$214,723,500	\$0	\$238,754,059

2021 School Property Tax Rates Carmel vs. HSE				
Fund	Carmel	AV	HSE	AV
Referendum #1	0.1900	\$10,700,399,726	0.2275	\$9,163,678,402
Referendum #2	0.0350	\$10,700,399,726	0.1353	\$9,163,678,402
Debt	0.2950	\$8,388,001,765	0.4545	\$8,067,897,643
Pension	0.0000	\$8,388,001,765	0.0045	\$8,067,897,643
Operations	0.3383	\$8,388,001,765	0.4239	\$8,067,897,643
Rate	0.8583		1.2457	

2021 Comparing Property Taxes Carmel vs. HSE				
Parcel location	Total 2021 Rate	AV Home \$250,000	Apartment \$20 million	Commercial \$5 million
Carmel	2.0727	\$2,700	\$414,540	\$103,635
Fishers FC	2.2930	\$2,973	\$462,380	\$114,650
Fishers Delaware	2.3119	\$2,973	\$458,600	\$115,595
* Std and Mortgage Deduction				

Charts provided by David Giffel / DLGF

Planning Ahead

Today, the only HSE school in Wayne Township is Durbin Elementary. Noblesville Schools would be better suited to meet the City of Noblesville's goals. It's time for HSE to grow into its shoes like Carmel. HSE needs to redraw boundaries and develop an exit plan for Noblesville Schools to now take responsibility. Fishers' proper-

ty taxpayers should not pay for Noblesville housing developments.

Related Article

Lannan, Larry. “**Student Population at HSE Schools and the Future of Durbin Elementary**” *Hamilton County Reporter*, Aug. 14, 2019.

David Giffel is a founding board mem-

ber of the Fiscal Conservatives of Hamilton County, a Fishers homeowner, a Republican member of the Delaware Township Board, Delaware 19 Republican Precinct Committeeman, Chairman of the Central Indiana IoPP Chapter, and entrepreneur; and he has over 30 years of business experience in manufacturing polymer resins, compounds, and plastic films.



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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
- Lysol
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes

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



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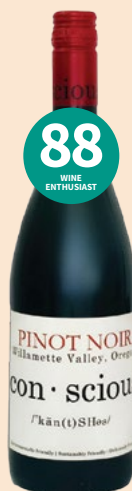
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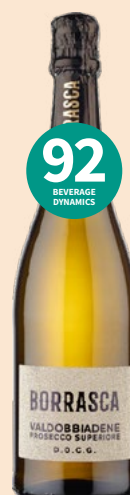
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Three county economic development groups each get \$5K from Duke Energy

The REPORTER

Duke Energy has awarded \$90,000 to 18 Indiana economic development groups, including three organizations from Hamilton County, for the 2021 Marketing Partnership Program. Each group was awarded \$5,000.

Hamilton County economic development organizations receiving the 2021 grants include:

- City of Fishers Economic Development Office
- City of Noblesville Economic Development Office
- Invest Hamilton County

“Duke Energy is committed to strengthening collaborative efforts with our local and regional economic development partners,” said Erin Schneider, Indiana director of economic development for Duke Energy. “These grants provide those partners with resources to fund marketing and strategic efforts that result in new jobs and investments in the communities we serve.”

To qualify for program consideration, each applicant must submit a plan that has a direct impact on the community’s economic growth and supports Duke Energy’s economic development goals. Grant funding does not include travel, lodging, food and beverage and entertainment expenses.

Examples of how these grants may be used include:

- Opportunities to increase awareness of a community or region’s economic development strategies and product availability
- Tours and special events to promote business sites and communities
- Marketing campaigns and promotional materials

Carmel-based youth advocacy group empowering people to help stop child abuse

The REPORTER

This April, and every April, join Indiana Center for Prevention of Youth Abuse and Suicide (ICPYAS) to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Prevention organizations nationwide embark on this mission every April in order to not only raise awareness, but also demonstrate how to recognize the signs of abuse and how to prevent it.

ICPYAS Director of Education and Community Relations Maggie Owens said, “One of the things that is really eye-opening is that 80 percent of reported child abuse happens in the home or at the hands of someone that a family knows and trusts.”

Part of the evidenced-based curriculum ICPYAS uses encourages students to find several trusted adults in their lives.

“When we teach our program in the schools, we encourage the students to identify five trusted adults that they can talk to if they need help,” Owens said. “In the state of Indiana, we are all mandated reporters so if you have reason to suspect a child is endanger, stand up for kids and call local law enforcement or 800-800-5556 to make a report.”

As the mission reflects, ICPYAS works diligently to end abuse and save lives. By continuing to provide services virtually, students and adults across Indiana continue to have access to prevention programs.

“We have transitioned to doing all our school-based programs via zoom and other web-based formats and have been able to still need the mandated legislation to provide this to all students K-12, school staff and community groups,” Owens said.

In an effort to raise awareness and provide additional resources, ICPYAS is offering free online training opportunities for individuals to sign up for Stewards of Children as well as QPR. Stewards of Children focuses on an adult-centered Child Abuse Prevention and awareness program to recognize the signs of abuse as well as how to react appropriately. QPR is one of the Suicide Prevention programs that teaches the participants how to question, persuade and refer as well as provide resources for suicide prevention.

Visit indianaprevention.org for online resources as well as a way to register for these training opportunities.

Aspire Indiana Health names Demetrius Dillard as IT Director

The REPORTER

Demetrius Dillard, a veteran leader in Information Technology systems for healthcare, has joined Aspire Indiana Health as Director of Information Systems & Technology.

In his new role, Dillard will focus on building out and continuing the long-term strategy of a robust and secure network infrastructure, and work to ensure a transparent and scalable service management team that aims to present results to support the organization’s mission of providing comprehensive healthcare including behavioral health, primary medical care, and addiction services.

Aspire undertook a years-long plan to shift the nonprofit healthcare organization’s IT to a nimble, 100 percent cloud-based system with no internal servers. As a result, the organization was able to transition to delivering care through a telehealth model within days of the onset of pandemic. Aspire continues to serve patients through scaled-up Video in Person appointments or at one of its seven Central Indiana health centers.

“Aspire has been a leader, not a follower, in advancing technology systems that make it easier than ever for patients from every walk of life to access the healthcare they deserve,” Dillard said. “I’m excited about the opportunity to continue that journey and help lead the way.”

Dillard was previously Chief Information Officer at another local health clinic system, and previously held leadership roles at other large healthcare providers. He holds a bachelor’s degree in BioMedical Engineering Technology from IUPUI and a master’s degree in Business Administration and Healthcare Administration from Western Governors University.

“Demetrius’ deep experience in leading multi-disciplinary teams and innovating ways to align business and technology strategy with the mission of a nonprofit healthcare provider is going to be a tremendous asset for Aspire,” said Chief Quality Officer Jim Skeel.

Learn more at AspireIndiana.org.



Dillard

Project to shut down Indy’s North Split for 18 months begins in May

By SIERRA HIGNITE
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Indianapolis is about a month out from a construction project that will shut down a major interstate system through downtown. The North Split project will last for 18 months and reconfigure the north split of Interstates 65 and 70 downtown. Motorists who use the North Split are seeing already some of the impact as crews prep for the \$325 million project.

Mid-May is when the Indiana Department of Transportation says the full closure will start; the North Split won’t reopen until late 2022.

Today, another traffic pattern change is scheduled on I-70 eastbound to allow crews to continue their preparation.

Meeting Notices		
The Noblesville Economic Development Commission will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2021, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville. Anyone wishing to listen to the meeting virtually may call (872) 240-4868 and enter conference ID 660 728 429#.	The Noblesville Redevelopment Authority will meet at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 16, 2021, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville. Anyone wishing to listen to the meeting virtually may call (872) 240-4868 and enter conference ID 393 703 970#.	The Carmel Clay School Board of Trustees workshop session scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2021, has been canceled.
Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County E911 Executive Board will meet to discuss E911 operations at 8 a.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021, in the Mayor’s Conference Room at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.		
Send Meeting Notices to: Notices@ReadTheReporter.com		

Need more local news? Click here!

Ready to dig? Call 811 first!

The REPORTER

Spring is here and people are excited to get outdoors to plant trees, shrubs and flowers, as well as begin those outdoor construction projects that make homes more comfortable. Can you dig it?

Yes, you can. But first, make an important call to 811, the national "Call Before You Dig" hotline and ask that the underground utilities on your property be properly located and marked.

"Calling 811 before

digging anywhere prevents damage to underground utilities, prevents potential personal injury and avoids electric and other utility outages," said Scott Batson, Duke Energy senior vice president and chief distribution officer. "It also helps avoid costly repairs for the offenders."

Calling 811 is a free nationwide service. Contractors, homeowners, businessowners, and anyone preparing for a digging project of any kind should call 811 at least three busi-

ness days before digging begins. The local utilities will then send a crew to mark underground lines in the area (electric, natural gas, water, sewer, phone, cable TV and others) with above-ground stakes, flags or paint, which indicates restricted areas before a customer begins a digging project.

In 2019, the U.S. Common Ground Alliance reported approximately 532,000 excavation-related damage events in the U.S., an increase of 14 percent

from 2018, the latest year for which figures are available. Estimated damages in 2019 total approximately \$30 billion in direct and indirect losses.

In 2020, Duke Energy reported 138 damage-causing dig-in events in Indiana.

For more information about the Call Before You Dig system in Indiana, visit indiana811.org.

Click here to watch a video that shows how to use 811. For additional information, **Call 811 before you start digging.**

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NIV)

Charles "Chuck" Collier Applegate d. April 6, 2021



Charles "Chuck" Collier Applegate, 84, Fort Myers, Fla., died on April 6, 2021. He was the son of Charles Edward Applegate and Vivian Louise Collier Applegate of Cicero. He graduated from Jackson Central High, now Hamilton Heights, in 1955.

He was a Past Master of the Cicero/Noblesville Masonic Lodge and a former member of the Cicero Christian Church. He attended Purdue University and became an engineering technician at the former Naval Avionics Center on the east side of Indianapolis, retiring in 1996 after 30 years. He also was a master woodworker.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Alice Day Applegate. Also surviving are four children, Nina Phifer, Bryan Applegate, Thomas Applegate, and Jeremy Applegate; a sister, Linda Donahue and brother, Gene Applegate; and several grandchildren. A son, Bruce, died in infancy.

Graveside services will be held at Cicero Cemetery at a later date.

ACCURATE BALANCED LOCAL NEWS

AG Rokita launches investigations into five Big Tech companies over censoring conservative content

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita announced Wednesday that he is investigating whether five Big Tech companies have po-

tentially harmed Indiana consumers through business practices that are abusive, deceptive, and/or unfair.

In particular, Rokita is probing methods by which the companies have limited consumers' access to certain content — often deleting or obscuring posted material reflecting a political conservative point of view. Such manipulation prevents consumers from making informed choices, Rokita said.

"In a free society, few assets are more important to consumers than access to information and the opportunity to express political viewpoints in meaningful forums," Rokita said. "It is potentially harmful and unfair for these companies to



Rokita

manipulate content in ways they do not publicly discuss or that consumers do not fully understand."

In addition to Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, and Twitter, Rokita is also investigating alleged actions taken by attorney Vanita Gupta to encourage the companies to censor conservative viewpoints.

Gupta, who is President Joe Biden's nominee to be associate U.S. attorney general, has allegedly met with Facebook and Twitter executives to urge "more rigorous rules and enforcement," to use her own words as quoted in *Time*. Gupta, according to the *Time* article, stressed that it was important for social media platforms to be "tagging things and taking them down."

— County —

Requests for Qualifications

Hamilton County is seeking Requests for Qualifications from licensed certified public accounting firms and qualified consulting firms. The County is searching for a qualified firm in the business of providing advisory services to government entities to provide a comprehensive assessment of county public safety and criminal justice system.

The scope of the services requested include:

- Evaluate the proficiency of use of applicable funds, employees, assets, and space used;
- Audit performance, evaluate cost containment, and efficient use of resources;
- Provide an analysis of current organizational structures, staffing levels, staffing practices, staffing structure compensation, and equipment inventory;
- Provide an evaluation of arrestee services and medical care provided by the departments; and,
- A full budget and financial analysis of the departments from 2014-2020.

Any interested firm shall submit an inquiry to the County to obtain a more detailed Request for Qualifications; which, will provide a more in-depth view of the anticipated scope of the project, details required for qualifications, and other applicable qualification criteria. All responses must be submitted, in a sealed hard copy and sealed digital format, to the County no later than 4:00 PM EDT on April 23, 2021. Hard copy responses shall be delivered to the Hamilton County Auditor's office, 33 N. 9th Street #21, Noblesville, IN 46060. The sealed hard copy responses shall be clearly marked, on the outside, "Efficiency Audit." Submit sealed digital format responses to kim.rauch@hamiltoncounty.in.gov. In the email subject line of the email, the digital responses shall state: "Hamilton County Efficiency Audit Response."

Email connor.sullivan@hamiltoncounty.in.gov for the more detailed Request for Qualifications.

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

Wednesday baseball

Tigers nearly make comeback against Eagles

Fishers nearly made a comeback for the ages Wednesday in its Hoosier Crossroads Conference opener with Class 4A No. 3 Zionsville.

The host Tigers were down 7-0 going into the bottom of the seventh inning, and in fact were just three outs from being on the bad end of a no-hitter. But Fishers staged a big rally, and got the winning run on second base before the Eagles got the final two outs and a 7-6 win.

Zionsville had built its 7-0 lead by the top of the fourth inning, while only allowing the Tigers one baserunner: Joe Hietpas drew a one-out walk in the fifth inning.

In the bottom of the seventh, Fishers got back-to-back walks when Tate Warner and Evan Albright both drew base-on-balls. That brought up Grant Moritz, and he broke through to get the Tigers their first hit, and first run, as Warner scored.

After absorbing a strikeout, Fishers knocked in three straight hits, by Jack Brown (scoring Albright), Zach Cox (loading the bases) and Matt Bryant (scoring Moritz). Carson Dunn came up, and he was hit by a pitch to send Brown home.

With the bases still loaded, Joey Brenzewski came up and batted in Cox with a single. Warner came back to the plate, and he was hit by a pitch, scoring Bryant. But after that, Zionsville got the last two outs.

“Our guys will never give up, I can tell you that,” said Tigers coach Matt Cherry. The coach noted other examples of his team not quitting, such as in their opener against Homestead and games at this past weekend’s Noblesville Invitational.

“They are going to keep fighting,” said Cherry. “We just have to grind out ABs. The guys that came off the bench sparked us. They were hungry and they were ready to get their chance and they made the most of their opportunities and they did awesome.”

Fishers is 1-4 overall and travels to Zionsville today to complete the HCC series.



Reporter photo by Richie Hall

Fishers catcher Caulin Brown awaits the call from his coach during the Tigers' game with Zionsville on Wednesday.

ZIONSVILLE 7, FISHERS 6					
Fishers	AB	R	H	RBI	
Joey Brenzewski	4	0	0	1	
Jack Braun	2	0	0	0	
Tate Warner	0	1	0	1	
Dom Oliverio	3	0	0	0	
Evan Albright	0	1	0	0	
JP Preston	1	0	0	0	
Jack Backofen	1	0	0	0	
Grant Moritz	2	1	1	1	
Joe Hietpas	2	0	0	0	
Jack Brown	3	1	1	1	
Caulin Brown	1	0	0	0	
Kaden Gorak	1	0	0	0	
Zach Cox	1	1	1	0	
Matt Bryant	3	1	1	1	
Carson Dunn	2	0	0	1	
Totals	26	6	4	6	

Score by Innings					
Zionsville	312	100	0	7	6
Fishers	000	000	6	6	5
HBP: Dunn, Warner.					
Fishers pitching	IP	R	ER	H	
Joey Wimoth	3	6	5	4	
Kyle Manship	1	1	0	2	
Gavin Kuzniewski	2	0	0	0	
Cody Jones	1	0	0	0	
Strikeouts: Kuzniewski 3, Jones 3, Wilmoth 2, Manship 2. Walks: Wilmoth 5, Kuzniewski 2.					

Noblesville took a tough loss at Avon Wednesday, as the host Orioles scored in the eighth inning to take the Hoosier Crossroads Conference game 1-0. Neither team scored in the regulation

seven innings. The Millers did get five hits, including doubles from Drew Niswonger in the fifth inning and Jacob Weiler in the sixth inning. Avon scored its run with no outs in the eighth inning.

Ethan Leslie pitched a complete game for Noblesville and threw well, striking out 11 and allowing only three hits.

This was the Millers’ first HCC game, and they dropped to 1-4 overall. Noblesville hosts Avon today at Don Dunker Field to complete the conference series.

AVON 1, NOBLESVILLE 0					
(8 innings)					
Noblesville	AB	R	H	RBI	
Dean White	3	0	0	0	
Drew Niswonger	3	0	1	0	
Mason Bohland	3	0	0	0	
Bryce Adams	3	0	0	0	
Kolbi Kazmierski	3	0	2	0	
Jacob Weiler	3	0	1	0	
Josh Kern	3	0	1	0	
Conner Bloss	3	0	0	0	
Caden David	0	0	0	0	
Bryce Riggs	3	0	0	0	
Luke Wilson	3	0	0	0	
Totals	27	0	5	x	
Score by Innings					
Noblesville	000	000	00	0	5
Avon	000	000	01	1	3
2B: Niswonger, Weiler. SB: Kazmierski, White.					
NHS pitching	IP	R	ER	H	
Ethan Leslie	7	1	0	3	
Strikeouts: Leslie 11. Walks: Leslie 2.					

Hamilton Southeastern was also dealt a tough Hoosier Crossroads Conference defeat on Wednesday, as the Royals were beaten at Brownsburg 8-5 on a walkoff grand slam.

Southeastern got off to an early lead, thanks to back-to-back RBI singles from J.T. Mutchner and Landon Riekhof. The Royals added two more runs in the top of the fourth: Hunter Dilts drew a bases-loaded walk, then Payton Hilfiker scored on a wild pitch.

The Bulldogs got their first run in the bottom of the fourth inning. Southeastern’s Peyton Lusby hit a solo home run in the top of the sixth, and HSE led 5-1. But Brownsburg took over after that, scoring

See Tigers . . . Page 7

Golden Eagles softball stays unbeaten

The Guerin Catholic softball team kept its undefeated record intact on Wednesday with a Circle City Conference win over Bishop Chatard, 5-0 at the Trojans’ field.

The Golden Eagles got on the board in the first inning after Izzy Kemp hit a two-run home run into center field, also sending Ana Macha home. Guerin Catholic added two more runs in the third inning: Macha stole home, then Aliyah Dorsey scored on an RBI groundout by Alicia Flores. Dorsey had gotten on base with a double.

Kemp scored GC’s fifth run in the fifth inning with her steal of home plate. She was one of five Golden Eagles players with one hit during the game. Kemp also pitched another great game, going all seven innings, striking out 17 and allowing just one hit and one walk.

Guerin Catholic is 2-0 in conference play and 5-0 overall. The Golden Eagles

are off until April 20 when they play another CCC game at Heritage Christian.

GUERIN CATHOLIC 5, BISHOP CHATARD 0					
Guerin Catholic	AB	R	H	RBI	
Ana Macha	3	2	1	0	
Aliyah Dorsey	4	1	1	0	
Victoria Flores	4	0	1	0	
Izzy Kemp	3	2	1	2	
Alicia Flores	2	0	0	1	
Lucy Schenk	2	0	0	0	
Lilli Everts	0	0	0	0	
Kirsten Mascari	3	0	0	0	
Sarah Dilley	3	0	1	0	
Julia Hartley	2	0	0	0	
Megan Powers	1	0	0	0	
Totals	27	5	5	3	
Score by Innings					
Guerin Catholic	202	010	0	5	5
Bishop Chatard	000	000	0	0	1
HR: Kemp. 2B: Dorsey. SB: Kemp 2, Macha, Dorsey. SAC: A. Flores.					
GC pitching	IP	R	ER	H	
Kemp	7	0	0	1	
Strikeouts: Kemp 17. Walks: Kemp 1.					

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TIGERS

from Page 6

three runs in the bottom of the sixth, then loading the bases in the seventh inning. That brought Steven Walsh to the plate, and his left field grand slam ended the game.

Cole Earlewine had two hits for the Royals, who are 2-2-1 for the season. The Wednesday game was Southeastern's conference opener, and it will host the Bulldogs tonight to complete the series.

BROWNSBURG 8, HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 5				
Southeastern	AB	R	H	RBI
Noah Wolf	3	1	1	0
Peyton Lusby	2	2	1	1
Hunter Dilts	0	0	0	1
Garrett Dettman	0	0	0	0
J. T. Mutchner	4	0	1	1
Landon Riekhof	4	0	1	1
Cole Earlewine	4	0	2	0
Jason Dettman	3	0	0	0
Griffen Haas	1	0	0	0
J. Bush	2	0	0	0
Payton Hilfiker	1	1	0	0
Ty Bradle	0	1	0	0
Totals	24	5	6	4
Score by Innings				
Southeastern	200	201	0-5	6-2
Brownsburg	000	103	4-8	8-1
HR: Lusby. SB: Wolf 2, Bradle, Earlewine.				
HSE pitching				
	IP	R	ER	H
John McCall	3.2	1	1	1
Sam Reagan	1.1	3	3	5
Eli Lantz	1.0	4	3	2
Strikeouts: McCall 3, Reagan 2, Lantz 1.				
Walks: McCall 2, Reagan 2, Lantz 1.				

Guerin Catholic went extra innings in its second Circle City Conference game with Bishop Chatard on Wednesday, and the Golden Eagles also had a tough loss, as the host Trojans walked off with an 11-10 victory in nine innings.

Chatard led 4-0 after two innings, but Guerin tied it up in the top of the third. Braden Reel hit an RBI double to send Daniel Donahue home, then Aidan Morse smacked his own double into center field, scoring Clay Patton and Reel. Morse scored when Adam Novelen hit an RBI



Hamilton Southeastern's John McCall (left) gets ready to deliver a pitch during the Royals' game at Brownsburg on Wednesday. Pictured at right is Peyton Lusby.

single into right field, and the game was knotted at 4-4.

The Trojans moved ahead 5-4 in the bottom of the fourth inning. The Golden Eagles jumped into the lead, 6-5, in the top of the fifth, thanks to a two-run home run from Morse. Guerin Catholic extended its lead to 9-5 in the top of the seventh, with Morse sending Anthony Ferrucci home on a sacrifice fly, then Novelen blasted a two-run homer into right field.

Chatard tied the game at 9-9 in the bottom of the seventh with a two-run home run and a two-run double. That sent the game into extra innings. Donahue scored for GC in the top of the eighth when Donahue got home on Patton's RBI

groundout. But the Trojans tied the game in the bottom of the eighth, and won on a two-out RBI single in the ninth.

Morse went 3-for-5 at the plate, driving in five runs. Reel and Donahue both had two hits and scored two runs, with Morse also scoring twice. Novelen drove in three runs. Donahue and Will Fremion both hit triples and Patton hit a double.

The Golden Eagles are 1-1 in conference play and 1-2 overall. Guerin Catholic will play two games at West Vigo on Saturday, taking on the host Vikings at 10 a.m. and Portage Central at noon.

BISHOP CHATARD 11, GUERIN CATHOLIC 10 (9 innings)				
Guerin Catholic	AB	R	H	RBI
Clay Patton	4	1	1	1
Anthony Ferrucci	4	1	1	0

Braden Reel	5	2	2	1
Aidan Morse	4	2	3	5
Will Fremion	4	1	1	0
Adam Novelen	5	1	2	3
Josh Schaff	3	0	1	0
Ryan Zimmerman	1	0	0	0
Sam Tabor	2	0	0	0
Daniel Donahue	4	2	2	0
Evan Brong	0	0	0	0
Totals	36	10	13	10
Score by Innings				
Guerin Catholic	004	020	310	-10-13-5
Bishop Chatard	220	100	411	-11-15-0
HR: Morse, Novelen. 3B: Donahue, Fremion. 2B: Morse, Patton, Reel. SB: Ferrucci 2. SAC: Tabor, Morse. HBP: Ferrucci.				
GC pitching				
	IP	R	ER	H
Morse	1.1	4	4	3
Ferrucci	3.2	1	0	5
Brong	1.1	2	1	1
Davis Wagner	0.1	2	2	3
Reel	2.0	2	2	3
Strikeouts: Ferrucci 2, Brong 2, Morse 1, Wagner 1, Reel 1. Walks: Morse 5, Reel 2.				

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NBA standings

Wednesday games
Indiana 141, Minnesota 137
Washington 131, Orlando 116
Boston 101, New York 99

Brooklyn 139, New Orleans 111
Houston 102, Dallas 93
Memphis 131, Atlanta 113
Charlotte 113, Oklahoma City 102

Denver 106, San Antonio 96
Phoenix 117, Utah 113, OT

Eastern Conference

Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
Brooklyn	36	16	.692	-
Philadelphia	35	16	.686	0.5
Milwaukee	32	18	.640	3.0
Charlotte	26	24	.520	9.0
Atlanta	27	25	.519	9.0
Miami	26	25	.510	9.5
Boston	26	26	.500	10.0
New York	25	27	.481	11.0
Indiana	23	27	.460	12.0
Chicago	21	28	.429	13.5
Toronto	20	31	.392	15.5
Cleveland	18	32	.360	17.0
Washington	18	32	.360	17.0
Orlando	17	34	.333	18.5
Detroit	15	36	.294	20.5

Western Conference

Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
Utah	38	13	.745	-
Phoenix	36	14	.720	1.5
L.A. Clippers	34	18	.654	4.5
Denver	33	18	.647	5.0
L.A. Lakers	32	19	.627	6.0
Portland	30	20	.600	7.5
Dallas	28	22	.560	9.5
Memphis	26	23	.531	11.0
San Antonio	24	25	.490	13.0
Golden State	24	27	.471	14.0
New Orleans	22	29	.431	16.0
Sacramento	22	29	.431	16.0
Oklahoma City	20	31	.392	18.0
Houston	14	37	.275	24.0
Minnesota	13	39	.250	25.5

Major League
Baseball standings

American League

East	W	L	PCT.	GB
Baltimore	4	2	.667	-
Boston	3	3	.500	1.0
N.Y. Yankees	3	3	.500	1.0
Toronto	3	3	.500	1.0
Tampa Bay	2	4	.333	2.0
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Minnesota	4	2	.667	-
Kansas City	3	2	.600	0.5
Detroit	3	3	.500	1.0
Chi. White Sox	3	4	.429	1.5
Cleveland	2	3	.400	1.5
West	W	L	PCT.	GB
Houston	5	1	.833	-
L.A. Angels	4	2	.667	1.0
Seattle	3	3	.500	2.0
Texas	3	3	.500	2.0
Oakland	1	6	.143	4.5

National League

East	W	L	PCT.	GB
Philadelphia	5	1	.833	-
N.Y. Mets	1	2	.333	2.5
Washington	1	2	.333	2.5
Atlanta	2	4	.333	3.0
Miami	1	5	.167	4.0
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Cincinnati	5	1	.833	-
St. Louis	4	2	.667	1.0
Chi. Cubs	3	3	.500	2.0
Milwaukee	3	3	.500	2.0
Pittsburgh	1	5	.167	4.0
West	W	L	PCT.	GB
L.A. Dodgers	5	2	.714	-
San Diego	4	3	.571	1.0
San Francisco	3	3	.500	1.5
Arizona	2	4	.333	2.5
Colorado	2	4	.333	2.5

By WHEAT HOTCHKISS
Courtesy nba.com/pacers

The Pacers were down three starters on Wednesday night, but they still had plenty of offensive firepower.

Indiana (23-27) exploded for a season-high 77 points in the first half and took a 21-point lead into halftime on its way to 141-137 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves (13-39) at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

The Timberwolves made things interesting down the stretch, twice cutting the deficit to three in the final minutes. But Justin Holiday made four 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and T.J. McConnell's shot-clock beating three in the final seconds helped Indiana outduel Minnesota in an entertaining shootout.

Seven Pacers scored in double figures in the win, with Aaron Holiday scoring a season-high 22 points in 22 minutes off the bench, going a perfect 4-for-4 from 3-point range. Big brother Justin Holiday tallied 21 while going 5-for-8 from 3-point range, while McConnell added 19 points on 9-of-12 shooting and 15 assists.

The Pacers were without leading scorers Malcolm Brogdon (sore right hip) and Domantas Sabonis (sprained left ankle) for the fourth and third straight games, respectively. Myles Turner, the NBA's leading shotblocker, joined them on the sidelines after spraining his left ankle in Tuesday's loss to Chicago.

"We're dropping like flies a little bit now and it's just kind of that next-man-up mentality," McConnell said after the win. "Credit to everyone that came in and played tonight. They came in ready and played well. We moved the ball and made

shots."

Neither team led by more than four points in a back-and-forth first quarter that featured five ties and five lead changes. Caris LeVert helped Indiana's offense get rolling early, scoring eight points in his first shift on 4-of-6 shooting.

The Timberwolves led 31-28 with just over a minute remaining in the opening frame, but the Pacers' second unit closed the quarter with six straight points to take a 35-31 advantage into the second quarter.

Reserve guard Aaron Holiday caught fire in the second quarter, scoring 14 of Indiana's first 18 points in the frame. The 6-foot guard knocked down a 3-pointer at the 11:06 mark, hit a jumper on the Pacers' next possession, added two free throws at 8:51, converted a layup at 8:22, drilled another three at 7:44, and then hit two more free throws at 7:13 to cap an impressive four-minute stretch.

As the Timberwolves defense started to key on Holiday, second-year center Goga Bitadze was the primary beneficiary. The 6-11 big man out of the Republic of Georgia converted a dunk, layup, and 3-pointer on consecutive possessions to help Indiana extend its lead to 64-47.

"That group did a good job of creating some separation in that game just by their activity and the number of stops that they had and it turned into easy baskets for us," Pacers head coach Nate Bjorkgren said.

A subsequent 9-2 run pushed the margin as high as 22 points. LeVert's layup just before the halftime buzzer capped a 42-point second quarter, the highest-scoring quarter for the Blue & Gold all season, as the Pacers took a 77-56 lead into halftime.

The visitors mounted a charge after the intermission, opening the third quarter with a 16-8 run. Minnesota center Karl-Anthony Towns scored 13 points in the first seven-plus minutes of the second half, but heading to the bench after picking up his fourth foul with four minutes remaining in the third quarter.

Naz Reid scored Minnesota's final nine points in the third quarter, with his final free throw making it a 105-94 game with 1:12 left. But a McConnell turnaround jumper on the baseline and a Kelan Martin layup gave the Pacers a little breathing room heading into the fourth quarter.

Aaron Holiday's deep 3-pointer at the start of the fourth pushed Indiana's lead to 112-94, but Anthony Edwards dominated the ensuing stretch. The top overall pick in the 2021 NBA Draft scored 11 straight points on a 3-pointer and four layups to get the Timberwolves within seven.

This time it was the other Holiday brother who responded. Justin Holiday knocked down back-to-back threes to push Indiana's lead back to double digits.

But the Timberwolves answered with another run, with Edwards' 3-pointer capping a 15-7 run and making it a five-point game with 4:26 remaining. Justin Holiday hit another trey with 4:09 remaining to push the lead back to 128-120, only for the Timberwolves to reel off five straight on a Towns bucket and D'Angelo Russell 3-pointer.

On the other end, Justin Holiday missed a three, but McConnell secured the offensive rebound and kicked back out to him and the elder Holiday buried his second attempt.

Minnesota got back within three with

50.6 seconds remaining following a three-point play by Russell. On the other end, the Timberwolves trapped LeVert at the top of the key late in the shot clock. He passed left to Justin Holiday, who quickly swung the ball to a wide-open McConnell in the corner.

McConnell just got the shot off before the shot clock buzzer sounded. It was an unexpected bonus from an unlikely source — just the eighth made 3-pointer by McConnell in 47 games this season.

"I was thinking I'm about to launch (and) let this thing go," Holiday said. "... But when I saw him in the corner, I was like, 'I've got to make the good basketball play here and I think T.J.'s going to make it.' Before it went in, I was yelling, 'This is a bucket!' And it was a bucket."

"I was wide open in the corner and Justin made the right pass," McConnell added. "Credit to him. I've got to shoot a little bit more of those to keep the defense honest."

LeVert finished with 18 points, five rebounds, and four assists for Indiana in the victory. JaKarr Sampson added 16 points and five rebounds off the bench, while Doug McDermott scored 12 points.

Bitadze set a new career high with 14 points on 6-of-11 shooting (2-of-4 from 3-point range) while also tallying three rebounds, five assists, and a block.

Towns led Minnesota with 32 points on 12-of-17 shooting, 12 rebounds, and six assists. Edwards added 27 points, while Russell and Rick Rubio each had 17.

The Pacers will hit the road for a pair of games over the weekend, visiting Orlando on Friday and Memphis on Sunday.







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