

THURSDAY, JAN. 6, 2022

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy.  
Single digit chills.  
Tonight: Mostly cloudy.  
Chills below zero.

HIGH: 19 LOW: 7



## Fishers Arts Council welcomes new board members for 2022

### The REPORTER

**Fishers Arts Council** (FAC) has announced the addition of four new board members for 2022. They are Greg Dierfeldt, Ross Hilleary, Dr. Leah Leach, and Philip Paluso.

**Greg Dierfeldt** works as a Senior Project Manager at IU Health. He has served as a Board Chair for the American Red Cross and Finance Chair for two non-profits. Most recently, he was a Board Member of Fishers Music Works and Indiana CEC. He also volunteered for the Council for Exceptional Children, the Humane Society for Hamilton County, and the Louisville Orchestra.

**Ross Hilleary** has also worked in the non-profit field. Currently, he is the Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning for the City of Fishers. He says FAC was the first non-profit organization he heard about when he moved to Fishers five years



Dierfeldt



Hilleary



Leach



Paluso

ago. He also serves as a non-voting member of the Fishers Arts and Culture Commission, representing the city. He has served on the board of Arts in the Park in Danville, Ill., a staple summer event in historic Lincoln Park.

**Dr. Leah Leach** is the Executive Director of Gal's Guide to the Galaxy. It is an educational non-profit charity that houses the first lending library dedicated to women's history in the United States. It offers events,

outreach, and educational programs and podcasts to share the joy of women's history. She has extensive experience in the non-profit field and looks to bring that experience to FAC.

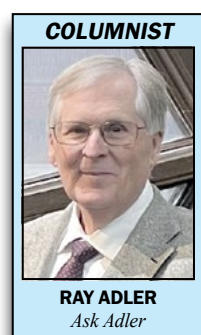
**Philip Paluso** has been a resident of Fishers since 2012 and a member of OneZone Chamber of Commerce since 2009. He is the founder and president of Medium Cool Pictures, a media production company based in Fishers. He is an award-winning

documentary filmmaker and has served on the Fishers Arts Advisory Council in the past.

The addition of these new board members puts FAC in a strong position to continue its work supporting and promoting visual and performing arts in Fishers. Returning board members are Pat Grabill, Olivia Holt, Thomas Kneeland, Tom Rich, and Laura Villanyi. Les Reinhardt will continue to serve as Executive Director for 2022.

## One sure way to achieve your goals

It's common in the new year to set resolutions or goals for what you want to accomplish this year. As the well-known, yet profound, quote from Zig Ziglar goes: "If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time." Perhaps you are familiar with the phrase: "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail," which is attributed to multiple sources. Is it better to aim for nothing or make a plan?



COLUMNIST

RAY ADLER  
Ask Adler

In our practice, we see what happens with good planning, what happens with bad planning, and what happens with no planning. Each represents a choice and resulting consequences. It's true that sometimes things work out. Sometimes, unforeseen things happen that interrupt a plan. But, in most cases, those who have a plan and follow it have a sense of peace and purpose in their lives. They are better prepared to deal with the unforeseen issues that may arise. So how do you do it?

There are many methods for how to set and achieve goals. Generally, goals should be set across the different areas of your life. One method is to use words that start with the same letter to define those areas (e.g., faith, family, firm, finances, etc.). One goal setting method is the SMARTER framework, developed by Michael Hyatt.

See Ask Adler . . . Page 2

## Megan Wiles elected new president of Noblesville Common Council

### The REPORTER

Megan Wiles was elected the new president of the Noblesville Common Council following a vote during a reorganization meeting held Tuesday evening. Aaron Smith was elected vice president.

"I am excited for Megan and look forward to working collaboratively with her and the entire common council in 2022," Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen said. "Our strong working relationship will prove helpful as we prepare for a year

of construction, improved connectivity and prosperity in our city."

Wiles is in her second term and served as the council's vice president last year and was previously president in 2017. A graduate of Noblesville High School, Wiles earned a Bachelor of Science from Ball State University. She works as executive director of the River-



Wiles

view Health Foundation and previously served as president of Legacy Fund, the Community Foundation for Hamilton County.

"This year we will see a lot of projects begin to come to fruition and I am excited to be in my new role as they happen," Wiles said. "We have a lot of major developments happening this year throughout the city and

we have a lot to be proud of. I can't wait to continue to work for the people of Noblesville and make this the best community to live, work and play in."

Wiles is the representative from District 6, which includes a large portion of the east side of Noblesville – Stony Ridge, Sagamore, Chapel Woods, Stony Creek Highlands, Deer Path and the business areas of Stony Creek Marketplace and Hamilton Town Center.

See Wiles . . . Page 2

## See trumpet virtuoso Byron Stripling this Saturday with Carmel Symphony Orchestra

### The REPORTER

Start your new year with music on Saturday, Jan. 8 when Carmel Symphony Orchestra (CSO), under Artistic Director Janna Hymes, presents *January Pops* with special guest, the electrifying trumpeter Byron Stripling.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. Tickets start at just \$18 and are available by calling the Palladium box office at (317) 843-3800 or at [Carmel-Symphony.org](http://Carmel-Symphony.org). Save 20 percent on tickets when you use the code **BYRON20**.

See Carmel Symphony . . . Page 2

## Omicron spread may mean end near for COVID-19 in U.S.

By DR. MARY GILLIS, D.Ed.  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

Omicron is sweeping across the United States like wildfire. However, total deaths as result of an omicron infection pale in comparison to those from delta.

The rapid spread may mean "game over" for COVID-19 by playing an essential role in what doctors and scientists have been striving for since the beginning: [herd immunity](#).

Herd immunity is characterized as "when a large portion of the community (the herd) becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of the disease from person to person unlikely. As a result, the whole community becomes protected – not just those who are immune."

Plus, scientists are saying some countries in the world are getting closer to it. This may be as a direct result of omicron's wave. Omicron may infect 70 times faster than delta, but illness is much less severe.

News 8 spoke with Dr. Paul Driscoll at Franciscan Health. He says a pattern has emerged over the course of the pandemic. What happens in these countries is sometimes a foreshadowing of what's to come in the United States.

Herd immunity "is certainly possible," Driscoll said. "Israel has been a couple months ahead of us. The United Kingdom has been a few weeks to a month ahead of us, and we've seen similar patterns in both places. If it causes less severe disease, then it could help us get closer to herd immunity."

Israel's omicron spike followed by its recent sharp decline may finally bring the coronavirus' reign to an end. If this same link between Israel and the United States upholds as it has throughout the pandemic, Driscoll says, the United States may be close behind.



Photos provided

(Left) Hamilton County Councilman Steve Schwartz was first in line on Day One of candidate filing for the upcoming 2022 Primary Election. Schwartz currently represents District 3 on the Hamilton County Council. (Center) Chief Deputy Coroner Jeff Jellison filed his candidacy for Coroner. (Right) Hamilton County Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush was joined by his family when he filed to run for re-election.

## Schwartz, Jellison, Quakenbush among first to file for 2022 election

By FRED SWIFT  
[ReadTheReporter.com](http://ReadTheReporter.com)

Candidate filing for the 2022 midterm election began Wednesday morning in Hamilton County and throughout Indiana. First in line at the county elections office was Steve Schwartz, Republican, running for re-election to the County Council. Also filing was Jeff Jellison, Republican, who is running for County Coroner, and Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, Republican, who is running for re-election. Several other candidates filed in the first hour of the filing period.

Republican and Democrat candidates may file in their respective primaries until noon on Feb. 4. The primary elections will be held May 3 with winners advancing to the November gen-

eral election.

Thirteen county-wide offices are on the ballot this year. All incumbents are Republicans, and most are expected to run for re-election, the exceptions being Assessor Robin Ward, Recorder Jennifer Hayden and Coroner John Chalfin.

Up for re-election are Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, County Clerk Kathy Williams, Superior Court Judge Jon Brown, Prosecutor Lee Buckingham, County Commissioner Christine Altman and Council members Fred Glynn, Amy Massillamany, Steve Schwartz and Ken Alexander.

And, a judge for the newly created Superior Court 7 will be elected this year. Darren Murphy and Stephanie Gookins have announced their intentions to run for the new position in the

### Filing for 2022 Primary begins

Filing for state convention delegate and other offices began on Wednesday, Jan. 5. For information on how to file, please [click here](#).

The Indiana Republican Party rules require candidates who file for office, including convention delegates, to be in good standing and to have voted in a minimum of the two most recent Republican primaries.

There has been misinformation floating around about whether Republican precinct committeemen have to file again for election in 2022, but they do not – only Democrat precinct committeemen file this year.

For a list of offices to be elected next year, [click here](#).

GOP primary.

There are also 36 township offices at stake with all but one held by the GOP. Most will run for re-election, although Noblesville Trustee Tom Kenley and Clay Trustee Doug Callahan are retiring. Each of the county's nine townships will elect a trustee and three board members this year.

In addition, the towns of Sheridan, Cicero and Atlanta

will each elect two members to their town councils. And, both parties will elect delegates to their state conventions.

School board elections are also this year, but candidates do not file until July for the November non-partisan elections.

In the wider 2022 election, U.S. Sen. Todd Young and Congresswoman Victoria Spartz will be running for re-election.



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CARMEL SYMPHONY

WILES

Byron Stripling – conductor, trumpet virtuoso, singer and actor – has ignited audiences everywhere since his Carnegie Hall debut with Skitch Henderson and the New York Pops. He has become a pops orchestra favorite, soloing with over 100 orchestras around the world. Stripling earned his musical stripes as lead trumpeter and soloist with the Count Basie Orchestra. He has played and recorded extensively with the bands of Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, Dave Brubeck, Lionel Hampton, Clark Terry, Louis Bellson, and Buck Clayton, as well as with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band and the GRP All-Star Big Band. He currently is Principal Pops Conductor with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and Artistic Director and Conductor of the highly acclaimed Columbus Jazz Orchestra.

Get your tickets today by calling (317) 843-3800 or at [CarmelSymphony.org](#). While there, check out the remaining concerts in the 2021-22 season of exceptional and diverse programs – an extraordinary assortment of classical and pops, plus a trio of specially-priced family concerts. There’s truly something for every age and every musi-



Photo provided  
**Byron Stripling will be the special guest at Carmel Symphony Orchestra's January Pops concert on Jan. 8 at the Center for the Performing Arts.**

**A note to supporters**

In accordance with public health guidelines and entertainment industry standards, the Center for the Performing Arts has instituted the following health and safety policies and protocols on its campus. Thank you for helping the entertainment industry get back to business by observing these requirements.

- **Masking:** Masks are required upon entry for everyone age 3 and older and must be worn at all times, except when actively eating or drinking.

*from Page 1*

**Vaccination:** All patrons age 12 and up must show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination when entering the Palladium and other CPA indoor spaces. The CPA will accept paper vaccination cards, photocopies, photos or digital images confirming vaccination status, along with valid ID. The Indiana State Department of health offers vaccination certificates online that can be stored on a smart phone.

As an alternative to vaccination, patrons may present physical or digital proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to the event. For patrons and visitors younger than 12, no such proof is required.

Complete details, and updates, can be found at [TheCenterPresents.org](#).

Also discussed at the reorganization meeting were the 2022 Noblesville Common Council committee assignments, which include:

- **Building/Land Acquisition** – Darren Peterson (Chair), Brian Ayer, Mike Davis and Pete Schwartz.
- **Downtown District** – Aaron Smith (Chair), Darren Peterson, Megan Wiles and Brian Ayer.
- **Economic Development** – Greg O'Connor (Chair), Megan Wiles, Aaron Smith and Mark Boice.

- **Finance** – Mike Davis (Chair), Greg O'Connor, Darren Peterson and Aaron Smith.
- **Parks** – Pete Schwartz (Chair), Aaron Smith, Dan Spartz and Megan Wiles.
- **Public Safety** – Mark Boice (Chair), Brian Ayer, Mike Davis and Pete Schwartz.
- **Roads/Traffic/Engineering** – Brian Ayer (Chair), Mark Boice, Greg O'Connor and Dan Spartz.
- **Wastewater** – Dan Spartz (Chair), Greg O'Connor, Mike Davis and

Mark Boice.

- **Nominating** – Megan Wiles (Chair), Aaron Smith and Darren Peterson

Special appointments of the council include:

- **Architectural Review Board** – Brian Ayer and Darren Peterson
- **Cultural Arts District Liaison** – Megan Wiles

The Council holds its regular meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The Council's next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at City Hall.

ASK ADLER

*from Page 1*

- **S** is for Specific. Identify what you want to accomplish, in detail.
- **M** is for Measurable. This means answering the question of how you will know when you hit the goal?
- **A** is for Actionable. Use a verb to start the goal (e.g., walk one mile a day).
- **R** is for Risky. This is a "stretch" goal. It should push you just over your comfort zone.
- **T** is for Time-keyed. Give it a deadline.
- **E** is for Exciting. The goal is to motivate you. This will help you work through the distractions that will come.
- **R** is for Relevant. Your goal should match your value system and season of life. Write out and review

your goals regularly. Once you have defined your goals, the next step is to break them into smaller pieces that can be accomplished one by one until the goal is met. Simple, right? Here are a couple of suggestions.

First, define where your list of goals will live. You can use software/digital or write them on paper. Keep the list in a place that is easily accessible to limit the resistance to review your goals regularly.

Next, add a goal review appointment on your calendar on a regular pattern (e.g., each week or month). When that appointment comes due, actually review the goals. It may be tempting to skip over this part, but it is essential to achieving those goals. It

keeps them top of mind.

Finally, find someone to help keep you accountable for reaching your goals. This person should be someone you trust to tell you the truth even if it is difficult. This person can help you when you get discouraged or don't have the motivation to finish the task.

The world has changed a lot in recent years. Setting goals is a good way to use time tested methods to stay focused in the midst of distracting times. Try aiming at something and see if can hit it.

*Educational material and not legal advice, written by the team at Adler attorneys. Email [andrea@noblesvilleattorney.com](mailto:andrea@noblesvilleattorney.com) with questions or comments.*

Check out [ReadTheReporter.com](#) for more news!



Advocating for  
Victims of Crime and Abuse  
[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:**

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TODAY



# Hamilton Co. Bicentennial Committee to hold monthly educational workshops

## Submitted

*Editor's note: The following information was provided by the Hamilton County Bicentennial Committee and originally was published on Dec. 13. Read more at [hamcoturns200.com](http://hamcoturns200.com).*

This week on our blog, we're taking a break from our series that puts the spotlight on different townships and their representatives.

Instead, we are going to talk about the newest Bicentennial initiative, **community workshops**.

These workshops are an opportunity for the community to come together to learn about the Bicentennial and how different organizations can be involved. Applying to host an official Bicentennial program or event doesn't have to be hard, and the Workshops are here to prove it to you.

Instead of reading through the website to find the information you need, you can come learn from the people who are doing the work to make the Bicentennial happen. If you or an organization you're a part of have thought about creating a Bicentennial program, or even if you have existing programming you're inter-

ested in theming to the Bicentennial, Workshops are a great place to start.

As an added benefit, you'll hear from community stakeholders who are poised to support Bicentennial planning during 2022. Check out the schedule below for an (incomplete) list of guest speakers. As we get closer to the events, be sure to keep an eye on the **Workshops page on the website** and on **our social media** to see announcements for all speakers.

So why else should you attend a Workshop?

- You get to learn about what the Bicentennial involves in depth – including deadlines and benefits.
- You get to take home detailed information about the Bicentennial.
- You'll get the chance to learn about our **grant program** and ask questions.
- You'll get the chance to pick the brain of the people who will be helping make decisions about Bicentennial programming for your part of Hamilton County.
- You'll be inspired to get a jump-start on your 2023 programming or maybe even to start a new initiative.

If this all sounds intrigu-

ing, you're in luck! Official sign-ups are open now. Seats are limited, so be sure to sign up sooner rather than later. You can sign up through the **Workshops page** (and that's where we'll update when events get full).

## Upcoming Workshops

**Jan. 25, 2022**

A total of 30 spots are available for this workshop. Sign up by Jan. 21. The workshop will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Hamilton North Public Library Cicero Branch, 209 W. Brinton St., Cicero. Click here to sign up.

Community stakeholders include the following:

- Hamilton Heights School District representatives
- White River Township Bicentennial Commission member and Township Trustee Jamie Rulon
- Jackson Township Bicentennial Commission member and Township Clerk Nicole Duncan
- Ann Hoehn, Hamilton North Public Library Director

**Feb. 26, 2022**

A total of 30 spots are available for this workshop. Sign up by Feb. 21. The

workshop will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Overlook Room at Conner Prairie, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers. Click here to sign up.

Community stakeholders include:

- Indiana DNR - Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology staff (to talk about Historic Preservation options for the Bicentennial)
- A Conner Prairie Representative

**March 16, 2022**

A total of 50 spots are available for this workshop. Sign up by March 15. The workshop will take place from 1 to 2:30 p.m. via Zoom and will be recorded. Click here to sign up.

Community stakeholders will be announced soon.

## Chlorine spill Wednesday at Sheridan wastewater plant

### The REPORTER

Shortly before 4 a.m. Wednesday, Sheridan first response units were called to the Sheridan Wastewater Treatment Plant, 801 E. 2nd St., regarding a

hazardous material spill, particularly chlorine. Carmel first response units assisted.

Units were no longer on scene as of 5:30 a.m. Wednesday.

## Who's on my ballot for the May 2022 Primary Election?

Candidate filings current as of Wednesday, Jan. 5

### Clerk of the Circuit Court

Kathy Kreeg Williams (R)

### County Sheriff

Dennis Quakenbush (R)

### County Coroner

Jeff Jellison (R)

### County Council

District 3

Steve Schwartz (R)

### Clay Twp. Trustee

Paul D. Hensel (R)

### Clay Twp. Board

Matthew J. Snyder (R)

### Delaware Twp. Trustee

Debbie R. Driskell (R)

### Delaware Twp. Board

Rick Fain (R)

### Noblesville Twp. Trustee

Theresa Caldwell (R)

### Noblesville Twp. Board

Peggy R. Pfister (R)

### Sheridan Town Council

Steve C. Fisher (R)

### Republican State

### Convention Delegates

#### Clay District 4

Dwight Lile

Sue Lile

#### Delaware District 2

Barbara Layton

#### Noblesville District 1

Jason Spartz

#### Noblesville District 3

Beth Sheller

## Lauren Campbell joins Merchants Capital of Carmel as Senior V.P.

### The REPORTER

Merchants Capital of Carmel has that Lauren Campbell has joined the firm as Senior Vice President and General Counsel.

Campbell is recognized in the industry as a rising star in the legal space, with significant expertise in structuring Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LI-HTC) equity investment funds and multifamily real estate transactions with tax-exempt bonds, monetizable tax credits, federal and state subsidies, and agency financing.

Campbell joins Merchants from Ice Miller LLP in Indianapolis, where she primarily represented developers on affordable housing real estate transactions. Prior to that, she spent more than seven

years as an associate within the tax credit transactions practice group for Holland & Knight LLP in Boston. While at Holland & Knight, she represented nationally recognized tax credit equity syndicators in national fund offerings as well as project-level investments and proprietary investment funds.

In her new role, Campbell will join Merchants' management team and serve as an advisor for upper management, offering guidance on issues relevant to investment fund formation, asset management, tax matters and complex financing structures. She will also serve as a liaison for



**Campbell**

outside counsel.

"Merchants Capital is committed to remaining on the cutting-edge of the industry in terms of designing, executing and managing complex deal structures," said Merchants Capital President and CEO Michael R. Dury. "Lauren Campbell is a brilliant legal mind, and her experience in financial structuring and tax law will be an invaluable resource for our clients and our team."

Campbell holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago and a Juris Doctor from Boston College. She will be based out of the company's headquarters in Carmel.



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# Act now to stop pipes from freezing, bursting

**The REPORTER**  
With much colder weather in the forecast, Indiana American Water is urging customers to act now to secure homes and businesses against freezing pipes.

“With much colder temperatures expected across the state over the next several weeks, we are encouraging customers to act now to protect their plumbing system against the extreme cold,” said Indiana American Water President Matt Prine. “Failing to protect your plumbing from cold temperatures can be disruptive and very costly. When ice expands inside pipes, it creates tremendous pressure that can crack and burst them, leaving homeowners with a costly plumbing bill, and thousands of dollars in water damage.”

Luckily, these problems are preventable by evaluating areas of vulnerability and taking certain precautions. Implementing the following winterization tips now can help avoid headaches later:

- Search your house for uninsulated pipes, especially in unheated areas. Consider wrapping pipes with foam insulation or electric heating tape but follow manufacturer’s instructions carefully to avoid a fire hazard.
- Check to make sure your garage door and crawl space doors/vents are closed.
- Leave cabinet doors open in kitchen and bathroom areas to allow warm air to circulate and consider letting a faucet drip to keep water moving through the pipes. If you have young children, relocate any chemicals or cleaners that may have otherwise been out of reach behind the cabinet doors.
- Seal cracks and holes in outside walls and foundations with caulking, especially where cable TV or phone lines enter the house, to keep cold air away from pipes.
- Make certain the water to your hose bibs is shut off inside your house (via a turnoff valve), the lines are drained, and the hose is disconnected from the spigot.
- Drain and shut off entirely the water to any unoccupied residence such as a summer or vacation home. A loss of power during a winter storm could cause pipes to freeze. If you intend to leave a property entirely without heat, be sure to drain all water to prevent the possibility of frozen pipes.
- Set the thermostat at no lower than 55 degrees if you’re going out of town. Although you may be able to get away with a lower temperature, this setting is generally considered to be safe for pipes.
- Make sure you know where your main water shut-off valve is in case you need to shut your water off in an emergency.
- Consider wrapping your water heater in an insulation blanket. While not really at danger for freezing, this can lower your heating bills.

Indiana American Water is also encouraging customers to keep fire hydrants clear near their homes and businesses when snowfall accumulates. This small step can save precious time if firefighters need to access it in an emergency. Remove snow and ice within a three-foot perimeter of the hydrant and shovel a pathway from the hydrant to the street so that firefighters can access it quickly.

[Click here](#) for additional information on preventing frozen pipes.

# Senator Todd Young’s office helps record number of Hoosiers in 2021


**Submitted**  
Once again, U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) and his staff set records for the number of constituents represented in cases before federal agencies this year. In 2021, Senator Young’s office resolved more than 2,500 constituent issues and returned more than \$46 million owed to Hoosiers by various government agencies.

Since assuming office in 2017, Senator Young has helped more than 7,600 Hoosiers recover nearly \$58 million from federal agencies. In 2020, the office resolved 2,014 cases and returned more than \$4.1 million to Hoosiers.

For the second consecutive year, there was a surge in inquiries related to the COVID-19 pandemic and related payments and delays. The office helped 323 taxpayers receive delayed tax refunds or missing stimulus payments. Due to the closure of passport offices, Sen. Young fielded more than eight times the usual number of passport requests.

“This year, much of our constituent service work centered around pandemic-related delays, and some of these problems came as the result of the Biden Administration’s failure to provide quality customer service while Americans went back to work,” Sen. Young said. “Government should be at its best during emergencies, not causing additional headaches for taxpayers.”

In April, [Senator Young](#)



**Young**

**questioned** IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig about delays in refund processing. Earlier this month, Senator Young pushed the Social Security Administration to **re-open field offices** around the country.

Additionally, Senator Young’s office helped approximately 60 people exit Afghanistan after the Biden Administration’s disastrous evacuation that left American citizens and Afghan nationals who supported the U.S. military stranded in the country while the Taliban retook control of the country.

Hoosiers who think they may need help with a federal agency can visit [young.senate.gov](#) and click “Help for Hoosiers.”

# 2021 Get You Down?

## Let God Help You Turn 2022 Into the Very Best Of Years!

**Entering a new year is like turning the page of a book, where new beginnings and unexpected twists await. Instead of dreaming of a loftier New Year turn to the Bible for guidance instead and soar through 2022!**

*“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.” — Isaiah 40:31*

2022 may be hard, but with the Lord, you can fly with eagles, run, walk and face whatever 2022 has in store for you with confidence and optimism. With God beneath your wings lifting you to greater heights you can go into this new year with the power of God behind you. You will be stronger, happier, more contented and peaceful flying under the wings of God.

The good folks at the Stony Creek Church of Christ would delight in helping you find the peace that can only come from our great God.

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**\*\*\* If you are unable to attend, we would be happy to study with you at another time and, if necessary, a different place. We can also set up a Zoom Bible study, if desired.**



# State's jails prepare for omicron

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

In normal times, it's the job of jailers to keep inmates from escaping. But for almost two years, sheriffs in nearly all of Indiana's 92 counties had the additional job of keeping COVID-19 out of jails.

"My concern about infection of our inmates, of course, would be outside contact — bringing it in. Making sure staff is healthy, we do temperature checks as they come in," said Monroe County Sheriff Brad Swain.

At Swain's jail, newly admitted inmates are tested and isolated from the general population until they test

negative.

Swain said his jail has enough rapid tests and booster shots on hand, as he anticipates a possible uptick in cases due to the omicron variant.

"Since the very start of vaccine availability, inmates in the Marion County jail system have been offered the COVID-19 vaccine, including a booster. We are informed of whether an inmate tests positive or negative for COVID-19, but do not receive information on variants — testing is available," the Marion County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

The state is also providing additional support.

"We continue to partner

and provide testing to our long-term care facilities, Department of Corrections, our jails, if they are interested in that," said State Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box.

Swain said mental health and substance abuse services provided by civilian staff have been stopped in order to limit contact with inmates.

The sheriff worries about how that will affect those behind bars.

"When all that is put on hold, then of course there is a lot of down time where inmates would have part of their day filled up with things that will enrich their lives," he said.

Swain said that while he

believes in the COVID-19 vaccine, he is not mandating his deputies and staff be vaccinated out of concern it could cause employees to quit and contribute to a staff shortage.

## State Health Commissioner once again contracts COVID-19

By JOSH DOERING  
WISH-TV | [wishtv.com](http://wishtv.com)

Indiana State Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box has tested positive for COVID-19 and is isolating at home, the Indiana Department of Health announced Wednesday.

The health department says Box experienced symptoms Monday night — including muscle aches, chills, coughing and a sore throat — and a rapid test taken Tuesday morning came

back positive.

Box also received a PCR test, which will be used to determine if she was infected with the omicron variant.

She is one of an estimated 113,000 Hoosiers who have suffered a breakthrough case since Jan. 18, 2021, according to the health department. Box is fully vaccinated and received a booster in Novem-



Box

ber.

This is the second time Box has contracted COVID-19. The health department says she also tested positive in October 2020.

She will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance and isolate at home for five days.

Box was named as the state health commissioner on Sept. 18, 2017.

## Fort Harrison State Park to hold Battle of the Bulge event Saturday

The REPORTER

The Museum of 20th Century Warfare at Fort Harrison State Park will host a World War II Battle of the Bulge re-enactment from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8.

The re-enactment will begin near the park's Saddle Barn and will end near the Camp Glenn Historic District. Viewing areas will be available for visitors to observe the re-enactors throughout their path of travel. Visitors are advised to find parking near the Saddle Barn where museum volunteers will direct them to the nearest spectator sta-

tion. Visitors with limited mobility are advised to arrive after noon, when spectator stations will be more easily accessible.

The event will feature exhibits, uniforms, and weapons used during the war. Additionally, the museum will host a stand-alone Battle of the Bulge display, which exhibits World War II items and illustrates the day-to-day happenings of the battle. It is open noon to 4 p.m. Fridays through Sundays through Jan. 22.

The re-enactors are volunteer military historians who work to bring histo-

ry to life. The Museum of 20th Century Warfare is a volunteer-run, non-profit museum whose mission is to honor veterans through service and education with integrity. The museum has a schedule of military events at Fort Harrison State Park throughout the year.

The program is a free event, but the normal DNR entrance fee applies. For more information, please call the park Visitor Center at (317) 591-0122 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

**Fort Harrison State Park** is at 6000 N. Post Road, Indianapolis.

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Janet (Jeffery) Martin & Ronald Keith Martin

August 9, 1936 – December 10, 2021January 9, 1936 – December 16, 2021

**Janet (Jeffery) Martin**, 85, Noblesville, passed away on Friday, December 10, 2021, due to complications following surgery. She was born on August 9, 1936, in London, England, to the late Arthur Henry and Annie Jeffery. Preceded in death are Janet's parents and her brother, Len Jeffery.

**Ronald Keith Martin**, 85, Noblesville, passed away in his home on Thursday, December 16, 2021. He was born in Canal Point, Fla., on January 9, 1936, to the late Oscar Houston and Leslie Martin.

While stationed in London, England, Ron went on a blind date and delightfully married Janet Jeffery on December 9, 1960. This year they celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Janet passed away six days prior to Ron's passing.

**Janet** loved all animals. She would find joy in watching the birds, deer and squirrels run through the yard or stop at the feeders. She was also a bird watching enthusiast. She was most enamored with the woodpeckers, who always had a home in the trees outside her back porch. She's been known to nurture a pet or two when they were sick. She found joy in knitting blankets for the Humane Society to keep them warm. She enjoyed working in her yard and loved her flowers and garden and enjoyed Spring the most. Nothing made her happier than a good deal found shopping. She loved everything to do with the Royal Family and was a survivor of WWII. She rarely missed a 4:00 episode of *Judge Judy*. She enjoyed a cup of tea with milk and sugar daily. Everyone adored this sweet little lady who often stated, "Cold hands and a warm heart."

**Ron** resided in Noblesville for six years, and prior to that, he called Seattle, Wash., his home for 26 years. Ron



was a U.S. Navy Veteran serving during the Vietnam War working in Administration and retired in 1975 after 20 years of service. He later worked for Benton Roofing Co. and then decided he and Janet would start their own carpet cleaning business, DuraClean by Martin. Ron loved spending time outdoors with his dogs, going fishing on his boat and when he was at home relaxing, you could always find him watching westerns. He loved to tinker with things, always curious about how everything worked. His favorite pastime was working in the yard. He loved tending to his roses and caring for his Koi pond. Feeding the birds was always a treat for him, his yard was like a wildlife habitat where you could always see hummingbirds, woodpeckers, cardinals, chickadees, nuthatches and blue jays feeding and foraging.

Left to cherish the memory of Janet and Ron are their daughters, Della Annie Martin, Kelly Renee Freeman (Carl) and Diane Louise Bilansky (George); grandchildren, Amanda Freeman, Megan Freeman, Brent Freeman, Brooke Kowall (Nate), Ashley Bilansky, Cierra Bilansky, and Ethan Bilansky; great-granddaughter, Aria Minnear; nephews and niece, John, David, Peter, and Sally Jeffery; and Ron's siblings, Doris Griffin of Greenville, S.C., and Josephine Snipes of Stuart, Fla.

A Celebration of Life for Ronald and Janet, followed by Military Honors commemorating Ronald for his 20-year service to the U.S. Navy, was held on Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville.

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

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV)

Ronald Gentry

September 20, 1944 – January 3, 2022

Ronald Gentry, 77, Sheridan, passed away on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Carmel.



Ron was born on Sep. 20, 1944, in Noblesville, a son of the late Bob Gentry and Betty Denim. He was married to the love of his life, Judy Lutz, for 52 years. She preceded him in death on Aug. 16, 2014.

Ron worked in the cleaning room at the Ford car plant. He loved watching NASCAR, along with spending time in his pole barn.

Survivors include his daughters, Kimberly Gentry and Stacy Roemer, and grandchildren, Halie Cope (Steven Maddox-Batz), Cody Cope, Travis Gentry, Josh Needler, Nathan Long, and Jeanna Long.

In addition to his parents and wife, Ron was preceded in death by his daughter, Carla Gentry, and siblings, Kaye Gentry, Bob Gentry, and Pam Hobbs.

A celebration of life will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, at the American Legion Lebanon Post 113, 1020 Hendricks Drive, Lebanon.

Memorial contributions in Ron's memory may be made to the Humane Society of Boone County, P.O. Box 708, Lebanon, IN 46052.

Final care of Ron has been entrusted to the Strawmyer & Drury Mortuary, 2400 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon. You are invited to visit the website where you may sign his online register and leave a personal message at [strawmyerdrury.com](http://strawmyerdrury.com).

Meeting Notices

WESTFIELD BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS & ADVISORY PLAN COMMISSION

Meetings will be held in-person at Westfield City Hall, 130 Penn St., and are viewable to the public online. Options will be offered for participants to join the meeting remotely. Dates in red are scheduled for a different day due to a conflict.

MEETING MONTH	BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING	MEETING MONTH	FIRST APC MEETING	SECOND APC MEETING
Typically, the 2nd Tuesday of each month*	Tuesday 7:00 PM	Typically, the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month*	Monday 7:00 PM	Monday 7:00 PM
JANUARY	01/11/22	JANUARY	No meeting	01/18/22
FEBRUARY	02/08/22	FEBRUARY	02/07/22	02/22/22
MARCH	03/08/22	MARCH	03/07/22	03/21/22
APRIL	04/12/22	APRIL	04/04/22	04/18/22
MAY	05/10/22	MAY	05/04/22	05/16/22
JUNE	06/14/22	JUNE	06/06/22	06/21/22
JULY	07/12/22	JULY	07/05/22	07/18/22
AUGUST	08/09/22	AUGUST	08/01/22	08/15/22
SEPTEMBER	09/13/22	SEPTEMBER	09/06/22	09/19/22
OCTOBER	10/11/22	OCTOBER	10/03/22	10/17/22
NOVEMBER	11/15/22	NOVEMBER	11/09/22	11/21/22
DECEMBER	12/13/22	DECEMBER	12/05/22	12/19/22
JANUARY	01/10/23	JANUARY	No Meeting	01/17/23

The Hamilton County Commissioners will meet at 1 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet for a workshop session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St., Carmel. A Board of Finance meeting will take place at 5:40 p.m. during the workshop session. Afterwards, an executive session will convene at 6 p.m. Doors will open at 5 p.m. Masks are optional, but distancing is encouraged. Public comment is not on the agenda for the meetings. [Click here](#) to read the Civility and Decorum Policy.

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold its monthly Board of Trustees meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, at 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

The Carmel City Council – Finance, Utilities and Rules Committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of Carmel City Hall, 1 Civic Square, Carmel. The committee will discuss park impact fees and approval of the Carmel Redevelopment Commission's purchase of 611 3rd Ave. SW. The meeting will be held in-person and will be broadcast live on the city's website and local access television.

Send Meeting Notices to: [Notices@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:Notices@ReadTheReporter.com)

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# Hamilton County Sports

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## Sports Editor Richie Hall

Rhall1977@gmail.com  
Twitter: @Richie\_Hall

## Wrestling



Reporter photos by Richie Hall

The Hamilton Southeastern wrestling team won the Mudsock dual meet Wednesday night over Fishers 45-32. The Royals won the first four matches by fall and won eight of the 14 bouts overall.

# Royals win hard-fought Mudsock dual

By RICHIE HALL

**FISHERS** - A spirited Mudsock wrestling meet went to the home team on Wednesday night.

The home team was Hamilton Southeastern, which won a hard-fought dual with district rival Fishers by the score of 45-32 in the annual Mudsock competition. The Royals set the tone early, winning their first four matches by fall, and that momentum carried them through as the Tigers closed the gap by making a run in the second half of the meet.

Southeastern was also slightly short-handed at the meet.

"We had two of our best wrestlers out of the lineup with different ailments that kept them out tonight," said Royals coach Nick Brobst. One of those was at the 170-pound division, which is where the meet began. Southeastern subbed in Said Soufiyane to wrestle that weight class, and he got things off to a fantastic start for HSE, winning his match by fall.

Three more Royals wrestlers marched on to the mat after that and also got pins: Jacob Schneider at 182, Max Broom at 195 and Charlie Irish at 220. Dom Burgett won the 285-pound division by forfeit, and Southeastern led 30-0. Brobst said that his team "just responded well, wrestled where we needed them to wrestle well."

Chayce Yant got the Tigers on the board by winning the 106-pound bout by fall, but the Royals' Nick Anderson answered that by getting a pin at 113.

Fishers steadily closed the gap after that, winning five of the last seven matches. Quenton Riley won at 120, getting near-fall points right at the end to reach 15 points and score a technical fall. Griffin Ingalls then took the 126-pound match with a second-period pin.

"Our lower weights, our lower half of the lineup, competed really well," said Tigers coach Frank Ingalls. "We still got a lot of work to do in the upper weights."

Riley Fredricksen won for HSE at 132 by fall, then Teyon Leonard triumphed at 138 by a 7-3 decision. Zach Streuder got a second-period pin for the 145-pound match. The Royals' Nick Castler won at 152 by a tough 6-5 decision, then Fishers' James Carroll won at 160 by injury default.



Fishers' Griffin Ingalls (right, in red) won the 126-pound match for the Tigers during Wednesday's Mudsock dual meet. Pictured for the Royals (left, in blue) is Blake Alverado.

Brobst was also pleased that his team was able to handle the emotional ebbs and flows that come with a Mudsock competition in any sport.

"A concern of mine with so many young guys in the lineup was that the emotions would get the best of them, but I thought we hung with it and wrestled well in spots where the matches were big," said Brobst.

Meanwhile, the Tigers also have a young team, but it seems as if Fishers is getting better as the season moves along.

"I think our guys are making a lot of progress," said Ingalls. "We got a young team and they're doing what we ask, mostly."

Both teams are back in action Saturday. The Royals will compete in the Paul Log-

gan Memorial Classic at North Central, while Fishers travels to Zionsville for the Mike Fendley Hall of Fame Classic.

"We still got a lot of work to do and I think we got plenty of time to do it before sectionals," said Ingalls.

### HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN 45, FISHERS 32

#### Meet started at 170 pounds

170: Said Soufiyane (HSE) def. Nathan Batraw (F) by fall  
182: Jacob Schneider (HSE) def. Carson Calin (F) by fall  
195: Max Broom (HSE) def. Charlie Baron (F) by fall  
220: Charlie Irish (HSE) def. Jacob Carroll (F) by fall

285: Dom Burgett (HSE) won by forfeit  
106: Chayce Yant (F) def. Aiden Smalley (HSE) by fall

113: Nick Anderson (HSE) def. Aiden Lamb (F) by fall

120: Quenton Riley (F) def. Ethan Behrens (HSE) by technical fall, 15-0

126: Griffin Ingalls (F) def. Blake Alverado (HSE) by fall

132: Riley Fredericksen (HSE) def. Sam Malcomb (F) by fall

138: Teyon Leonard (F) def. Nick Egorov (HSE) by decision, 7-3

145: Zach Streuder (F) def. Ryan Hartig (HSE) by fall

152: Nick Castler (HSE) def. Zach Pence (F) by decision, 6-5

160: James Carroll (F) def. DeShawn Ternior (HSE) by injury default

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# ‘Hawks pick up dual win at Prairie

Sheridan won a dual meet at Clinton Prairie 66-3 on Wednesday.

The Blackhawks had six wins by fall, starting with Shane Cox at 106 pounds. Also getting pins were Trai Fitzgerald at 120, Alden Hamersly at 132, Kevin Speck at 138, Noah Ehrie at 145 and Jacobs Jones at 195, finishing the meet with a first-period fall. Sheridan won the five other matches by forfeits, to Peyton Cross at 220, Nakia Bogus at 113, Austin Bond at 126, Presten Weir at 152 and Gabe Holler at 170.

The ‘Hawks will compete at the Tipton Invitational on Saturday.

**SHERIDAN 66, CLINTON PRAIRIE 3**  
Meet started at 220 pounds  
220: Peyton Cross won by forfeit  
285: Double forfeit  
106: Shane Cox def. Fearnow by fall, 4:51  
113: Nakia Bogus won by forfeit  
120: Trai Fitzgerald def. Day by fall, 2:49  
126: Austin Bond won by forfeit  
132: Alden Hamersly def. Duarte by fall, 0:24  
138: Kevin Speck def. Luper by fall, 1:39  
145: Noah Ehrie def. Lashbrook by fall, 0:54  
152: Presten Weir won by forfeit  
160: Jace Warren lost to Dewart by decision, 12-7  
170: Gabe Holler won by forfeit  
182: Double forfeit  
195: Jacob Jones def. Rupp by fall, 0:40



Sheridan’s Noah Ehrie (left) was one of six Blackhawks wrestlers to win by fall during Sheridan’s dual meet victory at Clinton Prairie on Wednesday.

Photo provided

# ‘Rocks cruise at Chatard Tigers pick up third consecutive victory

The Westfield girls basketball team cruised to a 59-42 victory at Bishop Chatard on Wednesday.

The Shamrocks, ranked No. 6 in the Class 4A coaches poll and No. 7 in the IBCA one-class poll, jumped out to an 18-11 lead after the first quarter, then ramped up its defense even more in the second period to lead 34-17 at halftime. Westfield then led 48-25 after three quarters.

Alyssa Crockett scored 20 points for the ‘Rocks and also collected six rebounds. Emmrey Collinsworth added 10 points. Chesney Tebbe scored nine points and made five steals, while Olivia Robey had eight points, including a pair of 3-pointers. Hailey Remaks dished out five assists and Crockett made three blocked shots. Nine different players scored for the Shamrocks.

Westfield improved to 14-3 with the victory. The Shamrocks will next host 3A No. 7 Hamilton Heights in a Saturday afternoon all-county game.

WESTFIELD 59, BISHOP CHATARD 42				
Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Ellie Kelleher	1-4	0-0	2	1
Alyssa Crockett	6-11	8-10	20	3
Chesney Tebbe	4-5	0-0	9	1
Olivia Robey	3-9	0-0	8	2
Hailey Remaks	0-2	2-2	2	2
Emmrey Collinsworth	3-8	3-4	10	1
Aubrey Crockett	0-1	0-0	0	0
Mikayla Rudolph	1-1	0-0	3	2
Kiki Loveless	0-1	0-0	0	0
Lindsey Van Dyke	0-0	0-0	0	0
Maren Dee	1-1	0-0	2	0
Kristian Dinkins	1-1	0-0	3	0
Totals	20-44	13-16	59	12
Score by Quarters				
Westfield	18	16	14	11 - 59
Bishop Chatard	11	6	8	17 - 42
Westfield 3-point shooting (6-18) Robey 2-5, Collinsworth 1-5, Tebbe 1-2, Rudolph 1-1, Dinkins 1-1, Remaks 0-2, Au. Crockett 0-1, Loveless 0-1.				
Westfield rebounds (28) Al. Crockett 6, Au. Crockett 4, Robey 4, Collinsworth 3, Remaks 2, Dinkins 2, Kelleher 1, Tebbe 1, Dee 1, team 4.				

The Fishers girls basketball team picked up its third consecutive win Wednesday with a 69-43 victory over New Palestine at the Tiger Den.

Fishers, ranked No. 7 in the Class 4A coaches poll and No. 8 in the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association’s one-class poll, had its offense going from the start, scoring 22 points in the first quarter. Karina Scott had eight points in that period, while Joirdyn Smith scored six points by making two 3-pointers. Scott also had two 3s as well.

The Tigers thus led 22-9 after one quarter, and extended their lead to 36-16 by halftime. Olivia Smith stepped up for Fishers with six points. In the third quarter, the Tigers added another 20 points, and held a 56-27 advantage by the end of the period. Alycia Triplett had a nice quarter, scoring nine points.

The Dragons made a slight comeback during the fourth period, but Fishers’ big lead saw them through the final quarter, and a huge performance from New Pal’s Isabella Gizzi, who scored 21 points in the second half. Gizzi led all scorers with 25 points.

“I really was pleased with how our girls came out and really stuck to what we tried to do,” said Tigers coach Lauren Votaw. “Obviously Gizzi’s a very nice basketball player and she took it to us a little bit there

for a while. But overall I was really pleased with our effort, our intensity and our focus.”

Fishers had 10 players score at least two points, with three reaching double figures. Scott led the way with 13 points, followed by Olivia Smith with 12 and Joirdyn Smith with 10. Ava Carter added nine points, including five in the fourth quarter.

“We play two games a week for the most part in January, and using that depth is going to be to our advantage,” said Votaw.

The Tigers improved to 13-3 with the win and are back at home Saturday night to play 4A No. 9 North Central.

FISHERS 69, NEW PALESTINE 43				
Fishers	FG	FT	TP	PF
Karina Scott	5	0-0	13	1
Joirdyn Smith	4	0-0	10	1
Kate Thomas	2	0-2	4	0
Hailey Smith	1	0-0	2	2
Olivia Smith	6	0-1	12	1
Ava Carter	4	0-0	9	2
Talia Harris	3	0-2	6	3
Morgan Roberts	1	0-2	2	1
Alycia Triplett	4	1-1	9	2
Allison Scheu	1	0-0	2	0
Julia Munkholm	0	0-0	0	0
Grace Fisher	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	31	1-8	69	13
Score by Quarters				
New Palestine	9	7	11	16 - 43
Fishers	22	14	20	13 - 69
Fishers 3-pointers (6) Scott 3, J. Smith 2, Carter 1.				

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# NBA standings

## Eastern Conference

	W	L	PCT.	GB
<b>Atlantic</b>				
Brooklyn	24	12	.667	-
Philadelphia	21	16	.568	3.5
Toronto	18	17	.514	5.5
Boston	18	20	.474	7.0
New York	18	20	.474	7.0
<b>Central</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>GB</b>
Chicago	25	10	.714	-
Milwaukee	25	15	.625	2.5
Cleveland	21	17	.553	5.5
Indiana	14	25	.359	13.0
Detroit	7	29	.194	18.5
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>GB</b>
Miami	24	15	.615	-
Charlotte	20	19	.513	4.0
Washington	19	19	.500	4.5
Atlanta	17	20	.459	6.0
Orlando	7	32	.179	17.0

## Western Conference

	W	L	PCT.	GB
<b>Northwest</b>				
Utah	28	10	.737	-
Denver	18	18	.500	9.0
Minnesota	18	20	.474	10.0
Portland	14	23	.378	13.5
Oklahoma City	13	24	.351	14.5
<b>Pacific</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>GB</b>
Golden State	29	8	.784	-
Phoenix	29	8	.784	-
L.A. Lakers	20	19	.513	10.0
L.A. Clippers	19	19	.500	10.5
Sacramento	16	24	.400	14.5
<b>Southwest</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>GB</b>
Memphis	25	14	.641	-
Dallas	20	18	.526	4.5
San Antonio	15	22	.405	9.0
New Orleans	13	25	.342	11.5
Houston	11	28	.282	14.0

# Brooklyn rallies in second half to beat Pacers, Lance Stephenson scores 30 in return

By WHEAT HOTCHKISS  
Courtesy nba.com/pacers

Lance Stephenson danced his way back into Pacers fans’ hearts on Wednesday night, making an improbable addition to his Gainbridge Fieldhouse career highlight reel with an epic performance.

In his third stint with the franchise that drafted him with the 40th overall pick in 2010, the 31-year-old erupted for 20 points in the first quarter on his way to a Pacers career-high 30 points, helping undermanned Indiana build an improbable 19-point lead over a Brooklyn Nets squad playing with its Big Three for the first time all season.

In the end, however, the trio of Kevin Durant, James Harden, and Kyrie Irving was too much for the Blue & Gold, as Brooklyn (24-12) rallied in the second half and pulled away late for a 129-121 victory over Indiana (14-25).

Domantas Sabonis was exceptional in the loss, as the All-Star forward carried a heavy load and tallied a triple-double with 32 points, 12 rebounds, and 10 assists.

But the story of the night for Pacers fans was Stephenson, who had not played for the Pacers at Gainbridge Fieldhouse since Game 6 of a first-round playoff series against Cleveland on April 27, 2018. He had been out of the league since the 2018-19 season, spending a year in China prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and began this season with the G League’s Grand Rapids Gold before joining first Atlanta and then Indiana on 10-day hardship contracts over the past few weeks.

But Stephenson found the fountain of youth on Wednesday in the building where he has experienced many of the highs in his rollercoaster career, providing a sorely-needed spark for a team mired in a five-game losing streak and missing 10 players due to a combination of injuries and the

NBA’s health and safety protocols.

It wasn’t enough to ultimately pull off the upset, but it created at least one last memory in an Indiana uniform for one of the most beloved Pacers of all time.

“I couldn’t even sleep last night,” Stephenson said of his return to his favorite arena. “I was definitely excited for this game. I just knew the fans were going to come out and make me feel welcome. If you’re playing in front of a crowd that’s welcoming, it’s amazing. I just had to go out there and show out.”

Durant got off to a hot start, scoring nine of the Nets’ first 15 points, but the short-handed Pacers hung tough with Brooklyn early. The two teams were tied at 15 when Stephenson checked in for the first time with 6:23 remaining in the first quarter.

As the artist also known as Born Ready ran to the scorer’s table, the fans at Gainbridge Fieldhouse began to rise to their feet and greeted their prodigal son with a standing ovation as he checked into his first home game as a Pacer since 2018. Myles Turner and Sabonis, his only remaining teammates from his last stint with the Blue & Gold, even joined in the applause.

A short while later, the crowd erupted once again as Stephenson brought the ball up the floor for the first time. Perhaps inspired by the applause, Stephenson pulled up and drilled a 3-pointer with 5:11 remaining in the first quarter. As he ran back down the court, Stephenson turned to the west sideline and strummed the air guitar, one of his signature celebrations.

Stephenson was far from done. He scored on the next three possessions, hitting jumpers at 4:27 and 4:02, then driving to the rim for a layup at 3:36. He finally missed a 3-pointer at 3:01, but bounced back by burying his next trey 45 seconds later.

“The first couple of games I haven’t been as aggressive as I wanted to be, I’ve just been trying to find people,” Stephenson said. “I told myself today I’m going to be just a little more aggressive, try to find my shot and make something happen.”

He then added another layup over two Nets defenders at 1:16 and — after the Nets were called for an inbounds violation — drilled his third three seven seconds later. After Durant’s dunk cut the Pacers’ lead to 34-32 with 17 seconds remaining, Stephenson brought the ball up one final time to close the quarter. With James Johnson guarding him on the left wing, Stephenson dribbled the clock down, then pulled up and drilled yet another three as the buzzer sounded, sending the entire crowd and the Pacers’ bench into hysterics as he gyrated his way to midcourt.

It was a surreal sequence, as Stephenson, who joined the team just four days earlier on a 10-day hardship contract, erupted for 20 straight Indiana points in the final 5:11 of the first quarter, going 8-for-9 from the field and 4-for-5 from 3-point range. Despite playing just half the quarter, he set the franchise record for most points ever scored in the opening frame, surpassing the previous record of 19, set by T.J. Warren in his 53-point outburst in the NBA bubble on Aug. 1, 2020.

“The adrenaline and energy in the building, it all manifested in that wild run that he went on when he got in, which was amazing,” Pacers head coach Rick Carlisle said. “Just amazing.”

Buoyed by Stephenson’s outburst, the Pacers dominated the second quarter, pushing their lead as high as 14 points and taking a 73-60 advantage into halftime. Stephenson added four more points and four assists in the frame and danced his way into the locker room after a halftime interview with Bally Sports Indiana’s Jeremiah Johnson.

In the pick-and-roll for a three-point play. That was the last positive play for Indiana in the period, as Brooklyn reeled off eight straight points over the final 1:14, capped by Irving’s buzzer-beating jumper to make it a 101-94 game entering the fourth quarter.

The Nets continued their charge in the final frame, cutting the deficit to 105-102 on Nic Claxton’s dunk with 9:01 to play, then getting within two on Bembry’s layup 44 seconds later. Brooklyn finally took the lead when Durant drove baseline and kicked to Mills for an open three in the corner with 7:22 remaining.

Back-to-back Irving jumpers pushed the Nets’ lead to 111-106, capping a 25-5 run and forcing a timeout from Carlisle with 6:11 remaining. Out of the timeout, Stephenson got a dunk off a dish from Sabonis, but was whistled for delay of game, his second admonishment of the night, resulting in a technical foul.

The Nets wound up scoring three points on that possession and maintained a multi-possession lead until Sabonis’ three-point play at 3:54 made it 116-113. But Durant scored over Oshae Brissett on the other end, then stripped Sabonis leading to a fastbreak layup for Irving to push the lead back to seven. The Pacers never seriously threatened the rest of the way.

“As the game went on, the fact that we played last night in another emotional game I think caught up with us,” Carlisle said. “I think fatigue became a factor. It was tough.”

Stephenson finished the night with 30 points on 12-of-19 shooting (4-of-8 from 3-point range), three rebounds, and five assists in 31 minutes off the bench.

Sabonis went 10-for-14 from the field and 11-for-13 from the free throw line.

Durant tallied a game-high 39 points on 15-of-24 shooting, eight rebounds, and seven assists to lead Brooklyn to victory. Irving, who was recently cleared by the Nets to play with the team in road games (he is unable to play in home games due to a New York City vaccine mandate), added 22 points on 9-of-17 shooting and four assists in 32 minutes in his season debut.

Harden added 18 points, five rebounds, and six assists for the Nets.

Keifer Sykes finished with 18 points and five assists for Indiana in just his fifth NBA game. Turner added 14 points and five blocks, while Duane Washington Jr. scored 10.

The Pacers continue a two-game home-stand on Saturday against Utah and could get reinforcements against the Jazz. Three players have cleared protocols over the past two days — Jeremy Lamb, Malcolm Brogdon, and Chris Duarte — and could be cleared to take the floor on Saturday.

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