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**paulpoteet.com**

# Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville getting matching donation on #GivingTuesday

## George Kristo continues to do "Whatever It Takes" for local youth

**The REPORTER**  
Now through Nov. 30, the Tom & Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville will be participating in #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that encourages and celebrates philanthropy worldwide. The Club is hosting a campaign to do "Whatever It Takes for Great Futures." Once again, this year, donations to the campaign will be generously matched by George Kristo.

"Year in and year out, George continues to amaze us with his generosity and commitment to our mission that focuses on academic success, good character and citizenship and healthy lifestyles," said BGCN Executive Director Becky Terry. "We cannot thank George, and his late wife Linda, enough for their impact that they've had on our Club and

the 2,000-plus youth we serve each year."

On Nov. 2, BGCN was able to kick off the campaign at its fourth annual Topgolf Tournament to 'Tee It Up for Club Kids' and more than \$2,700 was raised for #GivingTuesday. This year, the Club's goal is to surpass last year's total of \$21,000 that was raised on #GivingTuesday, including Kristo's matching gift.

Last year, BGCN served 1,654 local youth with its affordable, high-impact after school programs. As a community staple for 70 years, the Club has offered local kids after school programs and opportunities to experience new things and be themselves in a place they can call their own.

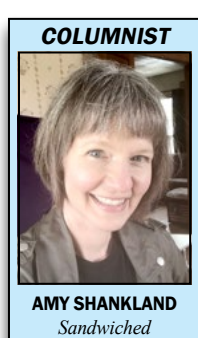
A peer-to-peer fundraising campaign is taking place now through Nov. 30. Donations can



Photo provided  
**(From left) George Kristo and BGCN Executive Director Becky Terry. Kristo has pledged to match donations to this year's #GivingTuesday campaign dollar for dollar.**

## What a difference a year makes

I like to play a little game in my head. It's called "What a Difference a Year Makes." Sometimes I edit it to "a month", "a week," or even "a day." For today's column, though, we'll go with a year.



This week I'm reflecting on the pain I was feeling last year as Thanksgiving approached. I know I wasn't alone in my sadness and anger. In October of 2020, Mom's assisted living facility opened back up and I could visit her whenever I wanted (with masks and precautions, of course). After almost seven months of only seeing her through a door, a window, or outside under a tent once a week, this was incredible.

My sister-in-law and I cleaned her apartment one day. Mom and I enjoyed more relaxing visits soon after. I was excited to get to see Mom for Thanksgiving, as we hadn't been able to be with her for Mother's Day and other holidays due to the pandemic.

Then, in mid-November, a staff member at the facility came down with COVID-19. And everything quickly went south. We were back to once-a-week visits – only if you could show a negative test for COVID. I got my COVID test and was determined to at least see Mom the day before Thanksgiving. But the virus reared its ugly head again at Mom's facility. We were told "absolutely no visits" soon after.

I was so sad, angry, and frustrated. I ran into a friend at Dollar General who asked me how I was – the poor thing wasn't ready for my ranting reply. Thanksgiving in 2020 was a meal at my home with only my guys. I dropped off a covered paper plate to Mom's facility that afternoon so she could enjoy a home-cooked holiday dinner. That was it.

Here we are a year later. I can visit Mom whenever I want. As I write this, it's Thursday, Nov. 18. My husband and I are joining Mom at her facility this evening for a delicious Thanksgiving celebration. I'm on vacation all next week and I intend to spend some time with her enjoying various onsite activities. I can't wait to get out her Christmas decorations, something she absolutely loves.

See Difference . . . Page 2

# HSE health careers teacher earns WISH-TV's Golden Apple Award

**By ADAM STATEN**  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

WISH-TV is proud to celebrate Central Indiana's incredible teachers with the Golden Apple Award. November's surprise actually took place on the north side of Indianapolis.

Sara Wood knows how to save a life and she also knows how to help start them.

Wood is a registered nurse and teaches health careers to stu-

dents at the J. Everett Light Career Center (JEL) in Washington Township in Marion County and Hamilton Southeastern High School.

Wood's supervisor, Nicole Cooper, said "She combines her passion for nursing with her passion for teaching and shares her personal experiences and knowledge with her health care professionals."

Her goal is to prepare the students for a career in nursing.

But her students say the classes are about more than just anatomy and the body. It's also about how she helps to heal their spirit.

"Like, when I get off the bus, I'm just happy to come to this classroom because I know that I'm gonna have a good day," said Caleb Kelly, a senior in Wood's class. "It sucks leaving the class and that's how much fun and excitement I get from this class."

Those who win the special

award receive the Golden Apple trophy and \$500 from sponsors Bailey and Wood Mortgage lender.

[Click here](#) to watch the full segment on WISHTV.com.

**About JEL**

JEL has programs serving students from Hamilton Southeastern, Noblesville, Carmel, Fishers, Westfield, Hamilton Heights, Sheridan and other high schools. You can learn more about JEL and their programs at [jelcc.com](http://jelcc.com).

# ♪ Santa Claus is coming to town! ♪

## Santa returning to Noblesville neighborhoods during city's 'Home for the Holidays Tour'

**The REPORTER**  
The City of Noblesville will once again welcome Santa Claus to town during the city's Home for the Holidays Tour.

Due to the rise of COVID-19 cases and public health concerns, several changes to the city's holiday events were made last year, including the creation of the outdoor neighborhood tour.

"The pandemic made us be creative and shift our plans to keep the holiday spirit alive," Mayor Chris Jensen said. "What we saw were larger crowds of enthusiastic residents that really enjoyed the new format. Because of the numbers we saw, and the ability to thank our first re-

sponders and essential city workers, I decided to have the neighborhood tour once again this year."

The Home for the Holidays Tour is headlined by Santa Claus himself, who will be joined by several city departments including the police, fire, street, engineering, utilities and parks vehicles as they make their way throughout Noblesville neighborhoods over the course of two weekends in December.

"The Home for the Holidays Tour allows us to take Santa to the people," Jensen said. "Last year, we saw so many residents of all ages and neighborhoods come out

to see the municipal parade. I saw grandparents FaceTiming the parade with family members, young children displaying homemade signs and some homes made it a party with neighbors around a fire pit. It was a great time to be outside and see so many smiling faces."

The city has created six routes that cover the areas across Noblesville. The first route will take place on Saturday, Dec. 4 and include Downtown Noblesville. Route dates and times include:

- Yellow Route – 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4
- Red Route – 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 5

See Santa in Noblesville . . . Page 2



Photo provided by City of Carmel

## Popular Santa Tours of Carmel neighborhoods back this year

**The REPORTER**  
One year after making his inaugural tour of Carmel in a fire truck – visiting families and kids who were sheltered at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, Santa will be making a return visit this holiday season with more tours and more opportunities to see the Jolly Old Elf and his friends from the

Carmel Fire Department (CFD). The tours will begin Sunday, Nov. 28 and include 10 dates with 10 different routes through Sunday, Dec. 19.

"We know that many of our residents are getting more comfortable getting out of the house and joining in our many festivals

and holiday events. However, there are still some who are cautious about interacting with crowds as the pandemic continues," said Nancy Heck, Director of Community Relations and Economic Development. "We discovered that this popular event brought holiday cheer to families

See Santa in Carmel . . . Page 2



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# DIFFERENCE

from Page 1

I know things aren't perfect yet with this pandemic. I still have to take my temperature and mask up when I see Mom. However, when I think back to my heartbreak from a year ago, I'm filled with gratitude.

My little game is probably not unique. But as I've

gotten older and (hopefully!) wiser, I've learned to play it often. I even play it in reverse – when I am having a terrible day and the world seems to be falling apart, I'll often say to myself "I know things will be better in 24 hours... next week... next month..."

There's a wonderful saying by J. Cole – "The bad news is nothing lasts forever. The good news is nothing lasts forever." As I approach this Thanksgiving, I'm grateful for that saying. I'll strive to keep it top of mind every single day.

# SANTA IN NOBLESVILLE

from Page 1

- Blue Route – 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5
- Orange Route – 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11
- Pink Route – 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11
- Green Route – 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12

Residents interested in learning more about the Home for the Holidays Tour routes may visit [cityofnoblesville.org/SantaTour](#). Once a parade route begins, the city's [Twitter page](#) will provide updates as the vehicles travel

in real time to keep residents informed of their location.

A special mailbox has been added at the Christmas Cottage and Santa will be checking it to read all of the letters dropped off by children with their holiday wishes.

# SANTA IN CARMEL

from Page 1

who have difficulties getting certain members transported around town. That is one of the reasons, we are continuing to offer this event. We are also adding senior living facilities to our routes this year."

Santa, a few of his CFD friends and perhaps a surprise passenger will arrive by way of a Carmel Fire Truck with red lights – similar to Rudolph's nose – leading the


way down the streets of the city. You can check the [Santa Tracker](#) to view the routes and find out when he's close by your home or neighborhood. Look for appearances from Mayor Jim Brainard, various City Council members and other special guests.

This year, Santa Tours have changed from four large routes repeated twice to 10 shorter routes driven only one time each during

the season. Please check the routes ahead of time to see where you can watch the tour drive through your area.

Each tour time will be from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. [Click here](#) for the new routes for 2021. For the latest updates on this year's holiday activities and attractions, follow the city on [Facebook](#), or visit [HolidaysInCarmel.com](#).

## Hello, Hamilton County!



Paul Poteet is so...handy.  
**Click to play video**

*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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## We are Thankful for YOU!





## Home Auto Business Life

# Holiday season in Fishers kicks off next week

## *Celebrate the season with festive offerings for all ages around the city*

### The REPORTER

The holiday season kicks off next week in Fishers, bringing festive family fun and beloved seasonal traditions.

Celebrate the magic of the season at Fishers Parks' annual Winter Wonderland celebration, knock out your holiday gift shopping while supporting local during the Shop Fishers: Holiday Series, create a handmade wreath to deck the halls at the Fishers AgriPark, and check out twinkling light displays around Fishers with the Holiday Lights Map.

The seasonal lineup includes:

#### Holiday Lights Map

*Through Dec. 31*

Looking for the best holiday light displays around Fishers? Grab some hot cocoa and hop in the car to enjoy the festive displays from fellow residents using the digital Fishers Holiday Lights Map, that will debut later this month. Is your house decked out for the holidays? Help spread holiday cheer and show off your display by adding your house to the map. Learn more at [ThisIsFishers.com/FishersLights](http://ThisIsFishers.com/FishersLights).

#### Shop Fishers: Holiday Series

*Nov. 27 to Dec. 31*

Support Fishers' homegrown small businesses during the Shop Fishers: Holiday Series, beginning on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 27 and running through Dec. 31. Get a jump start on your holiday shopping and take advantage of special deals and promotions at 70 local businesses around Fishers, including boutiques, restaurants, fitness centers, spas, home and garden stores, entertainment centers, and more. New this year, several Shop Fishers businesses have partnered with local

non-profits to give back to the community with special deals on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 30. Get the full list of deals at [ThisIsFishers.com/ShopFishers](http://ThisIsFishers.com/ShopFishers).

#### Santa's Mailbox

*Nov. 29 to Dec. 17*

*Fishers City Hall, 1 Municipal Drive  
Fishers Parks Headquarters,  
8100 E. 106th St.*

Drop off your letter to Santa in the special mailboxes located at Fishers City Hall and Fishers Parks. Include a self-addressed envelope, and you'll receive a reply from St. Nick. Letters can be dropped off at either location anytime, just look for the mailbox just outside the main entrances. Can't drop off in person? Email Santa through Dec. 23 at [santa@fishers.in.us](mailto:santa@fishers.in.us).

#### Winter Wonderland

*Dec. 4, 4 to 7 p.m.*

*Nickel Plate District Amphitheater,  
6 Municipal Drive*

Celebrate the season at Winter Wonderland, presented by Centier Bank, with the annual Tree Lighting at 6 p.m., carriage and train rides, fire pits and s'mores, cookie decorating, live ice carving, a special Winter Wonderland Storywalk, the Fishers Arts Council's "Winter Wonderland of Art" exhibit inside City Hall, food, drinks, music, and more. Learn more at [playfishers.com/582/Winter-Wonderland](http://playfishers.com/582/Winter-Wonderland).

#### Feast with the Grinch

*Breakfast: Dec. 18 & 19, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.*

*Brunch: Dec. 20 & 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

*Fishers Parks Headquarters,  
8100 E. 106th St.*

*Registration required,  
ages 1 to 11 are \$12, ages 12 and up are \$20*

Families will enjoy a meal of Grinch-inspired goodies, a visit from the Grinch, and Whoville-themed activities. Snap a photo with the Grinch himself at the photo booth for a delightful keepsake. Four meal sessions are available; register by Dec. 11 at [playfishers.com/583/Feast-with-the-Grinch](http://playfishers.com/583/Feast-with-the-Grinch).

#### Wreath Making at the AgriPark

*Dec. 6, 6 to 8 p.m.*

*Fishers AgriPark,*

*11171 Florida Road, Fortville*

*Registration required, \$30 per person*

Create your own winter or holiday wreath to deck the halls using live greenery in a workshop led by Jenny Russell of Flower Chic Indy. Refreshments are included. Register by Nov. 29 [here](http://here).

#### Printmaking Wrapping Paper Pop-Up Event

*Dec. 11, 2 to 7 p.m.*

*Maker Playground, 8100 E. 106th St.*

Get creative by designing your own holiday gift-wrapping paper using basic printmaking techniques at this pop-up event. No registration is required. Learn more at [fishersmpg.com](http://fishersmpg.com).

#### Fall Fishers Farmers Market

*Through Dec. 17*

*Online ordering available Saturdays*

*at 9 a.m. to Wednesdays at noon*

Purchase fresh, local goodies for your holiday feast with the virtual Fall Fishers Farmers' Market and enjoy free delivery to your door each Friday. Featuring market favorites and new vendors, find cookies, breads, cakes, cold-weather veggies, meat and eggs, dog treats, jams and jellies,

drinks, and more. Shop online at [playfishers.com/FarmersMarket](http://playfishers.com/FarmersMarket).

#### Storywalk

*November: Cyntheanne Park,*

*12383 Cyntheanne Road*

*December: Holland Park, 1 Park Drive*

This season, Fishers Parks' self-guided Storywalk hike features "We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga" by Traci Sorrell in November and "A Day So Gray" by Marie Lamba in December. Visit [playfishers.com/storywalk](http://playfishers.com/storywalk) for more info.

#### Free Yoga Wednesdays

*Wednesdays through Dec. 29, 9 to 10 a.m.*

*Billerica Park Building,*

*12690 Promise Road*

Relax from the holiday stress at weekly yoga sessions guided by Roots & Wings Yoga and Wellness. All skill levels are welcome, and no registration is required. Participants must bring their own yoga mat. Visit [playfishers.com/533/Free-Yoga-Wednesdays](http://playfishers.com/533/Free-Yoga-Wednesdays) for more information.

#### Angel of Hope

*Paver Dedication*

*Dec. 6, 6 p.m.*

*Heritage Park at White River,*

*10595 Eller Road*

Fishers Parks and Recreation Foundation hosts the second annual winter dedication of pavers at the Angel of Hope memorial. The Ambassador House will be open at 6 p.m. to welcome the community, followed by a candlelight procession to the Angel of Hope Memorial Garden and the reading of names by Mayor Fadness at 7 p.m. For more information about the Angel of Hope or to order a paver, visit [fishersparks.org](http://fishersparks.org).



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### Indiana Health Information Exchange announces data reach nearly covers state

**The REPORTER**  
**Indiana Health Information Exchange** (IHIE), a nonprofit health information exchange, announced its data reach is close to covering the entire state of Indiana due to new health system contributors. Large health system contributors in the Fort Wayne area were added in 2021, filling the Northeast region gap.

“The COVID pandemic certainly highlighted the need for a statewide health information exchange to support public health, and each new facility added is a step towards a consolidated and statewide data exchange in Indiana,” said Drew Richardson, vice president of product and business development at Indiana Health Information Exchange.

IHIE has one of the largest and broadest participant communities in the nation and is at the center of where digital health, payment reform and patient care intersect. With 123 hospital connections, IHIE’s clinical data repository – called the Indiana Network for Patient Care (INPC) – now houses data for 38 health systems with nearly 19,000 practices, more than 50,000 providers and more than 18 million patients. It also includes more than 15 billion clinical and claims data elements.

“IHIE has spent the past two years consolidating with the Michiana Health Information Network to add participants and facilities that have filled previous data gaps in the north central and northeastern parts of the state,” Richardson said. “While the focus has been primarily on public health and COVID, we are seeing tremendous value in these new data sources for all participants including health systems, providers, payers and labs.”

**Click here** to see the evolution of IHIE’s coverage map.

**About Indiana Health Information Exchange**  
IHIE was founded in 2004 as a non-profit health information exchange that enables hospitals, physicians, laboratories, payers, and other health service providers to avoid redundancy and deliver faster, more efficient, higher quality healthcare to patients in Indiana. Today, by making information available to over 50,000 healthcare providers in Indiana and neighboring states, IHIE delivers services that make a real difference in health and healthcare.

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# Navigating Open Enrollment 2022: Where should you begin?

By **STEVE SMITHERMAN**  
Guest Columnist

*Editor's note: This column does not discuss the Medicare Annual Election Period (commonly called "open enrollment") which is from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 each year.*

As we enter the final months of 2021, many Hoosiers will face a difficult choice – selecting and enrolling into a health insurance plan. 2022 open enrollment for the state of Indiana, which takes place from Nov. 1 through Dec. 15, should be at the top of your mind, especially if your situation applies to one of the following categories:

- An individual moving off of a guardian's plan and obtaining their own health insurance
- An independent contractor or self-employed individual
- An Individual who does not have access to employer sponsor coverage
- An unemployed or retired individual
- A new resident of the state of Indiana
- A person that has been recently re-

leased from incarceration

Whether you apply to one of the situations listed above or you are facing another set of common or unique circumstances, each consumer is tasked with determining which insurance plan meets their needs.

Open enrollment can be stressful for consumers, and the continued presence of COVID-19 adds additional pressures on individuals as they determine the best insurance plan for themselves, their partner and/or their children. CareSource, a nonprofit, multi-state health plan committed to Indiana, would like to help reduce the many frustrations that consumers experience as they navigate the Marketplace. Here are three points to keep in mind as you face open enrollment this year.

### Time is of the essence.

Open enrollment comes around once a year, and there is only a limited time frame allotted to consumers to select a provider and determine a specific plan that best fits their needs and lifestyle. It is encouraged that you begin researching your options

sooner rather than later.

CareSource is available in all 92 counties in Indiana, with a few new in-network providers in cities like Elkhart, South Bend and Richmond. A statewide presence is not always the case for every provider; therefore, consumers should begin their research by determining what providers are available within their specific areas. Once the available providers have been located, you should review insurance premiums and plan benefits. This information is typically outlined on each insurance company's website. Other factors, such as changes within the government and modifications to health care networks, should also be weighed when making this choice.

### Assess your current health and start planning ahead for the future.

COVID-19 sent a ripple effect throughout many of our lives, causing us to become hyper-aware of our health and the health of our loved ones. This newfound awareness has resulted in increasing numbers of consumers looking to develop a better understanding of their wellness goals and obligations. A trip to a doctor's office is where many will begin this journey, and the current status of their health will greatly influence their need for future doctor appointments, prescription medicines and other health services over the course of the next year.

CareSource offers Marketplace plans to consumers at a gold, silver and bronze level, which are tied to align with your health requirements. By speaking with your doc-

tor and prioritizing healthy lifestyle changes and choices, you can make an educated decision on which health plan will best fit with your current lifestyle while also being considerate of your budget.

### Evaluate your experience with your current plan. If you're content, stay where you are.

Switching plans every year can be complicated and confusing, particularly when this change requires you to locate new physicians or enter into a new health care network altogether. Before you make a switch, take some time to reflect over the last year. Begin by evaluating your experience with your current health plan as well as what the next year with this plan could potentially look like. If you're satisfied, stay where you are and avoid making any unnecessary changes.

If you are exploring other options, take the time to compare your current plan against pending future plans. Identify the key characteristics that stand out and matter most to you. Research each providers' history, track records and consumer satisfaction rates. CareSource has been serving its members for more than 30 years, and currently provides 2 million members with coverage across Indiana and four other states. In the end, select a plan with a provider that you can trust.

For more information on CareSource, visit [caresource.com/in/plans](https://www.caresource.com/in/plans).

Steve Smitherman serves as the President of CareSource Indiana.



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## Hamilton County Reporter

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# Holiday

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Plan your holiday experience at [VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Holiday](https://www.VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Holiday)



# Help Carmel police ID these people



Photo provided by Carmel Police Department

The Carmel Police Department is conducting an investigation and would like to identify and speak with the people shown above. If you have any information about these people, please contact Detective Adam Theis at the Carmel Police Department at (317) 571-2500, or call Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana at (317) 262-8477 (TIPS). Please reference CPD case number 21-69786.

## Hamilton County median home price at \$362,548, up 16.2% since last year

### The REPORTER

The booming real estate market has been one of the most noteworthy stories of the pandemic-era economy. Demand for residential real estate increased early on in the pandemic at a time when living and working space took on greater importance. Government stimulus in response to COVID-19's economic effects, low mortgage interest rates, and high savings rates and investment returns have given more households the financial means to enter the real estate market.

Yet, the supply of homes has been historically low for much of this same period, only recently returning to pre-pandemic levels. Many current owners have been hesitant to sell and shop for new homes in such a competitive market. Meanwhile, homebuilding has been challenged by supply and building material shortages that have made it hard to keep up with demand.

The forces of high demand and limited supply have produced dramatic price increases in the housing market since the start of the pandemic. While prices had been climbing steadily since the end of the last recession, the rate of growth has been much higher since the beginning of 2020. Home prices have risen by more than 20 percent over that period, with the typical home price in the U.S. crossing over \$300,000 for the first time in history, according to data from Zillow.

The pandemic has also led people to reconsider where they live and work, which will have its own effects on housing markets in the U.S. Many employers are now permanently offering telework, hybrid schedules, or other flexible arrangements that offer

employees more choice of where to live. Meanwhile, Millennials – now the largest living generation – are becoming a major force in the real estate market, with many looking for affordable places to settle their growing families.

With these factors at play, some states may prove less desirable given their significantly higher price points. The geographic disparities between home prices in the U.S. can be enormous, with some states costing more than double the national level. For example, the median home price in Hawaii – the most expensive state – is \$764,146, which is more than twice the national median and over six times more expensive than the median home in West Virginia, which sells for \$118,581.

In general, states on the coasts like California, Massachusetts, and Washington are also among the most expensive locales, while homebuyers who prioritize affordability should look to the South and Midwest. Home prices are lower in these regions for a variety of reasons, including local laws and ordinances that affect how easy it is to build homes, as in places like Texas, and stagnant or declining populations that reduce demand for housing, as in Rust Belt locations like Ohio and Michigan.

To identify the cheapest locations in the U.S., researchers at Porch analyzed county-level home

price data from Zillow. The researchers also calculated changes in home price, and included median household income data from the Census Bureau. To improve relevance, only counties with at least 200,000 residents were included. Additionally, counties were grouped into cohorts based on population size: small (200,000 to 349,999), midsize (350,000 to 749,999), and large (750,000 or more).

The analysis found that since the same time last year, Hamilton County experienced an increase of 16.2 percent in median home price – up to \$362,548. The U.S. median increased by 17.7 percent over the same period.

Here is a summary of the data for Hamilton County:

- Median home price: \$362,548
- One-year change in home price: 16.2 percent
- Five-year change in home price: 39.2 percent
- Median household income: \$105,062

For reference, here are the statistics for the entire United States:

- Median home price: \$303,288
- One-year change in home price: 17.7 percent
- Five-year change in home price: 45.6 percent
- Median household income: \$65,712

For more information, a detailed methodology, and complete results, you can find the original report on Porch's website at [this link](#).

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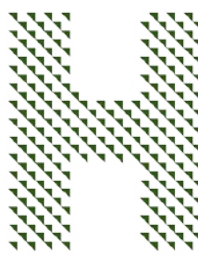
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# Attorney General Todd Rokita files lawsuit to stop Biden from forcing vaccine mandates on Indiana health care workers

**Submitted**

On Monday, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita filed a third lawsuit aimed at stopping President Joe Biden's unlawful COVID-19 vaccine mandates – this one against a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rule requiring vaccination of all health care workers at facilities participating in

Medicare or Medicaid. “No pandemic gives President Biden the authority to ignore the Constitution and the rule of law,” Rokita said. “And my office will use every means at our disposal to protect Hoosiers’ liberties from this president’s gross executive overreach.” Attorney General Rokita filed the most recent

lawsuit in partnership with the attorneys general of Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah and West Virginia. On a practical level, this particular vaccine mandate causes grave danger to the vulnerable persons whom Medicare and Medicaid were designed to protect –

the poor, sick and elderly – by forcing the termination of heroic caregivers who are essential to providing health care services. Earlier this month, Rokita filed legal actions aimed at stopping two other mandates. In the first lawsuit, filed Nov. 4 by Indiana, Louisiana and Mississippi, Rokita challenged a rule requiring vaccination for everyone working for federal contractors, including some state entities. On Nov. 12, Indiana and the other states in that case asked the court to enjoin the contractor mandate immediately, while the lawsuit is pending. In the second lawsuit, Rokita on Nov. 5 challenged an Occupational Safety and Health Admin-

istration (OSHA) rule forcing all employers with 100 or more workers to require all employees to be vaccinated (or produce weekly negative COVID-19 tests). As in the contractor mandate case, Rokita asked the court to act immediately to prevent enforcement of the OSHA rule. In the case of the OSHA rule, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has already ruled against this mandate as “fatally flawed” in response to a lawsuit brought by other states. Multiple OSHA lawsuits were consolidated into a single circuit via a lottery selection on Tuesday.



Rokita

“We’re already seeing the positive results of likeminded attorneys general taking a strong stand for citizens’ rights,” Rokita said. “Here in Indiana, we will remain relentless in our fight against these intrusive edicts by a socialist-leaning president.” As with the first two lawsuits, in this new lawsuit regarding the Medicaid/Medicare rule, Indiana and the other plaintiff states are asking the court to act immediately to prevent enforcement of the vaccine mandate. [Click here](#) to watch Attorney General Rokita discuss these issues.

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## Job creators back GOP U.S. Senators’ challenge to Biden vaccine mandate

**The REPORTER**

Job creators and employee-rights organizations are coming out in support of Republican U.S. Senators challenging President Biden's vaccine-or-test mandate for private businesses. “Senate Republicans are challenging the overreach of federal power that is President Biden's vaccine-or-test mandate for private businesses,” said Sen. Mike Braun, “and I urge the Senate to vote in favor of this disapproval resolution when it comes to the floor for a filibuster-proof, simple-majority vote as soon as early December. Republicans are united against President Biden's vaccine-or-test mandate for businesses, but this federal overreach is not a partisan issue, and the consequences of this mandate are affecting Americans in all 50 states.”

The following groups representing American employees and employers are supporting the Senators’ efforts:

- National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW)
- Plastics Pipe Institute
- Concerned Women for America LAC
- National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
- American Commitment
- Associated General Contractors of America
- National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA)
- Distribution Contractors Association
- Power and Communication Contractors Association (PCCA)
- American Pipeline



Braun

Contractors Association (APCA)

- National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)
- National Retail Federation

The Congressional Review Act is the official process for Congress to eliminate an executive branch rule. The resolution has been received by the Senate and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP). This move to overturn President Biden's vaccine or test mandate for private employers is guaranteed a vote on the Senate floor. The rule was transmitted to the Senate on Tuesday, with the disapproval resolution introduced on Wednesday, setting up a floor vote as soon as early December.

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## Copies of 2022 State Parks special events calendar now available

### The REPORTER

Advance copies of the 2022 Indiana State Parks special events calendar are available in PDF format by emailing [speialevents@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:speialevents@dnr.IN.gov). You can request a hard copy by calling (317) 232-4140.

This calendar offers a high-level listing of events and dates for the entire year for those who are planning vacations and weekend trips to coincide with their favorite activities.

Events on the 2022 calendar range from winter bald eagle watches and full moon hikes in several locations to dates for Easter egg hunts, paddling events, fireworks, organized runs and walks like Volksmarches, holiday buffets at inns, and fall festival weekends at DNR properties across the state.

Individual events with additional details will also be posted by properties on the DNR calendar, which you can see at [calendar.dnr.IN.gov](http://calendar.dnr.IN.gov) or by visiting [interpretiveservices.IN.gov](http://interpretiveservices.IN.gov). Events are also posted at nature centers and park gates.

Some state parks also offer periodic electronic newsletters with event details. A list of these is at [Subscribe at public.govdelivery.com/accounts/INDNR/subscriber/topics](http://Subscribeatpublic.govdelivery.com/accounts/INDNR/subscriber/topics), where you can select individual parks under State Parks.

"In addition to these special events, our interpretive naturalists offer a wide range of daily hikes, talks, and other outdoor experiences to introduce and connect Hoosiers to our natural and cultural resources throughout the year," said Ginger Murphy, deputy director of Indiana State Parks.

For camping reservations, visit [camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov) (available 24 hours) or call 1-866-6CAMPIN (1-866-622-6746) between noon and 8 p.m. Reservations can now be made year-round up to six months in advance to ensure that you have your favorite campsite.

For reservations at Indiana State Park Inns, visit [IndianaInns.com](http://IndianaInns.com) or call 1-877-LODGES1 (1-877-563-4371).

## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

*Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.*

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

*Ephesians 4:25-32 (NIV)*

## Patoka Lake hosts archery lesson Dec. 11

### The REPORTER

Patoka Lake will host an archery lesson for beginner to intermediate archers from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 11 inside the Patoka Lake Nature Center. The lessons will be taught by the interpretive naturalist, who is a certified archery instructor.

The event is open to ar-

chers age 8 and older, and all archery equipment will be provided. Participation is limited to the first 15 people, and cost is \$5 per person. Register by calling the Patoka Lake Nature Center at (812) 685-2447.

Patoka Lake ([on.IN.gov/patokalake](http://on.IN.gov/patokalake)) is at 3084 N. Dillard Road, Birdseye, Ind.

## Patricia "Pat" Egler

January 2, 1927 – November 11, 2021

Patricia "Pat" Egler, 94, Kempton, passed away peacefully on November 11, 2021 at IU North Hospital. She was born January 2, 1927 to Earl and Emma (Harrell) Hodson in Hamilton County.

Pat graduated from Kempton High School and was a member of the Kempton Christian Church. She enjoyed the many years that she worked as a bookkeeper at Kempton Grain and in the lab at Stokely-Van Camp in Tipton. However, her greatest joys were her family and life on the farm.

Pat loved her daughters' participation in band and 4-H and sharing her love of homemaking and farm life with her grandchildren. She was active for many years in the Tipton County and Jefferson Township Farm Bureau, Tipton County Home Extension Club, Kempton Christian Church's Ladies' Aide Society and socializing with friends through the ABC and Euchre clubs.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 43 years, Robert "Bob" Egler, in 1991, a sister Jean Leininger, a brother Max Hodson, and her parents.

Pat is survived by two daughters, Carol Hinshaw (Craig) of Davison, Mich., and Sherry Fischer (Randy) of Noblesville; and five grandchildren, Sara Stockinger (Ryan), Alison Sklarczyk (Ben), Greta Favara (Anthony), Lorna King (Kris) and Robert Fischer. She is also survived by three great-grandchildren, Isaac Stockinger, Morgan Sklarczyk and Dane Sklarczyk.

Services for Pat were held on Wednesday, November 17 at Young-Nichols Funeral Home with Rev. Creede Hinshaw officiating. Burial was at Kempton Cemetery.

The family requested that masks be worn while at the visitation and funeral.

Memorial contributions may be made in honor of Pat to the Tipton High School Band, 619 S. Main St., Tipton, IN 46072; Tipton County 4-H Program, 1200 S. Main St., Tipton, IN, 46072; or a charity of the donor's choosing.

Pat's family would like to thank the staff at IU North Hospital and Dr. Michael Harper for their compassionate care.

Condolences: [young-nichols.com](http://young-nichols.com)



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## Sports Editor Richie Hall

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## Girls basketball

# Tigers tough out win over 'Rocks

By RICHIE HALL

**WESTFIELD** - Are the young Fishers Tigers playing beyond their years?

Fishers showed a nice amount of maturity during its game with Westfield at the Shamrocks' CSI Gymnasium on Thursday. In the Hoosier Crossroads Conference opener for both teams, the Tigers got off to a big early lead, then held steady during a Westfield comeback in the third quarter. Fishers would regain the lead in the fourth, and eventually win 46-43 in a hard-fought game.

With that, the Tigers remained perfect for the season at 5-0.

"Obviously young teams are more motivated by the wins because that's all that they know, right?" said Fishers coach Lauren Votaw. "They haven't been through the process and they don't know how long the season is. It is really important to continue to get those wins, but like I've challenged them, it's important to learn from every opportunity that we have in order to keep growing and getting better. I've told them, we got to turn around, we're practicing tomorrow morning at 6:30 and we got to get ready for Zionsville on Tuesday."

Fishers trailed 33-30 going into the fourth quarter, but went on a 7-0 run that took up the first part of that period. Olivia Smith got the Tigers back in front by making back-to-back layins, then Joirdyn Smith made two free throws. Hailey Smith finished the run with another foul shot. (If your name was Smith, you were scoring during the game.)

With that, Fishers led 37-33. The 'Rocks pushed back to tie the game after Ellie Kelleher's layin and two free throws from Alyssa Crockett. But Hailey Smith would break that tie by hitting a 3-pointer, which would turn out to be the game-winner, as the Tigers never trailed again. The game's final two minutes followed a pattern: Westfield would cut Fishers' lead to one point, but Fishers would make the baskets it needed to stay ahead. Emmrey Collinworth hit two foul shots to get the 'Rocks within 40-39, then Hailey Smith made a layin. Crockett's



Reporter photos by Kirk Green

**Fishers' Hailey Smith scored 19 points for the Tigers during their 46-43 win at Westfield Thursday, in the Hoosier Crossroads Conference opener for both teams. Smith made two free throws with 5.4 seconds left that sealed the victory.**

[Click here](#) to see more pictures from the game.

two free throws were answered by an Olivia Smith basket, then Crockett scored to keep Westfield within 44-43.

The Shamrocks had to foul, though, and that put Hailey Smith on the line with 5.4 seconds left. She made the two free throws to seal the game.

"I think our players did a great job of managing the game down the stretch," said Votaw. "We talk about layups and free throws. They know when I say 'layups and free throws' that I want them

See Tigers . . . Page 11



**Upcoming Broadcasts**

**Thursday November 18, 2021**  
6:00 | Girls Basketball Junior Varsity | Fishers vs Westfield | HCTV Sports  
7:30 | Girls Basketball Varsity | Fishers vs Westfield | HCTV Sports

**FRIDAY, November 19, 2021,**  
6:00 | Girls Basketball Junior Varsity | Brownsburg vs Noblesville | HCTV Sports  
7:00 | Girls Basketball | Anderson Prep vs Central Christian | Indiana SRN  
7:20 | Girls Basketball | Franklin Central vs Hamilton Southeastern | Southeastern Sports Network  
7:30 | Girls Basketball Varsity | Brownsburg vs Noblesville | HCTV Sports

**SATURDAY, November 20, 2021**  
1:20 | Girls Basketball | Martinsville vs Chatard | Indiana SRN  
1:20 | Girls Basketball | Bloomington North vs Covenant Christian | Indiana SRN








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Alyssa Crockett scored 13 points for Westfield.

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# 'Hawks drop close game to Warriors

Sheridan dropped a tough game to Covenant Christian 47-43 Thursday at Larry Hobbs Hall.

The Warriors outscored the Black-hawks in the first three quarters, leading 14-8 after one and 27-17 at halftime. Sheridan trailed 38-26 after three pe-riods, but went on a fourth-quarter run, with Kenzie Garner scoring seven points during that period. Garner also had seven in the third quarter as well. But Sheridan's comeback fell just short.

Garner finished with a double-dou-ble, scoring 22 points and pulling 10 re-bounds. Garner made four 3-pointers for the 'Hawks. Cecilia Timme also had a strong game, with 11 rebounds to go with nine points. Berkley Williams had seven rebounds and Taylor Bates collected five.

Sheridan is 1-2 and hosts Elwood on Saturday. The game tips off at noon and

is varsity only.

COVENANT CHRISTIAN 47, SHERIDAN 43				
Sheridan	FG	FT	TP	PF
Cecilia Timme	4-9	0-0	9	4
Kenzie Garner	8-22	2-4	22	4
Berkley Williams	1-9	0-2	2	2
Chaney Smith	0-9	0-0	0	0
Taylor Bates	3-4	2-2	8	2
Lilly Chesney	0-3	0-0	0	1
Jacquellynne Bates	1-3	0-0	2	4
Ashley Webel	0-3	0-0	0	1
Totals	17-62	4-8	43	18
Score by Quarters				
Covenant	14	13	11	9 - 47
Sheridan	8	9	9	17 - 43
Sheridan 3-point shooting (5-26) Garner 4-12, Timme 1-2, Smith 0-4, Williams 0-3, Webel 0-2, J. Bates 0-2, Chesney 0-1.				
Sheridan rebounds (40) Timme 11, Gar-ner 10, Williams 7, T. Bates 5, Smith 3, Chesney 2, Webel 1, J. Bates 1.				



Photo by Dwight Casler

Sheridan's Cecilia Timme scored nine points and had 11 rebounds for the Blackhawks during their Thursday game with Covenant Christian.

# Golden Eagles sail past Cardinal Ritter

Guerin Catholic put together a domi-nant performance on Thursday, sailing past Cardinal Ritter 61-30 in an away game.

The Golden Eagles outscored the Raiders in all four quarters, leading 11-6 after the first period and 27-13 at halftime. Hannah Weitzel therw in two 3-pointers during the second quarter, and added another basket for eight points.

Kathryn Loso stepped up during the third quarter, pouring in 11 points and helping Guerin Catholic to a 21-point pe-riod. The Golden Eagles led 48-21 after three.

Loso led the way with 19 points; she made all eight of her field goal attempts and all three of her free throws. Weitzel finished the game with three 3-pointers and 11 points. Katie Koger added eight and Megan Cobb drained two 3s for six points. Koger also made a 3-pointer.

Guerin Catholic is 3-1 and returns to the Eagles Nest on Saturday afternoon to play Heritage Christian. It will be the first

Circle City Conference game of the sea-son for both teams.

GUERIN CATHOLIC 61, CARDINAL RITTER 30				
Guerin Catholic	FG	FT	TP	PF
Katie Koger	3-8	1-1	8	1
Hannah Weitzel	4-6	0-0	11	2
Natalie Fernandez	1-6	1-1	3	1
Megan Cobb	2-9	0-0	6	4
Kathryn Loso	8-8	3-3	19	3
Caityn Sharpe	0-1	0-0	0	1
Mia Thompson	1-4	0-0	2	0
Halley Buehler	0-6	4-6	4	1
Sutton Worman	1-1	0-0	2	3
Ava Bills	0-3	1-2	1	2
Natalie Haines	2-2	1-2	5	0
Kori Dues	0-0	0-0	0	0
Annie Murphy	0-3	0-0	0	0
Totals	22-57	11-15	61	18
Score by Quarters				
Guerin Catholic	11	16	21	13 - 61
Cardinal Ritter	6	7	8	9 - 30
Guerin Catholic 3-point shooting (6-22) Weitzel 3-5, Cobb 2-6, Koger 1-3, Fernan-dez 0-3, Thompson 0-2, Sharpe 0-1, Bills 0-1, Murphy 0-1.				

# TIGERS

to take great shots only and literally, or if you get fouled, you're allowed to shoot the free throws. And I thought they did a fabulous job of moving the basketball, meeting passes, staying out of trouble. And then when we drew everybody out, finding the open player and finishing layups. I thought we battled on the de-fensive end of the floor for the rebounds all night long. I was really proud of our effort down there, too."

Fishers jumped out to a 13-3 lead after one quarter of play. Hailey Smith scored six points and Olivia Smith added four. Alycia Triplett also helped out by making a three-point play.

A Triplett free throw gave the Tigers another 10-point lead, at 18-8. But West-field roared back with an 8-0 run to get back into the game. Collinsworth and

Olivia Robey each hit 3-pointers, sand-wiched between a basket from Chesney Tebbe. Joirdyn Smith made a pair of foul shots to give Fishers a 20-16 lead at half-time.

Joirdyn Smith then nailed a 3 to put the Tigers up 25-22, but back-to-back baskets from Robey and Crockett put Westfield in front for the first time at 26-25. It was the first of five straight lead changes in the quarter. The fifth was due to Mikayla Rudolph's layin, which put the Shamrocks up 31-30, then Robey scored to give Westfield the three-point advantage after three.

But after that, the Smith twins took over, with Hailey scoring eight and Ol-ivia six.

"They're our leaders and they know that and they embrace that," said Votaw.

"I challenged them in the second half to step up and to be those leaders and they exceeded my expectations of what to do. I was just really proud of our kids. We were running kids in and out. We got some young kids minutes and everybody who came in, I thought did a good job. Credit to Westfield. They just would not go away. Their shots weren't falling early on and they battled and battled and bat-tled."

Hailey Smith finished with a dou-ble-double of 19 points and 10 rebounds, while Olivia Smith scored 16 points. Triplett collected five rebounds.

Crockett had a double-double as well, with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Robey scored nine and Collinsworth added eight, including two 3-pointers.

"We didn't maximize opportunites when we had them," said Westfield coach Ginny Smith. "They switched all screens and we never got it in the paint. We had mismatches. First half, we shot 27 per-cent and just didn't make shots, didn't make free throws. We were excellent defensively overall. We had very few missed boxouts, we didn't give out a lot of o-boards. We only had 11 turnovers on the night. We forced 19 turnovers, but never capitalized on any of them. We forced them to cough the basketball up, but then couldn't convert. I think until we can find some consistent scoring, it's go-ing to be tough to beat a good team. We can put ourself in a position, but when you need a bucket and you can't get a bucket, it makes it tough to win."

from Page 10

The Tigers' next game is back home at the Tiger Den, as they host HCC oppo-nent Zionsville on Tuesday. Westfield is 3-2 and hosts Pike on Tuesday.

FISHERS 46, WESTFIELD 43				
Fishers	FG	FT	TP	PF
Karina Scott	0-3	0-0	0	3
Joirdyn Smith	1-4	4-4	7	2
Kate Thomas	0-2	0-0	0	3
Hailey Smith	5-9	8-9	19	3
Olivia Smith	8-10	0-1	16	3
Talia Harris	0-1	0-0	0	1
Morgan Roberts	0-0	0-0	0	0
Alycia Triplett	1-1	2-3	4	1
Allison Scheu	0-1	0-0	0	0
Ava Carter	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	15-31	14-17	46	16
Fishers 3-point shooting (2-9) H. Smith 1-3, J. Smith 1-1, Scott 0-2, Harris 0-1, Thomas 0-1, Scheu 0-1.				
Fishers rebounds (26) H. Smith 10, Triplett 5, Harris 3, Thomas 2, O. Smith 2, J. Smith 1, team 3.				
Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Ellie Kelleher	2-5	0-0	4	3
Alyssa Crockett	4-14	5-7	13	1
Chesney Tebbe	3-5	0-0	6	3
Olivia Robey	4-10	0-0	9	2
Hailey Remaks	0-2	1-2	1	1
Emmrey Collinsworth	2-6	2-2	8	1
Mikayla Rudolph	1-1	0-0	2	2
Kiki Loveless	0-0	0-0	0	2
Totals	16-43	8-11	43	15
Westfield 3-point shooting (3-14) Col-linsworth 2-2, Robey 1-4, Crockett 0-5, Kelleher 0-1, Tebbe 0-1, Remaks 0-1.				
Westfield rebounds (18) Crockett 10, Remaks 2, Kelleher 1, Tebbe 1, Rudolph 1, Robey 1, team 2.				
Score by Quarters				
Fishers	13	7	10	16 - 46
Westfield	3	13	17	10 - 43

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# NBA standings

Thursday's games	
Golden State 104, Cleveland 89	Philadelphia 103, Denver 89
Miami 112, Washington 97	Utah 119, Toronto 103
Memphis 120, L.A. Clippers 108	
Minnesota 115, San Antonio 90	

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic	W	L	PCT.	GB	Northwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Brooklyn	11	5	.688	-	Utah	10	5	.667	-
Philadelphia	9	7	.563	2.0	Denver	9	6	.600	1.0
New York	8	7	.533	2.5	Portland	8	8	.500	2.5
Boston	7	8	.467	3.5	Oklahoma City	6	8	.429	3.5
Toronto	7	9	.438	4.0	Minnesota	6	9	.400	4.0
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB	Pacific	W	L	PCT.	GB
Chicago	10	5	.667	-	Golden State	13	2	.867	-
Cleveland	9	8	.529	2.0	Phoenix	11	3	.786	1.5
Milwaukee	7	8	.467	3.0	L.A. Clippers	9	6	.600	4.0
Indiana	6	10	.375	4.5	L.A. Lakers	8	8	.500	5.5
Detroit	4	10	.286	5.5	Sacramento	6	9	.400	7.0
Southeast	W	L	PCT.	GB	Southwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Miami	11	5	.688	-	Dallas	9	5	.643	-
Washington	10	5	.667	0.5	Memphis	8	7	.533	1.5
Charlotte	9	7	.563	2.0	San Antonio	4	11	.267	5.5
Atlanta	7	9	.438	4.0	New Orleans	2	14	.125	8.0
Orlando	4	11	.267	6.5	Houston	1	14	.067	8.5

# Noblesville college signings



Palmer Ault has committed to play soccer at Butler University. Pictured: Front row (left to right): Kevin Ault (Father), Palmer Ault, Sherry Ault (Mother), Lily Ault (Sister), Sophia Ault (Sister). Back row (left to right): Noblesville boys soccer head coach Ken Dollaske.

# WNBA approves new playoff format

The WNBA Board of Governors approved changes to the league’s playoff format and postseason seeding, effective with the 2022 season, the WNBA announced Thursday. The reconfigured postseason structure will include three rounds of series play using a best-of 3-5-5 format.

Beginning with the WNBA’s 26th season, the eight teams with the highest winning percentages over a 36-game schedule regardless of conference will qualify for the playoffs and be seeded based on their record. All eight playoff teams will participate in first-round, bracket-style play consisting of four best-of-three series.

In one bracket, first-round play will place the No. 1 seed facing the No. 8 seed and the No. 4 seed versus the No. 5 seed in a best-of-three series, with the winners advancing to a best-of-five semifinals series against one another. In the other bracket, the No. 3 seed will face the No. 6 seed and the No. 2 seed will meet the No. 7 seed, with the winners moving on to face one another in the other best-of-five semifinals series.

The winners of the semifinals series will then meet in the WNBA Finals, which also will be a best-of-five series, to determine the WNBA champion.

Additional elements regarding the playoff structure are as follows:

- The number of playoff rounds shifts from four to three and no teams will receive a bye to start the postseason. Teams will not be reseeded following the first round.
- The planned change for the first-round series games will include a 2-1 format in which the higher seed will host Games 1 and 2 and the lower seed will host Game 3 if necessary.
- The new format will add eight potential games to the playoff footprint.
- The semifinals and WNBA Finals will each remain unchanged as best-of-five series and follow the same 2-2-1 format whereby the higher seed hosts Games 1, 2 and 5, and the lower-seeded team will host Games 3 and 4 in their respective series.

“We have been evaluating different playoff formats over the past 12 months, and the new playoff format being announced today will enable fans to engage with all of the league’s best teams and top stars right from the start of the post-season with all eight championship contenders immediately involved in exciting, first-round action,” said WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert. “Following significant discussions with our Competition Committee and a Playoff subcommittee we formed last year, it was clear that while the prior format’s single-elimination games created a win-and-advance level of excitement to the start of the postseason, the new best-of-three series format will provide added opportunities to create and showcase rivalries with all playoff-eligible teams participating.”

The prior playoff format, adopted in 2016 consisted of four rounds using a 1-1-5-5 format, with two single elimination rounds and the No. 1 and 2 seeds receiving double byes into the semifinals. The new playoff format being announced Thursday will provide the top eight teams with a consistent start to their playoff runs.



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