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We wish you a  
Merry Christmas!**





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Original stage production directed by WALTER BOBBIE  
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**DIG YOUR OWN GRAVE** from Page 1

“Brynne, I’m so sorry,” I told my wife.

Once she determined that her freshly, half-orphaned husband had publicly squirmed enough, Brynne said, “I’ll stick it out with you today since it’s your mom’s funeral, but tomorrow you’re packing your bags.”

Whether what Brynne said was meant to be a joke or not, my relatives found it quite funny (talk about a pack of wild dogs). Of course, I married someone who likes to get the last laugh, too, so I wasn’t too worried.

Later, at the cemetery, Jamie, impressed by my wife’s “que sera, sera” demeanor at the funeral home, told her, “You’re a hell of a lot more woman than I am.”

When Brynne’s brow lost its furrow, she squeezed my arm and announced, “You do know your mom made you call me Mary. She got the last laugh at her own funeral.”

After my daughter delivered an emotional eulogy about her grandma to the many mourners, I took the podium to confess to those unaware of my earlier blunder, sort of a last-ditch effort to sincerely apologize to my wife, hoping my public self-shaming would truly convince Brynne how sorry I felt. Everyone found what I said to be quite funny, especially the part about Brynne saying Mom had made it happen.

I closed with “Thanks a lot, Mom” while glancing over at her open casket, ending the funeral service with frivolity, of which Mom would’ve approved. I imagined her winking at me then from her state of rest, conceding from her coffin that I was the winner of our lifelong competition for the last laugh.

Sadly, though, in hindsight, I now realize I wasn’t the one who got the last laugh that day. I’m certain my kids texted to their own mom what foolish thing their dad had done. It was my ex-wife who ultimately got the last laugh, though her name escapes me now. I’m not stupid.

*Scott Saalman also writes columns for the Du-bois County Herald and the Evansville Courier & Press. He is now a proud Fishers resident. You can reach him at [scottsaa1man@gmail.com](mailto:scottsaa1man@gmail.com).*

**Hello, Hamilton County!**



**Paul Poteet or Betty Grable?**  
**Click to play video**

**PREVAIL**  
Advocating for  
Victims of Crime and Abuse  
[prevailinc.org](http://prevailinc.org)






*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  
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in Noblesville,  
14701 Tom Wood Way.**



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**DRIVE TODAY**

**TEST**



SPiRiT

from Page 1



Photo provided

they provide Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas dinner, presents and clothes for kids.

“We get a gift for any child from a family that is with Open Doors who is birth through high school age,” Zentz said. “We ask the parents for any suggestions of what they would like. We do that up to a \$25 value. We try to keep the gifts pretty equal in value, so everybody is giving something in a similar price range. Sometimes we do gift cards for some of the older kids who it is not so easy to shop for.”

Open Doors used to provide pajama sets and sweat suit sets on alternating years for kids, in addition to a toy for each child, but since COVID has created its own challenges, now families get a \$25 gift card to pur-

chase sweats or pajamas for their children.

According to Zentz, this year Open Doors will provide 520 gifts to kids in Westfield.

Each child also receives a \$25 gift card for pajamas or sweats and the family receives a box of food for their Christmas Dinner. Food distribution and volunteer services are organized by Carrie Larrison. Amber Janes and Shawna Harouff coordinate the PJ/Sweats Gift Cards. LeAnne Zentz coordinates the toy donations for the kids.

You can help provide Christmas to Westfield families in need in a few ways.

Zentz has created a sign-up page where you can see individual requests that have been filled as well as those still needed. With just a few clicks you can sign up

to play the role of Santa’s helper at [this link](#).

You can also donate directly to Open Doors online at [opendoorswestfield.org](#).

And you can drop off donations at the following gift drop-off locations:

- Community First Bank: 707 E. State Road 32, Westfield (Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday)

- LeAnne Zentz: 958 Bright Beam Court, Westfield

- Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Indiana Realty: 4630 Lisborn Drive, Carmel (Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday)

The deadline for drop-offs is Thursday, Dec. 9. All gifts and gift cards will be distributed to families on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Presented by

*Behold the Lamb*  
Ministries, Inc.

# THE Story OF Christmas

WORSHIP THE KING

*Be our Guest!*

**2021 Christmas Concerts**

**Soli Deo Gloria Community Concert Choir**  
*(featured annually in The Hamilton County Passion Play)*  
Directed by Lisa Jennings

**Carmel Christkindlmarkt Concert**  
10 Carter Green, Carmel, IN  
Friday, December 3, 4:00 pm

**Indianapolis Arts Garden Concert**  
10 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN  
Saturday, December 4, 11:00 am

**Arcadia Tree Lighting - Mini Concert**  
Main Street, Downtown Arcadia, IN  
Saturday, December 4, 6:45 p.m.

Admission is free. No ticket required.  
Additional information: [beholdthelamb129@gmail.com](mailto:beholdthelamb129@gmail.com)  
or [beholdthelamb.com](http://beholdthelamb.com)

# Representative Victoria Spartz

## Constituent Services



### Help with Federal Agencies

I can help you when dealing with federal agencies, including:

- Social Security issues
- Medicare claims
- Veterans benefits
- Passport assistance
- IRS questions



### United States Flag Requests

Obtain commemorative flags flown over the United States Capitol from my office.



### Military Academy Nominations

High school students in our district may contact my office to request a nomination to attend one of our nation’s service academies.

**Anderson Office**  
**(765) 639-0671**

**Carmel Office**  
**(317) 848-0201**

**[www.spartz.house.gov](http://www.spartz.house.gov)**



# Prevail's Winter Appeal is Out!

Since 1986, Prevail has provided healing to over **75,000** community members.

**YOUR** support makes that possible.

**We need YOU** to save lives!



## Click to Give

# Lighting the Tree In Arcadia Saturday from 4-8



**Come out to see Santa & Mrs. Claus, dance in the street, snuggle by the firepits, enjoy a free-will chili supper, activities for the kids and shop for presents at the artisan Christmas Market.**

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## LEARN MORE

# Center Grove football player apologizes in letter for blackface

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

*Editor's note: This story is a follow-up to the news released Monday about a Westfield High School football player who said a social media post of a Center Grove High School football player in blackface was about him. [Click here](#) to read the original story.*

In a letter sent to WISH-TV I-Team 8 on Thursday, the Center Grove High School football player who went viral after being seen in blackface apologized to the community and to Popeye Williams.

Williams is the Westfield football player who says the Center Grove athlete, who News 8 is not identifying at the request of his parent, was imitating Williams in blackface. The photo began circulating after the Center Grove football team defeated Westfield in the Class 6A championship game last Saturday night at Lucas Oil Stadium.

The full letter follows.

*I have been wanting to reach out but was unsure of the best way to do so because of the media attention it has gotten. I would like to start off by apologizing to all the people I have offended and hurt. I had no racial or vulgar intention with this situation. I was just a 15-year-old celebrating a win with my teammates and we were messing around on the bus with eye black. Before this hit social me-*

*dia, none of us knew or had been educated on blackface or the true meaning behind it. Since that time, I have been educating myself on the history and meaning of blackface and hopefully others involved in this situation have as well. Now that I know the meaning, I would like to apologize to all I have offended, especially Popeye Williams. It was not directed towards him nor was it directed toward anyone. I would like to personally apologize to Popeye for making him feel the way he did about it and I would also like to thank him for handling the situation with grace. I would like to personally reach out to him and his family and apologize formally about the situation and maybe he can educate me more.*

*In my life, I have never had any type of racial aggression or ill feeling toward any race. I have always been a person to try and bring people together through joy and laughter. Never have I purposely tried to put people down or make them feel different than anybody else. I have friends and family of many racial diversities and love and support them the same as anyone else. I am always there if they need something. I am sorry that it has come to this and social media has tried dividing all of us. I would like for this to impact and change others and myself so that we all support and love each other and*

*have each other's back no matter skin color, cultural or religious beliefs because together we are stronger, and we can make a change. I believe in Popeye's motto - #spreadlovenothate.*

When I-Team 8 spoke to Williams on Monday, he said, "At the end of the day, I will forgive him for what he did and move on from it. And like I said, wish him the best of luck. I wish him the best in life in general, and hope he's successful."

I-Team 8 asked Williams how he felt about the letter. Williams texted, "If that's truly his apology letter, I love it. I know that plenty of people in this state, specifically, are still strongly bothered by his actions. I strongly believe and every else strongly believes that consequences should be taken. I thank him and his family for the apology letter."

Williams says he has not received a direct apology or heard from the Center Grove teen as of Thursday.

The mom of the Center Grove teen told I-Team 8 that the athlete is planning on reaching out directly to Williams.

Former Indianapolis Colts player Robert Mathis tweeted Thursday morning about the incident: "Very proud of nephew @Pop-eye2022 for being extremely mature and displaying integrity during this time but we still request a sit down with the Center Grove High School head coach."

# Sen. Mike Braun's Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act signed into law

## The REPORTER

On Tuesday, the **Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021** was **signed into law** by President Joe Biden. This bipartisan legislation was first introduced by U.S. Senators Mike Braun (R-Ind.) and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.).

The Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021 directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to create a program that will help actively recruit medical personnel, who are within one year of completing their military service, to remain in federal health care in departments like Veterans Affairs.

Representatives Robert E. Latta (Ohio-05) and Kathleen M. Rice (N.Y.-04) introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"The men and women who serve our nation deserve access to the best resources that will help them succeed as they transition to civilian life," Sen. Braun said. "I was proud to lead this bipartisan effort with Senator Hassan that will create a program to actively hire veterans and transitioning service members who have the skills critically needed in federal health care departments. Now that this legislation has been signed into law, we are one

step closer to fulfilling our obligation to those who have served to get them the best health services possible."

"We promise our veterans that we will be there for them, and today, here at the White House, we took a small step forward in helping keep that promise," Sen. Hassan said. "I was proud to work with Senator Braun on this important legislation because we must always ensure that veterans have the support and resources that they need to succeed, and a critical way to do that is by expanding employment opportunities for our nation's heroes and strengthening their health care. Our veterans continue to serve even after they transition to civilian life and I am pleased to help service members find meaningful employment that allows them to continue their mission to support the safety and health of their fellow Americans."

## Background

- In November 2019, the VA Inspector General stated that staff shortages are a root cause of many of the problems in veterans' care.
- The Department of



Braun


Defense has robust medical departments in the Army, Navy, and Air Force totaling 111,462 Active Duty and 67,951 Reserve personnel in 2020. All or part of the medical education and training has been paid for by the Federal government.

- Their Military Occupation Specialties (MOSs) span the full spectrum of the medical professions from primary care physicians, to neurosurgeons, nurse practitioners, health care administrators, physical therapists, pharmacists, radiology technicians, medical logistician, biomedical maintenance, etc.

- All these medical specialties can be utilized in the VHA, and their knowledge of the new electronic health record will also be invaluable.

- Currently, an average of 13,000 active-duty medical department members separate from the military each year at the end of enlistments/contracts or through retirement.

- There is no formal program in place to actively recruit them to remain in federal health care in departments like Veterans Affairs (VA).



**paulpoteet.com**

# See what's on the HUGE RADAR

**Follow The Reporter on Facebook!**



# Westfield ready to welcome you for yearly ‘Lights’ event





**MAIN STAGE SCHEDULE**  
3:00 | CENTRAL INDIANA DANCE ENSEMBLE  
3:30 | BACH TO ROCK  
4:30 | OAK TRACE TREBLE CHOIR  
5:00 | REINDEER SHOW  
5:35 | BACH TO ROCK  
6:30 | WESTFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR  
6:55 | TREE LIGHTING



Graphic provided  
Westfield in Lights, presented by Downtown Westfield Association (DWA), will once again take place downtown with the traditional event format. Westfield Welcome will host the event this evening from 3 to 7 p.m., including many outdoor activities, food vendors and retail merchants, pictures with Santa, and a Gingerbread House Competition. See the map above for specific locations for each activity at the corner of Union and Penn streets.

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Applications may be picked up at 105 E. Main Street, Atlanta  
Email [atlantact@iendeavor.com](mailto:atlantact@iendeavor.com) for more information

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## What you can do to improve your sleep quality, Part III

**COLUMNIST**



**SHARON McMAHON**  
*Be Well*

While we are looking for scientifically-based information on vaccines or any medications, why on earth would we rely on anyone other than our own physicians? If we do not trust their advice ... maybe we should change physicians rather than take our medical advice from media personalities, our neigh-

I have come to the conclusion that insomnia, sleep deprivation, or disturbed sleep must be a prevalent issue among many Americans. It is difficult to get through a TV show without a commercial advertising either prescription or OTC sleep aids. While strolling the vitamin aisles in the supermarkets or drug stores you will find the shelves stocked amply with OTC items such as noted above as well as herbal remedies. I would suggest that you forego self-treatment with any of these until you speak with your physician. Remember, too, that any OTCs or herbal items can interfere

**Sharon McMahon, CNWC**  
*The opinions expressed in this article are not intended to replace advice of your personal physician or licensed health professional. Please consult your physician for any issues you may have related to nutrition or fitness activity.*

**Holiday**

IN HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA

Come experience the magic of the season. Taste and smell the sweet confections as you stroll through the old-world market. Take in festive performances. See the brightly lighted town squares, and experience thrilling winter adventures. Holiday in Hamilton County this holiday season.



*Plan your holiday experience at [VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Holiday](http://VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Holiday)*



# Fishers Health Department offering pediatric, booster COVID vaccines

**The REPORTER**  
**Pediatric vaccines**

The Fishers Health Department is now offering the pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 at the Fishers Mass Vaccination Clinic, 12520 E. 116th St., after ACIP recommendation and CDC authorization.

Appointments are not required but recommended. Parents can schedule an appointment for their child at [ourshot.in.gov](https://ourshot.in.gov), by calling 2-1-1, or the Fishers COVID Hotline at (317) 595-3211.

A parent or guardian must provide consent, and children under 16 must be accompanied to the vaccination appointment by an adult.

**Booster vaccines**

Booster shots are now available for all individuals aged 18 or older who received their last dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago, or who got the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine two or more months ago.

CDC's recommendations now allow all eligible individuals to choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose.

**Schedule your appointment** and find **Booster Shot FAQs**. The Fishers Mass Vaccination Clinic has dedicated many appointments to facilitate this process.

**Third dose**

Immunocompromised individuals are also encouraged to receive a third dose of

Moderna or Pfizer at least 28 days after the completion of their second dose. They may also receive a booster dose six months after the third Moderna or Pfizer dose.

**Walk-ins available**

Anyone age 18 and over can receive the Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, or Moderna vaccine by appointment or walk-in any day at the Fishers Mass Vaccination Clinic.

Walk-ins for ages 5 and over are now available at the Fishers Mass Vaccination Site. For faster check in, **pre-register** or call 2-1-1 or the Fishers COVID-19 Hotline at (317) 595-3211.

A parent or guardian must provide consent, and children under 16 must be accompanied to the vaccination appointment by

an adult.

Please note walk-in hours end 30 minutes before closing.

**Fishers Vaccination Clinic**

- Monday: CLOSED
- Tuesday: Noon to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Thursday: Noon to 7 p.m.
- Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Sunday: CLOSED

\* Walk-in ends 30 minutes before closing.

**Upcoming closures**

- Dec. 23: CLOSED
- Christmas Eve – CLOSED
- Christmas Day – CLOSED
- New Year's Eve – CLOSED

*Letter to the Editor —*

**Shaffer questions financing, location of Carmel's Songbook Foundation Museum**

Dear Editor:

Carmel progressive utopians' latest public offense erupted last month.

The puppet-government Carmel Redevelopment Commission (CRC) blight fighters announced efforts to buy two parcels of land for a new Great American Songbook Museum across the street from the great mausoleum of music, the Palladium.

The mayor was quoted saying one parcel could go for \$4.8 million but he had no price on the second parcel, now occupied by a beauty salon. Odd that a beauty salon would be classified as blight.

Odder still is the Songbook Museum idea itself.

The Songbook Foundation accepted a \$30 million gift, the Asherwood Estate, in 2018 from the previous owners. They tried unsuccessfully to sell it for \$25 million in 2014 and to donate it in 2018 to the Indiana University Foundation at a \$50 million valuation.

Surely the CRC could find room on the 107-acre estate for a museum housing Tin Pan Alley memorabilia.

Not possible, apparently.

The city also told the State of Indiana Department of Local Government Finance that it owns \$197.5 million in land, some of which would appear suitable for a museum.

Not possible, apparently.

But, when you have a \$15 million slush fund to buy land – as the CRC has – thanks to city council generosity, who cares?

The final chapter in the continuing saga plays out at the Hamilton County Courthouse.

As of the first of the year, county records show the Songbook Foundation still owned the property and was taxed at a total of just under \$300 in 2021.

Now, however, the estate owner is Asherwood Carmel LLC, a shell corporation of the Old Town Design Group. Unknown is the amount the LLC paid the CRC (which apparently owns the Songbook lock stock and lyrics).

And the beat goes on.

**Bill Shaffer**  
Carmel

# Ivy Tech Community College to make transcripts available to 82,000 students

*College to discontinue a common practice of withholding transcripts of students who have an outstanding balance*

**The REPORTER**

Ivy Tech Community College announced Thursday that the College will make available the transcripts of all students regardless of whether the student owes a balance. Withholding transcripts has been a common way for most higher education institutions to incentivize students to pay debts. However, the practice makes it difficult for students to transfer and continue their education.

“Our primary goal at Ivy Tech Community College is to prepare individuals to achieve their goals and contribute to their families and their communities through high-wage careers,” said Ivy Tech President Sue Ellsperrmann. “We are working to remove barriers in the way of achieving that goal, and this is a step we can take to move our students toward a better financial future.”

The new policy does not forgive debt, but it does provide a way forward for students to continue their academic pursuits, which in turn sets them up for greater financial prosperity. The policy positively impacts as many as 82,000 students statewide.

In recent years, the College has explored several innovative ways to increase the graduation rate of its students. The new transcript policy, along with the **Ivy+** tuition and books program and other initiatives encourage students to complete their degrees faster and with fewer barriers.

Nearly all (98 percent) of the 410 respondents to a 2016 survey from the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) indicated their higher education institutions hold transcripts as a debt collection tactic. Nationally, according to the study, “Solving Stranded Credits: Assessing the Scope and Effects of Transcript Withholding on Students, States, and Institutions,” approximately 6.6 million

students have “stranded credits,” or academic credits they earned but cannot access due to unpaid balances.

Additionally, according to a survey from the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), public institutions that enroll higher percentages of Pell-eligible students are more likely to withhold transcripts for an outstanding balance. This suggests that students who are most in need are disproportionately affected by transcript hold policies.



Ellsperrmann

**Meeting Notices**

The Noblesville Common Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

The Noblesville Board of Public Works and Safety will meet in an executive session at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (7) For discussion of records classified as confidential by state or federal statute.

A regular meeting will follow at 9 a.m. in the Council Chamber at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

The Hamilton County Airport Authority will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

**CARMEL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

JANNA HYMES ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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with Hoosier singer-songwriter **Jon McLaughlin**

**Saturday, December 18**

Two performances: 3pm & 7:30pm

Westfield High School Auditorium, 18250 N Union St, Westfield IN

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Special Thanks to our Holiday Pops Sponsors

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions of The Reporter, its publisher or its staff. You can submit your own Letter to the Editor by email to [News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com).

**All Local, All the Time!**

**— County —**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**HAMILTON COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION**

The Hamilton County Plan Commission, will meet on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hamilton County Council Chambers / Commissioners Courtroom located in the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Building at One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana in order to hear the following proposed amendment to the Hamilton County Zoning Ordinance:

**ORDINANCE NO. 12-20-21-A**  
**AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR COMMERCIAL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS**

“Commercial Solar Energy Systems” shall be defined as: An area of land or other area used by a property owner and/or corporate entity for a solar collection system principally used to capture solar energy, convert it to electrical energy, or thermal power, and supply electric or thermal power, primarily or solely for off-site utility grid use, and consisting of one or more free-standing, ground-mounted, solar arrays or modules and/or fuels. Commercial Solar Energy Systems are a minimum of 1/4 acre in total area.

Geographic Area To Which Ordinance Applies: the entire jurisdiction of the Hamilton County Plan Commission including all zoning classifications. The Plan Commission's jurisdiction applies to all real property located in unincorporated areas in Adams, Noblesville, Wayne, and White River Townships that do not fall under the jurisdiction of another plan commission. A map of the jurisdiction of the Hamilton County Plan Commission can be examined at the office of the Hamilton County Plan Commission, One Hamilton County Square, Suite 306, Noblesville, Indiana, or viewed online at <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1450/County-Jurisdictional-Map-PDF>.

The ordinance may be examined at the office of the Hamilton County Plan Commission, One Hamilton County Square, Suite 306, Noblesville, Indiana. Please call (317) 776-8490 should you have any questions.

Interested parties may offer an oral opinion at the Hearing or may file written comments concerning the matter to be heard prior to or at the Hearing.

The Hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary. After the Hearing, the Plan Commission may take action on the proposed ordinance. The Hearing identified above is the opportunity to express concerns and ask questions on the proposed ordinance.

Dated this 3rd day of December 2021.

Hamilton County Plan Commission  
RL5257 12/4/21

**NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(4), the Hamilton County Airport Authority will meet in Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 in Conference Room 1A of the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, IN. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss negotiations with a commercial prospect.

RL5258 12/4/21

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All plans include a generous allowance for over-the-counter items plus a fitness membership allowance.

**The Right Medicare for Right Now**

Call **833-263-2217** today to enroll

Visit **MDwise.org/medicare** to order a FREE Enrollment Guide

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MDwise Medicare is an HMO/HMO-POS with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in MDwise Medicare depends on contract renewal.

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## TODAY'S BIBLE READING

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*  
Ephesians 6:18-20 (NIV)

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## Betty Jean Otis

May 1, 1929 – November 30, 2021

Betty Jean Otis, 92 years young, Westfield, passed away on November 30, 2021, at 1:22 p.m. She was born on May 1, 1929, daughter of Homer and Anna (Wood) Dill. Anna passed two days after giving birth to her beautiful daughter Betty Jean. Homer passed two years after Anna.

Betty was raised by Anna's sister Bertha and husband Andy Whicker in Westfield. The Whickers had two sons, Lowell and Lester. At some point cousin Kathleen Frost (later married to Mahlon Heinzman) joined the family as a result of her mother passing.

Betty was raised in the Wesleyan Methodist Church where she shared her gift of music vocally on many occasions. The Church was located on North Union Street in Westfield.

A new minister came to the Wesleyan church in Westfield by the name of Reverend R. J. Otis, along with his spouse Ollie. They had four children, Eldon (more commonly known as "Deacon"), Louise, Charles, and Sandra. The oldest, Deacon, was attending Marion College in Marion, Ind., (this later became Indiana Wesleyan) where he studied theology. Deacon hitchhiked often to visit his family. He met Betty in Westfield, and in time they grew fond of each other without really ever having a date. By now the Whicker brothers had their own families and kept a close watch on young Betty. Deacon and Betty were married after a few years of courting.

Deacon worked on the Monon Railroad along with doing some evangelistic ministry work. Betty took in ironing and caring for older family members while acquiring the necessary experience and education to qualify her to begin work as a nurse's aide at Riverview Hospital. She worked for several years at Riverview until Dr. Robert Shonk asked if she would work as a nurse in his medical practice. She did, and when Dr. Shonk passed away she began working with Dr. Eunice Carter in Noblesville until they both "retired" (not really). She took a little time off before going to work for Dr. Karl Siebe in Noblesville, where she worked until 2015 (a few months before she turned 85).

Betty had many friends along the way – many were family members. She spoke fondly of her shenanigans with cousin Keith Whicker, singing and cooking with her cousin Kathleen (Frost) Heinzman and friend, Evelyn (Myers) Owen. They were asked often to perform as a gospel trio. She also enjoyed driving around town with cousin Norma (Wood) Barker to "keep an eye on things" in the community. Many times, she shared a meal with friends Hubert and Geneva Berry and so many more.

Deacon passed away in 2004, but Betty's social life continued. She was still working, but enjoyed cooking (country cooking), music (especially hymns), animals (almost any kind, wild or domesticated), community events and people.

Betty shared many meals with her daughter Teresa Skelton (formerly Otis) and son-in-law Matt, and her buddy, Bill Marlott. Jim Harvey became a very important friend of hers for five years until Jim passed away. They both enjoyed driving across the countryside and eating Mexican food.

Betty was on the Summerfest committee (a summer festival Westfield used to host each year), she served the Republican Women's organization, she was a precinct committee person, a member of the Westfield Chamber of Commerce, Westfield Historical Society, Westfield Business Women's group, and she received the Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the year award in the 90s. She also did some volunteering at Sanders Glen which became her home over the past four years. She loved her friends and caregivers at Sanders Glen, the visiting musicians and the companion animals that often visited with her.

Visitation will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at Bussell Family Funerals. Betty will be laid to rest along with Deacon in Hamilton Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be directed to Sanders Glen, 334 Cherry St., Westfield.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family in arrangements.

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

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**RIGHT: Noblesville's Preston Roberts scored 17 points for the Millers.**

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Sabien Cain's off-balance basket with one second remaining gave the University boys a thrilling 56-55 win over Class 2A No. 18 Shenandoah before a raucous crowd Friday evening at The U Center.

Cain drove in to the lane and absorbed contact to the left of the hoop and got the ball on the rim where it bounced twice and fell through to complete a comeback win for the Blazers.

University trailed 53-48 with 1:30 left before turning up the defensive pressure to put themselves in position to win. Larry Pierce split two foul shots with 1:26 left to cut the Raiders lead to 53-49. University's defense pressured Shenandoah in to throwing the ball out of bounds with 1:17 left. Pierce scored on a rebound basket with 1:05 remaining to pull the Blazers within 53-51.

University's Kahmi Bracey drew an offensive foul with 54 seconds left to regain possession for the Trailblazers. University took a timeout and ran their offense to get Pierce open in the right corner for a three pointer that put the Blazers up 54-53. Shenandoah ran their offense through 6-4 senior Jasper Campbell. University played tight defense on Campbell and got a hand on his in close shot, but Campbell made an acrobatic rebound tip for the final two of his game-high 34 points with nine seconds remaining to give Shenandoah the lead and set the stage for Cain's heroics.

The contest was tight through, with neither team holding a lead larger than six points. University had an early 7-2 lead on baskets by Pierce and Cain and a three-pointer by Robert Russell. Shenandoah quickly took control and ran out to a 16-11 lead. Campbell scored 11 of Shenandoah's 13 second-quarter points.

The game was tied at 34 midway through the third quarter before Shenandoah sprinted to a 40-34 lead. Seth Hogg stole the ball and found Cain for a layup with one minute left in the third period.



Photo by Si DeVaney III

Sheridan freshman Kenzie Garner scored 22 points for the Blackhawks during their win at Clinton Prairie on Friday.

## Sheridan girls pick up HHC victory over Gophers

The Sheridan girls basketball team won its first Hoosier Heartland Conference game of the season Friday, picking up a 61-46 victory at Clinton Prairie.

The Gophers led 11-9 after the first quarter, then increased their lead to 26-20 by halftime. But the Blackhawks turned things around in the third period, outscoring Prairie 23-3. Kenzie Garner scored seven points in that quarter, with Ashley Webel and Cecelia Timme each contributing six points; Webel hit two 3-pointers.

Sheridan led 43-29 after three periods, then took care of business in the fourth. Taylor Bates added six points. Garner led the scoring with 22 points, while Bates had 15.

The Blackhawks are 1-1 in HHC play and 5-2 overall. Sheridan returns to action Thursday with another conference game, as the 'Hawks host Rossville.

SHERIDAN 61, CLINTON PRAIRIE 46					
Sheridan	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Ashley Webel	3	1-2	9	1	
Cecelia Timme	3	0-0	6	4	
Kenzie Garner	8	4-5	22	1	
Berkley Williams	2	1-1	5	4	
Chaney Smith	2	0-0	4	1	
Jacquellynne Bates	0	0-0	0	2	
Taylor Bates	6	3-4	15	2	
Lilly Chesney	0	0-0	0	0	
Totals	24	9-12	61	15	
Score by Quarters					
Sheridan	9	11	23	18	- 61
Clinton Prairie	11	15	3	17	- 46
Sheridan 3-pointers (4) Webel 2, Garner 2.					

Nate Jeffrey followed with a steal and found Pierce for layin to pull University within 40-38 after three quarters.

Pierce opened the fourth quarter with two straight baskets, the second off a Hogg steal to give University a 42-40 lead. After the Raiders took a 44-42 lead, Russell hit another three-pointer for a 45-44 lead with a Cain basket with 4:25 left putting the Blazers up 47-44. Shenandoah then scored nine of the next 10 points to take the 53-48 lead that preceded the late-game heroics.

Pierce led University with 21 points. Cain had 13 and Russell had 11.

"I'm really proud of the effort of our players and to just hang on. It was a tough battle for four quarters and for us to be down five points late in the game and come back and win shows of toughness from our guys and their desire to pull out a win," said University Coach Brandon Lafferman. "I though Coach McCullough's team was well prepared, as expected. Their kids played hard and did a really nice job. I'm excited to go down to Greenwood Christian tomorrow and see how we do on a back to back."

University is now 2-0 on the season. Shenandoah falls to 1-2.

UNIVERSITY 56, SHENANDOAH 55					
University	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Nate Jeffrey	0	0-0	0	0	
Kahmi Bracey	2	0-0	4	1	
Robert Russell	4	0-0	11	3	
Sabien Cain	6	0-0	13	4	
Larry Pierce	9	2-5	21	1	
Bryce Gray	0	0-2	0	1	
Andre Ozlowski	2	0-0	4	0	
Seth Hogg	1	0-0	3	1	
Steven Scott	0	0-0	0	0	
Totals	24	2-7	56	11	
Score by Quarters					
Shenandoah	10	13	17	15	- 55
University	9	16	13	18	- 56
University 3-pointers (6) Russell 3, Cain 1, Pierce 1, Hogg 1.					

## Royals get big HCC win at Avon

Hamilton Southeastern got a big victory in its Hoosier Crossroads Conference opener Friday, winning 72-59 at Avon.

The Royals outscored the Orioles in each of the first three quarters, leading 19-14 after the first period and 27-20 at halftime. Southeastern went up 45-25 during the third quarter before Avon cut it to 45-30 by the end of the period. That set the stage for a fourth quarter that Royals coach John Ashworth said was "crazy back and forth."

"We had a 15-point lead going into the fourth and they made a really good run to cut it to two," said Ashworth. But Southeastern responded and was able to pull away for good. The coach said he was "proud of our kids for how they handled it and handled the run and stuck it out."

Sam Jacobs scored 27 points for HSE, also handing out six assists. Deion Miles scored 13 points and dished out five assists.

"I was really happy Deion stepped up," said Ashworth. "We've been on him about being more aggressive. He did a great job of getting to the baskets, got some layups."

Ashworth said three players came off the bench and played well. Tyler Lacy scored nine points, including what the coach called "a huge 3-pointer." Donovan Hamilton had seven points "and made some huge plays down the stretch," said Ashworth. Josh Jones also helped out by playing tough defense on Chrishon McCroy, Avon's top player.

"He came in and really, really did a good job of staying in front of them and making them shoot difficult shots and helped solidify the win," said Ashworth.

Caleb Smock had eight points, including two 3s, while Michael Griffith led the rebounds with eight.

Southeastern is 1-1 and hosts Marion tonight in its Senior Night game.

HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 72, AVON 59					
Southeastern	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Reph Stevenson	1-5	2-2	4	1	
Caleb Smock	3-5	0-0	8	2	
Deion Miles	5-8	3-6	13	3	
Sam Jacobs	8-15	10-11	27	1	
Michael Griffith	2-2	0-1	4	4	
Donovan Hamilton	3-6	0-0	7	4	
Tyler Lacy	3-4	2-2	9	2	
Eli Robinson	0-1	0-0	0	3	
Alex Troutman	0-0	0-0	0	2	
Joshua Jones	0-0	0-0	0	3	
Kasey Ash-Simpson	0-0	0-0	0	0	
Totals	25-46	17-22	72	25	
Score by Quarters					
Southeastern	19	8	18	27	- 72
Avon	14	6	10	29	- 59
Southeastern 3-point shooting (5-13) Smock 2-4, Hamilton 1-4, Lacy 1-2, Jacobs 1-2, Miles 0-1.					
Southeastern rebounds (30) Griffith 6, Miles 4, Hamilton 3, Stevenson 3, Jacobs 3, Lacy 2, Robinson 1, team 8.					

## Carmel girls beat Warriors, improve to 2-0 in MIC

Carmel cruised to another Metropolitan Conference victory on Friday, taking care of Warren Central 55-44 at the Eric Clark Activity Center.

The Greyhounds led 17-12 after the first quarter and 28-20 at halftime. Carmel had a nice defensive period in the third, allowing the Warriors only seven points to take a 43-27 lead into the fourth quarter.

Mackenzie Thomas scored 19 points for the 'Hounds, while Emily Roper reached double-double status with 13 points and 13 rebounds. Roper also had four assists and four steals. Kate Clarke added 13 points, while Laura Valiente handed out six assists.

Carmel is 2-0 in MIC play and 5-3 overall. The Greyhounds will host Westfield on Tuesday.

CARMEL 55, WARREN CENTRAL 44					
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF	
Laura Valiente	1-4	0-2	2	1	
Jamie Elliott	1-5	0-0	3	1	
Hannah Lach	2-7	0-0	5	0	
Mackenzie Thomas	9-11	1-4	19	4	
Emily Roper	5-9	3-6	13	4	
Kate Clarke	5-11	2-3	13	3	
Mackenzie Woods	0-2	0-2	0	0	
Taryn Fisher	0-0	0-0	0	0	
Maya Berglund	0-0	0-0	0	1	
Totals	23-49	6-17	55	14	
Score by Quarters					
Warren Central	12	8	7	17	- 44
Carmel	17	11	15	12	- 55
Carmel 3-point shooting (3-15) Clarke 1-6, Lach 1-5, Elliott 1-4.					
Carmel rebounds (33) Roper 13, Thomas 6, Valiente 4, Clarke 4, Lach 3, Berglund 1, Woods 1, Elliott 1.					

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<b>Atlantic</b>					<b>Northwest</b>				
Brooklyn	16	6	.727	-	Utah	15	7	.682	-
Philadelphia	12	11	.522	4.5	Portland	11	12	.478	4.5
Boston	12	11	.522	4.5	Minnesota	11	12	.478	4.5
New York	11	11	.500	5.0	Denver	10	11	.476	4.5
Toronto	10	13	.435	6.5	Oklahoma City	6	16	.273	9.0
<b>Central</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>Pacific</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>GB</b>
Chicago	15	8	.652	-	Golden State	19	3	.864	-
Milwaukee	14	9	.609	1.0	Phoenix	19	4	.826	0.5
Cleveland	13	10	.565	2.0	L.A. Clippers	12	11	.522	7.5
Indiana	9	16	.360	7.0	L.A. Lakers	12	12	.500	8.0
Detroit	4	18	.182	10.5	Sacramento	9	14	.391	10.5
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>Southwest</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>GB</b>
Miami	14	9	.609	-	Memphis	12	10	.545	-
Washington	14	9	.609	-	Dallas	11	10	.524	0.5
Charlotte	13	11	.542	1.5	San Antonio	7	13	.350	4.0
Atlanta	12	11	.522	2.0	Houston	6	16	.280	6.0
Orlando	5	19	.208	9.5	New Orleans	7	18	.273	6.5

## Heat beat Pacers in battle of undermanned teams

By WHEAT HOTCHKISS  
Courtesy nba.com/pacers

Both the Pacers and the Heat were without key players on Friday night. But it was Miami (14-9) that prevailed at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in the battle of undermanned teams, defeating Indiana (9-16), 113-104.

The loss was the fourth straight for the Pacers, a streak which includes three defeats at home.

Though they were without All-Stars Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo, the Heat hit 16 3-pointers en route to a double-digit victory. The trio of Kyle Lowry, Duncan Robinson, and Tyler Herro did the heavy lifting for Miami, combining for 13 threes and 68 points in the victory.

Caris LeVert led the Pacers with a season-high 27 points in the loss, going 8-for-16 from the field and 10-for-11 from the free throw line. Myles Turner added 20 points and three blocks.

The Pacers were without starting forward Justin Holiday (health and safety protocols) and backup point guard T.J. McConnell (right wrist injury), but the Heat were just as, if not more, banged up.

"I had talked about putting our footprint on the game and asserting ourselves (yesterday at practice)," Turner said. "We

failed to do that. They took full advantage of that in the first quarter. They hit first. We didn't have the proper fight that we needed to win this game. That's way too late and it's unacceptable to be honest with you."

LeVert got off to a fast start for Indiana on Friday, hitting his first four shots and scoring nine of Indiana's first 13 points. But the Heat were just as hot collectively, hitting six of their first seven 3-pointers.

Robinson hit the first trey, Lowry made two while scoring the next eight points, then Robinson, Lowry, and Herro hit the next three triples in order to help the Heat race out to a 26-15 lead. A four-point play by Robinson shortly thereafter pushed Miami's lead to 30-17 with 3:19 remaining in the opening frame.

The Pacers mounted a charge to close the quarter, as Jeremy Lamb and Kelan Martin hit threes and Oshae Brissett added a reverse layup during an 8-2 Indiana run to trim the deficit to 32-25 entering the second quarter.

The Blue & Gold climbed within four early into the ensuing period following back-to-back baskets by LeVert and Chris Duarte. But Lowry drilled yet another 3-pointer — his fourth of the first

half — during an 8-1 Miami run that pushed the lead back to 47-36.

The Pacers slowly whittled away at the score over the next several minutes. Malcolm Brogdon connected with Domantas Sabonis on a beautiful drive and drop for a two-hand slam to make it a 55-53 game with 2:22 remaining.

But Lowry answered with a bucket on the other end, the start of a 7-2 Heat run to close the half and give the visitors a 62-55 lead heading into the locker room.

Indiana got within three twice in the third quarter, but Miami responded with a 10-2 run on the second occasion, capped by another Robinson three that extended the Heat's lead back to 86-75. Miami maintained that margin at the end of the frame, taking a 92-81 advantage into the fourth quarter.

The two teams traded baskets to open the final frame before the Heat reeled off seven straight — capped by Lowry's sixth three — to extend the lead to 101-83 with 9:04 to play. That stretch seemingly put the game on ice, as the Blue & Gold never seriously threatened the rest of the way.

The Pacers mounted one last charge. After trailing 108-88 with 5:36 to play, the Blue & Gold reeled off nine straight

points and had multiple chances to get within single digits, but Gabe Vincent's layup with 1:52 left broke a nearly four-minute scoreless stretch for Miami and crushed any lingering comeback hopes.

"It's an attitude and it's a disposition and it's a posture," Pacers head coach Rick Carlisle said of the team's struggles. "I love the way we played in the last five minutes of the game. We just were defiantly competitive...We need more of that."

Duarte finished with 15 points, four rebounds, and two steals in the loss. Sabonis recorded a double-double with 14 points and 16 boards, while Brogdon also reached double figures with 14 points and seven assists.

Lowry led the Heat with 26 points and nine assists, going 6-for-13 from 3-point range. Robinson added 24 points on 7-of-11 shooting (4-of-6 from beyond the arc), while Herro tallied 18 points and five rebounds.

The Pacers will continue a six-game homestand next week, with games on Monday against Washington, Wednesday against New York, and Friday against Dallas.

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