

# Samantha DeLong resigning from Fishers City Council

## News in Brief County Quick Hits

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

Samantha DeLong is one of only two Democrats serving on the Fishers City Council, but her husband's new job will take her family out of state, meaning DeLong will resign her council seat effective April 30.

As a result, new Hamilton County Democratic Chair Dayna Colbert will convene a caucus of party precinct officials to elect DeLong's successor on the city council. Colbert tells *LarryInFishers* there are already people interested in running for DeLong's council seat. Potential candidates have until 3 p.m. on April 22 to file their paperwork.

"Councilor DeLong is someone who wanted to get involved in politics to make her community even better," Colbert said. "During her campaign, she put in the hard work of talking to her constituents, and has served admirably on the city council. We wish her the best, and look forward to welcoming our next City Councilor."



DeLong

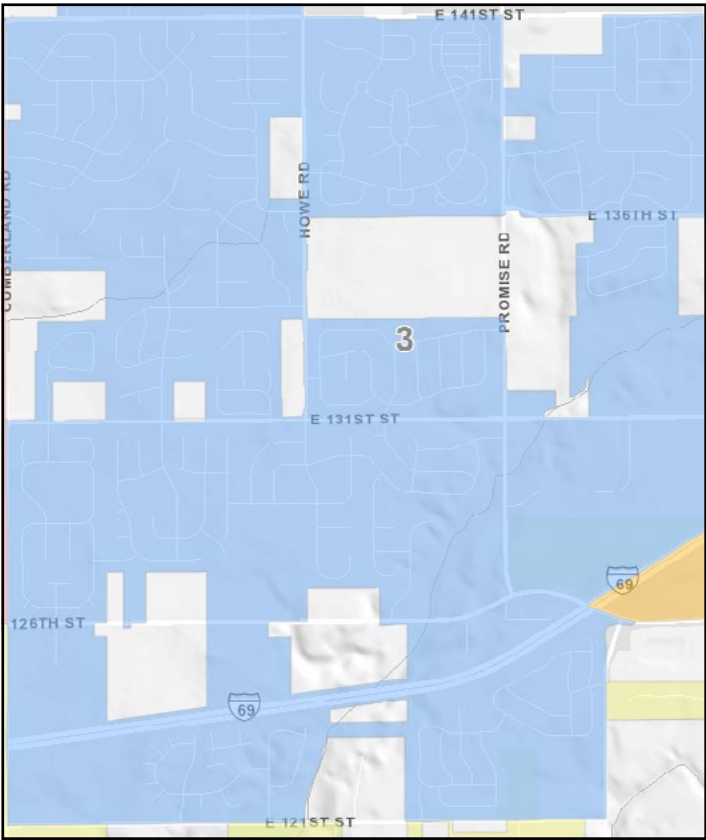
DeLong says she is not looking forward to leaving the council.

"It's been a great pleasure working with the council and for the North Central District," DeLong told *LarryInFishers*. "I am very sad to be leaving."

Being a council member was complicated during her tenure with the COVID pandemic, not allowing her the opportunity to interact personally with constituents. One thing she would like to see in the future is diversity among the city council members.

"I think we need more diversity on the council," DeLong said. "I hope whoever fills my seat can bring that."

"I look forward to collaborating with the new Democratic member of the Fishers City Council to make government more transparent and accessible for residents, create policies that improve diversity, equity and inclusion, and represent Fishers citizen's interests above all," said Jocelyn Vare, the other Democrat on the city council. "I join my colleagues in our



Map provided by City of Fishers

This map highlights Fishers' North Central District.

shared appreciation of Councilor DeLong's service to the City of Fishers and her constituents of the North Central district."

The date and time of the party caucus to elect the new North Central District council member will be announced soon, according to Colbert. With COVID to consider, local Democrats are looking at all options on how to conduct the caucus meeting, including having it outdoors.

Final figures on the official 2020 U.S. Census have not been released yet, but are expected in the next couple of months, a year and a half after the nationwide count began. Hamilton County has an estimated population of 338,011, up from the 2010 total of 274,560. With the increase, the county should be entitled to 10 state representatives and five state senators.

\*\*\*

Indiana Department of Environmental Management's periodic soil borings continue to downtown Noblesville. The latest was last week in the 800 block of Logan Street. The testing has been ongoing in an attempt to learn whether there is groundwater contamination which had been suspected two years ago. A report should be made public soon.

\*\*\*

An official state historical marker will be erected April 20 in Noblesville memorializing Norman Norell, a nationally known fashion designer. Norell was born Norman Levinson in 1900 in a house along South 8th Street near the site where the marker will be located, according to County Historian David Heighway. Operating professionally as Norell, Levinson was a leading designer in New York for half a century.

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U.S. Senator Todd Young will address the Indiana High School Republicans at the organization's Presidents' Day Dinner on May 21 in Carmel. The Carmel High School Republicans club will host at the 502 East Event Center with activities beginning at 5:30 p.m.

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Applications are still being accepted by the Hamilton County Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The program offers help with rent and utility costs for residents unable to pay bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program runs through Dec. 31. Information on requirements is available by calling (317) 618-3125.

# NHS students headed to "Jazz Superbowl"

The REPORTER

Noblesville Schools announced Monday that it has been named a 2021 Best Community for Music Education winner by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. This is the sixth consecutive year Noblesville has earned the honor.

Highlighting the district's strength in music, the Noblesville High School Jazz 1 class was recently accepted into the highly selective "Essentially Ellington" jazz competition, also known as the "Jazz Superbowl."

NHS earned a spot given to only 15 schools across the United States and Canada. This June, students will perform in

the virtual competition, based in New York City and hosted by jazz legend Wynton Marsalis.

The national music education recognition highlights school districts for their outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders in embracing music education as a part of the core school curriculum.

Noblesville Schools is one of an exclusive group of districts to have received the honor for six consecutive years.

Districts were selected based on music funding, staffing of highly qualified music teachers, commitment to standards, and access to music instruction.



Photo provided by Noblesville Schools

Noblesville High Schools jazz 1 class students are part of an elite group participating in this year's virtual "Jazz Superbowl" competition hosted by Wynton Marsalis.

## Monon Greenway tunnel in Carmel to close soon for mural installation

The REPORTER

On or after April 19, the Monon Greenway tunnel under City Center Drive/126th Street will be closed. During this time, Monon Greenway traffic will be detoured west to 3rd Avenue Southwest.

The closure is estimated to last five to six weeks, with the Monon Greenway reopening in time for the International Making Cities Livable Conference starting on June 8. This closure will allow CCPR to perform maintenance on the tunnel including power washing, crack repair, hole patching, and painting with anti-graffiti primer.

Following the completion of regular maintenance, students from Carmel High School will paint a mural with a whimsical music theme, playing off the world-class music performed at the Center for the Performing Arts.

## This month's Council Minutes with Ken Alexander



As I write about this month's County Council meeting, I am reminded of my day last Wednesday, which started early in the morning with business meetings in downtown Indianapolis and was non-stop through the Council meeting that night.

Like many of you, my family was on Spring Break last week, but I cut our trip short to get back for Council. My friends often question

why I would get involved in politics and I respond the same way: I ran for County Council because I was tired of the decades of the same elected officials, the constant bickering that seems to dominate all politics and to show that you can have an active career and give back to your community. While it can be demanding, it is also very rewarding.

Our meeting agenda this month was light. One ongoing problem

is the lack of people interested in serving on our appointed committee positions. We still are seeking a Sheridan resident to participate in the Sheridan Economic Development Commission. Additionally, we had two appointees that have not turned in the required appointee information. The appointee for the Hamilton County Soil and Water

See Alexander . . . Page 2

# Noblesville firefighters respond to two resident fires



Photos provided by Noblesville Fire Department

On Saturday, the Noblesville Fire Department (NFD) responded to two residence fires. At 10:24 a.m., crews were dispatched to 9561 Belmar Court. The first crews to arrive were met with heavy smoke outside the building. Firefighters were able to quickly enter the home and extinguish the fire. There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters. The second fire was dispatched at 6:37 p.m. Crews responded to 9973 Waterside Drive and were met with smoke and flames in the residence. Using what firefighters called an aggressive interior attack, crews were able to quickly bring this fire under control and limit the fire damage to the kitchen area. Two civilians were transported to Riverview Hospital for possible smoke inhalation. NFD reminds residents to check your smoke detector batteries.



*from Page 1*



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the Emergency Rental Assistance Program that she was leading on behalf of the county. This \$10 million grant, previously discussed in February, is a tremendous opportunity to provide needed support for many families devastated by the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, Trustee Tolan and her team have received 615 requests for rental and/or utility bill assistance.

While some argued against townships administering this county-wide program, the townships are designed and empowered by state statute to provide emergency assistance for their residents. They are very familiar with the needs. My belief is that government should work together and not duplicate the services and responsibilities of other units of government. The program is off to a good start and I am proud of our county government in supporting this partnership.

The Council ended relatively early, but my day wasn't over. I received a few calls and texts after the meeting that I needed to handle. We are all aware that politics has become toxic – not because of the things we do or do not do but because of the way we communicate and handle ourselves.

Growing up I can remember participating in debates in nearly every class and I'm not sure they do that anymore. You learned to listen and respect other points of view. The civility in debate was not a goal – it was a requirement. You can disagree without being disagreeable. We no longer respect the idea of a different opinion. That has spilled over into our day-to-day lives and is on display every night on cable news.

The Hamilton County Council changed from a 'status quo Council' to one that is actively seeking partnerships, challenging

the way we look at things and being transparent with the debate over the issues. In the first few years of my Council role, the Council made quick action of agenda items in what felt like a race to get the meeting over with quickly. What can a new Councilor offer?

The calls I received after this month's Council were about how refreshing it is to see our Council not have the negativity and bickering that plagues other levels of government. Others mentioned that we seem to have a well-balanced Council with subject matter experts that can offer opinion to help inform the other Councilors. In general, people seem to be happy with the civility that now occupies our Council chambers. Maybe it is examples like this that will get people to want to engage.

Many things are happening in and around you and while your voice may seem to be inconsequential, it is still right to stand up and state your opinion. I have done it on Council and tried to be respectful of others. We have some exciting things that are rolling out on the Council agenda over the next few years. I am excited that these visions are shared by others and we will see them start to become a reality.

When I accomplish my goals as a Councilor and it is time to step aside, I will support another person to bring their fresh ideas to the Council. If I cannot get what I want accomplished within that time frame, what makes me think I can get it done in another 4, 8 or 12 years?

Stay tuned and forward  
your questions to me at  
[ken.alexander@hamilton-  
county.in.gov](mailto:ken.alexander@hamilton-county.in.gov).

Ken Alexander is serving in his first term on the Hamilton County Council, representing District 4, which includes Adams and Washington townships, and part of Clay Township.



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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.*

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## A white Volkswagen ID.4 electric SUV is shown from a front three-quarter view. The car features a modern, aerodynamic design with a large black grille, LED headlights, and a black roof rack. The wheels are black with a multi-spoke design. The car is parked on a light-colored surface.

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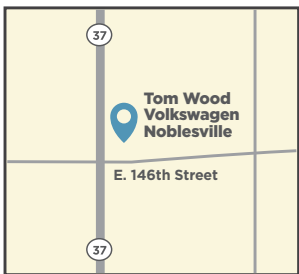


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Blue Moon  
Belgian  
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12oz btl

12.99



Sun King  
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Cream Ale  
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14.99



Toppling  
Goliath  
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4-16oz cans

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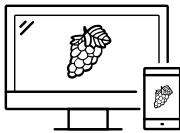
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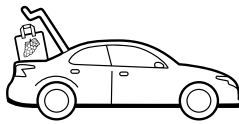
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# Rep. Spartz visits with constituents in Arcadia



Photo provided

**Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.-05) held listening sessions with residents in Arcadia, Elwood and Gas City on Saturday. Those in attendance heard Rep. Spartz speak on a number of different issues, asked questions and had one-on-one conversations with the Congresswoman. Topics ranged from national policies being debated in Washington, D.C., to initiatives the Congresswoman is spearheading to help Hoosier families, farmers and business owners. “My number one priority is serving the residents of the fifth district,” Spartz said. “I will continue to host these listening sessions, so I can directly connect with my constituents and hear about the issues that matter most to them.”**



**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

*Lane closures at intersection of 116<sup>th</sup> Street and Range Line Road*

An unexpected utility complication has resulted in closures of lanes in the intersection of 116th Street and Range Line Road in Carmel. This work began on Tuesday and will last through the end of the week, weather dependent.

This work is expected to be localized to the north-east corner of the intersection, impacting northbound and westbound traffic. The intersection is expected to remain open with restrictions and flaggers present.

# HSE school board will announce new superintendent at special meeting

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

The Hamilton South-eastern (HSE) School Board will introduce the new superintendent at a special meeting set for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 22.

Board members are also set to vote final approval for the new superintendent's contract. A public hearing on that contract is scheduled this evening's regular board meeting.

Current Superintendent Allen Bourff has announced his intention to retire at the end of June this year. The board has been using an outside firm and appears to have selected the new person to run HSE Schools, the fourth-largest in the state based on student enrollment.

# State Police thanks all 911 dispatchers

**The REPORTER**

This week is Public Safety Telecommunications Weeks, and on behalf of all troopers at the Indiana State Police Indianapolis District, Lieutenant Jeffrey Payne would like to publicly and sincerely thank the incredible men and women who selflessly serve as dispatchers at the State Police Indianapolis Regional Dispatch Center.

The dispatch center at the Indianapolis Post handles emergency calls in Central Indiana from the Ohio line to the Illinois line, including three ISP Districts covering 22 counties. They also dispatch for Indiana State Capitol Police in Indianapolis.

911 calls from across the state come into the dispatch center and these men and women rapidly respond by dispatching appropriate emergency personnel. They are the calming voice for those who call 911 as well as the calming voice for first responders requesting assistance via radio. A dispatcher's ability to multitask is nothing short of amazing and their compassion for their duty is commendable.

The Indiana State Police Regional Dispatch Center consists of 16 dispatchers who cover the center 24/7. They work tirelessly throughout all hours of the day and night to ensure emergency help is available when needed.

"Our dispatchers are undoubtedly the heart of our operations, they are incredible people and very much appreciated by all of us," Indianapolis District Commander Lieutenant Jeffrey Payne said.

## Meeting Notices

The Noblesville Redevelopment Commission will meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2021, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville. In-person attendance will be limited due to social distancing requirement.

Those wishing to attend virtually may call (872) 240-4868 and enter conference ID 547 776 033# when prompted.

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet for an executive session at 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2021, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St., Carmel.

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021, at the HCPR Administration Building, 15513 S. Union St., Carmel.

An executive session will precede at 6 p.m. to discuss land acquisition and litigation.

The Jackson Township Fire Department Merit Commission will hold a regular public meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at the Trustee's Office, 506 W. Main St., Arcadia.

The Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals – South District will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, in the Commissioners' Courtroom/County Council Chambers on the first floor of the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals – North District will meet at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, in the Commissioners' Courtroom/County Council Chambers on the first floor of the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Jackson Township Advisory Board will hold a regular public meeting at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2021, at the Trustee's Office, 506 W. Main St., Arcadia.

## Thanks for reading The REPORTER

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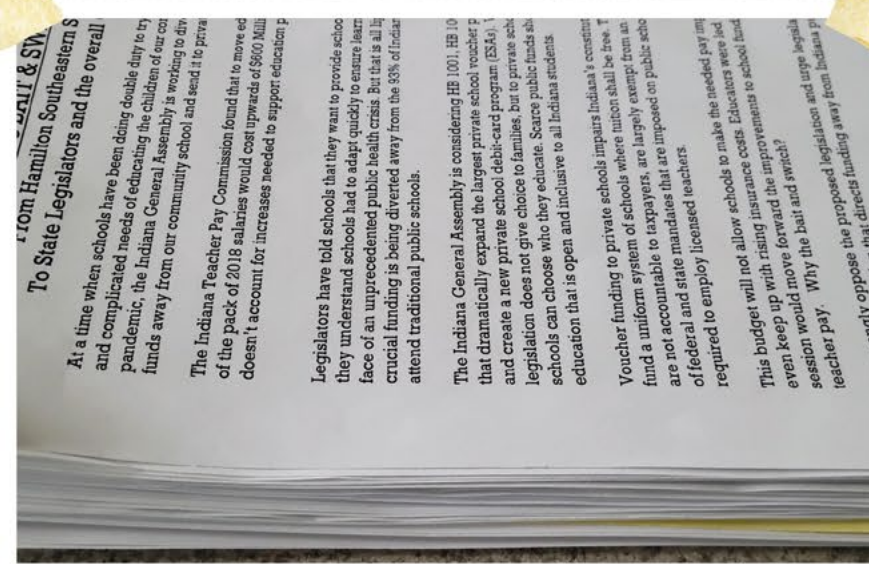
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# Speaking Out Against Voucher Expansion

## County-Wide Petitions Signed



## School Walk-Ins



**Hamilton County School Boards and teachers held walk-ins and spoke out against voucher expansion, saying: "Vouchers and education savings accounts lack transparency, achievement standards, financial accountability and most importantly -academic results."**

# Red for Ed

Actions within the Red for Ed movement are to advocate for our public schools in order to equally and equitably serve all students.

**For more information, visit: [InvestInEducationIN.org](http://InvestInEducationIN.org)**





# Meet Actors Theatre of Indiana’s Board of Directors

Submitted

Members of Actors Theatre of Indiana’s Board of Directors represent diverse backgrounds and careers. They also reside in various towns and cities in Central Indiana. It is this broad spectrum that encourages different approaches and outlooks, therefore allowing ATI to be more “out of the box” in its thinking. This has led to ATI becoming one of the most successful theatre companies in the area. ATI has also found ways to remain active and solvent during the past year’s pandemic.

The board brings not only their backgrounds, but also their love of theatre and community to their positions.

Kelli Prader serves as the secretary on the board. “It all started by attending an Actors Theatre of Indiana show and I was hooked! We are so privileged to live in a city with such an emphasis on art. I’m proud to contribute in some small way as a board member with the ATI family.”

“Connection with the arts elevates our lives, and ATI provides that connection to its diverse community of theatergoers,” said Christine Reppert, another board member.

As an avid theater enthusiast, retired schoolteacher Lezlie Heath loves serving on the ATI Board. “It is such a privilege to work with Don, Cindy and Judy. Great actors, great people, great fun! And it all truly happens in my own backyard!”

Actors Theatre of Indiana continues to thrive in Carmel, where it is based, and this is in large part to the continued efforts and support of the Board of Directors.

ATI Board of Directors

**Dan McFeely, President:** McFeely was an award-winning Central Indiana journalist for 25 years, the last 17 as a reporter, editor and columnist at the Indianapolis Star. He left journalism in 2013 to start his own communications firm in Carmel. Highly focused on writing, media relations and crisis communications, Dan’s primary client is the City of Carmel, where he works with the Mayor and the Community Relations and Economic Development office. McFeely also maintains several other clients.

**Melissa Volz-Smith, Vice President:** Volz-Smith recently transitioned her career in banking management to regional mortgage loan officer for the Citizen’s State Bank in Carmel. Her desire to serve the Actors Theatre of Indiana’s founders, staff, board and patrons comes from her deep appreciation for the arts in the Carmel Community. She has previously served the Carmel Community as a past board member and president of the Carmel Education



McFeely



Volz-Smith



Prader



Singh



Fitzgerald



Frost



Guider

Foundation. Her favorite activity is spending time with her family and playing with any one of her 10 grandchildren.

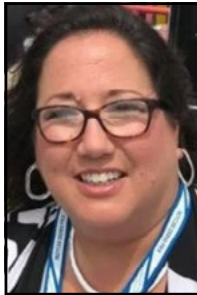
**Kelli Prader, Secretary:** Mix a background in sports, radio and television, along with writing, non-profit work and event planning, and you’ve got City of Carmel Project Manager Kelli Prader. A bachelor’s from Arizona State University in Broadcast Journalism and a Masters from Temple University in Sports Management. Kelli is an Olympia, Wash., native and has called Indiana her home for almost 20 years. She resides in Carmel with her husband, Chris, and her two children.

**Muniver Singh, Treasurer:** Living in Noblesville since 1993, Singh grew up in India while her husband, Indi Singh, attended Noblesville High School, Indiana University and IU Medical School. As a young girl, seven-year-old Muniver played a cat in her grade school production. Loving theater, she continued to perform in every school production through high school. Indi and Muniver have two sons, age 26 and 17. Muniver owns a small business in Noblesville and is committed to making this community a better place to live.

**Dr. Joseph Fitzgerald:** Dr. Fitzgerald is the Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics for the Indiana University School of Medicine. He was born and raised in Chicago but has been a Hoosier since 1958. He attended IUSOM and did all of his postgraduate training there, as well. Dr. Fitzgerald founded the Division of Gastroenterology/Hepatology/Nutrition at Riley Children’s Hospital/Indiana University Health in 1969 and served as the Director of the Division until 2005. He is the recipient of numerous national awards. With his precious bride of 63 years, they have been faithful subscribers to varied live stage and musical performances for over a half century. Dr. Fitzgerald is the father of Judy Fitzgerald, one of ATI’s founders, and has served on the ATI Board since the inception of the Theatre. He is a proud supporter and benefactor.



Heath



Mosley



Parr



Reppert



Terry



Zaniker

**Brian Frost:** Frost grew up in Plattsburgh, N.Y., and graduated from Union College in Schenectady. After receiving his MBA from Indiana University in Bloomington, he embarked on a career in financial services, retiring in 2017 after spending 25 years with the Fifth Third Securities division of Fifth Third Bank in Fishers. He currently works as a Realtor with his wife of nearly 30 years, Julianne Deely, at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices in Fishers. Brian and Julianne have one daughter, Colleen, who lives and works in Manhattan. Brian and Julianne are long-time supporters of the arts in general and Actors Theatre of Indiana in particular.

**Kathy Guider:** Guider retired from the FBI as a Special Agent in 2018. She and her business partner opened Veracity IIR, a private investigation and security consulting firm in Carmel. She is the Vice President of Operations. Guider enjoys being a part of a group (ATI) that is entertaining the community. It is a great way to contribute to the arts without being an artist herself.

**Lezlie Morgan Heath:** Heath is a retired elementary teacher and reading/literacy coach. She is also an educational arts advocate. Heath holds both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in elementary education. She has taught in both public and private school systems over the past forty plus years. Presently she teaches preschool for Heart Change Ministry. Heath is passionate about incorporating the arts into every area of one’s life. She believes Kurt Vonnegut said it well: “Practicing an art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow.”

**Leah Miller Mosley:** Mosley studied music in college and toured professionally as a vocalist. She has served on worship teams at her church and presently sings with the Northview Church Worship Team. She has served on mis-

sion teams in Mexico, Bahamas, Nicaragua and Haiti. Leah volunteered for more than 10 years with the Indianapolis School of Ballet. While there, she created and developed their Nutcracker Gift Shop.

**Riley Parr:** A Central Indiana native, Parr graduated from I.U. Bloomington in 2015 and spent a year as a Governor’s Fellow before enrolling in the I.U. McKinney evening program. During his time as a student, Riley worked for the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, clerked for two solo practitioners, externed for Boone Superior Court Judge Matt Kincaid and worked for the law school in a variety of capacities. Riley also served in several leadership positions within the school and received multiple honors, including the Faculty Prize, awarded to the most outstanding graduating student. Admitted to practice law in 2020, Riley and his dad work together to solve the legal problems of every day Hoosiers. They have offices in Boone County and Indianapolis. When not working, Riley enjoys camping, boating and generally spending time with family and friends.

**Christine Reppert:** Retired from Bridgestone Americas, Inc. Firestone Building Products, LLC. and Firestone Industrial Products, LLC, Reppert serves on the Actors Theatre of Indiana board in recognition of what ATI offers – outstanding artistic entertainment in an intimate setting that allows and encourages audiences to immerse themselves in the professional, skillful productions.

**John Terry:** Terry was admitted to the bar in 1998 and is a second-generation lawyer. He is a lifelong resident of Carmel and is proud to say that he went to all three Carmel schools – Carmel Elementary, Carmel Middle School, and Carmel High School. His father worked for one of the biggest law firms in Indiana, but

counseled him to strike a balance between work and life, which helped drive his decision to open his own law firm. With Terry & Gookins, LLC., he is bringing his 20 years of legal experience to his home community to fulfil his father’s advice.

**Jill Zaniker:** Jill has been on the ATI Board since 2012, having served in many capacities, including President, Vice-President and Secretary, as well as the governance and event committees. Jill loves ATI and is thrilled that we have such talent here in Carmel. She is on a mission to help everyone discover theatre in Indiana. Jill is a small business owner in Carmel and is retired from owning the Simply Sweet Shoppe. She is currently serving as VP of development on a new start up non-profit, The Chris Center, Inc. A Place for Paws. This is a care farm for teens promoting mental wellness through nurturing animals. Jill’s advice: Enjoy the journey more. Support live theatre.

About Actors Theatre of Indiana

Actors Theatre of Indiana was co-founded in 2005 by Cynthia Collins, Don Farrell, and Judy Fitzgerald with a mission to celebrate the power of theater and contribute to the quality of life in Central Indiana by offering high quality professional theater performances and programs that engage, inspire, educate, and entertain. An award-winning Equity Professional Theater company, Actors Theatre of Indiana is the resident professional theater company of The Studio Theater at The Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, now in its 16th season of high-powered musical theater productions, world premieres, and innovative community works.

Visit ATI on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). For more information on schedules, educational initiatives and ways you can order tickets, visit [atistage.org](#).

## Public schools need your support

By ROBERT M. STWALLEY  
Guest Columnist

There is a bit of an unexpected tussle going on right now in the statehouse. You see, the Republican supermajority did not expect to have any problem pulling more money away from public education and giving it to private education entities. It turns out that people are pushing back, and the more they learn about the ongoing scheme to give public money to private schools, the less they like it.

One of the chief documents being used to bolster this dubious effort is a five-year-old literature review from EdChoice titled A

Win-Win Solution. This report claims to be the “gold standard,” and yet less than half of the references in the report were peer-reviewed, and a significant number were published by the very same organization. The idea behind a review of published works is to look at a multitude of diverse sources, not to selectively pick your own. At minimum, the legislature should look at more recent studies.

A 2018 peer-reviewed analysis of Indiana’s voucher program, based on publicly reported data from the Indiana Department of Education, demonstrated with statistical significance that voucher students do poorer on stan-

dardized math testing than public school students and that this deficiency is persistent. Although English scores are nominally the same, high-wage, high-demand, STEM-oriented jobs require math skills.

The public school system exists because it is in the best interest of the country to educate the entirety of the population. No one forces you to send your children to public school. You can have your children attend whatever kind of school you wish. However, the public shouldn’t have to pay for it. Public funds should only go toward funding the public school system.

Proponents of school

choice would have you believe that our state is clamoring for the privatization of education, but this simply isn’t so. The general population overwhelmingly chooses public schools. Proponents of school choice would have you believe that diverting public school funding for vouchers somehow provides more money for children in public schools (no kidding – they’ve said this). They would have you believe, in spite of the cited peer-reviewed evidence, that children somehow receive a superior education outside the public school system. They think the public won’t spot the potential for racial and social discrimination, the lack of accountability for the funds spent, or the documented cases of fraud within the education scholarship account (ESA) systems in other states.

Please join the legion of parents, teachers, and school board members in making your voice heard at the statehouse. Let your state senators and representatives know that you oppose efforts to divert public school funds to expand the voucher/ESA program and weaken Indiana’s public school system. Our more than 1 million children in public schools don’t deserve this.

Robert M. Stwalley is president of the Indiana School Boards Association.

**ACCURATE  
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LOCAL NEWS**

## Top Indiana Senate Democrat says Republicans aren’t being transparent with Hoosiers

The REPORTER

Senate Democratic Leader Greg Taylor (D-Indianapolis) on Monday released the following statement after attempting to amend the state budget, House Bill 1001, to include language requiring transparency in the upcoming congressional map process.

“All my amendment would have done is set up a process that requires us to be transparent with Hoosiers when drawing congressional maps,” Sen. Taylor said. “It didn’t put any additional requirement in place for the map drawing process or add a fiscal. It simply mandated that a plan be put forth so that Hoosiers are made aware, and are able to be involved when we are designing our district maps. My amendment only asked that the General Assembly communicate with residents about a process that they should already be included in.”

“The drawing of our next congressional district maps doesn’t just affect us in the General Assembly; this affects the generation that comes after us. And all I’m asking is for transparency and disclosure of information. Why is it too much

to ask that elected leaders be transparent and inclusive to constituents about something as important as redistricting? Why do

Senate Republicans feel like Hoosiers don’t deserve a seat at the table? I honestly can’t fathom the answer, and it’s shameful that Republicans in the Senate refused to even allow Hoo-

siers to be informed about when and where legislators are meeting to draw maps.

“It’s been 10 years since we last drew maps, and since then we’ve had discussions and heard countless promises from those on the other side of the aisle on making necessary changes to our redistricting process. Now they don’t want to do anything. What are we supposed to expect from them during this process when they won’t even agree to simply be transparent with Hoosiers?”

*Senate Minority Leader Greg Taylor represents Senate District 33 which includes portions of Wayne, Pike, and Washington and Center townships in Marion County. For more information on Sen. Taylor’s legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit [IN.gov/s33](#).*



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**Kay E. Essex**  
October 21, 1939 – April 12, 2021

Kay E. Essex, 81, Westfield, passed away on Monday, April 12, 2021 at Copper Trace in Westfield. He was born on October 21, 1939 to John and Wanda (Newby) Essex in Indianapolis.



Kay managed Thrif-T Building Supplies in Westfield and retired from Kever's Hardware. He also worked at Camp Nothingmuchere. He was a member of Hortonville United Methodist Church and the Central Indiana Antique Tractor & Engine Association. Kay enjoyed woodcrafting and camping.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marlene (Mundy) Essex; children, Dixie Essex, Bryan (Randie) Essex, and Doug (Jenny) Essex; sister, Charlene Cannaday; brothers, Kurt C. (Janis) Essex and Kent T. Essex; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Dale Cannaday.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 16, 2021 at the funeral home, with Pastor Don Jennings II and Pastor Pete O'Hara officiating. Burial will follow at Eagle Creek Cemetery in Westfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Kidney Fund, 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852.

Condolences: [randallroberts.com](http://randallroberts.com)

**Gregory "Gregg" Payne**  
January 19, 1961 – March 28, 2021

Gregory "Gregg" Payne, 60, Indianapolis, formerly of Carmel, passed away on March 28, 2021. He was born on January 19, 1961 in Indianapolis, son of Donald A. and Mary Lynne Myers Payne.



Gregg grew up in the Carmel and graduated from Carmel High School in 1980. He worked in the Advertising Specialty Business for more than 35 years.

Gregg enjoyed all sports. He started playing football and baseball in elementary school with the Carmel Pups football and Carmel Dad's Club baseball programs. Gregg enjoyed fishing, boating, snowmobiling, snow-skiing, four-wheeling, and he particularly liked fast cars.

Gregg was gifted with a personality of which he never met a stranger and always looked forward to hosting and entertaining family and friends for any occasion. He was the spark and life of the party.

In addition to his parents, Gregg was preceded in death by sister, Cynthia Payne Salings, and stepmother, Vicki Payne.

Survivors include brothers, Joseph (Laura) Payne and Randal (Debbie Green) Payne.

A Graveside Service at Carmel Cemetery will take place on Thursday, April 22, 2021. Friends are welcome.

A Celebration of Life Event for Gregg and his father, Don Payne, will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. Contact Randy or Joe Payne for details.

Friends are invited and welcome to make contributions in memory of Gregg to the Liver Foundation at [liverfoundation.org](http://liverfoundation.org).

Arrangements entrusted to Bussell Family Funerals Carmel-Westfield.

Condolences: [bussellfamilyfunerals.com](http://bussellfamilyfunerals.com)

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

*None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.*

1 Corinthians 2:8-13 (NIV)

**Shelia Kay Mayo**

March 19, 1951 – April 4, 2021

Sheila Kay Mayo, 70, Noblesville, passed away on April 4, 2021. She was born on March 19, 1951 in Iowa City, Iowa, to John E. and Rosemarie P. (Jeys) Mayo.



Survivors include her daughters, Cresta Vossoughi and Nafiseh Vossoughi-Parks; sons-in-law, Jeff Horton and Yosef Parks; grandchildren, Marissa Vossoughi-Parks, Adarah Vossoughi-Horton, Amari Vossoughi-Parks, and Tirajeh Vossoughi-Horton; and brother, Scott Mayo.

Sheila is loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

There are no services scheduled.

Condolences: [bussellfamilyfunerals.com](http://bussellfamilyfunerals.com)



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Hamilton County

Sports

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

Softball

Millers win all-county game over Tigers

The Noblesville softball team won an all-county game with Fishers on Tuesday, 6-4 in a Hoosier Crossroads Conference game at the Millers' field.

Both teams scored one run in the first inning. The Tigers went first; Olivia Latimer led off with a single, advanced to third base on wild pitches, then scored on Kaylee Kardash's RBI groundout.

Noblesville got the run back in the bottom of the first. Reis Sjöholm got on base with a bunt single, advanced to third on a groundout, then went home when Ella White hit a sacrifice fly.

The Millers took control in the third inning. Myah Stuckey hit a bunt single, stole second, then scored when Abby Harvey reached on error. That brought White up, and she blasted a home run into center field. That gave Noblesville a 4-1 lead.

"We found the ball, better than we have today," said Millers coach Deke Bullard. "We put the ball in play and forced them to play some defense and had convenient-timing bunts and also deep fly balls with the runners on, and they were able to move those runners in."

In the fourth inning, Cameron Grayson batted in Kira Thomas with a center field single, putting the Millers up 5-1. Fishers got that run back immediately, as Sydney Abel led off the fifth with a solo home run.

Noblesville scored again in the sixth inning, with Taylor Thompson hitting a sacrifice bunt to send Bella Schatko home. Fishers made one last push in the seventh inning, as Kardash brought in two runs (Latimer and Karyn Trice) with a two-out right field hit. Sjöholm caught a fly ball for the third out.

Grayson had two hits for the Millers and also got the pitching win, throwing a complete game with six strikeouts.

Latimer was 3-for-4 at the plate for the Tigers, with Trice hitting a double. Hannah Mays also went the distance, striking out six.

"We talked about making routine plays on defense," said Fishers coach Daren James. "I didn't think we did that. I



Noblesville's Cameron Grayson slides into third base during the Millers' softball game with Fishers on Tuesday. Noblesville won 6-4, with Grayson pitching a complete game.

think we gave them too many runs. I liked their fight at the plate there at the end of the game. I thought we battled pretty well all day. Just didn't make enough defensive plays."

Noblesville is 1-1 in conference play and 2-2 overall. The Millers play at Carmel this afternoon. This was Fishers' first HCC game of the season; the Tigers are 2-3 overall and host Greenfield-Central on Thursday.

In a Monday game, Noblesville beat Greenfield-Central 13-3 in six innings.

Gabby Fowler batted in the Millers' first run in the first inning, then smacked a three-run home run in the third to put Noblesville up 4-0. Lauren DeRolf later scored on an error. In the fourth inning, Harvey doubled in a run.

The Millers poured in five runs in the fifth inning. Fowler scored the inning's first run after getting on base with a double, then Myah Stuckey and Sjöholm

drew back-to-back bases-loaded walks. Harvey then hit a two-RBI single to put Noblesville up 11-3, and the Millers ended the game in the sixth inning when Taylor Thompson hit a two-run homer.

Harvey and Fowler both were 3-for-4 at the plate, with Fowler driving in four runs and Harvey batting in three. Sjöholm, Harvey, Fowler, DeRolf, Grayson and Thompson all scored two runs, with Stuckey scoring one. Grayson pitched four innings for the win, striking out five, with Thomas getting the save.

NOBLESVILLE 6, FISHERS 4				
Fishers	AB	R	H	RBI
Olivia Latimer	4	2	3	0
Karyn Trice	4	1	1	0
Kaylee Kardash	3	0	1	3
Hannah Mays	4	0	0	0
Emily Walsh	3	0	0	0
Sophie Schoch	3	0	1	0
Abby Gavin	3	0	0	0
Sydney Abel	2	1	1	1
Hannah Trueblood	0	0	0	0
Ashtin Grubb	3	0	0	0
Nyah Duplessis	0	0	0	0

Totals	29	4	7	4
HR: Abel. 2B: Trice.				
Fishers pitching	IP	R	ER	H
Mays	6	6	4	6
Strikeouts: Mays 5. Walks: Mays 2.				
Noblesville	AB	R	H	RBI
Reis Sjöholm	3	1	1	0
Abby Harvey	3	1	0	0
Ella White	1	1	1	3
Gabby Fowler	2	0	0	0
Lauren DeRolf	3	0	0	0
Kinsey Pfeiffer	2	0	1	0
Rylie Newcomer	1	0	0	0
Cameron Grayson	3	0	2	1
Taylor Thompson	2	0	0	1
Myah Stuckey	3	1	1	0
Kira Thomas	0	1	0	0
Bella Schatko	0	1	0	0
Totals	23	6	6	5
HR: White. 3B: Grayson. SB: Stuckey, Thomas, White, Sjöholm. SAC: Thompson, White.				
NHS pitching	IP	R	ER	H
Grayson	7	4	3	7
Strikeouts: Grayson 6. Walks: Grayson 2.				
Score by Innings				
Fishers	100	010	2 - 4	7 1
Noblesville	103	101	x - 6	6 0

HC

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Thur. April 15th - Boys Lacrosse JV and Varsity

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Fishers vs Noblesville

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Fishers' Hannah Mays pitched a complete game, throwing six strikeouts.

See Softball . . . Page 10

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## Baseball

## Four-run fifth inning sends Carmel past HSE

The Carmel baseball team used a four-run fifth inning to win a Monday all-county game at Hamilton Southeastern 6-4.

The Class 4A No. 8 Greyhounds scored their first run in the second inning when Jackson Micheels stole home plate. Carmel added another run in the third inning; Nick Mitchell singled in Alex Richter.

The Royals got on the board in the fourth inning with three runs. Hunter Dilts and Cole Earlewine got home when Griffin Haas reached on error, then Landon Riekhof singled in J.T. Mutchner, giving HSE a 3-2 lead.

But the Greyhounds answered that with four runs in the top of the fifth inning. Mitchell led off with a triple, then was sent home with a Cody Kantz line drive. Kantz scored on Micheels' RBI groundout, then Griffin Wolf singled in JD Rogers. Evan Neukam hit a double to send Wolf to third, and he would score on Daniel Cunningham's sacrifice fly. Haas led off the sixth inning with a home run for Southeastern, but the Royals would get no closer.

Neukam hit two doubles, while Mitchell also had two hits. Noah Bradbury got the pitching win, tossing five strikeouts in three and two-thirds innings.

Haas totaled three RBIs for Southeastern, with Peyton Lusby hitting a double.

Carmel's Tuesday Metropolitan Conference game with Lawrence North was suspended at 7-7 in the seventh inning due to darkness. The two teams are scheduled to play today at Hartman Field to complete the series. The Greyhounds are 3-1 for the season.

The Royals are 3-4-1 and next play Thursday at Zionsville in a Hoosier Crossroads Conference game.

ham, Neukam. HBP: Rogers.

**Carmel pitching** IP R ER H  
Cameron Heaney 3.1 3 2 2  
Noah Bradbury (W) 3.2 1 1 5  
Strikeouts: Bradbury 5, Heaney 1. Walks: Heaney 4.

**Southeastern** AB R H RBI  
Noah Wolf 3 0 0 0  
Peyton Lusby 4 0 1 0  
Hunter Dilts 4 1 1 0  
Cole Earlewine 3 1 1 0  
J.T. Mutchner 3 1 1 0  
Griffin Haas 2 1 1 3  
Christian Beal 2 0 0 0  
Landon Riekhof 2 0 1 1  
Payton Hilfiker 3 0 1 0  
Ty Bradle 0 0 0 0  
Totals 26 4 7 4  
HR: Haas. 2B: Lusby. SB: Bradle, Haas, Lusby, Riekhof. HBP: Wolf.

**HSE pitching** IP R ER H  
John McCall 0.1 0 0 0  
Sam Reagan 4.0 5 4 7  
Garrett Dettman 0.0 1 0 1  
Jason Dettman 1.2 0 0 1  
Haas 1.0 0 0 1  
Strikeouts: Reagan 4, J. Dettman 2, Haas 1. Walks: Reagan 1, J. Dettman 1.

Score by Innings  
Carmel 011 040 0-6 10 2  
Southeastern 000 301 0-4 7 3

Hamilton Heights was stunned by Western on Tuesday, as the 3A No. 4 Panthers scored nine runs in the seventh inning to beat the Huskies 11-10.

Neither team scored until the top of the fifth inning, when Heights poured in four runs. Hudson Hochstedler got the first run, getting home on an RBI fielder's choice from Brayden Elkin. Nate Hulen then singled in Sam Allen and Jared Michael, and that was followed by Elkin getting home on a sacrifice fly by Drew VanOeveren.

The Huskies added five more runs in the sixth inning. Brody Piel scored on a wild pitch, then Nate Hulen doubled home Allen (who got on base with a double), Erik Malott and Michael. VanOeveren then singled in Hulen.

Western scored its first two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. Heights added a run in the top of the seventh, with Hochstedler's sacrifice fly getting Lucas Letsinger home. That made the score 10-2, but the Panthers would rally to get the Hoosier Conference win.

Letsinger and VanOeveren also hit doubles. Hulen totaled five RBIs for the game.

The Huskies host Western today to complete the conference series.

**WESTERN 11, HAMILTON HEIGHTS 10**

**Heights** AB R H RBI  
Sam Allen 4 2 2 0  
Erik Malott 3 1 2 0  
Jared Michael 1 2 0 0  
Brayden Elkin 4 1 0 1  
Nate Hulen 4 1 2 5  
Drew VanOeveren 3 0 2 2  
Lucas Letsinger 4 1 1 0  
Brody Piel 4 1 1 0  
Harrison Hochstedler 0 1 0 1  
Isaac Tuma 0 0 0 0  
Totals 27 10 10 9

Score by Innings  
Heights 000 045 1-10 10 6  
Western 000 002 9-11 12 1  
2B: Allen, Hulen, Letsinger, VanOeveren.  
SAC: Hochstedler 2, Malott, VanOeveren.  
**Heights pitching** IP R ER H  
VanOeveren 5.0 2 2 5  
Elkin 1.1 6 5 4  
Jared Michael 0.1 3 0 3  
Strikeouts: VanOeveren 4, Elkin 2, Michael 1. Walks: Elkin 2, Michael 2, VanOeveren 1.

Guerin Catholic dropped an 11-4 Circle City Conference game at Covenant Christian on Tuesday.

The Warriors led 4-0 after four innings. The Golden Eagles scored all four of their runs in the top of the fifth to tie the game. Clay Patton doubled home Davis Wagner, Adam Novelen scored on an error, Braden Reel singled in Patton and Aidan Morse hit a left field double to score Reel. Covenant responded with five runs in the bottom of the inning to take back the lead.

Reel went 3-for-4 at the plate, while Morse had two hits.

Guerin Catholic is 1-2 in conference play and 1-3 overall. The Golden Eagles host Covenant today to finish the series.

**COVENANT CHRISTIAN 11, GUERIN CATHOLIC 4**

**Guerin Catholic** AB R H RBI  
Adam Novelen 2 1 0 0  
Clay Patton 3 1 1 1  
Braden Reel 4 1 3 1  
Aidan Morse 4 0 2 1  
Will Fremion 3 0 0 0  
Anthony Ferrucci 3 0 0 0  
Josh Schaff 2 0 0 0  
Davis Wagner 3 1 1 0

Daniel Donahue 2 0 0 0  
Cuinn Morrow 0 0 0 0  
Totals 26 4 7 3

Score by Innings  
Guerin Catholic 000 040 0-4 7 4  
Covenant 310 052 x-11 12 1  
2B: Morse, Patton. SB: Donahue, Wanger.  
**GC pitching** IP R ER H  
Patton 0.2 3 0 2  
Ferrucci 2.1 1 1 4  
Evan Brong 1.0 2 2 2  
Wagner 1.0 3 3 3  
Morrow 1.0 2 0 1  
Strikeouts: Ferrucci 3, Patton 2, Morrow 2, Brong 1, Wagner 1. Walks: Patton 3, Ferrucci 2, Brong 1, Wagner 1, Morrow 1.

University dropped a 5-0 game at Harrison on Tuesday.

The 2A No. 8 Trailblazers were held to one hit by the 4A Raiders; Jake Hooker hit a seventh-inning single.

University is 2-3 for the season and hosts Muncie Burris on Thursday in a Pioneer Conference game.

**HARRISON 5, UNIVERSITY 0**

**University** AB R H RBI  
Jake Hooker 3 0 1 0  
Seth Hogg 4 0 0 0  
Tyler Galyean 2 0 0 0  
Matt Moore 3 0 0 0  
Adam Oxley 2 0 0 0  
Thomas Price 2 0 0 0  
Grayson Knight 2 0 0 0  
Gabe Mervis 1 0 0 0  
Weber Morse 0 0 0 0  
Grady Hay 3 0 0 0  
Cam Greenawald 0 0 0 0  
Totals 22 0 1 0

Score by Innings  
University 000 000 0-0 1 4  
Harrison 021 110 x-5 6 1

SB: Galyean, Price. HBP: Morse.  
**University pitching** IP R ER H  
Galyean 3 3 1 3  
Oxley 2 2 1 3  
Moore 1 0 0 0  
Strikeouts: Galyean 4, Moore 2, Oxley 1. Walks: Galyean 2, Moore 1.

Sheridan fell to Clinton Prairie 12-0 in a Tuesday Hoosier Heartland Conference game.

The 2A No. 6 Gophers pitched a perfect game against the Blackhawks. Sheridan is 0-2 and hosts Indiana School for the Deaf on Thursday.

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# How Bobby ‘Slick’ Leonard helped shape Indianapolis

By DAN KLEIN  
WISH-TV

Fans were brought to tears over the loss of an Indiana sports legend Tuesday evening after the news that Bobby “Slick” Leonard had died at age 88.

He was a championship player with the Indiana Hoosiers, a championship coach with the Indiana Pacers, and, for decades, the beloved color commentator for the NBA team.

Leonard’s free throws won Indiana University the 1953 NCAA championship over Kansas. But those who know agree, Leonard’s influence went far beyond his time at IU and with the Pacers.

Without the Pacers, Indianapolis might not have secured the Colts. Without professional sports, the city may not have become the center of college and amateur athletics, headlined by this year’s all-Indiana NCAA men’s basketball tournament due the coronavirus pandemic.

Leonard was a legend in his own time.

“He was like a father figure,” remembered former Pacers player and NBA Hall of Famer George McGinnis. His No. 30 jersey is retired in the rafters of Bankers Life alongside the No. 529 jersey of “Slick” Leonard. His number stands for each victory Leonard had as the Pacers head coach over 12 seasons, winning three championships in the American Basketball Association.

McGinnis said “Slick” was tough but gentle, and organized fun team activities such as picnics and horseback riding during the offseason to bring the players together as a unit, which paid off during the season.

“He touched all of us in so many different ways, we loved him,” McGinnis said. “He could be really tough but the next day he’d put his arm around you and tell you how much he loved you and that what he was doing is because he wanted you to be a better player.”

It was during those years that Leonard originated his signature “Boom, Baby” call for a successful 3-point shot.

It was Game 7 in the playoffs against the Denver Rockets with Denver up two points. The play call was for McGinnis, but he was covered.

“Billy Keller, launched a three. And Bob said “Boom” as he launched it and then went down said “Baby.” And that became ‘Boom, baby,’” remembered documentary filmmaker Ted Green, who put a movie together about Leonard’s life in partnership with WFYI in 2015.

“And we win that game on that 3-point shot and ‘Slick’ said ‘Boom, baby,’ and that’s the first time I ever heard it,” McGinnis agreed.

Still, the Pacers franchise was in trou-

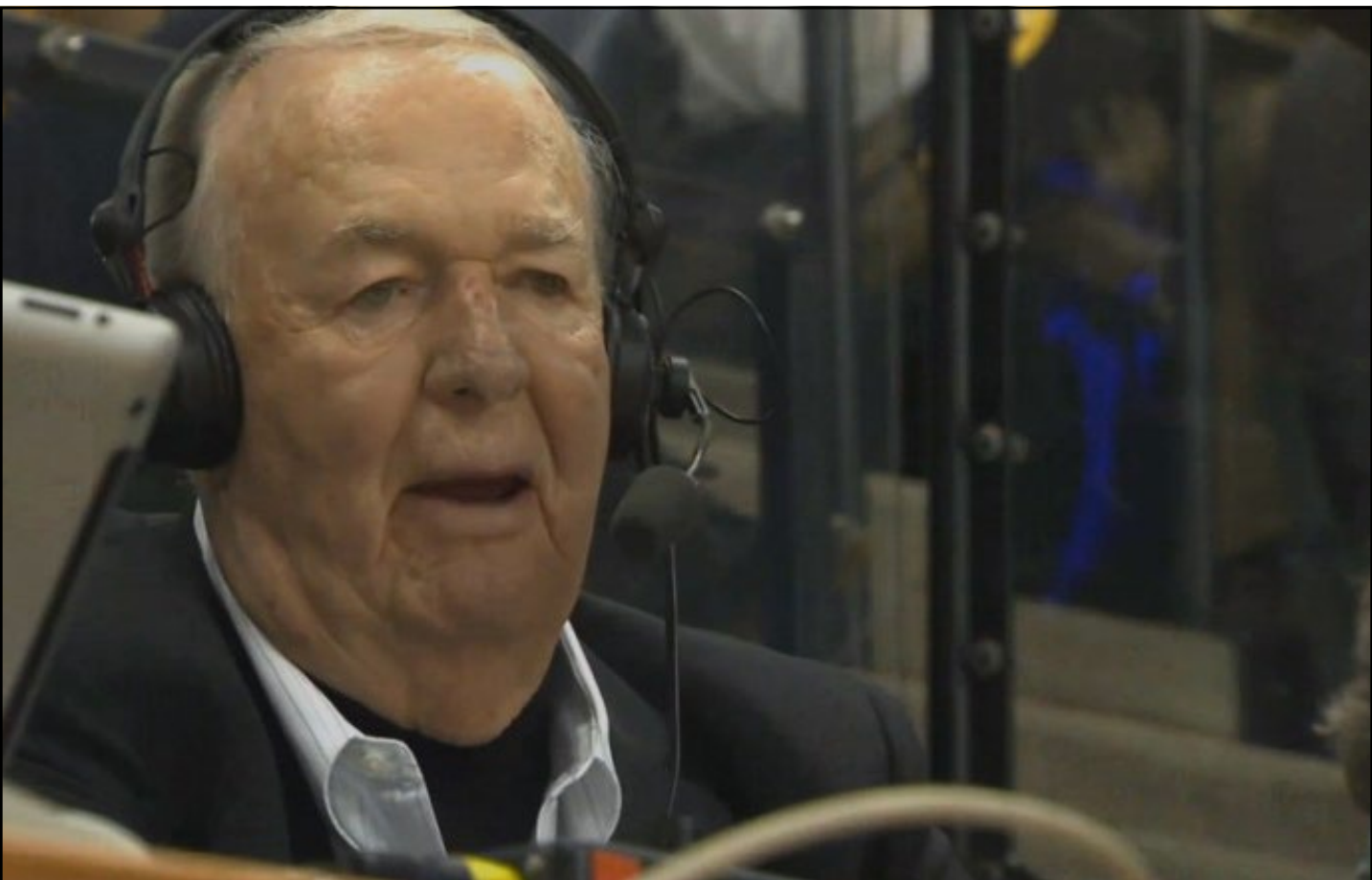


Photo courtesy WISH-TV

ble in the late 1970s. Nancy Leonard, Bobby’s wife and the team’s assistant general manager, organized a successful telethon to get fans to buy tickets. Still “Slick” was the face.

“The ABA was a rough league and a lot of teams folded,” Green said. “Imagine if the Pacers had folded. Would we have gotten the NCAA (headquarters) here? Would we become the amateur sports capital?”

“If there’s no ‘Slick’ Leonard, there’s no Pacers,” said Jeff Rickard, program director and morning host for 93.5/107.5 The Fan. “If there’s no Pacers, there’s no Colts. If there’s no Pacers and Colts, we probably don’t have the thriving sports city that attracts the NCAA tournament.”

Rickard interviewed Leonard every Wednesday morning on his radio program, telling stories in a way that only he could.

“He’d call us from the hospital one time,” Rickard remembered. “You couldn’t stop ‘Slick.’ He’d had a heart attack; he’d had COVID.”

But, he didn’t want to miss out spending time with this friends, all over the state.

News 8 Sports Director Anthony Calhoun said Leonard’s advocacy for basketball both on and off the court will be missed. “The person you saw and you listened to on the radio was the same

## Statement from Pacers Sports & Entertainment owners Herb Simon, Steve Simon, and the Simon Family on the passing of Bobby "Slick" Leonard

“Pacers fans will remember Bobby ‘Slick’ Leonard as the spirit of our franchise. With a charisma, intensity, and wit to match his nickname, Slick made us champions. He was our biggest fan and our most loving critic, and he personified Pacers basketball for generations of Hoosier families. Most importantly, though, Slick and Nancy are our family, and his passing leaves an unfillable void in the hearts of everyone associated with this organization. We keep the entire Leonard family in our prayers, and we recognize and honor Slick for what he meant to our state both on and off the court.”

person you saw in person. He was passionate about the game of basketball and passionate about his Pacers. The fact that he’s still today the all-time leader when it comes to wins for a Pacers coach, I don’t think that record will ever be broken.”

McGinnis would talk with Leonard every two weeks, but it was every day for a while when McGinnis’s wife died.

“Even though he was going through his own problems, he take the time to call me. That meant so much to me,” McGinnis said.

It’s just a small window into a man who seemed larger than life.

That’s why a Bankers Life Fieldhouse banner may be good, but to those who knew Leonard and those who know Indianapolis believe something more visible is needed.

“His statue should be outside the arena for sure,” McGinnis said.

“No one deserves one right downtown in the heart of the city like Bobby Leonard,” Green agreed. “My heart breaks for his family but I will say I think his family includes this entire state.”

“He will always be an institution in Indiana far beyond sports,” Rickard added. “Slick is going to be missed and there is no way to fill that hole that’s going to be in our hearts.”

Leonard was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1982 and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2014.

“Whatever days I have left on the Earth, I will always remember ‘Slick.’ Every day for the rest of my life,” McGinnis said.

# Indiana Fever announce 2021 regular-season schedule

The Indiana Fever announced today the 2021 regular season will tip off on the road on Friday, May 14 against the New York Liberty. On Sunday, May 16, the team returns for their first regular season home game at Bankers Life Fieldhouse with a 2 p.m. tip against the Liberty.

With ongoing construction on the Fieldhouse of the Future renovation project, the Fever’s first four regular season home games will be played at the Fieldhouse, with the remaining games at the Indiana Farmers Coliseum, located at the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center. The first game at the Coliseum will be Saturday, June 12, against the Chicago Sky.

Ticket information at Bankers Life Fieldhouse and Indiana Farmers Coliseum can be found at [FeverBasketball.com/tickets](https://feverbasketball.com/tickets). Attendance and capacity information for both sites will be announced at a later date.

"This is such an exciting time for Fever fans to be able to welcome our team back to playing in Indianapolis this season. The amount of Fever fans who tuned in to our streaming options last season while we were in the 'Wubble' showed how powerful our fanbase is and the interest we have attracted throughout bordering states," Fever President Dr. Allison Barber said. "We are going to continue to work with the WNBA and local health officials to ensure fans can cheer on the Fever in-person this year, while following safe and social distancing guidelines."

The Coliseum has a special place in Indiana’s rich basketball history, having been the home court for the Indiana Pacers until 1974. The venue also is home to

the IUPUI men's and women's basketball programs and successfully hosted first and second round games for the 2021 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament.

"After the excitement of hosting the Horizon League Basketball Championship and the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament, we’re thrilled to continue this momentum by partnering with the Indiana Fever," said Cindy Hoye, executive director, Indiana State Fair Commission. "Our beloved State Fairgrounds has a rich history with basketball and we’re thrilled to host our hometown Indiana Fever this year and continue making history."

2021 regular season highlights include:

Through their partnership with Anthem, Inc, the Fever will use part of the season to highlight long-standing racial and health disparities facing communities of color. As part of games against the Atlanta Dream, Los Angeles Sparks, and New York Liberty, the teams will host joint community and in-game activities around topics such as food insecurity and mental health.

The Fever will continue to livestream home games at no cost for fans statewide at [FeverBasketball.com](https://feverbasketball.com), on the Indiana Fever’s Facebook page, or via the Fever app. This year’s streaming services will extend to fans in Ohio and Kentucky for the first time, as well.

The full 2021 regular season schedule is below.

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (ET)
May Fri. 14	@ New York	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 16	New York	2:00 p.m.

Wed. 19	@ Connecticut	7:00 p.m.
Fri. 21	Atlanta	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 23	Washington	1:00 p.m.
Tue. 25	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Fri. 28	@ Las Vegas	10:30 p.m.
Sun. 30	@ Las Vegas	6:00 p.m.
June Tue. 1	@ Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Thu. 3	@ Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Wed. 9	@ Chicago	8:00 p.m.
Sat. 12	Chicago	1:00 p.m.
Tue. 15	Seattle	7:00 p.m.
Thu. 17	Seattle	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 19	@ Washington	7:00 p.m.
Thu. 24	Dallas	7:00 p.m.
July Thu. 1	Connecticut	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 3	Connecticut	1:00 p.m.
Fri. 9	New York	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 11	@ Atlanta	5:00 p.m.
- ALL-STAR/OLYMPIC BREAK -		
Aug. Sun. 15	@ Los Angeles	9:00 p.m.
Tue. 17	@ Phoenix	10:00 p.m.
Fri. 20	@ Dallas	8:00 p.m.
Sat. 28	Las Vegas	1:00 p.m.
Tue. 31	Los Angeles	7:00 p.m.
Sept. Sat. 4	Phoenix	1:00 p.m.
Mon. 6	Phoenix	7:00 p.m.
Fri. 10	@ Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Sun. 12	@ Minnesota	7:00 p.m.
Tue. 14	@ Atlanta	7:00 p.m.
Fri. 17	Minnesota	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 19	@ Chicago	6:00 p.m.

# NTT INDYCAR SERIES rolls into 2021 with defiant momentum

Anticipation continues to build for the 2021 NTT INDYCAR SERIES opener Sunday, April 18 at Barber Motorsports Park, the Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama presented by AmFirst. Here’s a look at the year ahead and what’s new with North America’s premier open-wheel series:

## Varied, Challenging Schedule

The season begins with the Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama presented by AmFirst, one of the many traditional events on the NTT INDYCAR SERIES calendar, which makes a return after the 2020 pandemic year.

A series of four races in three weekends will start the season, including the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg on Sunday, April 25 and a doubleheader weekend at Texas Motor Speedway, Saturday, May 1 and Sunday, May 2 for the Genesys 300 and the XPEL 375. Six of the first eight events on the calendar will

air on NBC broadcast television, including the 105th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge on Sunday, May 30. A record nine events will air on NBC this season before the season culminates on the historic streets of Long Beach for the Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach.

“You could feel the energy in the paddock during last week’s Indy 500 testing at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway,” said Mark Miles, president and CEO of Penske Entertainment Corp. “Now we’re ready to end the offseason and wave the green flag on an exciting season of NTT INDYCAR SERIES action featuring our daring, fierce and competitive athletes.

“Starting the season with four races on three consecutive weekends is an ideal launch, with momentum carrying into the Month of May. The championship stretch also is exciting, with three consecutive West Coast races to wrap up the season, along with visits to Detroit, Road Ameri-

ca, Mid-Ohio, Toronto, St. Louis and an inaugural event in Nashville. Combined with another road course event during another NASCAR-INDYCAR weekend at Indy, we are very optimistic about the success of the 2021 season and the continued growth of the series.”

Event weekends will feature a compact schedule in 2021, with practice and qualifying schedules built on lessons of efficiency from last season’s pandemic year. Street course events include a late afternoon practice on Fridays to allow more time to highlight support events. Road course weekends will feature a more impactful Saturday for race fans with two practices that day followed by qualifying, including the exciting Firestone Fast Six.

**Rookie Class with Global Recognition**  
This season’s NTT INDYCAR SE-

RIES rookies are anything but inexperienced. The class of 2021 features seven-time NASCAR Cup champion Jimmie Johnson as he fulfills a lifelong dream of driving in the INDYCAR SERIES. “7-time” has worked the last few years toward this opportunity and has been methodical in his adaptation to open-wheel racing. He’ll drive his famous No. 48 with Carvana sponsorship for Chip Ganassi Racing.

“To have someone like Jimmie join the INDYCAR SERIES, who could do whatever he wants to do at this point in his life, is a huge statement,” INDYCAR President Jay Frye said. “He has nothing to prove in his career. He’s the ultimate competitor. All he wants to do is go out and prove to himself that he can do this and compete at a high level.”

Formula One veteran Romain Gros-



# NBA standings

## Eastern Conference

Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
Philadelphia	37	17	.685	-
Brooklyn	37	17	.685	-
Milwaukee	33	20	.623	3.5
Atlanta	30	25	.545	7.5
Boston	29	26	.527	8.5
Miami	28	26	.519	9.0
-----				
Charlotte	27	26	.509	9.5
New York	28	27	.509	9.5
Indiana	25	28	.472	11.5
Chicago	22	31	.415	14.5
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Toronto	21	34	.382	16.5
Washington	20	33	.377	16.5
Cleveland	19	34	.358	17.5
Orlando	17	37	.315	20.0
Detroit	16	38	.296	21.0

## Western Conference

Team	W	L	PCT.	GB
Utah	41	14	.745	-
Phoenix	39	15	.722	1.5
L.A. Clippers	38	18	.679	3.5
Denver	34	20	.630	6.5
L.A. Lakers	34	21	.618	7.0
Portland	31	23	.574	9.5
-----				
Dallas	29	24	.547	11.0
Memphis	27	25	.519	12.5
San Antonio	26	26	.500	13.5
Golden State	26	28	.481	14.5
-----				
New Orleans	25	29	.463	15.5
Sacramento	22	32	.407	18.5
Oklahoma City	20	34	.370	20.5
Houston	14	40	.259	26.5
Minnesota	14	41	.255	27.0

# Major League Baseball standings

## American League

East	W	L	PCT.	GB
Boston	7	3	.700	-
Baltimore	5	6	.455	2.5
N.Y. Yankees	5	6	.455	2.5
Tampa Bay	5	6	.455	2.5
Toronto	5	6	.455	125
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Cleveland	6	4	.600	-
Kansas City	5	4	.556	0.5
Minnesota	5	5	.500	1.0
Chi. White Sox	5	6	.455	1.5
Detroit	5	6	.455	1.5
West	W	L	PCT.	GB
L.A. Angels	7	4	.636	-
Houston	6	5	.545	1.0
Seattle	6	5	.545	1.0
Oakland	5	7	.417	2.5
Texas	4	7	.364	3.0

## National League

East	W	L	PCT.	GB
N.Y. Mets	4	3	.571	-
Philadelphia	6	5	.545	-
Miami	4	6	.400	1.5
Atlanta	4	7	.364	2.0
Washington	2	6	.250	2.5
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Cincinnati	7	4	.636	-
Milwaukee	6	5	.545	1.0
St. Louis	6	5	.545	1.0
Chi. Cubs	5	6	.455	2.0
Pittsburgh	4	7	.364	3.0
West	W	L	PCT.	GB
L.A. Dodgers	9	2	.818	-
San Diego	8	4	.667	1.5
San Francisco	7	4	.636	2.0
Arizona	4	8	.333	5.5
Colorado	3	8	.273	6.0

<b>Tuesday scores</b> Brooklyn 127, Minnesota 97 L.A. Clippers 126, Indiana 115 Atlanta 108, Toronto 103	L.A. Lakers 101, Charlotte 93 Utah 106, Oklahoma City 96 Phoenix 106, Miami 86 Boston 116, Portland 115
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<b>Tuesday scores</b> Boston 4, Minnesota 2 Oakland 7, Arizona 5 Seattle 4, Baltimore 3, 8 innings Baltimore 7, Seattle 6 N.Y. Mets 4, Philadelphia 3, 8 innings N.Y. Mets 4, Philadelphia 0 Pittsburgh 8, San Diego 4 Toronto 7, N.Y. Yankees 3	Texas 8, Tampa Bay 3 Miami 14, Atlanta 8 Chicago Cubs 3, Milwaukee 2 St. Louis 14, Washington 3 Detroit 8, Houston 2 Kansas City 3, L.A. Angels 2 Cleveland 2, Chicago White Sox 0, 10 innings San Francisco 7, Cincinnati 6 L.A. Dodgers 7, Colorado 0
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# Clippers pull away from Pacers, 126-115

By WHEAT HOTCHKISS  
Courtesy nba.com/pacers

The Pacers hung tight with Paul George and the Clippers for much of Tuesday night, trading blows at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in a shootout with one of the NBA's best teams.

But the Clippers (38-18) found an extra gear in the fourth quarter, pulling away for a 126-115 win over Indiana. The loss snapped a three-game win streak for the Pacers (25-28), who remain in ninth place in the Eastern Conference as they continue to battle for playoff positioning.

Three Pacers topped 20 points on Tuesday night. Malcolm Brogdon led the way with 29 points on 12-of-18 shooting. Caris LeVert tallied 26 points, six rebounds, six assists, three blocks, and two steals, while Domantas Sabonis recorded a double-double with 20 points and 13 boards.

But it wasn't enough to overcome a big night from George, who looked right at home back in the building he called home for his first seven NBA seasons. With fellow All-Star Kawhi Leonard sidelined due to a sore right foot, George had a game-high 36 points to go along with seven rebounds, eight assists, and two steals. The seven-time All-Star went 13-for-25 from the field, 4-for-7 from 3-point range, and 6-for-6 from the free

throw line.

"It's tough," Brogdon said. "Good teams put you away, they don't let you back in the game. That's what they did tonight. They got up early in the fourth, built an 11, 12-point lead, and they kept it."

LeVert and Brogdon combined for Indiana's first 16 points in the first quarter, but it wasn't until midway through the frame that the Pacers' offense got rolling. The Blue & Gold made nine straight shots over a 4:08 span to surge in front, taking a six-point lead following LeVert's three-point play at 2:19 to conclude the streak.

George knocked down two 3-pointers (part of a 15-point opening quarter for the former Pacer) to tie the game, but T.J. McConnell's buzzer-beating trey gave Indiana a 34-31 lead after the opening frame.

McConnell scored Indiana's first six points of the second quarter — including a signature sequence where he converted a layup, intercepted Reggie Jackson's inbounds pass, and scored again — to extend the lead to 40-34.

But Indiana made just one field goal over the next five minutes of game time and the Clippers capitalized with an 18-3 run to surge back in front.

The Pacers rallied back behind seven points from Sabonis and a pair of 3-pointers from Brogdon, whose second triple briefly tied the game at 61. But George found Marcus Morris for a three on the other end to put the visitors back in front, then added a pair of buckets before half-time to make it a 67-65 game at the break.

The two teams went back and forth for much of the third quarter, which featured eight lead changes and two ties. But the Clippers reeled off a 13-5 run late in the frame to open up a seven-point lead. Baskets from Sabonis and Brogdon in the final minute trimmed Indiana's deficit to 100-97 heading into the fourth quarter.

The start to the fourth quarter could not have gone worse for Indiana. George hit a jumper on the opening possession before Nicolas Batum stole an Edmond Sumner pass and then scored on the other end off a nice dish from Rajon Rondo. After two Pacers misses, George drained another shot. He then corralled a Jeremy Lamb miss on the other end and threw a halfcourt alley-oop to Terance Mann to cap an 8-0 Clippers run.

Pacers coach Nate Bjorkgren called a timeout to try to stem the tide, but the Pacers were unable to make any headway over the ensuing stretch. In fact, the Clippers built their lead, pushing the score to

120-106 following another George-to-Mann alley-oop with 5:35 to play.

The Pacers did not get within eight points of the lead the rest of the way.

"Paul hit some tough shots early," LeVert said of the difference in the fourth quarter. "We didn't have that defensive intensity we had through the first three quarters. And offensively, we couldn't find it late...and they took advantage of it."

McConnell was the fourth and final player to reach double figures for Indiana, tallying 13 points, four rebounds, and two steals off the bench.

Marcus Morris had 22 points, six boards, and three assists for the Clippers, going 9-for-12 from the field and 3-for-3 from 3-point range. Ivica Zubac added 14 points and seven rebounds, while Batum registered 14 points, five boards, and five blocks off the bench.

The Pacers will now embark on a three-game road trip that zigzags across the country, starting in Houston on Wednesday night, moving west to Utah on Friday, and then concluding back east in Atlanta on Sunday.

"Tomorrow night is a must-win for us," Brogdon declared. "Regardless of the back-to-back, regardless of being on the road, we have to win that game."

# INDYCAR

jean cannot wait for his series debut. The 34-year-old French driver moves to the NTT INDYCAR SERIES after 179 career starts in the World Championship. He'll drive the No. 51 Nurtec ODT Honda for Dale Coyne Racing with RWR.

Three-time Australian V8 Supercars champion Scott McLaughlin prepares for his first full season in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES. The 27-year-old Kiwi ranks third on Team Penske's all-time win list with 48 wins, all in Supercars, and will drive the No. 3 PPG Chevrolet.

### Growing Car Counts

Thanks to expansion by some NTT INDYCAR SERIES teams, the car count is on the rise in 2021. Race weekends will see a steady 24 full-time entries with some races, excluding the Indianapolis 500, seeing as many as 26. Chip Ganassi Racing and Team Penske both will field four full-time cars for the first time since 2017.

Meyer Shank Racing continues its steady growth with the addition of three-time Indy 500 winner Helio Castroneves, who ranks 12th on the INDYCAR SERIES' all-time wins list with 30 victories.

He's driving the No. 06 Honda to create an expanded two-car team for MSR in six races this season.

### Speedway Program

NTT INDYCAR SERIES regulations require filling in the front-half of the "hole" in the underwing with a carbon fiber clam shell piece, which wraps around the structural strut of the underwing. The result creates downforce while reducing the reliance of the front wing. Ultimately, it will provide the potential for even more passing opportunities when cars are in traffic.

"We wanted to reduce the amount of work the front wing does," INDYCAR Director of Aerodynamic Development Tino Belli said. "The amount of downforce necessary has grown over the years with the gradual addition of weight with the AK-18 side pods and the safety-inspired Aeroscreen. The new downforce created by the underwing has done exactly what it was supposed to do."

The change is a culmination of 18 months of work, which also included safety considerations when cars are in extreme conditions.

"A lot of things we did for this season, we weren't able to do last year because the pandemic," Frye said. "The spring testing schedule has helped us out for this year and the results have been positive. Overall, the racing product has been very good. We wanted to make it even better."

### On the Horizon

This season will see historic moments for the NTT INDYCAR SERIES. Six-time series champion Scott Dixon returns to drive the No. 9 PNC Bank Honda for Chip Ganassi Racing. The 40-year-old will be attempting to tie the legendary A.J. Foyt for all-time INDYCAR championships with seven.

Nine former Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge winners, representing 13 victories, will return for the 105th edition of "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" on Sunday, May 30. The record for former "500" winners in the race is 10, set in 1992.

INDYCAR's and IMS' "Race for Equality & Change" initiative continues. Launched last July, new programs include Paretta Autosport, a female-led team that will field a Chevrolet-powered car for

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2010 Indianapolis 500 Rookie of the Year Simona De Silvestro for this year's Indy 500. The goal is to compete full time in the series in 2022. Meanwhile, the new Force Indy team will compete in USF2000 Presented by Cooper Tires this season. Led by team principal Rod Reid and featuring rookie driver Myles Rowe, Force Indy was created to enhance opportunities for African Americans in the world of motorsports and build a more diverse talent pipeline inside as well as outside the cockpit.

All of these positive developments come as the series continues work toward a new engine package in 2023 with partners Honda and Chevrolet. Development continues with the 2.4-liter, twin-turbocharged V6 with hybrid technology, which is expected to produce a total of 900 horsepower.

"It has been a tremendous effort by everyone in the offseason," Frye said. "Our NTT INDYCAR SERIES partners, promoters, staff and teams have been working tirelessly. 2021 will be an awesome show. We can't wait to get started."